

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing and Sessional Orders

AS AT 29 MARCH 2006

DEPARTMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CANBERRA

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Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
CHAPTER 1. TIME LIMITS AND DEFINITIONS	
Maximum time limits apply when speaking	1
Definitions and application	6
CHAPTER 2. PROCEEDINGS WHEN PARLIAMENT CALLED TOGETHER	
First meeting of new Parliament after general election	11
Governor-General's speech and reply	12
First meeting for new session—continuing Parliament	13
When Governor-General does not attend	13
CHAPTER 3. ELECTION OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTIES	
Election of Speaker	14
Election of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker	16
CHAPTER 4. THE SPEAKER AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE CHAMBER	
The Speaker and other offices	19
The Clerk	20
Members' seats and attendance	21
Public record of proceedings	21
CHAPTER 5. MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE	
Times of meeting	22
Adjournment	23
CHAPTER 6. BUSINESS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE	
General	25
Committee and delegation reports	27
Private Members' business	28
Government business	29
Other business	30

CHAPTER 7. PRIVILEGE	32
CHAPTER 8. DEBATE, ORDER AND DISORDER	
Quorum of the House	34
Order	35
Leave of the House or Main Committee	36
Manner and right of speech	36
References to other matters	38
Matters not open to debate	39
Adjournment of debate	40
Closure of debate	40
Debate of urgent matters	41
Point of order and Speaker's ruling	42
Disorder	42
CHAPTER 9. QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION	
Oral and written questions	46
Replies to questions	48
CHAPTER 10. MOTIONS	
Notices of motion	49
Proceeding with motions	50
Questions on motions	51
Amendments	52
CHAPTER 11. VOTING	
On the voices	54
Divisions	54
Ballots	57
CHAPTER 12. BILLS	
House bills	58
First reading	60
Second reading	60
Consideration in detail	62
Report from Main Committee	63
Reconsideration	64
Third reading and passing the House	64
Senate amendments to House bills	65
Bills the Senate may not amend	67

Senate bills	67
Bills altering the Constitution	69
Lapsed bills	69
Governor-General's consideration of bills	70
CHAPTER 13. FINANCIAL PROPOSALS	
Proposals for appropriation and taxation	71
Messages recommending appropriation	71
CHAPTER 14. MAIN COMMITTEE	
General	73
Suspension and adjournment of Main Committee	74
Main Committee business	75
CHAPTER 15. DOCUMENTS AND PETITIONS	
Documents	78
Preparing a petition	79
Presentation of petitions	80
Action on petitions	81
CHAPTER 16. STANDING, SELECT AND JOINT COMMITTEES	
Standing committees	82
Select committees	85
Joint committees	86
Operation of committees	86
CHAPTER 17. WITNESSES AND VISITORS	
Members, Senators and employees of the Parliament	92
Other witnesses summoned	93
All witnesses	93
Visitors	94
CHAPTER 18. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE	
General	95
Messages	95
Conferences	96
CHAPTER 19. ADDRESSES TO THE QUEEN OR THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL	
	98

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS	99
STANDING ORDERS TEMPORARILY SUPERSEDED BY SESSIONAL ORDERS	101
RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE	
Disclosure of evidence and documents of House and joint committees	105
Procedures for tabling ministerial papers	106
Hansard—authority to publish record of debates and proceedings	107
Privileges Committee—publication of records	108
Broadcasting and re-broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings	109
Televising of proceedings	110
Extension of House monitoring service	112
Radio broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings—general principles	113
Broadcasting of proceedings— conditions for broadcasters	115
Registration of Members’ interests	117
Right of reply of persons referred to in the House	120
General principles relating to the selection of private Members’ business	122
INDEX	123

List of Figures

Figure 1. The Chamber	7
Figure 2. House order of business	26
Figure 3. Stages a House bill goes through	59
Figure 4. Main Committee order of business	76

Chapter 1. Time limits and definitions

Chapter outline

This chapter contains some basic standing orders:

- maximum speaking times for the Chamber and Main Committee,
 - definitions used throughout, and
 - a statement of how the standing orders apply in proceedings.
-

Maximum time limits apply when speaking

1 Maximum speaking times

The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are as follows.

<i>subject</i>	<i>time (max)</i>
<i>Address in Reply</i> Each Member	20 mins
<i>Adjournment of the House or Main Committee—to end the sitting</i> Whole debate in House Whole debate in Main Committee Extended debate (if required by Minister to reply etc)	30 mins not specified 10 mins
Each Member—no extension of time can be granted	5 mins
Member who has already spoken to the motion may speak again for one period if no other Member rises to speak	5 mins
Minister in extension of debate (<i>standing orders 31 (House) and 191 (Main Committee)</i>)	5 mins

<i>subject</i>	<i>time (max)</i>
<i>Bills—Main Appropriation—second reading</i>	
Mover	no limit
Leader of Opposition or Member representing	no limit
Any other Member	20 mins
<i>Bills—Other Government—second reading</i>	
Mover	30 mins
Leader of Opposition or Member representing	30 mins
Any other Member (including Minister at conclusion of debate)	20 mins
<i>Bills—Private Members' (All)—presentation</i>	
Presenter <i>(standing order 41)</i>	5 mins
<i>Bills—Private Members' (Government)—second reading</i>	
Mover	30 mins
Prime Minister or Member representing	30 mins
Leader of Opposition or Member representing	30 mins
Any other Member	20 mins
<i>Bills—Private Members' (Non-Government)—second reading</i>	
Mover	30 mins
Prime Minister or Member representing	30 mins
Any other Member	20 mins
<i>Bills—All—consideration in detail</i>	
<i>Bills—All—consideration of Senate amendments or requests</i>	
Each Member—unlimited number of periods	5 mins

<i>subject</i>	<i>time (max)</i>
<p><i>Censure of or no confidence in the Government</i> <i>(if accepted by the Government under standing order 48)</i></p> <p>Mover 30 mins Prime Minister or Minister representing 30 mins</p> <p>Any other Member 20 mins</p> <p><i>(if otherwise, e.g. under suspension of standing orders, see Other debates—not otherwise provided for)</i></p>	
<p>[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]</p> <p><i>Committee and delegation reports on Mondays</i></p> <p><i>in the House</i> Each Member 10 mins maximum, as allotted by the Selection Committee</p> <p><i>in the Main Committee</i> Each Member 10 mins <i>(standing orders 39, 40, 192(b))</i></p>	
<p><i>Condolence motion</i> Each Member no limit <i>(standing order 49)</i></p>	
<p>[Sessional order—for details see p.101]</p> <p><i>Dissent motion</i></p> <p>Whole debate 30 mins Mover 10 mins Seconder 5 mins Member next speaking 10 mins Any other Member 5 mins <i>(standing order 87)</i></p>	
<p><i>Elections of Speaker or Deputy Speakers</i> Each Member 5 mins <i>(standing order 11)</i></p>	
<p><i>Extension of time</i> On motion, determined without debate, a Member may continue a speech interrupted under this standing order, for one period</p>	10 mins, but extension may not exceed half of the original period allotted

<i>subject</i>	<i>time (max)</i>
Grievances	
Whole debate	1 hour 20 mins
Each Member	10 mins
	<i>(standing order 44)</i>
Matter of public importance	
Whole discussion	2 hours
Proposer	15 mins
Member next speaking	15 mins
Any other Member	10 mins
	<i>(standing order 46)</i>
Members' statements	
in the House	
Whole period	15 mins
Each Member (but not a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary)	90 seconds
	<i>(standing order 43)</i>
in the Main Committee	
Whole period	30 mins
Each Member (including a Parliamentary Secretary but not a Minister)	3 mins
	<i>(standing order 193)</i>
Other debates—not otherwise provided for <i>(e.g. censure of a Minister, reference to committee, approval of public works)</i>	
Mover of a motion	20 mins
Any other Member	15 mins
Other statements—by permission from the Speaker <i>(e.g. adding to answer, personal explanation, privilege)</i>	
Member	at the discretion of the Speaker
Other statements—by leave of the House <i>(e.g. ministerial statements and responses to them, committee reports)</i>	
Member	no limit
Private Members' business on Mondays	
Whole debate	as allotted by the Selection Committee
Each Member	
	<i>(standing order 41)</i>

<i>subject</i>	<i>time (max)</i>
<i>Suspension of standing or other orders without notice</i>	
Whole debate	25 mins
Mover	10 mins
Secunder (if any)	5 mins
Member next speaking	10 mins
Any other Member	5 mins
<i>(standing order 47)</i>	
<i>Taxation or duty proposal</i>	
Mover	20 mins
Leader of Opposition or Member representing	20 mins
Any other Member	10 mins
<i>(standing orders 178 and 179)</i>	
<i>Thanks motion</i>	
Each Member	no limit
<i>(standing order 49)</i>	
<i>Urgent matters—allotment of time for debate</i>	
Whole debate	20 mins
Each Member	5 mins
<i>(standing order 84)</i>	

Definitions and application

2 Definitions

The following meanings apply throughout these standing orders.

absolute majority is a majority of the membership of the House (including the Speaker).

amending bill means a bill whose principal purpose is to amend an existing Act or Acts.

Appropriation Bills are bills which appropriate money to fund annual government expenditure (other bills may appropriate money for special purposes).

area of Members' seats means the area of seats on the floor of the Chamber reserved for Members only. It does not include seats in the advisers' box or special galleries. The expression is used in *standing orders 128 and 129 (divisions)*. See figure 1.

Clerk at the Table means the person performing the duties of the Clerk in the Chamber. This term is used when duties are performed during a sitting.

committee includes a House or joint, standing or select committee

count out is the adjournment of the House because of the lack of a quorum of Members (30 Members).

document means a paper or any record of information, and includes:

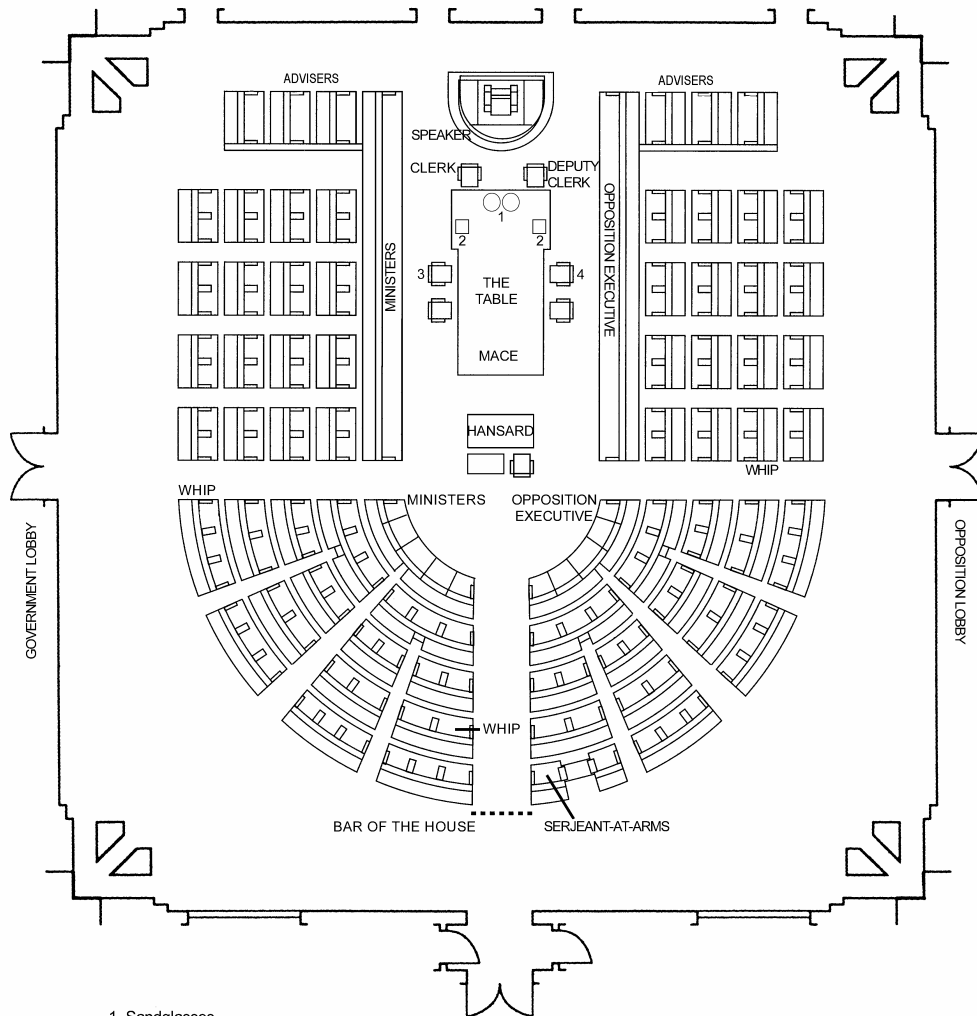
- (i) anything on which there is writing;
- (ii) anything on which there are marks, figures, symbols or perforations having a meaning for persons qualified to interpret them;
- (iii) anything from which sounds, images or writings can be reproduced with or without the aid of anything else; or
- (iv) a map, plans, drawing or photograph.

evidence means the information (whether or not confidential) provided by witnesses (whether or not under oath or affirmation) and inquiry contributors, to the House or a committee. It includes:

- (i) oral or written information provided by a witness in response to questions of the House or a committee, as relevant; and
- (ii) written submissions from inquiry contributors which address the terms of reference of a committee's inquiry and which have been formally accepted by the committee.

Governor-General includes an Administrator of the Commonwealth.

Figure 1. The Chamber



1. Sandglasses
2. Despatch Boxes
3. Prime Minister or Minister in charge of business
4. Leader of the Opposition or Member of the Opposition Executive

House bill is a bill originating in the House.

laid aside means that the House has decided not to proceed with a particular proposal and has resolved to put an end to it.

leave, by means that no Member present objects.

Main Appropriation Bill means the main bill in a year appropriating money to fund expenditure for the ordinary annual services of government—that is, Appropriation Bill (No. 1).

Member means any Member of the House of Representatives, and **private Member** means a Member other than the Speaker or a Minister.

Minister includes a person designated as Parliamentary Secretary, except in *standing order 98 (questions seeking information)*, and *standing order 193 (Members' three minute statements in the Main Committee)*.

notice is a stated intention for a new item of business, such as a notice of motion to be moved or notice of intention to present a bill.

order of the day is a formal agenda item of business on a particular day, including a bill or other matter which the House has ordered to be considered on that day.

Parliamentary Paper means a document in the Parliamentary Papers Series.

Parliamentary Secretary see **Minister**.

physical limits of the Chamber means the area inside the Chamber walls, on the floor of the Chamber. It does not include the galleries on the upper floors. The expression is used in *standing order 56 (quorum)*. See *figure 1*.

privilege means the special rights and immunities belonging to the House, its committees and its members in accordance with section 49 of the Constitution, and as qualified by the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987*.

present a document means table a document.

prorogation means the formal ending of a session of Parliament by the Governor-General.

question, in relation to a motion, means the matter before the House or Main Committee for decision. The question is proposed from the Chair to the House after a motion has been moved and, if necessary, seconded. During the debate the Speaker states the question to the House between speeches. At the end of the debate the Speaker puts the question by restating the question to the House and asking Members for and against the question to call 'Aye' or 'No'.

Question Time means the period of time set aside at every sitting during which Members may ask questions of Ministers or other Members (*standing order 97*).

quorum of the House is one-fifth of the whole number of Members of the House (i.e. 30 Members).

quorum of the Main Committee is one government Member, one non-government Member and the Chair.

reading of a bill, means the reading of the **title** of a bill.

recess means the period between sessions of a Parliament, or the period between the close of a session by prorogation and dissolution or expiry of the House.

reply is the closing speech of a debate in which the mover of a motion sums up or responds to the debate.

Senate bill is a bill originating in the Senate.

service of the House means attendance in the Chamber. Used in (*standing order 26 (leave of absence)*), and (*standing order 94(b) (Member suspended)*)—but see also *standing order 94(e)*.

session means the period commencing on the first sitting day following a general election or a prorogation, and concluding by prorogation, dissolution or at the expiration of three years from the first meeting of the House.

sitting means the period commencing with the meeting of the House and concluding at the adjournment of the House. (A sitting may extend over more than one day, and it is possible, although unusual, to have more than one sitting on a day.)

Speaker is defined in *standing order 3(d)*

substantive motion means a self-contained proposal, drafted in a form capable of expressing a decision or opinion of the House.

Supply Bills appropriate money to fund government expenditure on an interim basis until Appropriation Bills have passed (now rarely necessary).

title of a bill means the long title, which usually begins 'A Bill for an Act ...'.

visitor means a person other than a Member or parliamentary official.

voices means the oral votes of Members, 'Aye' or 'No', on a question from the Chair.

witness means a person who attends before the House or a committee to give evidence.

3 Application

(a) These standing orders are the rules of the House made under the power granted by section 50 of the Constitution. They are of continuing effect and apply until changed by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.

(b) The standing orders apply in general to proceedings taking place inside the Chamber of the House. Some orders expressly provide for other parliamentary matters which take place outside the Chamber and the committees of the House, e.g. matters of privilege and petitions.

(c) The standing orders also apply to committees of the House to the necessary extent, subject:

(i) in the Main Committee, to the orders in Chapter 14 (*standing orders 183–198*), and

(ii) in all other committees, to the orders in Chapter 16 (*standing orders 214–248*).

