

Chapter 2. Proceedings when Parliament called together

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out procedures for the meeting of Parliament:

- after a general election of Members
 - for a new session of the same Parliament, and
 - including the Governor-General's speech and the address in reply.
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First meeting of new Parliament after general election

4 First meeting of new Parliament after general election

When Parliament first meets after a general election, the procedure shall be as follows:¹

- (a) Local Indigenous people shall be invited to conduct a ceremony of welcome prior to Members assembling in the House of Representatives.
- (b) Members shall assemble in the House of Representatives at the time appointed by the Governor-General in the Proclamation calling Parliament together in accordance with section 5 of the Constitution.
- (c) The Clerk shall read the Proclamation to Members, who shall wait for a message inviting them to attend the declaration of the opening of Parliament.
- (d) Members shall proceed to another place to hear the declaration and return to the House.
- (e) The Clerk shall present the returns to writs following the general election.
- (f) Each Member shall swear the oath or make the affirmation of allegiance in accordance with section 42 of the Constitution, both orally and in writing.
- (g) Members shall elect a Speaker under *standing order 11 (Election procedures)*.

¹ A detailed program is issued for each occasion.

- (h) The Prime Minister or another Minister shall inform the House the time when the Governor-General will receive the Members of the House and the Speaker.
- (i) Before any business of the House, the Speaker, leading other Members, shall present himself or herself to the Governor-General at the appointed time. The Speaker and Members shall then return to the House. The Speaker shall resume the Chair and report to the House.
- (j) Finally, a Minister shall inform the House the time when the Governor-General will state the reasons for calling Parliament together. The House may then suspend its sitting until that time, when it shall again assemble and wait for a message from the Governor-General.

Governor-General's speech and reply

5 House attends to hear Governor-General's speech

- (a) When the House receives the message from the Governor-General, Members of the House shall attend at the place appointed by the Governor-General to hear the speech stating the causes for the calling together of Parliament, in which the Government's program may be announced.
- (b) After the speech, the Speaker and the Members shall return to the Chamber.

6 Opening speech reported – Address in Reply

- (a) Before the Governor-General's speech is reported some formal business shall be transacted and the Prime Minister may announce his or her ministry.
- (b) The Speaker shall report the speech to the House.
- (c) A committee shall be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the speech and to present it to the House.
- (d) When the committee presents the proposed Address in Reply to the House a Member shall move –

That the Address be agreed to.

7 Presentation of Address

- (a) After the House has agreed to an Address in Reply, the Speaker shall present it to the Governor-General. Any Member may accompany the Speaker for the presentation.
- (b) The Speaker shall then report to the House the Governor-General's reply to the Address.

First meeting for new session—continuing Parliament

8 First meeting for new session following prorogation other than for a new Parliament

On the first meeting of a second or subsequent session of Parliament, instead of the procedure set down in *standing order 4*, the procedure shall be as follows:

- (a) Members shall assemble in the House at the time appointed by the Governor-General in the Proclamation calling Parliament together.
- (b) The Clerk shall read the Proclamation to Members.
- (c) The Speaker shall read Prayers.
- (d) Members shall wait for a message from the Governor-General stating the time when he or she will declare the causes for the calling together of Parliament.
- (e) Subsequent procedure shall follow *standing orders 5–7*.

When Governor-General does not attend

9 When Governor-General does not attend

- (a) If the Queen attends a meeting to declare the causes for the calling together of Parliament, references to the Governor-General in this chapter shall be read as references to Her Majesty.
- (b) If the Governor-General appoints a Deputy in accordance with section 126 of the Constitution to announce the causes for the calling together of Parliament, references to the Governor-General in this chapter shall be read as references to the Deputy.