

Chapter 18

Parliamentary committees

Procedures for dealing with witnesses

On 13 November 2013 the House agreed to a resolution on *Procedures for dealing with witnesses* (VP 2013–14/58–9). This resolution adopted the provisions referred to throughout this chapter as being recommended by the Procedure Committee (with minor changes in wording). The resolution is reproduced in full as an attachment to the Standing Orders.

General purpose standing committees (p. 642)

Revised list for 44th Parliament (14/11/2013):

- Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry;
- Standing Committee on Economics;
- Standing Committee on Education and Employment;
- Standing Committee on the Environment;
- Standing Committee on Health;
- Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs;
- Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications;
- Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs; and
- Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue.

(10 members each: 6 government, 4 non-government)

Revised list from 13/10/2015:

- Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry;
- Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts;
- Standing Committee on Economics;
- Standing Committee on Education and Employment;
- Standing Committee on the Environment;
- Standing Committee on Health;
- Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs;
- Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities;
- Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs; and
- Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue.

Selection Committee (p. 645)

On 13/11/2013 standing order 222 was amended, removing the function of recommending items of private Members' business to be voted on, and adding the function of selecting private Members' and committee and delegation business for referral to the Federation Chamber or return to the House.

Joint committees appointed by resolution (p. 648)

Previously existing joint standing committees were re-established. Additional committees appointed 21/11/2013:

- Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
- Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Committees appointed 23/9/2014:

- Joint Select Committee on the Australia Fund Establishment.
- Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth.

Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair (pp. 660–61, 663)

On 13/11/2013 standing order 232 was amended to provide that Chairs of House committees are to be appointed by the Prime Minister and Deputy Chairs by the Leader of the Opposition.

Oral reports (p. 711)

New S.O. 143(c) adopted 13/11/2013:

If, having considered a bill referred to it for an advisory report, a committee finds no issues requiring a formal report, a statement to the House by the Chair or Deputy Chair to that effect, together with the presentation of the relevant minutes of proceedings, discharges the committee's obligation to report on the bill.

Video and teleconferencing (p. 723)

S.O. 235(b) was amended on 13/11/2013 to read:

A committee may conduct proceedings using audio visual or audio links . .
(instead of 'A committee may resolve to conduct . .')