(d) The Speaker is the principal officeholder of the House. References in the standing orders to the duties and actions for which the Speaker is responsible are to **Speaker**, notwithstanding the practice of relief arrangements under which the Deputy Speaker, the Second Deputy Speaker or a member of the Speaker's panel occupies the Speaker's Chair when the Speaker is not in the Chamber. Similarly, references to the duties and actions for which the Deputy Speaker is responsible in relation to the Main Committee are to the Deputy Speaker notwithstanding relief arrangements.

Some matters are reserved only for the Speaker, or an acting Speaker: role in the election of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker (*standing orders 13–14*); selection of the matter of public importance (*standing order 46*); decisions on matters of privilege (*standing orders 51–52*). The power to exercise a casting vote (*standing order 135*) is reserved for the Speaker, Acting Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Second Deputy Speaker.

(e) The Speaker (or other Member presiding) is responsible for ruling whenever any question arises as to the interpretation or application of a standing order and for deciding cases not otherwise provided for. In all cases the Speaker shall have regard to previous rulings of Speakers of the House and to established practices of the House.

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.
-

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) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Members shall proceed to another place to hear the declaration and return to the House.
- (d) The Clerk shall present the returns to writs following the general election.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Members shall elect a Speaker under *standing order 11 [Election procedures]*.
- (g) 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.
- (h) Before any business of the House, the Speaker, leading other Members, shall present himself or herself to the Governor-

¹ A detailed program is issued for each occasion.

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.

- (i) 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.

Chapter 3. Election of Speaker and Deputies

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out procedures for the election of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Second Deputy Speaker.

Election of Speaker

10 When an election for Speaker takes place

- (a) An election for Speaker shall take place at:
 - (i) the opening of a new Parliament after the Members have been sworn or made an affirmation; or
 - (ii) any time when the office of Speaker is vacant.
- (b) The election shall be conducted by the Clerk acting as Chair, in the manner provided below in *standing order 11*.

11 Election procedures

When electing a Member to fill a vacant office the routine shall be as follows:

Nominees proposed

- (a) The Chair shall invite nominations for the vacant office.
- (b) A Member shall propose the nomination of a Member to the vacant office by moving, without notice, that such Member 'do take the Chair of this House as Speaker'. The Member nominated must be present and the motion must be seconded. The mover and seconder may speak in support of their nominated candidate for no more than 5 minutes each.
- (c) The nominated Member shall inform the House whether he or she accepts the nomination.
- (d) The Chair shall ask:
 - Is there any further proposal?***and shall ask this again after any further proposal and acceptance.
- (e) If no further proposal is made the Chair shall state:

The time for proposals has expired.

No further nominations may be made.

If only one nominee—nominee elected

(f) If a nominee is unopposed, the Chair, without question put, shall declare the Member, who has been proposed and seconded, to have been elected to the vacant office.

If two or more nominees—debate then ballot

(g) If there are two or more nominees, when the time for proposals has expired, Members who have not yet spoken as mover or seconder may speak on the election, however:

- (i) debate must be relevant to the election; and
- (ii) no Member may speak for more than five minutes.

(h) At any time during debate, and whether any Member is addressing the Chair or not, a Minister may move without notice—

That the ballot be taken now.

The question shall be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate. If the votes are equal the question shall be negatived, and debate may continue. If the question is carried, or when debate ends, the House shall proceed to a ballot.

Ballot

(i) Each Member voting shall provide a ballot paper to the Chair, containing the name of the nominated Member or Members, as relevant, for whom he or she is voting. The Clerks at the Table shall count the votes:

Election of Speaker

- (i) For the office of Speaker, a nominee must receive a majority of votes. If no nominee has a majority after a ballot, the nominee with the smallest number of votes shall be excluded from later ballots, and a fresh ballot shall be held. This process shall be repeated as often as necessary until one nominee receives a majority of the votes, and this nominee shall be elected Speaker.

Election of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker

- (ii) For deciding offices other than Speaker, the nominee who has the most votes shall be elected to the vacant office.

If equal votes in ballot—special ballot

(j) If nominees have equal numbers of votes, making it impossible to calculate which name is to be excluded from later ballots, a special ballot shall take place. At a special ballot, the routine shall be as follows:

- (i) the Chair shall inform the House that the last ballot was inconclusive because nominees had equal numbers of votes;
- (ii) the names of those nominees who received equal numbers of votes shall be proposed;
- (iii) each Member shall write on a ballot paper the name of the nominee he or she wishes to support; and

- (iv) the nominee with the smallest number of votes shall be excluded from later ballots.

When equal votes in first special ballot

- (k) If a first special ballot is inconclusive because nominees have equal numbers of votes, a second special ballot shall be taken, unless a nominee withdraws making further ballots unnecessary.

When equal votes in second special ballot

- (l) If after a second special ballot, nominees again receive equal numbers of votes, the Chair shall declare the equal votes to the House, and the sitting shall be suspended for 30 minutes. When the House resumes, the votes shall be taken again, unless a nominee withdraws making further ballots unnecessary.

When withdrawal of nominee

- (m) A nominee may withdraw from an election after the result of the first ballot is declared or in between ballots. After a withdrawal, the election shall proceed as if the withdrawn Member had not been nominated.
- (n) If a withdrawal leaves only one nominee remaining, that nominee shall be elected to the vacant office.

12 Successful Member is Speaker

- (a) At the conclusion of an election for Speaker, the Clerk shall declare the successful Member to have been elected Speaker.
- (b) The successful Member shall be conducted to the Chair by the proposer and seconder, and take the Chair of the House as Speaker.
- (c) The Speaker shall then acknowledge the honour conferred by the House. Once the Speaker is seated the Mace shall be taken from under the Table, and placed on the Table.
- (d) The Speaker may receive congratulations from the House.

Election of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker

13 When Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker elected

- (a) The Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker shall be elected at the beginning of each Parliament, or at any time the respective office becomes vacant. Whenever the two offices are vacant at the same time, elections for both offices shall be conducted together.
- (b) The Speaker shall conduct the elections under *standing order 14*, and may not vote in an ordinary ballot.

(c) Only a non-government Member may be elected as Second Deputy Speaker.

(d) A Member shall propose the nomination of a Member to the vacant office by moving, without notice, that such Member 'be elected Deputy Speaker (or Second Deputy Speaker)'.

14 Conducting elections of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker

Elections of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker shall be conducted following the procedures in *standing order 11* as qualified here:

Nominee can be absent

(a) A nominee does not have to be present at the election or inform the House whether he or she accepts nomination.

When only one nominee

(b) If only one Member is nominated the Speaker shall declare that Member to be the Deputy Speaker. The House may leave the office of Second Deputy Speaker vacant or may in the future agree to a motion to conduct a ballot for the office.

Nominee with most votes is Deputy Speaker

(c) If two or more Members are nominated, the nominee with the most votes shall be the Deputy Speaker, and the nominee with the next greatest number of votes shall be the Second Deputy Speaker.

When Speaker has casting vote

(d) If two or more Members are nominated and it is impossible to determine the position of Deputy Speaker because nominees have received equal numbers of votes:

(i) If two nominees are equal, the Speaker shall give a casting vote. The nominee for whom the Speaker votes shall be the Deputy Speaker and the other nominee shall be the Second Deputy Speaker.

(ii) If more than two nominees are equal, a special ballot shall take place, as provided in *standing order 11(j), (k) and (l)*.

(e) If two or more Members are nominated and it is impossible to determine the position of Second Deputy Speaker because nominees have received equal numbers of votes:

(i) If two nominees are equal, the Speaker shall give a casting vote. The nominee for whom the Speaker votes shall be the Second Deputy Speaker.

(ii) If more than two nominees are equal, a special ballot shall take place, as provided in *standing order 11(j), (k) and (l)*.

Speaker declares successful nominee elected

- (f) At the conclusion of voting for each office the Speaker shall declare the nominee with the most votes to be elected to the vacant office.

Chapter 4. The Speaker and administration in the Chamber

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for:

- the Speaker and deputies
 - the Clerk and some clerical duties
 - Members' attendance in the Chamber, and
 - public record of proceedings.
-

The Speaker and other offices

15 Members elect Speaker

Members shall elect a Speaker at the beginning of every Parliament or when a vacancy occurs in accordance with section 35 of the Constitution, using the procedure set out in *standing order 11*.

16 Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker

- (a) In each Parliament, the House shall elect a Deputy Speaker and a Second Deputy Speaker, using the procedure set out in *standing order 14*.
- (b) The Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair of the House whenever asked to do so by the Speaker, and shall chair the Main Committee.
- (c) The Second Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair of the House whenever asked to do so by the Speaker, act as Deputy Speaker in the absence of the Deputy Speaker, and assist the Deputy Speaker in the Main Committee.

17 Speaker's panel

- (a) At the beginning of every Parliament the Speaker shall nominate a panel of at least four Members. The Speaker may nominate other Members or revoke the nomination of a Member at any time during the Parliament.
- (b) The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker may call on a member of the Speaker's panel to take the Chair of the House.
- (c) The Deputy Speaker may call on a member of the Speaker's panel to take the Chair of the Main Committee.

18 House informed of absences

(a) If the Speaker is absent, the Clerk must inform the House, and the Deputy Speaker shall be the Acting Speaker. If both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent, the Second Deputy Speaker shall be the Acting Speaker

(b) If the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Second Deputy Speaker are all absent, the Clerk must inform the House. The House may adjourn until the next sitting or, if a quorum is present, the Members may immediately elect another Member to perform the duties of the Speaker, as Acting Speaker, during the absence, using the procedure set out in *standing order 11*.

19 Vacancy in office of Speaker

(a) If the office of Speaker falls vacant during a session the Clerk must report the vacancy to the House at its next sitting. The House shall proceed to the election of a new Speaker either immediately or at its next sitting, using the procedure set out in *standing order 11*.

(b) If the office of Speaker falls vacant during a recess the Clerk shall report the vacancy to the House at the opening of the next session when the House returns from hearing the Governor-General's speech, or from the declaration of the opening of the session, as the case may be. The House shall proceed to the election of a new Speaker immediately, using the procedure set out in *standing order 11*.

20 When Deputy Speaker may set time of meeting

If the office of Speaker falls vacant during an adjournment of the House and the date and hour of the next meeting would otherwise be set by the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall set the date and hour of the next meeting.

The Clerk

21 Absence of Clerk

If the Clerk is absent, the Clerk's duties shall be performed by the Deputy Clerk or, if the Deputy Clerk is also absent, by a Clerk Assistant.

22 Vacancy in office of Clerk

During any vacancy in the office of Clerk all powers, functions, and duties of the Clerk shall be exercised and performed by the Deputy Clerk.

Members' seats and attendance

23 Seats for Ministers

Seats in the front row of the Chamber, nearest to the right hand of the Speaker, shall be reserved for Ministers.

24 Seats for Members

- (a) A Member may keep the seat he or she occupied at the end of the previous Parliament, unless there is a change of government.
- (b) The Speaker shall determine any dispute about the seats occupied by Members.

25 Members' roll

The Clerk shall keep a Members' roll for each State and Territory showing the name of the Member elected for each electoral division and the date he or she:

- (a) is elected;
- (b) makes the oath or affirmation; and
- (c) ceases to be a Member, and the reason.

26 Leave of absence

- (a) A Member may be granted leave of absence from the House, on motion moved without notice, stating the reason for leave and the period of absence. The motion shall have priority over all other business.
- (b) A Member with leave of absence is excused from the service of the House or on any committee. The leave is forfeited if the Member attends in the Chamber of the House before the end of the period of leave.

Public record of proceedings

27 Votes and Proceedings

The Clerk shall keep and sign the official record of the proceedings of the House, the Votes and Proceedings. This record shall contain the:

- (a) proceedings and decisions of the House;
- (b) proceedings and decisions of the Main Committee; and
- (c) attendance of Members in the House, including any leave.

28 Custody of records

Under the direction of the Speaker, the Clerk shall have custody of the Votes and Proceedings, records, and all documents presented to the House.

Chapter 5. Meeting and adjournment of the House

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out:

- meeting and adjournment times of the House, and
 - rules about meeting and adjournment.
-

Times of meeting

29 Set meeting and adjournment times

The House shall have a four weekly cycle of meetings. It shall meet on Mondays to Thursdays for two weeks followed by two weeks without sittings. When the House is sitting it shall meet and adjourn at the following times, subject to *standing orders 30 and 31*:

1	2	3	4
day	meeting commences	adjournment proposed	House adjourns
Monday	12.30 pm	9.00 pm	9.30 pm
Tuesday	2.00 pm	9.00 pm	9.30 pm
Wednesday	9.00 am	7.30 pm	8.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am	4.30 pm	5.00 pm

30 Changes to meeting times

The Speaker or a Minister may initiate a change to the meeting times of the House in the following circumstances:

- (a) At any time, a Minister may move without notice a motion to set the next meeting of the House.
- (b) When the House is not sitting, the Speaker may set an alternative day or hour for the next meeting, and must notify each Member of any change.

Adjournment

31 Automatic adjournment of the House

(a) At the time set for the adjournment to be proposed in *standing order 29, column 3 (times of meeting)*, the Speaker shall propose the question—

That the House do now adjourn.

This question shall be open to debate—maximum time for the whole debate shall be 30 minutes—and no amendment may be moved.

(b) If this question is before the House at the time set for adjournment in *standing order 29, column 4 (times of meeting)* the Speaker shall interrupt the debate and immediately adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting.

(c) The following qualifications apply:

Division is completed

(i) If there is a division at the time set for the adjournment to be proposed in *standing order 29, column 3 (times of meeting)* that division, and any consequent division, shall be completed.

Minister may require question to be put

(ii) If a Minister requires the question to be put immediately it is proposed under paragraph (a), the Speaker must put the question immediately and without debate.

Minister may extend debate

(iii) When the Speaker interrupts the adjournment debate under paragraph (b), a Minister may ask for the debate to be extended by 10 minutes to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised during the debate. After 10 minutes, or if debate concludes earlier, the Speaker shall immediately adjourn the House until the time set for its next meeting.

Question negatived

(iv) If the question is negatived, the House shall resume proceedings from the point of interruption.

Unfinished business

(v) If the business being debated is not disposed of when the adjournment of the House is proposed, the business shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

32 Adjournment otherwise

(a) A Minister may move adjournment of the House without notice, and no amendment may be moved to the motion.

(b) The Speaker may adjourn the House without putting a question if:

(i) there is no quorum of Members and there has been a count out, as provided in *standing order 57*; or

(ii) disorder arises, as provided in *standing order 95 (grave disorder)*.

33 Limit on business after 9.30 pm

No new business may be taken after 9.30 pm, unless by order of the House before 9.30 pm.

Chapter 6. Business and proceedings of the House

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out the House's order of business and describes arrangements for:

- general order of business
 - committee and delegation reports
 - private Members' business
 - government business including grievance debate
 - discussion of matter of public importance
 - suspension of orders, and
 - censure of or no confidence motion in the Government.
-

General

34 Order of business

The order of business to be followed by the House is shown in figure 2.

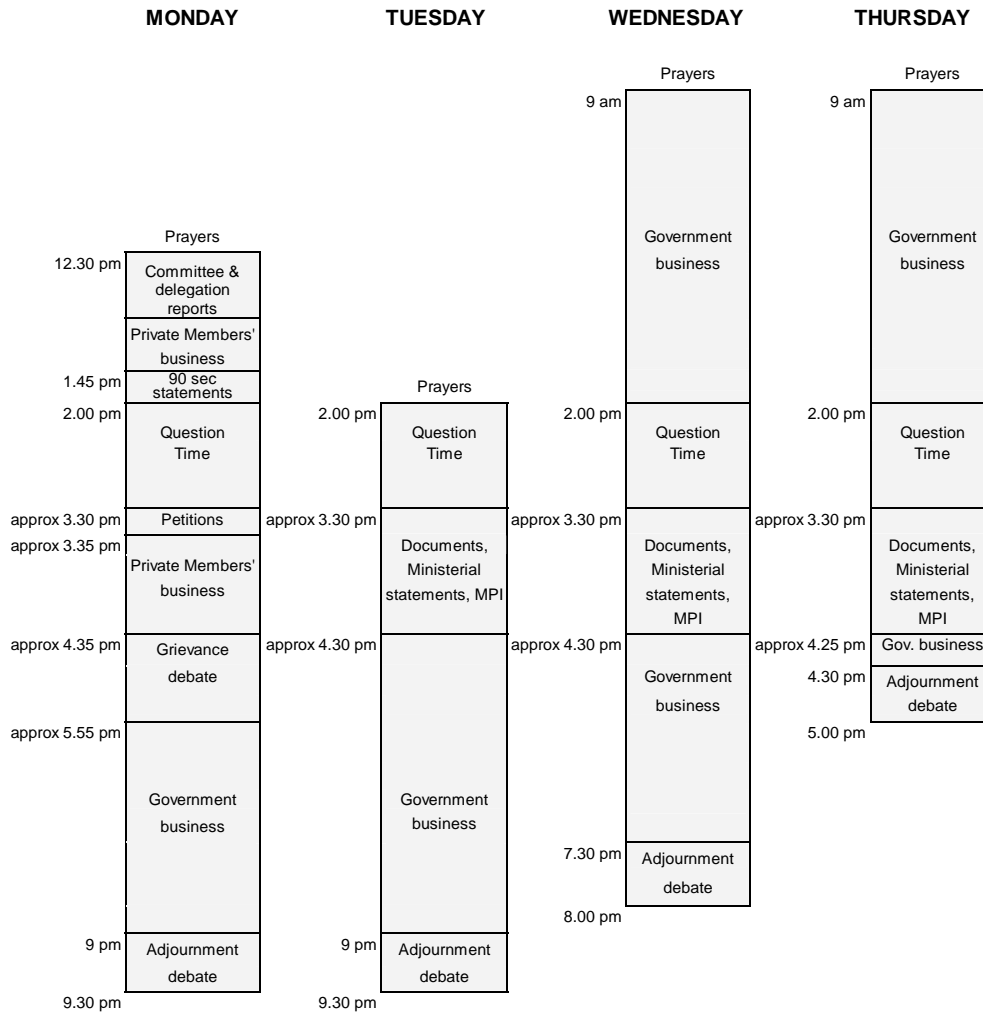
35 Priority of business

Government business shall have priority over private Members' business except on Mondays as provided by *standing order 34 (order of business)*.

