

APPENDIX A

General Times

Times of meetings of the Senate

Monday	12.30 pm to 6.30 pm, 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Tuesday†	12.30 pm to adjournment
Wednesday†	9.30 am to 8 pm
Thursday	9.30 am to 8.40 pm

† = Broadcast day

Petitions close (see: Brief Guide* No. 21—Petitions)

- 9.30 am on a day on which the Senate sits at 12.30 pm.
- 5 pm on the day prior to the Senate sitting at 9.30 am.

Questions on notice close (see: Brief Guide* No. 17—Questions)

At 5 pm on sitting days and 2 pm on the Wednesday before the next day of sitting in non-

Senate Numbers

Quorum	19 (one-quarter)
Absolute Majority	39

Debating Opportunities and Time limits

(see: Brief Guide* No. 4—Rules of Debate)

Bills (see: Brief Guide* No. 9—Consideration of legislation)

1° of non-amendable bill	15 mins.....	SO 112(2)
2°	20 mins.....	SO 189(1)
In committee.....	15 mins.....	SO 189(3)
	(+ possible extension of 15 mins)	
3°	20 mins.....	SO 189(1)
Selection of Bills Committee—		
adoption of report	5 mins.....	SO 24A(7)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	
Reference of a bill to committee	5 mins.....	SO 115(6)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	

SO = standing orders

* Brief Guides to Senate Procedure at www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/guides/index.htm

Debating Opportunities and Time Limits—continued

sitting weeks.

Committee reports and government responses (see: Brief Guide* No. 3—Opportunities for debating documents and reports)

Motions relating to report on Wednesday or Thursday 10 mins.....SO 62(4)

(limit for debate: 1 hr)

Resumption (*Thursday*) 10 mins.....SO 62(1)

(limit for debate: 1 hr)

Debate

General..... 20 mins.....SO 189(1)

Extension of time (*possible*)..... 10 mins.....SO 189(1)

In committee..... 15 mins.....SO 189(3)

In reply..... 20 mins.....SO 189(2)

Documents (General)

Motions moved by leave..... 10 mins.....SO 169(2)

(limit for debate: 30 mins per motion, 1 hr for all motions)

Government documents—consideration (see: Brief Guide* No. 3—Opportunities for debating documents and reports)

Motion to take note (*Tuesday and Wednesday*) 5 mins.....SO 61(3)

(limit for debate: 30 mins)

Resumption (*Thursday*)..... 5 mins.....SO 61(3)

(limit for debate: 1 hr)

Matters of Public Importance/Urgency (see: Brief Guide* No. 10—Matters of public importance and Urgency)

All speakers..... 10 mins.....SO 75(7)

(limit for debate: 1 hr, or 90 mins if no motions are moved after question time to take note of answers)

Discussion of matters of public interest 15 mins.....SO 57(2)

Questions (see: Brief Guide* No. 17—Questions)

Without notice

Asking question 1 min.....SO 72(3)

Answering question 4 mins.....SO 72(3)

Supplementary question 1 min.....SO 72(3)

Answering supplementary 1 min.....SO 72(3)

Debate on motions relating to answers 5 mins.....SO 72(4)

(limit for debate: 30 mins)

Suspension of standing orders (see: Brief Guide* No. 5—Suspension of standing orders)

5 mins..... SO 209(4)

(limit for debate: 30 mins)

Debate for the election of the

President of the Senate..... 15 mins.....SO 6(2)

Adjournment of the Senate 10 mins.....SO 54(5)

SO = standing orders

* Brief Guides to Senate Procedure at www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/guides/index.htm