36 Notice Paper

Business before the House shall be published on the Notice Paper for each sitting, in accordance with standing and sessional orders.

Figure 2. House order of business



37 Orders of the day

- (a) The Notice Paper shall state the sequence in which orders of the day are called on.
- (b) An order may be postponed on motion moved without notice by the Member in charge of the order or, in his or her absence, by another Member he or she has asked.
- (c) After an order has been read, the Member in charge of the order may move, without notice, that the order be discharged.

(d) If any orders of the day on the Notice Paper have not been called on before the adjournment of the House, they shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

38 Prayers

On taking the Chair at the beginning of each sitting, the Speaker shall read the following prayers:

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory, and the true welfare of the people of Australia.

Our Father, which art in Heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Committee and delegation reports

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

39 Presentation of reports

- (a) Members can present reports of committees or delegations:
 - (i) as agreed by the Selection Committee, following prayers on Mondays; or
 - (ii) at any time when other business is not before the House.
- (b) Members can make statements in relation to these reports:
 - (i) during the special set period on Mondays (*standing order 34*); the Selection Committee shall set time limits for statements, of not more than 10 minutes for each Member; or
 - (ii) at any other time, by leave of the House.
- (c) The Member presenting a report may move without notice, a specific motion in relation to the report. When a report has been presented on Monday under paragraph (a)(i) debate on the question shall be adjourned to a later hour and a motion may be moved that the report be referred to the Main Committee. In other cases debate shall be adjourned to a future day.

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

40 Resumption of debate on reports

- (a) After presentation of reports on Mondays proceedings may be resumed on motions in relation to committee and delegation reports moved on an earlier day.
- (b) For debate in accordance with paragraph (a) the Selection Committee shall set:
 - (i) the order in which motions are to be considered;
 - (ii) time limits for the whole debate; and
 - (iii) time limits for each Member speaking, of not more than 10 minutes.
- (c) During the period provided by *standing order 192* proceedings may be resumed in the Main Committee on motions in relation to committee and delegation reports referred that day or on an earlier day.

Private Members' business

41 Private Members' business—procedure

- (a) In the period set for private Members' business under *standing order 34*, the Clerk shall call on private Members' notices and orders of the day in the order shown on the Notice Paper. When the time set by *standing order 34 (order of business)* or by the Selection Committee ends, the Speaker shall interrupt proceedings and put the question.
- (b) If
 - (i) the Selection Committee has determined that consideration of a matter may continue on a future day;then
 - (ii) at the time set for interruption of the item of business or if debate concludes earlier, the Speaker shall interrupt proceedings and the matter shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

Private Members' bills—Selection Committee

- (c) The Selection Committee:
 - (i) shall give priority to private Members' notices of intention to present bills over other notices and orders of the day; and
 - (ii) shall set the order in which the bills are to be presented.

First reading

- (d) When each notice is called on by the Clerk, the Member in whose name the notice stands may present the bill and may speak to it for no longer than 5 minutes. The bill shall be then read a first time and the motion for the second reading shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

Second reading

(e) If the motion for the second reading is agreed to by the House, further consideration of the bill shall be accorded priority over other private Members' business and the Selection Committee may set times for consideration of the remaining stages.

Alternation of notices

(f) Subject to paragraph (c)(i), the Selection Committee shall provide for the consideration of private Members' notices to alternate between those of government and non-government Members.

42 Removal of private Members' business

The Clerk shall remove from the Notice Paper an item of private Members' business which:

- (a) has not been called on; or
- (b) has been interrupted under *standing order 41* and not re-accorded priority by the Selection Committee;

for eight consecutive sitting Mondays.

43 Members' statements on Mondays

At 1.45 pm on Mondays the Speaker shall interrupt business and call on statements by Members. The Speaker may call a Member, but not a Minister (or Parliamentary Secretary), to make a statement for no longer than 90 seconds. The period allowed for these statements shall extend until 2 pm.

Government business

44 Grievance debate on Mondays

- (a) Following the conclusion of private Members' business on Mondays, the first order of the day shall be grievance debate.
- (b) After the Speaker proposes the question—

That grievances be noted—

any Member may address the House or move any amendment to the question. If consideration of the question has not been concluded after 1 hour and 20 minutes, debate shall be interrupted and any questions put.

45 Order of government business

The Leader of the House may arrange the order of notices and orders of the day for government business on the Notice Paper as he or she thinks fit.

Other business

46 Discussion of definite matter of public importance

- (a) On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays a Member may propose a definite matter of public importance be put to the House for discussion.
- (b) The Member must give a written statement of the matter to be discussed to the Speaker by 12 noon. If the Speaker decides that it is in order, the Speaker shall read the statement to the House at the time provided in *standing order 34 (order of business)*.
- (c) The proposed discussion must be supported by eight Members, including the proposer, standing in their places. The Speaker shall then call on the Member who proposed the matter to speak first.
- (d) If more than one matter is received for the same day, the Speaker shall select the matter to be read to the House that day.
- (e) At any time during the discussion, any Member may move—

That the business of the day be called on.

This question shall be put immediately and decided without amendment or debate. If agreed to, the business of the day shall be proceeded with immediately.

- (f) A motion to adjourn the discussion or to move a closure of the question is not in order.

47 Motions for suspension of orders

- (a) A Member may move, with or without notice, the suspension of any standing or other order of the House.
- (b) If a suspension motion is moved on notice, it shall appear on the Notice Paper and may be carried by a majority of votes.
- (c) If a suspension motion is moved without notice it:
 - (i) must be relevant to any business under discussion and seconded; and
 - (ii) can be carried only by an absolute majority of Members.
- (d) Any suspension of orders shall be limited to the particular purpose of the suspension.

48 Censure of or no confidence in the Government

A motion on notice or an amendment of a motion which expresses censure of or no confidence in the Government shall have priority of all other business until it is disposed of by the House, if it is accepted by a Minister as a motion or amendment of censure or no confidence.

49 Motion of condolence or thanks

As a courtesy, the House will ordinarily grant precedence to a motion moved without notice for a motion of condolence or thanks of the House.

50 Motion of Minister to discuss special matter

- (a) At any time when other business is not before the House a Minister may state to the House a proposal to discuss a matter of special interest in preference to moving a specific motion.
- (b) The Minister may first move a motion specifying the time to be allotted to the debate. The Minister must then move—
That [stating subject matter] be considered by the House.
- (c) At the end of the time allotted to the debate, a Minister may withdraw the motion, without leave.

Chapter 7. Privilege

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out rules governing matters of privilege.

51 Privilege matter raised when House is sitting

- (a) At any time during a sitting, a Member may raise a matter of privilege. The Member shall be prepared to move, without notice, immediately or subsequently, a motion, declaring that a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed, or referring the matter to the Committee of Privileges.
- (b) The Speaker may:
 - (i) give the matter precedence and invite the Member to move a motion as stated in paragraph (a), or
 - (ii) reserve the matter for further consideration.
- (c) If the matter is given precedence, consideration and decision of every other question shall be suspended until the matter of privilege is disposed of, or debate on any related motion is adjourned.
- (d) The Speaker may grant precedence to a privilege motion over other business if satisfied that:
 - (i) a *prima facie* case of contempt or breach of privilege has been made out; and
 - (ii) the matter has been raised at the earliest opportunity.
- (e) If a matter of privilege related to the proceedings of the Main Committee is raised in the Main Committee, the Deputy Speaker must suspend the proceedings and report to the House at the first opportunity.

52 Privilege matter raised when House not sitting

- (a) When the House is not sitting and is not expected to meet for at least two weeks, a Member may raise with the Speaker a matter of privilege which has arisen since the House last met and which the Member proposes be referred to the Committee of Privileges.
- (b) The Speaker must refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges immediately, if satisfied that:
 - (i) a *prima facie* case of contempt or breach of privilege has been made out; and
 - (ii) the matter requires urgent action.

(c) The Speaker must report the referral to the House at its next sitting. Immediately after the Speaker's report, the Member must move that the referral be endorsed by the House. If the motion is not agreed to, the Committee of Privileges shall take no further action on the matter.

53 Complaint against publication

If a Member cites a statement in a published document, in connection with a contempt or breach of privilege, he or she must present to the House an extract of the publication containing the statement and be able to identify the author, printer or publisher.

Chapter 8. Debate, order and disorder

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out general rules to establish orderly debate and behaviour in the Chamber and in the Main Committee.

The matters covered include:

- quorum of the House
 - order in the Chamber
 - leave of the House
 - manner and right of speech
 - references to other matters
 - matters not open to debate
 - adjournment of debate
 - closure of debate
 - debate of urgent matters
 - point of order and Speaker's ruling, and
 - disorder.
-

Quorum of the House

54 Bells at start of meeting of the House

At each sitting the bells shall be rung for five minutes before the appointed meeting time, calling Members to the meeting. The Speaker shall take the Chair and, if a quorum of 30 Members is present, read prayers. If a quorum is not present *standing order 57 (count out)* shall apply.

55 Lack of quorum

- (a) When the attention of the Speaker is drawn to the state of the House and the Speaker observes that a quorum is not present, the Speaker shall count the Members present in accordance with *standing order 56*.
- (b) On Mondays and Tuesdays, if any Member draws the attention of the Speaker to the state of the House between the hours of 6.30 pm and

8 pm, the Speaker shall announce that he or she will count the House at 8 pm, if the Member then so desires.

(c) If a quorum is in fact present when a Member draws attention to the state of the House, the Speaker may name the Member in accordance with *standing order 94(b)* (*sanctions against disorderly conduct*).

56 Procedures for counting Members present

When the Speaker is counting the Members present:

- (a) the bells shall be rung for four minutes;
- (b) the doors of the Chamber shall remain unlocked;
- (c) every Member within the physical limits of the Chamber, including the Speaker, shall be counted; and
- (d) no Member may leave the Chamber while the bells are ringing, or until a quorum is present.

57 Count out

If a quorum is not present at the conclusion of the ringing of the bells, the Speaker may:

- (a) adjourn the House to the next sitting; or
- (b) if satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time, state the time at which he or she will resume the Chair. If at that time a quorum is not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting.

58 No quorum at division

If a quorum of Members has not voted in a division, the House has not made a decision on the question, and *standing order 57 (count out)* shall apply.

59 Resumption of interrupted proceedings after count out

Proceedings that are adjourned by a count out may be resumed at a later sitting, on motion moved on notice, at the point where they were interrupted.

Order

60 Order kept by Speaker or Chair

- (a) The Speaker, or the occupier of the Chair of the House at the time shall keep order in the House.
- (b) The Deputy Speaker, or the occupier of the Chair of the Main Committee at the time, shall keep order in the Committee. The House may address disorder in the Committee after receiving a report from the Deputy Speaker.

61 Members to recognise authority of the Speaker

- (a) If the Speaker stands during a debate, any Member then speaking or seeking the call shall sit down and the House shall be silent, so the Speaker may be heard without interruption.
- (b) When the Speaker is putting a question no Member may walk out of or across the Chamber.

62 Members moving in the Chamber

A Member in the Chamber must:

- (a) take his or her seat promptly;
- (b) bow to the Speaker on entering or leaving the Chamber;
- (c) not remain in the aisles; and
- (d) not pass between the Speaker and any Member who is speaking.

Leave of the House or Main Committee

63 Leave

The House or Main Committee may grant leave to a Member to act in a manner, not expressly provided for in, or contrary to, orders of the House. Leave may be granted only if no Member present objects.

Manner and right of speech

64 No Member to be referred to by name

In the House and the Main Committee, a Member shall not be referred to by name, but by one of the following forms, as appropriate:

- (a) the Member's ministerial office (e.g. Prime Minister, Minister for Defence, Attorney-General);
- (b) the Member's parliamentary office (e.g. Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Chief Government Whip);
- (c) the Member's electoral division (e.g. Member for Adelaide).

65 Members wishing to speak

- (a) A Member wishing to speak shall rise and, when recognised by the Speaker, address the Speaker. If a Member is unable to rise, he or she will be permitted to speak while seated.
- (b) When a Member is speaking, no Member may converse aloud or make any noise or disturbance to interrupt the Member.
- (c) If two or more Members rise to speak, the Speaker shall call on the Member, who in the Speaker's opinion, rose first. If the Speaker's selection is challenged, a motion may be moved—

That [Member who was not called] be heard now.

The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.

66 When interruption of Member allowed

A Member may only interrupt another Member to:

- (a) call attention to a point of order;
- (b) call attention to a matter of privilege suddenly arising;
- (c) call attention to the lack of a quorum;
- (d) call attention to the unwanted presence of visitors;
- (e) move—
That the Member be no longer heard;
- (f) move—
That the question be now put;
- (g) move—
That the business of the day be called on; or
- (h) make an intervention as provided in the standing orders.

66A Interventions in the Main Committee

During consideration of any order of the day in the Main Committee a Member may rise and, if given the call, ask the Deputy Speaker whether the Member speaking is willing to give way. The Member speaking will either indicate his or her:

- (a) refusal and continue speaking, or
- (b) acceptance and allow the other Member to ask a short question immediately relevant to the Member's speech—

Provided that, if, in the opinion of the Deputy Speaker, it is an abuse of the orders or forms of the House, the intervention may be denied or curtailed.

67 Question is stated

At any time, except when another Member is addressing the House, a Member may request the Speaker to state the question or matter under discussion. This requirement shall not apply when the terms of the question or matter have been circulated among Members.

68 Personal explanation

A Member may explain how he or she has been misrepresented or explain another matter of a personal nature whether or not there is a question before the House. The following conditions shall apply:

- (a) the Member must rise and seek permission from the Speaker;
- (b) the Member must not interrupt another Member addressing the House; and
- (c) the matter must not be debated.

69 Member may speak further in limited circumstances

A Member may not speak a second or further time to a question except:

- (a) during consideration in detail of a bill;
- (b) during consideration of amendments to a bill made or requested by the Senate;
- (c) having moved a substantive motion or the second or third reading of a bill, the Member shall be allowed a reply confined to matters raised during the debate;
- (d) during the adjournment debate, if no other Member rises; or
- (e) to explain some material part of his or her speech which has been misquoted or misunderstood. In making this explanation the Member may not interrupt another Member addressing the House, debate the matter, or introduce any new matter.

70 Seconded may speak immediately or later

A Member seconding a motion or amendment may speak immediately, or inform the House that he or she reserves the right to speak later during the debate.

71 Reply closes debate

When the Member who moved the original motion replies, the debate shall close except during consideration in detail of a bill or consideration of amendments to a bill made or requested by the Senate.

72 Member not to speak after question put

A Member must not speak to a question after it has been put and decided.

References to other matters

73 References to other debates or proceedings

Unless the reference is relevant to the discussion, a Member must not refer to debates or proceedings of the current session of the House.

74 Reflections on votes of House

A Member must not reflect adversely on a vote of the House, except on a motion that it be rescinded.

75 Irrelevance or tedious repetition

(a) The Speaker, after having called attention to the conduct of a Member who has persisted in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of

his or her own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct the Member to discontinue his or her speech.

- (b) The Member may then ask the Speaker to put the question—
That the Member be further heard.

The question shall be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.

76 Exceptions to confining debate to the question

A Member must speak only on the subject matter of a question under discussion. There are three exceptions:

- (a) on the question for the adjournment of the House to end the sitting, or for the adjournment of the Main Committee;
- (b) on the debate of the address in reply to the Governor-General's speech;
- (c) on the motion for the second reading of the Main Appropriation Bill, and Appropriation or Supply Bills for the ordinary annual services of government, when public affairs may be debated.

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

77 Anticipating discussion

During a debate, a Member may not anticipate the discussion of a subject listed on the Notice Paper and expected to be debated on the same or next sitting day. In determining whether a discussion is out of order the Speaker should not prevent incidental reference to a subject.

Matters not open to debate

78 Matters not open to debate

The following questions and motions are not open to debate, must be moved without comment and must be put immediately and resolved without amendment:

- (a) motion that a Member's time be extended (*standing order 1*);
- (b) motion that the business of the day be called on (*standing order 46(e)*);
- (c) motion that a Member be heard now (*standing order 65*);
- (d) motion that a Member be further heard (*standing order 75*);
- (e) motion that debate be adjourned (*standing order 79*);
- (f) motion that a Member be no longer heard (*standing order 80*);
- (g) motion that the question be now put (*standing order 81*);
- (h) question that the bill or motion be considered urgent, following a declaration of urgency (*standing orders 82 to 83*);
- (i) motion that a Member be suspended (*standing order 94*);

- (j) question that amendments made by the Main Committee be agreed to (*standing order 153*);
- (k) question that a bill reported from the Main Committee be agreed to (*standing order 153*);
- (l) motion that further proceedings on a bill be conducted in the House (*standing order 197*);
- (m) question in the Main Committee that a bill be reported to the House (*standing order 198*).

Should any of these questions be negatived, no similar proposal shall be received if the Speaker is of the opinion that it is an abuse of the orders or forms of the House, or is moved for the purpose of obstructing business.

Adjournment of debate

79 Adjournment of debate

- (a) Only a Member who has not spoken to the question or who has the right of reply may move the adjournment of a debate. Unless a Member requests that separate questions be put, the time for the resumption of the debate may be included in the adjournment question. The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.
- (b) If the question is resolved in the affirmative, the Member who moved the adjournment may speak first on the resumption.
- (c) If the question is negatived, the Member who moved the adjournment may speak at a later time during the debate.

Closure of debate

80 Closure of a Member speaking

If a Member is speaking, other than when giving a notice of motion or moving the terms of a motion, another Member may move—

That the Member be no longer heard.

The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.

81 Closure of question

After a question has been proposed from the Chair, a Member may move without notice, and whether or not any other Member is speaking—

That the question be now put.

The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.

Debate of urgent matters

82 Urgent bill

- (a) A Minister may declare a bill to be urgent at any time.
- (b) When a bill is declared urgent, the question—
That the bill be considered urgent—
must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.
- (c) If the question is agreed to, a Minister may move at any time, except when a Member is speaking, a motion specifying times for any stage of the bill. Any motion shall be subject to *standing orders 84 (limited debate on allotment of time) and 85 (proceedings on urgent matter)*.
- (d) The order for the consideration in detail stage may allocate times to particular clauses or parts of the bill.

83 Urgent motion

- (a) Once a motion has been moved, a Minister may declare the motion to be urgent.
- (b) When a motion is declared urgent, the question—
That the motion be considered urgent—
must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.
- (c) If the question is agreed to, a Minister may immediately move a motion specifying times for the urgent motion. Any motion is subject to *standing orders 84 (limited debate on allotment of time) and 85 (proceedings on urgent matter)*.

84 Limited debate on motion for allotment of time

- (a) The maximum times for debate on a motion for allotment of time are: whole debate 20 minutes; each Member 5 minutes.
- (b) After 20 minutes, or if debate concludes earlier, the Speaker must immediately put the question on any amendment or motion already proposed from the Chair.

85 Proceedings on urgent matter

- (a) If a time has been set for the start of an urgent matter, at the set time the business before the House or the Main Committee must be interrupted and all necessary steps taken so that the urgent matter can proceed.
- (b) At the end of the times allotted for particular proceedings the Speaker must conclude the proceedings:
 - (i) First the Speaker shall immediately put any question already proposed from the Chair, and then put any other question required to dispose of the urgent matter.

- (ii) If the Government has circulated copies of amendments, new clauses and schedules, and modifications to a bill, at least two hours before the end of the allotted time, they shall be treated as if they have been moved.
- (c) *Standing order 81*, providing for the closure of a question, shall not apply to any proceedings for which time has been allotted.

Point of order and Speaker's ruling

86 Point of order

- (a) A Member may raise a point of order with the Speaker at any time. After the question of order has been stated to the Speaker by the Member rising to the question of order, consideration and decision of every other question shall be suspended until the matter is disposed of by the Speaker giving a ruling thereon.
- (b) A Member interrupted by a point of order must resume his or her seat.
- (c) During a division, Members may speak while seated to a point of order arising out of or during the division.

87 Dissent from ruling of Speaker

If a Member dissents from a ruling of the Speaker, the objection or dissent must be declared at once. A Member moving a motion of dissent must submit the motion in writing. If the motion is seconded, the Speaker shall then propose the question to the House, and debate may proceed immediately.

Disorder

88 Use of certain names

A Member must not refer disrespectfully to the Queen, the Governor-General, or a State Governor, in debate or for the purpose of influencing the House in its deliberations.

89 Offensive words

A Member must not use offensive words against:

- (a) either House of the Parliament or a Member of the Parliament; or
- (b) a member of the Judiciary.

90 Reflections on Members

All imputations of improper motives to a Member and all personal reflections on other Members shall be considered highly disorderly.

91 Disorderly conduct

A Member's conduct shall be considered disorderly if the Member has:

- (a) persistently and wilfully obstructed the House;
- (b) used objectionable words, which he or she has refused to withdraw;
- (c) persistently and wilfully refused to conform to a standing order;
- (d) wilfully disobeyed an order of the House;
- (e) persistently and wilfully disregarded the authority of the Speaker; or
- (f) been considered by the Speaker to have behaved in a disorderly manner.

92 Intervention by Speaker

- (a) The Speaker can intervene:
 - (i) to prevent any personal quarrel between Members during proceedings; and
 - (ii) when a Member's conduct is considered offensive or disorderly.
- (b) When the Speaker's attention is drawn to the conduct of a Member, the Speaker shall determine whether or not it is offensive or disorderly.

93 Member ordered to attend House

A Member who wilfully disobeys an order of the House may be ordered to attend the House to answer for his or her conduct. A motion to this effect can be moved without notice.

94 Sanctions against disorderly conduct

The Speaker can take action against disorderly conduct by a Member:

Direction to leave the Chamber

- (a) The Speaker can direct a disorderly Member to leave the Chamber for one hour. The direction shall not be open to debate or dissent, and if the Member does not leave the Chamber immediately, the Speaker can name the Member under the following procedure.

Member named and suspended

- (b) The Speaker can name a disorderly Member. Immediately following a naming, on a motion being moved, the Speaker shall put the question—

That the Member be suspended from the service of the House.

The question must be resolved without amendment, adjournment or debate.

Urgent action

(c) If the Speaker determines there is an urgent need to protect the dignity of the House, the Speaker can order a grossly disorderly Member to leave the Chamber immediately. When the Member has left, the Speaker must immediately name the Member and paragraph (b) shall apply; except that the Speaker shall put the question for suspension without a motion being necessary. If the question is resolved in the negative, the Member may return to the Chamber.

Term of suspension

(d) If a Member is named and suspended, the term of the suspension shall be:

- (i) on the first occasion, for the 24 hour period from the time of suspension;
- (ii) on the second occasion during the same calendar year, for the three consecutive sittings following the day of suspension; and
- (iii) on a third or later occasion during the same calendar year, for the seven consecutive sittings following the day of suspension.

A suspension in a previous session or a direction to leave the Chamber for one hour shall be disregarded in the calculation of these terms.

Exclusion from Chamber and Main Committee

(e) A Member who is subject to a direction to leave the Chamber for one hour, or a suspension for 24 hours or more, shall be excluded from the Chamber, its galleries and the room in which the Main Committee is meeting.

Removal of Member

(f) If a Member refuses to follow the Speaker's direction, the Speaker may order the Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the Member from the Chamber or the Main Committee or take the Member into custody.

95 If grave disorder, House suspended or adjourned

In the event of grave disorder occurring in the House, the Speaker, without any question being put, can:

- (a) suspend the sitting and state the time at which he or she will resume the Chair; or
- (b) adjourn the House to the next sitting.

96 Serjeant-at-Arms to remove persons

(a) If a visitor or person other than a Member disturbs the operation of the Chamber or the Main Committee, the Serjeant-at-Arms can remove the person or take the person into custody.

(b) If a visitor or other person is taken into custody by the Serjeant-at-Arms, the Speaker must report this to the House without delay.

Chapter 9. Questions seeking information

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for Members to ask questions:

- orally and without notice during Question Time, and
 - placed on the Notice Paper.
-

Oral and written questions

97 Daily Question Time

- (a) Question Time shall begin at 2 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, at which time the Speaker shall interrupt any business before the House and call on questions without notice.
- (b) The business interrupted shall be dealt with in the following manner:
- (i) if a division is in progress at the time, the division shall be completed and the result announced; or
 - (ii) the Speaker shall set the time for resumption of debate.

98 Questions to Ministers

- (a) A Member may ask a question in writing of a Minister (but not a Parliamentary Secretary), to be placed on the Notice Paper for written reply.
- (b) During Question Time, a Member may orally ask a question of a Minister (but not a Parliamentary Secretary), without notice and for immediate response.
- (c) A Minister can only be questioned on the following matters, for which he or she is responsible or officially connected:
- (i) public affairs;
 - (ii) administration; or
 - (iii) proceedings pending in the House.
- (d) Questioners must not ask Ministers:
- (i) for an expression of opinion, including a legal opinion; or
 - (ii) to announce government policy, but may seek an explanation about the policy and its application, and may ask

the Prime Minister whether a Minister's statement in the House represents government policy.

99 Questions to other Members

During Question Time, a Member may ask a question orally of another Member who is not a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary. Questions must relate to a bill, motion, or other business of the House or of a committee, for which the Member asked is responsible.

100 Rules for questions

The following general rules apply to all questions:

- (a) Questions must not be debated.
- (b) A question fully answered must not be asked again.
- (c) For questions regarding persons:
 - (i) questions must not reflect on or be critical of the character or conduct of a Member, a Senator, the Queen, the Governor-General, a State Governor, or a member of the judiciary: their conduct may only be challenged on a substantive motion; and
 - (ii) questions critical of the character or conduct of other persons must be in writing.
- (d) Questions must not contain:
 - (i) statements of facts or names of persons, unless they can be authenticated and are strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;
 - (ii) arguments;
 - (iii) inferences;
 - (iv) imputations;
 - (v) insults;
 - (vi) ironical expressions; or
 - (vii) hypothetical matter.
- (e) Questions must not refer to debates in the current session, or to proceedings of a committee not reported to the House.

[100(f) suspended by sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

101 Speaker's discretion about questions

The Speaker may:

- (a) direct a Member to change the language of a question asked during Question Time if the language is inappropriate or does not otherwise conform with the standing orders;
- (b) allow supplementary questions to be asked to clarify an answer to a question asked during Question Time; and

- (c) change the language of a question in writing if the language is inappropriate or does not otherwise conform with the standing orders.

102 Lodging questions in writing

- (a) A Member lodging a question for the Notice Paper must deliver it in writing to the Clerk at the Table or to the Table Office.
- (b) The question must be authorised by the Member.
- (c) Questions for the next Notice Paper shall be lodged by the cut off time determined by the Speaker, otherwise they will be included in the Notice Paper for the following sitting.

103 Questions to Speaker

At the conclusion of Question Time, Members may ask questions orally of the Speaker about any matter of administration for which he or she is responsible.

Replies to questions

104 Answers

An answer must be relevant to the question.

105 Replies to written questions

- (a) A Minister's written reply to a question must be delivered to the Clerk. The Clerk shall provide a copy of the reply to the Member who asked the question, and the question and reply shall be published in Hansard.
- (b) If a reply has not been received 60 days after a question first appeared on the Notice Paper, the Member who asked the question may, at the conclusion of Question Time, ask the Speaker to write to the Minister concerned, seeking reasons for the delay in answering.

Chapter 10. Motions

Chapter outline

This chapter deals with:

- notices of motion
 - motions
 - questions on motions, and
 - amendments.
-

Notices of motion

106 Giving notice

- (a) In all cases, a Member giving a notice of motion must deliver it in writing to the Clerk at the Table. In addition, the Member may state its terms to the House during the period of Members' statements on Mondays under *standing order 43*.
- (b) The notice may specify the day proposed for moving the motion and must be authorised by the Member and a seconder.
- (c) Unless the Member has stated the terms of the motion to the House, as provided under paragraph (a), a notice of motion which expresses censure of or no confidence in the Government, or a censure of any Member, must be reported to the House by the Clerk at the first convenient opportunity.

107 Notice given for an absent Member

A Member may give a notice of motion on behalf of, and at the request of, another Member who is absent. The notice must show both the absent Member's name and the signature of the Member acting for him or her.

108 Order of notices

The Clerk shall enter notices on the Notice Paper in the order in which they are received, and before orders of the day. *Standing orders 41 (private Members' business), 42 (removal of private Members' business), 45 (order of government business), 113 (motion not moved) and 222 (Selection Committee)* also apply to the order of notices. A notice of motion becomes effective only when it appears on the Notice Paper.

109 Speaker amends notice

If a notice:

- (a) contains inappropriate language or does not conform with the standing orders, the Speaker must amend the notice; or
- (b) contains matters which are not relevant to each other, the Speaker may divide the notice.

110 Member may change notice

A Member who has given a notice of motion may:

- (a) change the terms of the notice by notifying the Clerk in writing in time for the change to be published on the Notice Paper before the motion is called on;
- (b) change the day proposed for moving the motion to a later day by notifying the Clerk in writing before the motion is called on; or
- (c) withdraw the notice by notifying the Clerk in writing before the motion is called on.

Proceeding with motions

111 When a motion may be moved

A Member must not move a motion unless:

- (a) he or she has given a notice of motion and the notice has appeared on the Notice Paper; or
- (b) he or she has leave of the House; or
- (c) as otherwise specified in the standing orders.

112 Order of motions

The order in which motions are called on is the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. A Member who gave notice of a motion may move its postponement without notice.

113 Motion not moved when called on

A motion not moved when called on shall be removed from the Notice Paper except if the Member who gave notice, or another Member at his or her request, sets a future time for moving the motion.

114 Same motion

- (a) A motion which has been withdrawn by leave of the House, or removed from the Notice Paper before being decided, may be moved again during the same session.

(b) Subject to *standing order 150(e)*, the Speaker may disallow any motion or amendment which he or she considers is the same in substance as any question already resolved in the same session.

115 Motions not called on

If any motions on the Notice Paper have not been called on before the adjournment of the House, they shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting, following the motions of which notice has been given for that day.

116 Seconding of motions

(a) Unless otherwise provided, a motion must be seconded. A motion which is not seconded when required must not be debated, and shall not be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

(b) A motion moved by a Minister does not require a seconder.

(c) A motion moved by the Chief Government Whip does not require a seconder if it relates to:

- (i) the sitting arrangements of the House or the Main Committee; or
- (ii) the conduct of business of the House or the Main Committee, but not including any stage of a government bill.

Questions on motions

117 Question proposed and put by the Speaker

(a) After a motion has been moved and seconded, the Speaker shall propose the question to the House.

(b) After the question on the motion has been proposed from the Chair, the motion is in the possession of the House, and cannot be withdrawn without leave.

(c) At the conclusion of debate, the Speaker shall put the question to the House for decision.

118 Question put following amendments

(a) If amendments to a question have been made, the main question shall be put as amended.

(b) When amendments have been moved but not made, the question shall be put as originally proposed.

119 Complicated question divided

A Member may move that a complicated question be divided.

120 Resolution or vote rescinded

A resolution or other vote of the House may be rescinded during the same session. If the purpose of the rescission is to correct irregularities or mistakes the corrections may be made at once by leave of the House or when one day's notice has been given. In all other cases the rescission may only be made on seven days' notice.

Amendments

121 Form of amendments and seconding

- (a) Once the Speaker has proposed a question on a motion to the House, the question may be amended by:
 - (i) omitting certain words; and/or
 - (ii) inserting or adding words.
- (b) An amendment must be in writing and be signed by the mover and a seconder. If the amendment is not seconded (if necessary), it must not be debated and shall not be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings. Amendments moved during the consideration in detail of a bill (*standing order 151*) or during the consideration of Senate amendments to a bill (*standing order 159*) do not require seconders.
- (c) The amendment must be relevant to the question it proposes to amend.
- (d) A proposed amendment may be withdrawn by leave.

122 Questions put on proposed amendments

- (a) The Speaker shall put a question reflecting the purpose of a proposed amendment.
 - (i) If the purpose is to omit certain words, the question shall be—
That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.
 - (ii) If the purpose is to omit certain words in order to insert or add other words, the question shall be—
That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.
If this question is resolved in the affirmative, the amendment is disposed of: if negated, the Speaker shall put a further question—
That the words proposed be [inserted, or added].
 - (iii) If the purpose is to insert or add certain words, the question shall be—
That the words proposed be [inserted, or added].

(b) If no Member objects, instead of the questions in paragraph (a), the Speaker may put the question—

That the amendment be agreed to.

123 Restrictions on amendments to be moved

- (a) A proposed amendment must not be inconsistent with a previous decision on the question.
- (b) An amendment may not be moved to an earlier part of the question
 - (i) after a later part has been amended, or
 - (ii) after an amendment to a later part has been proposed and the proposal has not, by leave, been withdrawn.
- (c) When it is moved to omit words in the main question in order to insert or add others, no amendment to the words proposed to be inserted or added may be moved until the question 'that the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question' has been determined.
- (d) Only an amendment which adds other words may be moved to words which the House has resolved stand part of the question, or which have been inserted in, or added to, a question.
- (e) Each proposed amendment shall be disposed of before another amendment to the original question can be moved.

124 Amendments to proposed amendments

Amendments may be moved to a proposed amendment as if the proposed amendment were an original question (*see standing order 121*).

Chapter 11. Voting

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for voting by Members on:

- the voices
 - divisions, and
 - ballots.
-

On the voices

125 Question determined by a majority of voices

The Speaker shall put the question by stating its terms to the House and asking Members in favour of the question to say 'Aye' and those against 'No', and the question shall be resolved by the majority of Members calling either 'Aye' or 'No'. The Speaker shall then state whether the 'Ayes' or the 'Noes' have it. If the Speaker's opinion is challenged by more than one Member, the question must be decided by division of the House.

Divisions

126 When division may be taken

A division of the House may take place only after more than one Member challenges the Speaker's opinion about whether a question was resolved for the 'Ayes' or the 'Noes' and calls for a division. If only one Member calls for a division, that Member may tell the Speaker he or she wishes his or her dissent to be recorded, and the dissent must be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings and in Hansard.

127 Four or fewer Members on a side

If, after the doors are locked, there are four or fewer Members on one side in a division, the Speaker shall declare the decision of the House immediately, without completing the count. The names of the Members who are in the minority shall be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

128 Members calling for division

Members calling for a division must not leave the area of Members' seats and they must vote with those Members who, in the Speaker's opinion, were in the minority when the Members called 'Aye' or 'No'.

129 Procedures for a division

- (a) If the House is to divide, the Clerk must ring the division bells for four minutes and the doors must remain open (*see standing order 131* in relation to successive divisions). A Member may leave the area of Members' seats unless he or she called for the division.
- (b) After four minutes have elapsed the doors shall be locked and no Member may enter or leave the Chamber until after the division.
- (c) Upon the doors being locked, the Speaker shall:
 - (i) state the question to the House;
 - (ii) direct the Members voting 'Aye' to move to the right side of the Chair, and the Members voting 'No' to move to the left; and
 - (iii) appoint tellers for each side.
- (d) No Member may move from his or her place from the commencement of the count until the result of that division is announced.

130 Procedures for counting and reporting the vote

- (a) The respective tellers shall:
 - (i) record the name of each Member voting;
 - (ii) count the total number of Members voting;
 - (iii) sign their records; and
 - (iv) present their records to the Speaker.
- (b) The Speaker shall then declare the result of the division to the House.

131 Successive divisions

- (a) If a division is called following a division and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker shall appoint tellers immediately and the bells shall be rung for one minute.
- (b) If there is a successive division, Members who wish to vote in the same way as in the previous division must remain seated until the result of the division is announced. The tellers shall record each Member's vote as being the same as it was in the previous division unless a Member reports to them. A Member must report to the tellers if he or she:
 - (i) wishes to vote differently to his or her vote in the previous division; or
 - (ii) voted in the previous division and does not wish to vote in the current division; or
 - (iii) did not vote in the previous division and wishes to vote in the current division.
- (c) The vote shall be counted as in *standing order 130* if:

- (i) in the Speaker's opinion most Members wish to vote differently to their votes in the previous division; or
- (ii) any confusion or error occurs in the count by the tellers.

132 In case of confusion or error House again divides

If confusion, or error concerning the numbers reported by the tellers, occurs and cannot be corrected, the House shall divide again.

133 Deferred divisions on Mondays and Tuesdays

(a) On Mondays, a division called for during:

- committee and delegation reports;
- private Members' business;
- Members' statements;
- petitions; or
- grievance debate;

shall be deferred until the grievance debate has ended.

(b) On Mondays and Tuesdays, any division called for between the hours of 6.30 pm and 8 pm shall be deferred until 8 pm.

(c) The Speaker shall put all questions on which a division has been deferred, successively and without amendment or further debate.

(d) This standing order does not apply to a division called on a motion moved by a Minister during the periods specified during this standing order.

134 Member with pecuniary interest not to vote

(a) A Member may not vote in a division on a question about a matter, other than public policy, in which he or she has a particular direct pecuniary interest.

(b) The vote of a Member may be challenged on the grounds of the pecuniary interest by means of a substantive motion moved immediately after a division is completed. If the motion is carried, the Member's vote shall be disallowed.

135 Recording of division

(a) The Clerk shall record lists of divisions in the Votes and Proceedings.

(b) If a Member complains to the House that a division has been wrongly recorded, the Speaker may direct the record to be corrected.

(c) Any reasons given by the Speaker for exercising a casting vote in accordance with section 40 of the Constitution, must be entered in the Votes and Proceedings.

Ballots

136 Ballot taken after bells rung

- (a) A ballot to elect a Member to a position or to perform a function may be taken whenever the House thinks fit.
- (b) Before the House proceeds to a ballot, the bells shall be rung for four minutes.

137 Manner of taking ballot

Unless otherwise provided, a ballot shall be taken in the following manner:

- (a) Each Member present shall vote by giving the Clerk a list of Members he or she thinks should be chosen at the ballot. If the list does not contain the exact number of names to be chosen, the vote is invalid and shall be rejected.
- (b) When all the lists are collected, the Clerk shall count the votes and report the names of the Members having the most votes to the Speaker. These Members shall be declared chosen.
- (c) If nominees with the most votes receive equal votes, their names shall be put to a further ballot.

Chapter 12. Bills

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out the stages bills go through:

- House bills
 - Senate amendments to House bills
 - bills the Senate may not amend
 - Senate bills and House amendments
 - bills altering the Constitution
 - lapsed bills, and
 - Governor-General's consideration of bills.
-

House bills

138 Initiation of bills

A House bill may be initiated:

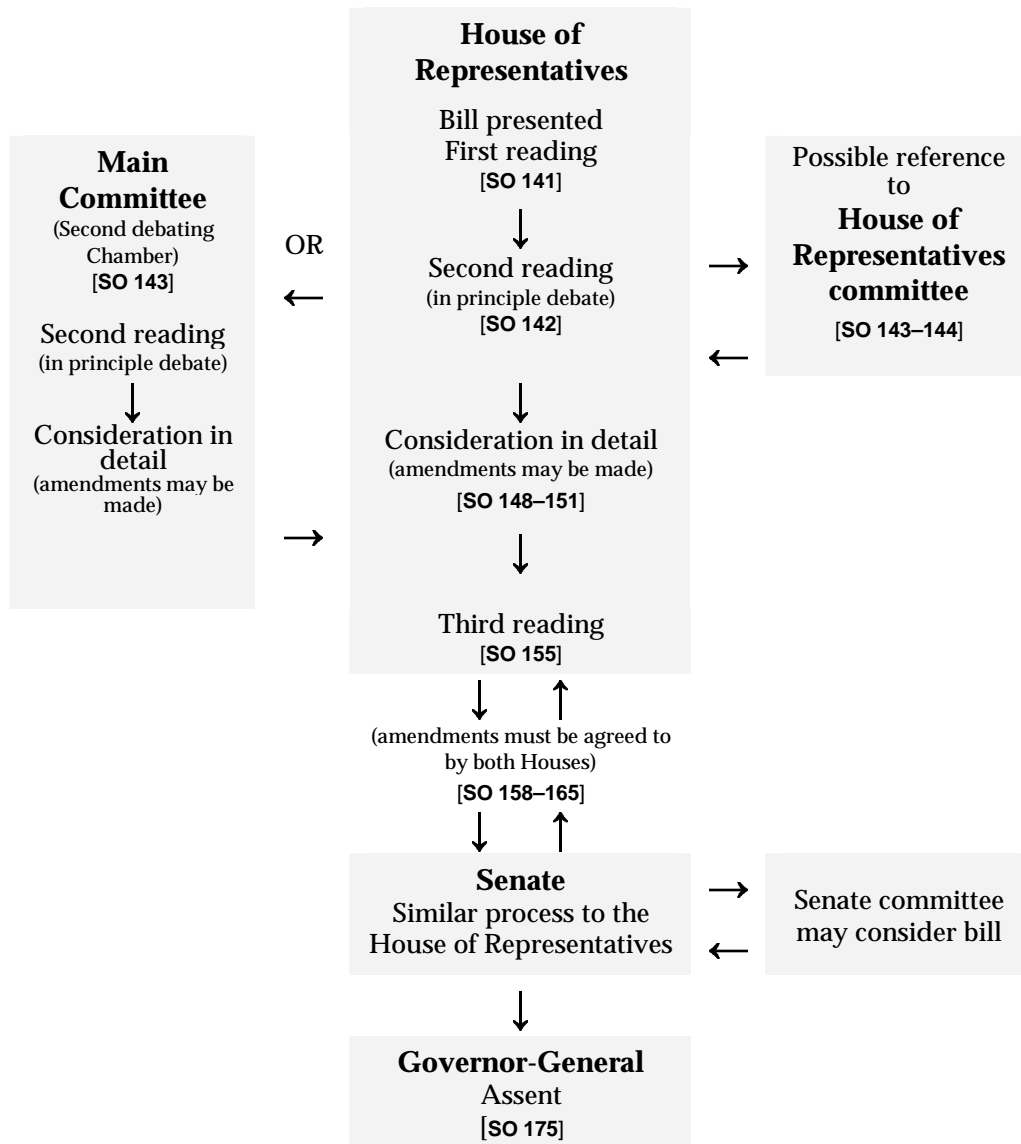
- (a) by the calling on of a notice of intention to present a bill;
- (b) by an order of the House; or
- (c) without notice by a Minister under *standing order 178* (*Appropriation Bill or bill dealing with taxation*).

A bill not prepared according to the standing orders of the House shall be ordered to be withdrawn.

139 Notice of intention to present bill

- (a) A Member giving a notice of intention to present a bill must deliver the notice in writing to the Clerk at the Table. In addition, the Member may state the terms of the notice to the House during the period of Members' statements on Mondays, under *standing order 43*.
- (b) The notice must:
 - (i) specify the title of the bill and the day for presentation; and
 - (ii) be signed by the Member and at least one other Member.
- (c) A notice of intention to present a bill shall be treated as if it were a notice of motion.

Figure 3. Stages a House bill goes through



140 Signed copy of bill presented

- (a) A Member presenting a bill must sign a legible copy of the bill and give it to the Clerk at the Table.
- (b) The title of a bill must agree with the notice of intention to present it, and every clause must come within the title.

First reading

141 First reading and explanatory memorandum

- (a) When a bill is presented to the House, or a Senate bill is first received, the bill shall be read a first time without a question being put. A Member presenting a bill during private Members' business may speak to the bill, before it is read a first time, for no longer than 5 minutes.
- (b) For any bill presented by a Minister, except an Appropriation or Supply Bill, the Minister must present a signed explanatory memorandum. The explanatory memorandum must include an explanation of the reasons for the bill.

Second reading

142 Second reading

- (a) If copies of the bill are available to Members, the Member presenting the bill may move immediately after the first reading, or at a later hour—

That this bill be now read a second time.

At the conclusion of the Member's speech the debate on the question must then be adjourned to a future sitting.

After the first reading of a bill presented during private Members' business, the motion for the second reading shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

- (b) If copies of the bill are not available, a future sitting shall be appointed for the second reading and copies of the bill must then be available to Members.

143 Bill referred to committee

After the first reading but before the resumption of debate on the motion for the second reading:

- (a) a motion may be moved without notice to refer a bill to the Main Committee for further consideration as provided in *standing order 183*; or

- (b) a motion may be moved without notice to refer a bill to a standing or select committee for an advisory report. The motion may specify a date by which the committee is to report to the House. After an advisory report has been presented to the House, the bill may then be referred to the Main Committee under paragraph (a).

144 Report on bill referred to committee

When a standing or select committee has presented a report on a bill, the Member in charge of the bill shall move a motion without notice to set a time for the consideration in detail of the bill.

145 Second reading amendment

- (a) An amendment to the question—

That this bill be now read a second time—

- (i) must be relevant to the bill;
 - (ii) may propose to omit words from the question in order to substitute other words (see *standing order 122(a)(ii)*)
 - (iii) must not propose the addition of words to the question; and
 - (iv) must not anticipate an amendment which may be moved during consideration in detail.
- (b) For Appropriation or Supply Bills for the ordinary annual services of government, an amendment to the motion may relate to public affairs beyond the scope of the bill.

146 Six month amendment

An amendment may be moved to the question—

That this bill be now read a second time—

by omitting 'now' and adding 'this day six months', which, if carried, shall finally dispose of the bill. No amendment may be moved to this amendment.

147 Message recommending appropriation

Immediately after the second reading of a bill, other than an Appropriation or Supply Bill where *standing order 180(b)* applies, the Speaker shall announce any message from the Governor-General in accordance with section 56 of the Constitution recommending an appropriation in connection with the bill.

Consideration in detail

148 Consideration in detail

The House or the Main Committee shall consider the bill in detail immediately following the second reading or after the Speaker has announced a message from the Governor-General under *standing order 147*, except that a bill referred to a standing or select committee under *standing order 143(b)* shall not be considered in detail until the committee has reported.

A bill shall not be considered in detail if:

- (a) the bill is before the House and the House grants leave for the question to be moved immediately—
That this bill be now read a third time; or
- (b) the bill is before the Main Committee and the Main Committee grants leave for the question to be put immediately—
That this bill be reported to the House without amendment.

149 Order in considering bill

- (a) A bill shall be considered in the following order:
 - (i) clauses and proposed clauses, in numerical order;
 - (ii) schedules and proposed schedules, in numerical order;
 - (iii) postponed clauses which have not been postponed to a specific point;
 - (iv) preamble; and
 - (v) title.
- (b) By leave, a bill may be considered as a whole.
- (c) The Speaker shall propose a question on each clause or schedule or the preamble or title—

That the [clause or schedule or preamble or title] be agreed to.

No question shall be put on the words of enactment at the head of the bill.

- (d) With the following types of bill schedules shall be considered before clauses:
 - (i) an Appropriation or Supply Bill—schedules of services for which an appropriation is to be made shall be considered before the clauses and proposed expenditures in a schedule shall be considered, in the order in which they appear, unless the House otherwise orders;
 - (ii) a bill imposing taxation; and
 - (iii) an amending bill—items within a schedule shall be considered in their numerical order, and consecutive items which amend the same section of an Act shall be considered together, unless the House otherwise orders.

150 Amendments to bills during consideration in detail

- (a) An amendment may be moved to any part of a bill, if the amendment is within the title or relevant to the subject matter of the bill and conforms to the standing orders.
- (b) Debate shall be relevant to the clause or amendment before the House or the Main Committee.
- (c) If a clause or schedule is amended, the Speaker shall propose a further question—

That the [clause or schedule], as amended, be agreed to.

Consideration of this question may be postponed.

- (d) If an amendment has been made and an amendment of the title is necessary, the title shall be amended, and the question proposed—

That the title, as amended, be the title of the bill.

If the bill has been considered in the Main Committee the amendment of the title shall be reported to the House.

- (e) No amendment, new clause or new schedule may be moved if it is:
 - (i) substantially the same as one already negated by the House or the Main Committee; or
 - (ii) inconsistent with one agreed to already by the House or the Main Committee.

If the bill is reconsidered an amendment, new clause or new schedule may be moved.

151 Detail amendments not seconded

As an exception to *standing order 121*, an amendment moved during consideration in detail need not be seconded.

Report from Main Committee

152 Bill reported to the House

- (a) After a bill is returned from the Main Committee, the Speaker shall report the bill when other business is not before the House. Any Governor-General's messages, schedules of amendments or unresolved questions shall also be reported at that time.
- (b) When a bill is reported from the Main Committee with amendments or with unresolved questions, the report may be considered immediately if copies of the amendments or unresolved questions are available to Members. If copies are not available, a future time shall be set for considering the report and copies of the amendments or unresolved questions must then be available to Members.

153 Questions to be put

- (a) If a bill is reported from the Main Committee without amendment or unresolved questions the question shall be put immediately—

That the bill be agreed to.

The question must be decided without amendment or debate.

- (b) If a bill is reported with amendment or unresolved question, matters shall be dealt with in the following order:

(i) A separate question shall be proposed on each unresolved question and each shall be open to amendment or debate.

(ii) A single question shall be proposed, if necessary—

That the amendments made by the Main Committee be agreed to.

The question must be decided without amendment or debate.

(iii) New amendments may only be moved as a consequence of the resolution by the House of any unresolved question.

(iv) The question shall be proposed—

That the bill [as amended] be agreed to.

The question must be decided without amendment or debate.

Reconsideration

154 Reconsideration

Before the third reading of a bill is moved, a Member may move without notice that a bill be reconsidered in detail, in whole or in part, by the House.

Third reading and passing the House

155 Question for third reading

- (a) When a bill has been agreed to, the House may grant leave for the motion for the third reading to be moved immediately, or a future sitting may be set for the motion.

The question shall be proposed on the motion—

That this bill be now read a third time.

(b) The only amendment which may be moved to this question is by omitting 'now' and adding 'this day 6 months', which, if carried, shall dispose of the bill.

(c) After the third reading the bill has passed the House and no further question may be put.

156 Corrections to a bill

Under the authority of the Deputy Speaker, the Clerk may correct clerical or typographical errors in a bill.

157 Bill certified and sent to Senate

- (a) When the House passes a House bill, the Clerk shall certify that the bill originated in the House, the date on which it passed, and any accompanying schedules.
- (b) After the bill is certified, it shall be sent to the Senate with a message asking the Senate to agree to the bill.

Senate amendments to House bills

158 Bills returned by Senate with amendments

- (a) If a House bill is returned from the Senate with amendments, the amendments shall be made available to Members and a time set for the House to consider them.
- (b) The House may:
 - (i) agree to any Senate amendment ;
 - (ii) make an amendment, which shall be relevant to the Senate amendment, to any Senate amendment;
 - (iii) disagree to any Senate amendments;
 - (iv) postpone consideration of any Senate amendments; or
 - (v) order the bill to be laid aside.

159 Motion on Senate amendments not seconded

A motion for consideration of amendments to a bill made or requested by the Senate need not be seconded.

160 Further amendments to a bill must be relevant

The House may only amend a House bill which has been returned from the Senate if its further amendment is relevant to or consequent on the Senate amendments or requests for amendments.

161 Messages and reasons

- (a) If the House agrees without amendment to Senate amendments to a House bill, the House shall inform the Senate by message.
- (b) If amendments to Senate amendments are agreed to by the House, the House shall send a message returning the bill with a schedule of the House amendments and asking the Senate to agree to the House amendments.
- (c) If the House disagrees to Senate amendments to a House bill, a Member shall:

- (i) move—
That the amendment[s] be disagreed to; and
- (ii) present to the House written reasons for the House not agreeing to the Senate amendments; and
- (iii) immediately move—
That the reasons be adopted.

The House shall send a message returning the bill for reconsideration, with a schedule listing amendments disagreed to and the reasons.

162 Continued Senate disagreement on amendments

- (a) If the Senate returns a House bill insisting on the original Senate amendments to which the House has disagreed, the House may:
 - (i) agree, with or without amendment, to the Senate amendments to which the House had previously disagreed, and make any necessary consequential amendments to the bill; or
 - (ii) insist on its disagreement to the Senate amendments and make any necessary amendments relevant to the rejection of the Senate amendments.
- (b) If the Senate returns a House bill disagreeing to House amendments, the House may:
 - (i) withdraw its amendments and agree to the original Senate amendments;
 - (ii) make further amendments to the bill consequent upon the rejection of its amendments;
 - (iii) make new amendments as alternative to its amendments to which the Senate has disagreed; or
 - (iv) insist on its amendments to which the Senate has disagreed.
- (c) If the Senate returns a House bill with further amendments to the bill or to House amendments, the House may:
 - (i) agree, with or without amendment, to the further Senate amendments, making consequential amendments to the bill, if necessary; or
 - (ii) disagree to the further Senate amendments and insist on its own amendments which the Senate has amended.
- (d) In the situations described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) the House may:
 - (i) return the bill to the Senate;
 - (ii) order the bill to be laid aside; or
 - (iii) ask for a conference.

If the House returns the bill to the Senate, and the Senate returns the bill still disagreeing with any of the requirements of the House, the House shall set a time for consideration of the Senate message. On its

consideration, the House can order the bill to be laid aside or ask for a conference.

163 Final agreement sent by message

If the House has agreed to the requirements of the Senate in the bill, the House shall inform the Senate by message.

164 Clerk to certify House bill

At every stage, when the House concludes its consideration of Senate amendments to a House bill, the Clerk shall certify the bill and any accompanying schedules.

Bills the Senate may not amend

165 Senate requests

The Senate may return to the House a bill which the Senate may not amend, and by message, request the omission or amendment of any items or provisions. The House may consider the requests immediately, or set a time for considering them. When they are considered:

- (a) The House may agree to the requested amendments, with or without its own amendment. The Clerk shall then incorporate the amendments in the bill.
- (b) The bill shall be returned to the Senate with a message, stating how the House has dealt with the requests and asking the Senate to agree to the bill.
[Section 53 of the Constitution]

Senate bills

166 Procedures for Senate bill

A Senate bill coming to the House for the first time shall proceed, to the necessary extent, as if it were a House bill.

167 Clerk to certify when Senate bill agreed to

When the House passes a Senate bill:

- (a) The Clerk shall certify that the bill has been agreed to by the House, without amendment or with amendments shown in any accompanying schedules, and the House shall return the bill to the Senate by message.
- (b) If the House amends the bill, the schedule of amendments shall refer to the clause, page, and line of the bill as amended.

168 Senate amendments to House amendments

If the Senate disagrees to or amends the House amendments to a Senate bill and returns the bill to the House:

- (a) the Speaker shall announce the Senate message returning the bill;
- (b) the House shall set a time for considering the message; and
- (c) any schedule with the message shall be made available to Members.

169 Senate disagreement with House amendments

(a) If the Senate disagrees to House amendments to a Senate bill, the House may:

- (i) insist, or not insist, on its amendments;
- (ii) make further amendments to the bill consequent upon the rejection of its amendments;
- (iii) make new amendments alternative to the amendments to which the Senate has disagreed; or
- (iv) order the bill to be laid aside.

(b) If the Senate agrees to House amendments with amendments, the House may:

- (i) agree to the Senate's amendments, with or without amendment, making any consequential amendments to the bill;
- (ii) disagree to the Senate's amendments and insist on its own amendments; or
- (iii) order the bill to be laid aside.

(c) Except when a bill is laid aside, the House shall inform the Senate by message of its decision under paragraph (a) or (b). On any further return of the bill from the Senate with any of the requirements of the House still disagreed to, the House may order the bill to be laid aside.

170 House disagrees to or amends Senate amendments

(a) If the House amends any Senate amendments to original House amendments to a Senate bill, the House must prepare a schedule of further amendments. The schedule must list each Senate amendment amended by the House and the further amendment made by the House.

(b) If the House disagrees to Senate amendments to House amendments, a Member shall:

- (i) move—
That the amendment[s] be disagreed to; and
- (ii) present to the House written reasons for the House not agreeing to the Senate amendments.

The message returning the bill to the Senate shall contain the reasons.

171 Clerk to certify Senate bill

At every stage, when the House concludes its consideration of a Senate bill returned from the Senate after amendment by the House, the Clerk shall certify the bill and any accompanying schedules.

172 Amendments to words agreed to

The House may not amend any words of a bill which both Houses have agreed to, unless:

- (a) the words have been the subject of, or directly affected by, some previous amendment; or
- (b) the proposed House amendment is consequent upon an amendment previously agreed to or made by the House.

Bills altering the Constitution

173 Absolute majority required

If, in accordance with section 128 of the Constitution, an absolute majority of the House does not agree to the third reading of a bill which proposes an alteration of the Constitution, the bill shall be laid aside immediately and may not be revived during the same session of Parliament.

Lapsed bills

174 Restoration after prorogation

- (a) A bill shall lapse if Parliament is prorogued before the bill has reached its final stage.
- (b) Proceedings on the bill may be resumed in the next session, at the stage reached in the preceding session, if:
 - (i) a periodical election for the Senate, or a general election has not taken place between the two sessions; and
 - (ii) the House in which the bill originated agrees to the resumption of proceedings.

The House in possession of the bill may resolve to restore it to the Notice Paper. When a bill is in the possession of the House in which it did not originate, that House may not resolve to restore the bill unless it has received a message from the originating House asking for consideration of the bill to be resumed.

- (c) A bill restored to the Notice Paper shall proceed as if it had not been interrupted by prorogation.
- (d) If the House in which the bill originated does not ask for the resumption of proceedings, the bill may be re-introduced.

Governor-General's consideration of bills

175 House bills presented to Governor-General

When a House bill has finally passed both Houses, the Clerk shall certify this and the Speaker shall present the bill to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent in accordance with section 58 of the Constitution.

176 Governor-General's proposed amendments to House bills

- (a) If the Governor-General returns a bill recommending amendment in accordance with section 58 of the Constitution, the House shall deal with the amendment in the same manner as Senate amendments.
- (b) The House may agree to an amendment proposed by the Governor-General, with or without amendment, and may make any consequential amendments. The House shall send any amendment to the Senate for its agreement.
- (c) If the Senate makes an amendment, the House shall deal with it in the manner provided for Senate amendments to House bills in *standing orders 158 to 164*.
- (d) If the Governor-General's recommendations have been agreed to by both Houses, with or without amendment, any amendments shall be incorporated, the Clerk shall certify the bill, and the Speaker shall present it to the Governor-General.
- (e) If the House disagrees to the Governor-General's proposed amendment, or if the two Houses cannot agree on the proposed amendment before the last day of the session, the Speaker shall again present the bill in the form as before presented to the Governor-General for assent.

177 Governor-General's proposed amendment of Senate bills

If the Senate has agreed to amendments recommended by the Governor-General in accordance with section 58 of the Constitution to a Senate bill, the House shall deal with the amendment in the manner provided in *standing orders 166 to 172*.

Chapter 13. Financial proposals

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out:

- special measures for appropriation and taxation proposals, and
 - procedures for Governor-General's messages recommending appropriation.
-

Proposals for appropriation and taxation

178 Notice not required for certain bills or proposals

A Minister may present without notice an Appropriation or Supply Bill or a bill or proposal dealing with taxation.

179 Taxation proposals initiated by Minister

- (a) Only a Minister may initiate a proposal to impose, increase, or decrease a tax or duty, or change the scope of any charge.
- (b) Only a Minister may move an amendment to the proposal which increases or extends the scope of the charge proposed beyond the total already existing under any Act of Parliament.
- (c) A Member who is not a Minister may move an amendment to the proposal which does not increase or extend the scope of the charge proposed beyond the total already existing under any Act of Parliament.

Messages recommending appropriation

180 Appropriations recommended by Governor-General

- (a) All proposals for the appropriation of revenue or moneys require a message to the House from the Governor-General recommending the purpose of the appropriation in accordance with section 56 of the Constitution.
- (b) For an Appropriation or Supply Bill, the message must be announced before the bill is introduced.
- (c) For other bills appropriating revenue or moneys, a Minister may introduce the bill and the bill may be proceeded with before the message is announced and *standing order 147 (message recommending appropriation)* applies.

(d) A further message must be received before any amendment can be moved which would increase, or extend the objects and purposes or alter the destination of, a recommended appropriation.

181 Message for Senate amendments and requests

Any message from the Governor-General recommending an appropriation in relation to a Senate amendment or request for amendment to a House bill, must be announced before the House proceeds to consider the amendment or request.

182 Governor-General's messages announced

The Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall announce all messages from the Governor-General in the House or the Main Committee, as appropriate, but not during a debate or so as to interrupt a Member speaking.

Chapter 14. Main Committee

Chapter outline

This chapter establishes the Main Committee and provides for:

- the Chair and administration in the Committee
 - meetings and adjournments, and
 - the Committee's business.
-

General

183 Appointment of Main Committee

The Main Committee shall be established to consider matters referred to it by the House as follows:

- (a) proceedings on bills to the completion of the consideration in detail stage; and
- (b) orders of the day for the resumption of debate on any motion.

184 Membership and quorum of Main Committee

- (a) All Members shall be members of the Main Committee.
- (b) The quorum of the Committee is the Deputy Speaker, one government Member and one non-government Member.

185 Rules for House apply to Main Committee

The rules applying to the House also apply to the Main Committee, subject to the standing orders in this chapter: *see standing order 3 (application of the standing orders)*.

186 Deputy Speaker and meetings of Main Committee

The Main Committee may meet at any time during a sitting of the House, except as provided by *standing order 190 (suspensions and adjournments of the Main Committee)*. The Deputy Speaker must set the meeting times of the Committee, notify the times to all Members, and take the Chair when the Committee meets.

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

187 Maintenance of order

- (a) In the Main Committee the Deputy Speaker has the same responsibility for the preservation of order as the Speaker has in the House.
- (b) If disorder occurs in the Committee, the Deputy Speaker:
 - (i) may direct the Member or Members concerned to leave the room for a period of 15 minutes [*standing order 94(e) (exclusion from Chamber, etc.)* does not apply]; or
 - (ii) may, or on motion moved without notice by any Member must, suspend or adjourn the sitting. If the sitting is adjourned, any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the adjournment shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.
- (c) Following a suspension or adjournment of the Committee or a refusal of a Member to leave when so directed under paragraph (b), the Deputy Speaker must report the disorder to the House.
- (d) The Deputy Speaker may report the conduct of a Member whether or not action has been taken under paragraph (b).
- (e) Any subsequent action against a Member under *standing order 94 (sanctions against disorderly conduct)* may only be taken in the House.

188 How questions decided

- (a) Every question in the Main Committee shall be decided on the voices and the result shall be announced by the Deputy Speaker.
- (b) If a Member dissents from the announced result, the question is unresolved. An unresolved question shall be recorded in the minutes, reported to the House and if related to a bill or order of the day, included in a schedule attached to the Committee's report to the House.

189 Minutes recorded by Clerk of Committee

The Clerk of the Committee shall record the proceedings of the Main Committee as the Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee. The minutes shall form part of the Votes and Proceedings of the House for that sitting.

Suspension and adjournment of Main Committee

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

190 General rules for suspensions and adjournments of the Main Committee

The following general rules apply to meetings of the Main Committee:

- (a) The Deputy Speaker must suspend proceedings in the Committee to enable Members to attend divisions in the House.
- (b) If a quorum is not present the Deputy Speaker must immediately suspend proceedings until a stated time, or adjourn the Committee.
- (c) If the House adjourns, the Deputy Speaker must interrupt the business before the Committee and immediately adjourn the Committee.
- (d) The Committee need not adjourn between items of business, nor during a suspension of the House.
- (e) The Committee shall stand adjourned at 6 pm, unless otherwise ordered, when the committee meets on Mondays in accordance with *standing order 192(b)*, or on completion of all matters referred to it, or may be adjourned on motion moved without notice by any Member—
That the Committee do now adjourn.
- (f) No amendment may be moved to the question.

191 Adjournment debate in Main Committee

- (a) The question ***That the Committee do now adjourn*** may be debated, but no amendment may be moved to the question.
- (b) The following qualifications apply:
 - Member may require question to be put***
 - (i) If a Member requires the question for adjournment to be put immediately it is proposed, the Deputy Speaker must put the question immediately and without debate.
 - Minister may extend debate***
 - (ii) At the conclusion of the debate a Minister may ask for the debate to be extended by 10 minutes to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised in the debate. After 10 minutes, or if debate concludes earlier, the Deputy Speaker shall immediately adjourn the Committee.
 - Unfinished business***
 - (iii) If the business being discussed is not disposed of when adjournment is proposed, the business shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

Main Committee business

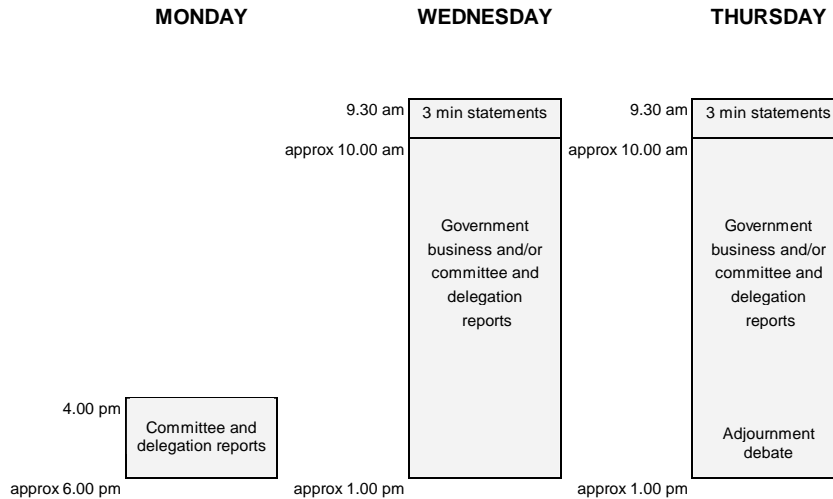
[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p.101]

192 Main Committee's order of business

- (a) If the Committee meets on a Wednesday or Thursday the normal order of business is set out in figure 4.

(b) On sitting Mondays the Committee shall meet from 4 pm to 6 pm if required to consider orders of the day relating to committee and delegation reports in accordance with *standing order 40 (resumption of debate on reports)*.

Figure 4. Main Committee order of business



The sitting times of the Main Committee are set by the Deputy Speaker and are subject to change. Additional sittings may be scheduled if required. Adjournment debates can occur on days other than Thursdays by agreement between the whips.

[Sessional order—for superseded standing order see p. 101]

193 Members' three minute statements

If the Main Committee meets before 10 am the first item of business shall be statements by Members. The Deputy Speaker may call a Member, including a Parliamentary Secretary but not a Minister, to make a statement for no longer than three minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for 30 minutes, irrespective of suspensions for divisions in the House.

194 Adjournment of debate

If no Member is able to move adjournment of debate, the Deputy Speaker can announce the adjournment:

- (a) when there is no further debate on a matter; or
- (b) at the time set for the adjournment of the Main Committee.

195 Proceedings on bill where question unresolved

The Main Committee may continue proceedings on a bill regardless of unresolved questions unless agreement to an unresolved question is necessary to enable further questions to be considered. If progress

cannot be made, the Committee shall return the bill to the House for further consideration.

196 Resumption after suspension or adjournment

The Main Committee may resume proceedings at the point at which they were interrupted following any suspension or adjournment of the Committee.

197 Return of matters to the House

The Main Committee may return a matter to the House before its consideration is completed.

- (a) A matter may be returned to the House on a motion moved without notice at any time by any Member, no seconder required—

That further proceedings be conducted in the House.

The motion shall be put without amendment or debate. If the Committee agrees to, or is unable to resolve, this question, the bill or order of the day shall be returned to the House. Consideration in the House must continue from the point reached in the Committee and the House must resolve any issues that the Committee reports.

- (b) The House may at any time require a matter to be returned for further consideration, on a motion moved without notice by any Member. The matter must be set down for consideration at a later hour that day.

198 Report of bill to the House

- (a) When the Main Committee has fully considered a bill referred to it, a final question shall be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate—

That this bill be reported to the House, with[out] [an] amendment[s] [and with (an) unresolved question(s)].

- (b) The Clerk of the Committee shall certify a copy of the bill or other matter to be reported to the House, together with any schedules of amendments and unresolved questions. Unless otherwise provided, the Speaker shall report the matter at a later hour that day when other business is not before the House.

Chapter 15. Documents and petitions

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for material to be presented to the House:

- documents, and
 - petitions.
-

Documents

199 Documents presented

- (a) Documents may be presented to the House by Ministers or by the Speaker pursuant to statute or otherwise.
- (b) Documents may be presented to the House at any time when other business is not before the House, or they may be delivered to the Clerk who shall record them in the Votes and Proceedings. Documents delivered to the Clerk shall be deemed to have been presented to the House on the day on which they are recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

200 Documents ordered

The House may order documents to be presented. The Clerk shall refer all orders for documents to the relevant Minister, and when the documents are received they shall be presented to the House.

201 Documents quoted shall be presented

If a Minister quotes from a document relating to public affairs, a Member may ask for it to be presented to the House. The document must be presented unless the Minister states that it is of a confidential nature.

202 Motions to take note

- (a) When a document is presented to the House, a Minister may move without notice either or both of the following motions—

That the House take note of the document.

That the document be made a Parliamentary Paper.

- (b) Alternatively, at the conclusion of the period for presentation of documents, under *standing order 34 (order of business)*, a single motion may be moved that the House take note of certain documents

presented. The resumption of debate on the motion to take note of each of the documents shall then be made a separate order of the day on the Notice Paper.

(c) A motion referred to in paragraph (a) not moved when the document is presented, may be moved by a Member on notice later. *Standing order 39* applies to the presentation of committee and delegation reports.

203 Documents authorised for publication

All documents presented to the House are authorised for publication.

Preparing a petition

204 What must be in a petition

A petition for presentation to the House must:

- (a) be addressed to the House of Representatives;
- (b) refer to a matter which is within the power of the House of Representatives to act on, that is, a Commonwealth legislative or administrative matter;
- (c) state the facts which the petitioners wish to bring to the notice of the House; and
- (d) contain a request for the House or the Parliament to take one or more specified actions.

205 How to prepare a petition

A petition must conform to the following requirements:

- (a) It must be on paper.
- (b) It must be legible.
- (c) It must be in English or be accompanied by a translation certified to be correct. The person certifying the translation must place his or her name and address on the translation.
- (d) The text of the petition must not contain any alterations.
- (e) It must not have any letters, affidavits or other documents attached to it.
- (f) The language used must be respectful, courteous and moderate. The petition must not contain irrelevant statements.
- (g) The petition must not contain any indication that it has been sponsored or distributed by a Member of the House of Representatives. However to facilitate its lodgement, the petition may show the name and address of a Member as an address to which the petition may be sent for presentation to the House.

- (h) A petition from a corporation must be made under its common seal. Otherwise it will be received as the petition of the individuals who signed it.

206 Rules about signatures

- (a) Every petition must contain the signature and address of at least one person on the page on which the terms of the petition are written.
- (b) All the signatures on a petition must meet the following requirements:
 - (i) Each signature must be made by the person signing in his or her own handwriting. A petitioner who is not able to sign must make a mark in the presence of a witness. The witness must sign the petition as witness and write his or her address, and the name and address of the petitioner.
 - (ii) Every signature must be written on a page bearing the terms of the petition, or the action asked for by the petition. Signatures must not be copied, pasted or transferred on to the petition or placed on a blank page on the reverse of a sheet containing the terms of the petition.

Presentation of petitions

207 Only a Member may lodge a petition for presentation

A petition for presentation to the House may only be lodged by a Member. A Member cannot lodge a petition from himself or herself.

208 Responsibilities of Members

- (a) Before presenting a petition to the House a Member must:
 - (i) write his or her name and electoral division at the beginning of the petition; and
 - (ii) count the signatories and write the number of signatories at the beginning of the petition.
- (b) If presenting a petition under *standing order 209(b) or (c)*, the Member must also obtain certification by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk that it complies with the standing orders.

209 Presenting a petition

A petition may be presented in one of three ways:

- (a) The Clerk shall announce petitions on each sitting Monday, in accordance with *standing order 34 (order of business)*. A Member must lodge a petition with the Clerk by 12 noon on the Friday before the Monday on which it is proposed that the petition be presented.

- (b) A Member may present a petition during the periods of Members' statements in the House, in accordance with *standing order 43*, and in the Main Committee, in accordance with *standing order 193*.
- (c) A Member may present a petition which refers to a motion or order of the day when that motion or order of the day is moved or called on for the first time.

210 Petition to comply with standing orders

The Clerk or the Deputy Clerk must check that each petition lodged for presentation complies with the standing orders, and if the petition complies he or she shall certify the compliance on the petition.

211 Announcement of petitions and responses

- (a) Following Question Time on each sitting Monday, the Clerk shall announce petitions and responses received. The announcement of petitions lodged for presentation shall state in each case:
 - (i) the Member who lodged it;
 - (ii) the identity and number of petitioners; and
 - (iii) the subject matter of the petition.
- (b) Following the announcement of petitions, the Clerk shall announce any ministerial responses to petitions previously presented.

Action on petitions

212 Petition referred to Minister for response

- (a) After a petition is presented to the House, the Clerk must refer a copy of the petition to the Minister responsible for the administration of the matter raised in the petition.
- (b) A Minister may respond to a petition by lodging a written response with the Clerk, who shall announce any ministerial responses in accordance with *standing order 211(b)*.

213 Action by the House

- (a) Discussion on the subject matter of a petition at the time of presentation shall only be allowed when it is presented during Members' statements, or when the motion or order of the day to which it relates is moved or called on in accordance with *standing order 209(c)*.
- (b) Each petition presented shall be received by the House, unless a motion that it not be received is moved immediately and agreed to.
- (c) The only other motion relating to a petition that may be moved is a motion on notice that the petition be referred to a particular committee.
- (d) The terms of petitions and responses shall be printed in Hansard.

Chapter 16. Standing, select and joint committees

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for committees of Members to be established:

- domestic and investigative standing committees
- special purpose select committees, and
- joint committees.

The chapter also provides for the operation of committees.

Standing committees

214 Appointment of standing committees

Standing committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each Parliament.

215 General purpose standing committees

(a) The following general purpose standing committees shall be appointed:

- (i) Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs;
- (ii) Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
- (iii) Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts;
- (iv) Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration;
- (v) Standing Committee on Education and Vocational Training;
- (vi) Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation;
- (vii) Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage;
- (viii) Standing Committee on Family and Human Services;
- (ix) Standing Committee on Health and Ageing;
- (x) Standing Committee on Industry and Resources;
- (xi) Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs;
- (xii) Standing Committee on Science and Innovation; and
- (xiii) Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services.

(b) A committee appointed under paragraph (a) may inquire into and report on any matter referred to it by either the House or a Minister, including any pre-legislation proposal, bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or document.

(c) A committee may make any inquiry it wishes to make into annual reports of government departments and authorities and reports of the Auditor-General presented to the House. The following qualifications shall apply to these inquiries:

- (i) Reports shall stand referred to committees under a schedule presented by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee.
- (ii) The Speaker shall determine any question about responsibility for a report or part of a report.
- (iii) The period during which an inquiry into an annual report may be started by a committee shall end on the day the next annual report of the department or authority is presented to the House.
- (iv) If a committee intends to inquire into all or part of a report of the Auditor-General, the committee must notify the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit of its intention, in writing.

(d) Each committee appointed under paragraph (a) shall consist of 10 members: six government and four non-government Members. Each committee may supplement its membership by up to two members for a particular inquiry, with a maximum of one extra government and one extra non-government Member.

216 Committee of Privileges

(a) A Committee of Privileges shall be appointed to inquire into and report on:

- (i) complaints of breach of privilege or contempt which may be referred to it by the House under *standing order 51* or by the Speaker under *standing order 52*; or
- (ii) any other matter referred to it by or in accordance with a resolution of the House.

(b) The committee shall consist of 11 members: the Leader of the House or his or her nominee, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his or her nominee and nine other Members.

217 Library Committee

(a) A Library Committee shall be appointed to consider any matter about the provision of library services to Members referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.

(b) The committee shall consist of seven members: the Speaker and six other Members.

218 House Committee

(a) A House Committee shall be appointed to consider any matter about the provision of facilities in Parliament House referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.

(b) The committee shall consist of seven members: the Speaker and six other Members.

219 Publications Committee

(a) A Publications Committee shall be appointed to consider all documents presented to the House which have not been made a Parliamentary Paper by either House of the Parliament. The committee may report when it sees fit and may recommend a document be made a Parliamentary Paper, in whole or in part.

(b) The committee shall consist of seven members.

(c) If conferring with a similar committee of the Senate the committee may inquire into and report on the publication and distribution of parliamentary and government publications and on matters referred to it by a Minister.

220 Committee of Members' Interests

(a) A Committee of Members' Interests shall be appointed to:

(i) inquire into and report on the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of a Register of Members' Interests;

(ii) consider proposals by Members and others on the form and content of the register;

(iii) consider specific complaints about registering or declaring interests;

(iv) consider possible changes to any code of conduct adopted by the House; and

(v) consider whether specified persons (other than Members) ought to be required to register and declare their interests.

(b) The committee shall consist of seven members: four government and three non-government Members. When the Opposition is composed of two parties, the non-government Members shall consist of two members of the larger opposition party, and one member of the smaller opposition party.

(c) The committee may call for witnesses and documents, but must not exercise that power or undertake an investigation of a person's private interests, unless the action is approved by at least four members of the committee other than the Chair.

(d) The committee may report when it sees fit, and must report to the House on its operations during the year as soon as possible after 31 December each year.

221 Standing Committee on Procedure

(a) A Standing Committee on Procedure shall be appointed to inquire into and report on the practices and procedures of the House and its committees.

(b) The committee shall consist of seven members: four government and three non-government Members.

222 Selection Committee

(a) A Selection Committee shall be appointed to arrange the timetable and order of private Members' business and committee and delegation reports for each sitting Monday.

(b) The committee shall consist of 11 members: the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip, the Third Party Whip, and four government and three non-government Members. A quorum shall be five members of the committee.

(c) Once the committee has reported on general principles concerning private Members' business, the House may adopt such principles.

(d) For committee and delegation reports and private Members' business, the committee may determine the order of consideration of the matters, and the times allotted for debate on each item and for each Member speaking.

(e) The committee must report its determinations to the House in time for its decisions to be published on the Notice Paper of the sitting Thursday before the Monday being considered.

(f) Reports of the committee under paragraph (e) shall be treated as having been adopted when they are presented. Reports shall be published in Hansard.

Select committees

223 Appointment of select committees

The House may appoint select committees by motion, and must set a day for the reporting of the proceedings of a committee to the House. A member of the committee must present a report of the committee on or before the set day, unless the House grants an extension of time.

Joint committees

224 Appointment of joint committees

- (a) The House may agree to a proposal for a joint committee of the House and the Senate. The proposal must state the number of Members the House will appoint to serve on the committee, and be sent to the Senate by message.
- (b) After receipt of a message from the Senate agreeing to appoint a joint committee in the same terms as agreed to by the House, the House shall appoint the Members to serve on the committee.

225 Quorum of joint committee

The House may set the quorum of its Members required for a sitting of a joint committee. A joint committee may set its own quorum, subject to any requirement of the House.

226 Report of joint committee

- (a) The proceedings of a joint committee shall be reported to the House by one of the Members it has appointed to serve on the committee.
- (b) If the House is not sitting when a joint committee has completed a report of an inquiry the special arrangements provided under *standing order 247(c)* shall apply.

227 Consideration of bills by House members of joint committees

Members appointed to a joint committee by the House shall be a committee for the purpose of considering bills referred by the House under *standing order 143*, and this committee shall operate as a committee of the House.

Operation of committees

228 Rules for House apply to committees

The rules applying to the House shall also apply to committees, subject to the standing orders in this chapter: *see standing order 3 (application of the standing orders)*.

229 Appointment of committee members

- (a) Members shall be appointed to or discharged from a committee by motion moved on notice.
- (b) Special arrangements are required for a change in membership when the House is not sitting and is not expected to meet for at least two weeks. The relevant whip must nominate any appointment or

discharge of a member of a committee in writing to the Speaker. The change in membership shall take effect from the time the Speaker receives the written nomination. At the next sitting, the Speaker shall report the change to the House and the House shall resolve the membership of the committee.

(c) If a committee is considering a bill referred under *standing order 143*, one or more members of the committee may be replaced by other Members by motion moved on notice. This does not affect the power of a general purpose standing committee to supplement its membership by up to two members, under *standing order 215(d)*.

230 Speaker and Deputy Speakers on committees

The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or the Second Deputy Speaker shall only be appointed to a committee if a standing or other order requires the appointment, or if the officeholder consents.

231 Member with pecuniary interest not to sit on inquiry

No Member may sit on a committee if he or she has a particular direct pecuniary interest in a matter under inquiry by the committee. If the right of a Member to sit on a committee is challenged, the committee may report the matter to the House for resolution.

232 Election of committee Chair and deputy Chair

- (a) Before the start of business, a committee shall elect a government member as its Chair. The Chair shall have a casting vote only.
- (b) A committee shall also elect a deputy Chair who shall act as Chair of the committee whenever the Chair is not present at a meeting. If neither the Chair nor deputy Chair is present at a meeting, the members present shall elect another member to act as Chair at the meeting.

233 Quorum of committees

- (a) A quorum of a committee is three members. When a quorum is not present, the Chair shall suspend proceedings until a quorum is present or adjourn the committee.
- (b) If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting of a committee, the members present may retire, and their names shall be entered in the minutes. The secretary of the committee shall then notify members of the next meeting.

234 Subcommittees

- (a) A committee may appoint subcommittees of three or more of its members and may refer to a subcommittee any matter which the committee may examine.

(b) A committee shall appoint the Chair of each subcommittee, who shall have a casting vote only. If the Chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee, the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as Chair at the meeting.

(c) A quorum of a subcommittee is two of its members.

(d) Members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of the subcommittee but may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.

235 Proceedings and sittings of committee

(a) A committee or a subcommittee may conduct proceedings using any means approved by the House and in the following manner:

(i) in private meeting;

(ii) by hearing witnesses, either in public or in private; and

(iii) in the form of any other meeting, discussion or inspection conducted under the practice of committees of the House.

(b) A committee may resolve to conduct proceedings using audio visual or audio links with members of the committee or witnesses not present in one place. If an audio visual or audio link is used, committee members and witnesses must be able to speak to and hear each other at the same time regardless of location. A committee may resolve for a subcommittee to use audio visual or audio links.

(c) A committee or a subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any time or place as it sees fit, and whether or not the House is sitting.

236 Power to call for witnesses and documents

(a) A committee or a subcommittee may call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.

(b) The Chair of a committee or subcommittee shall direct the secretary of the committee or subcommittee to invite or summon witnesses and to request or require documents to be produced as determined by the committee or subcommittee.

237 Use of records of previous committees

A committee or a subcommittee may consider and make use of the evidence and records of similar committees appointed during previous Parliaments.

238 Conferring with Senate committees

A committee may confer with a similar committee of the Senate.

239 Records of proceedings and documents

- (a) The secretary shall record the proceedings of the committee or subcommittee in the minutes of proceedings. The minutes shall be confirmed by the committee or subcommittee and then signed by the Chair.
- (b) Documents presented to the committee or subcommittee shall be signed by the secretary.

240 Admission of visitors

- (a) A committee or a subcommittee may admit visitors when it is examining a witness or gathering information in other proceedings.
- (b) All visitors must leave if:
 - (i) the Chair asks them to;
 - (ii) the committee or subcommittee resolves that they leave; or
 - (iii) the committee or subcommittee is deliberating or hearing witnesses in private.

241 Admission of other Members

Other Members, who are not members of the committee, may be admitted when a committee or subcommittee is examining a witness, or gathering information in other proceedings. Other Members must leave when the committee or subcommittee is deliberating, or hearing witnesses in private, or if the committee or subcommittee resolves that they leave.

242 Publication of evidence

- (a) A committee or subcommittee may authorise publication of evidence given before it or documents presented to it.
- (b) A committee's or subcommittee's evidence, documents, proceedings and reports may not be disclosed or published to a person (other than a member of the committee or parliamentary employee assigned to the committee) unless they have been:
 - (i) reported to the House; or
 - (ii) authorised by the House, the committee or the subcommittee.
- (c) A committee may resolve to:
 - (i) publish press releases, discussion papers or other documents, or preliminary findings; or
 - (ii) divulge evidence, documents, proceedings or reports on a confidential basis to persons for comment.
- (d) A committee may resolve to authorise a member of the committee to give public briefings on matters related to an inquiry. An authorised member may not disclose evidence, documents proceedings or reports

which have not been authorised for publication. The committee shall determine the limits of the authorisation.

243 Power to report from time to time

A committee may report from time to time.

244 Report consideration

- (a) The Chair of a committee shall prepare a draft report and present it to the committee at a meeting convened for report consideration.
- (b) The report may be considered at once if copies have been circulated in advance to each member of the committee. The report shall be considered paragraph by paragraph. When consideration of the chapters of the report is completed, the appendices shall be considered in order.
- (c) After the draft report has been considered, the whole or any paragraph may be reconsidered and amended.
- (d) A member objecting to any portion of the report may vote against it or move an amendment when the particular paragraph or appendix is under consideration.
- (e) A member protesting about the report or dissenting from all or part of it may add a protest or dissenting report to the main report.

245 Alternative draft report

A member other than the Chair, may give a draft report to the committee, and the committee must decide which report it will consider.

246 Chair signs adopted report

- (a) When a committee has completed its consideration of a draft report, it shall resolve to adopt the report.
- (b) The Chair shall sign each report of a committee.
- (c) Any protest or dissenting report shall be signed by the member or members protesting or dissenting.

247 Report presented

- (a) A member of the committee must present the report of the committee together with the minutes of proceedings, to the House.
- (b) When a report is presented to the House, it may be ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper with or without the documents accompanying it.
- (c) Special arrangements are required for times when the House is not sitting and a committee has completed a report of an inquiry. The committee may send the report to the Speaker, or to the Deputy

Speaker if the Speaker is unavailable. When the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker receives the report:

- (i) the report may be published; and
- (ii) he or she may give directions for the printing and circulation of the report.

The committee must then present the report to the House as soon as possible.

248 Consideration of report by House

Subject to the Selection Committee's determinations under *standing order* 222, the House may set down consideration of the report for a later sitting, when a motion about it may be moved without notice.

Chapter 17. Witnesses and visitors

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out the requirements for persons attending or visiting the House or a House committee including: Members, Senators, employees of the Parliament, witnesses and visitors.

The chapter also provides for the conduct of Members or House employees attending the Senate or a Senate committee, and for House employees giving evidence anywhere else.

Members, Senators and employees of the Parliament

249 Attendance of Member before House or committee

- (a) If the House orders a Member to attend the Chamber for examination by the House, the Speaker shall summons the Member to attend in his or her place.
- (b) If a committee wishes a Member to attend as a witness, the Chair shall write inviting the Member to attend. If the Member refuses to attend or to give evidence or information as a witness, the committee shall not summon the Member again, but shall advise the House.

250 Committee receiving allegations against Members

- (a) Only the Committee of Privileges and the Committee of Members' Interests may inquire into or make findings about the conduct of a Member, unless the House directs another committee to review the conduct of a Member.
- (b) If a committee (other than the Committee of Privileges and the Committee of Members' Interests) receives information or an allegation about a Member, the committee shall inform the Member and give the Member an opportunity to make a submission about the matter. Unless the committee considers the matter is without substance, it shall report the matter to the House and wait for its directions.

251 Attendance of Senator or Senate employee before House

If the House or one of its committees wishes to examine a Senator, or an employee of the Senate, the House shall send a message to the Senate

asking it to give leave to the Senator or employee to attend the House for examination.

252 Attendance of Member or House employee before Senate

- (a) If the Senate asks the House by message for a Member to attend before the Senate or one of its committees, the House may authorise the Member to attend, provided the Member agrees.
- (b) If the Senate asks the House by message for an employee of the House to attend before the Senate or one of its committees, the House may instruct its own employee to attend.

253 Employees of the House not to give evidence without permission

Only if the House grants permission, may an employee of the House, or other staff employed to record evidence before the House or one of its committees, give evidence relating to proceedings or give evidence relating to the examination of a witness.

Other witnesses summoned

254 Witness other than a Member

- (a) A witness (other than a Member) may be ordered to attend the House or a committee by summons. The Clerk of the House shall issue a summons of the House and the secretary of the committee shall issue a summons of a committee.
- (b) The House may deal as it sees fit with a witness who does not, or refuses to, attend or give evidence before the House or a committee.

All witnesses

255 Examination of witnesses

- (a) A Member giving evidence to the House shall be examined in his or her place.
- (b) A witness (other than a Member) shall be examined at the Bar, unless the House otherwise orders.
- (c) The Speaker shall examine the witness, and questions by Members are taken to be asked through the Speaker.
- (d) A witness before a committee or subcommittee shall be examined according to the procedure agreed on by the committee.

256 Witness entitled to protection

Any witness giving evidence to the House or one of its committees is entitled to the protection of the House in relation to his or her evidence.

Visitors

257 Admission of Senators and visitors

- (a) Only the Speaker shall have the privilege of admitting visitors into the lower galleries, and may admit distinguished visitors to a seat on the floor of the Chamber.
- (b) No Member may bring a visitor into any part of the Chamber, or that part of the room where the Main Committee is meeting, which is reserved for Members.
- (c) Senators shall have the privilege of being admitted into the Senators' gallery without invitation, but they must observe the Speaker's instructions regarding good order.

Chapter 18. Communication between the House and the Senate

Chapter outline

This chapter provides for communication between the House and the Senate.

General

258 Modes of communication

The House may communicate with the Senate by message or by conference in accordance with *standing orders* 262–266. Committees of the House may also confer with committees of the Senate in accordance with *standing order* 238.

Messages

259 Messages to the Senate

Every message from the House to the Senate shall be signed by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker and delivered by the Serjeant-at-Arms.

260 Motion to communicate resolution to the Senate

A Member may move, without notice, that a resolution of the House be communicated by message to the Senate.

261 Messages from the Senate

When the House is sitting, every message from the Senate shall be received by the Clerk at the Table. When the House is not sitting, the Clerk shall receive any messages from the Senate. The Speaker shall report each message at the earliest convenient time and, if required, the House shall set a time for its consideration.

Conferences

262 Motion for conference

A Member may move a motion to request a conference with the Senate to resolve a disagreement between the Houses. The motion must contain the names of the Members proposed as delegates of the House.

263 Conference requested by the House

- (a) If the House wishes to confer with the Senate it must request a conference by message.
- (b) The message must contain an outline of the purpose of the conference and propose the number of delegates to represent the House in the conference: at least five.
- (c) The House may not request a conference on the subject of a bill or motion in the possession of the Senate.
- (d) The Senate shall appoint the time and place for the conference—the House must agree and communicates its agreement by message.

264 Conference requested by the Senate

If the Senate has requested a conference:

- (a) the House shall appoint an equal number of delegates as the Senate to represent it in the conference;
- (b) the House shall appoint the time and place for holding the conference; and
- (c) the delegates for the House must assemble at the time and place appointed, and receive the delegates of the Senate.

265 Proceedings at conference

- (a) At any conference it shall be the duty of the delegates of the House to resolve the disagreement between the two Houses with the delegates of the Senate.
- (b) The delegates of the House must read and deliver in writing to the delegates of the Senate the reasons or resolutions of the House, and hear and receive in writing from the delegates of the Senate the reasons or resolutions of the Senate.
- (c) The delegates may then discuss the disagreement. The objective of the delegates of the House shall be the withdrawal by the delegates of the Senate of the disagreement, or its modification or amendment.
- (d) For bills, the delegates of the House may not suggest an amendment (other than a consequential amendment) to any words of a bill which both Houses have already agreed, unless the words are directly affected by the disagreement.

266 Conference delegates report proceedings

The delegates of the House must report to the House immediately a conference has ended.

Chapter 19. Addresses to the Queen or the Governor-General

Chapter outline

This chapter sets out the procedures for making addresses to the Queen or the Governor-General.

267 Addresses moved

- (a) A Minister may move an address to Her Majesty or the Governor-General after notice, except in cases of urgency.
- (b) A Minister may move without notice an address of congratulation or condolence to members of the Royal Family.

268 Addresses to Queen given to Governor-General

The Speaker shall give to the Governor-General addresses to Her Majesty or to members of the Royal Family, and ask the Governor-General to send the addresses for presentation.

269 Presentation of addresses to Governor-General

- (a) Unless the House otherwise orders, the Speaker shall present any addresses to the Governor-General.
- (b) When the House orders that an address be presented by the whole House, the Speaker and the House together, shall attend at the place appointed by the Governor-General. The Speaker shall read the address to the Governor-General, while the Members who moved and seconded the address take their place at the Speaker's left hand.

270 Governor-General's reply

The Speaker shall report to the House the Governor-General's reply to an address presented by the whole House.

Record of amendments to the standing orders

Dates of amendments made to the standing orders since they came into effect on 16 November 2004.

Amd	Date standing order amended.
Amd sess	Date standing order amended by sessional order.
Ins	Date new standing order inserted.
Ins sess	Date sessional order inserted.
Om	Date standing order omitted.
Op	Date of operation (if different from date of adoption).
Sus sess	Date standing order suspended by sessional order.

S.O.	Date amended
1	Amd sess 9.2.06
11	Amd 29.3.06
39	Amd sess 9.2.06
40	Amd sess 9.2.06
77	Amd sess 17.3.05
100(f)	Sus sess 17.3.05
141	Amd 29.3.06
142	Amd 29.3.06
187	Amd sess 9.2.06
190	Amd sess 9.2.06
192	Amd sess 10.8.05; Amd sess 9.2.06
193	Amd sess 10.8.05; Amd sess 9.2.06
215	Amd 18.11.04
240	Amd 9.2.06
241	Amd 9.2.06

Standing orders temporarily superseded by sessional orders

Original text of those standing orders which have been amended or suspended by a sessional order currently in force. Notes also give details of the history and duration of each sessional order.

1 Maximum speaking times

<p>[Original text of section which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]</p> <p>Committee and delegation reports on Mondays Each Member</p> <p>(<i>standing orders 39 and 40</i>)</p>	<p>10 mins maximum, as allotted by the Selection Committee</p>
<p>[New section inserted by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]</p> <p>Dissent motion</p>	

[Original text of standing order 39 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

39 Presentation of reports

- (a) Members can present reports of committees or delegations:
 - (i) as agreed by the Selection Committee, following prayers on Mondays; or
 - (ii) at any time when other business is not before the House.
- (b) Members can make statements in relation to these reports:
 - (i) during the special set period on Mondays (*standing order 34*); the Selection Committee shall set time limits for statements, of not more than 10 minutes for each Member; or
 - (ii) at any other time, by leave of the House.
- (c) The Member presenting a report may move without notice, a specific motion in relation to the report. Debate on the question shall be adjourned to a future day.

[Original text of standing order 40 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

40 Resumption of debate on reports

- (a) After presentation of reports on Mondays proceedings may be resumed on motions moved in relation to committee and delegation reports on an earlier day.
- (b) The Selection Committee shall set:
 - (i) the order in which motions are to be considered;
 - (ii) time limits for the whole debate; and
 - (iii) time limits for each Member speaking, of not more than 10 minutes.

[Original text of standing order 77 which was amended by sessional order on 17 March 2005]

77 Anticipating discussion

A Member may not anticipate the discussion of a subject which appears on the Notice Paper. In determining whether a discussion is out of order the Speaker must consider the probability of the anticipated matter being brought before the House within a reasonable time.

[Original text of standing order 100(f) which was suspended by sessional order on 17 March 2005 for remainder of 41st Parliament]

100 Rules for questions

- (f) Questions must not anticipate discussion on an order of the day or other matter.

[Original text of standing order 187 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

187 Maintenance of order

- (a) In the Main Committee the Deputy Speaker has the same responsibility for the preservation of order as the Speaker has in the House.
- (b) If sudden disorder occurs in the Committee the Deputy Speaker may, or on motion moved without notice by any Member must, suspend or adjourn the sitting immediately. If the sitting is adjourned, any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the adjournment shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.
- (c) Following the suspension or adjournment the Deputy Speaker must report the disorder to the House. Any subsequent action against a Member under *standing order 94 (sanctions against disorderly conduct)* may only be taken in the House.

[Original text of standing order 190 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

190 General rules for suspensions and adjournments of the Main Committee

The following general rules apply to meetings of the Main Committee:

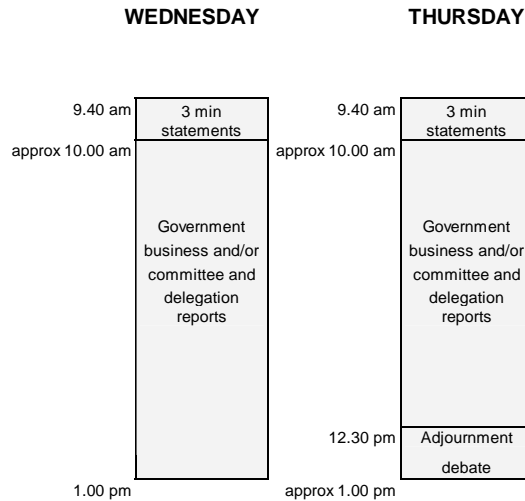
- (a) The Deputy Speaker must suspend proceedings in the Committee to enable Members to attend divisions in the House.
- (b) If a quorum is not present the Deputy Speaker must immediately suspend proceedings until a stated time, or adjourn the Committee.
- (c) If the House adjourns, the Deputy Speaker must interrupt the business before the Committee and immediately adjourn the Committee.
- (d) The Committee need not adjourn between items of business, nor during a suspension of the House.
- (e) The Committee shall stand adjourned on completion of all matters referred to it, or may be adjourned on motion moved without notice by any Member—
That the Committee do now adjourn.
- (f) No amendment may be moved to the question.

[Original text of standing order 192 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

192 Main Committee's order of business

If the Committee meets on a Wednesday or Thursday the normal order of business is set out in figure 4.

Figure 4. Main Committee order of business



The sitting times of the Main Committee are set by the Deputy Speaker and are subject to change. Additional sittings may be scheduled if required. The sitting on Thursday may extend until 1.30 pm. Adjournment debates can occur on days other than Thursdays by agreement between the whips.

[Original text of standing order 193 which was amended by sessional order on 9 February 2006 for remainder of 2006, subject to review]

193 Members' three minute statements

If the Main Committee meets before 10 am the first item of business shall be statements by Members. The Deputy Speaker may call a Member, including a Parliamentary Secretary but not a Minister, to make a statement for no longer than three minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for 18 minutes, but must finish by 10 am.

Resolutions of the House

Disclosure of evidence and documents of House and joint committees

Resolution adopted 11 October 1984

- (1) That, unless otherwise ordered, the House authorises Mr Speaker to permit any person to examine and copy evidence submitted to, or documents of, committees which are in the custody of the House, which have not already been published by the House or its committees, and which have been in the custody of the House for at least 10 years: Provided that if such evidence or documents were taken *in camera* or submitted on a confidential or restricted basis, disclosure shall not take place unless the evidence or documents have been in the custody of the House for at least 30 years, and, in the opinion of Mr Speaker, it is appropriate that such evidence or documents be disclosed: Provided further that Mr Speaker report to the House the nature of any evidence or documents made available under this resolution and the person or persons to whom they have been made available.
- (2) That the House of Representatives, having considered Message No. 265 of the Senate, agrees that the disclosure of evidence or documents of joint committees be authorised by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives under the same conditions as are provided in paragraph (1) of the message.*
- (3) That the foregoing resolutions have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

* *Paragraph (1) of Message No. 265 of the Senate is in the same terms as paragraph (1) of this resolution with references to the Senate and the President in place of references to the House and the Speaker.*

Procedures for tabling ministerial papers

Resolution adopted 9 December 1987

That this House endorses in principle the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Procedure that the procedures for the tabling of ministerial papers following questions without notice, pursuant to standing order 101,* be altered in accordance with the following arrangements:

- (1) By 12 noon on each sitting day a schedule of papers to be presented will be made available to the Manager of Opposition Business and will be circulated to all Members in the Chamber at the first opportunity;
- (2) Following questions without notice a Minister will present the papers as listed on the circulated schedule;
- (3) Papers presented will continue to be recorded in *Hansard* and the Votes and Proceedings; and
- (4) A Minister shall present each paper individually if a schedule has not been circulated in accordance with these procedures or the paper has not been listed on the schedule, and shall retain the option of presenting a paper separately from the list if a statement is to be made or a motion moved in connection with the paper.

* *Current standing order 34.*

Hansard—authority to publish record of debates and proceedings

Resolution adopted 5 May 1993

- (1) That the House:
 - (a) authorises the publication of the record of debates and proceedings in the House, known as Parliamentary Debates and Hansard, prepared by the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff; and
 - (b) affirms the right of committees and subcommittees (however described) of the House and joint committees of the House and the Senate to authorise the publication of (i) documents and records and (ii) transcripts of evidence prepared by the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff, subject to any particular provisions in relevant legislation, resolutions or standing orders.
- (2) That this resolution continue in force unless and until amended or rescinded by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.

Privileges Committee—publication of records

Resolution adopted 7 December 2000

That:

- (1) the House authorises:
 - (a) the publication of all evidence or documents taken in camera or submitted on a confidential or restricted basis to the Committee of Privileges and that have been in the custody of the Committee for at least 30 years; and
 - (b) the transfer of these records to the National Archives of Australia to enable public access to the records;provided that, where the Speaker accepts advice that the release of a particular record would affect the national security interest, or represent an unreasonable intrusion upon the personal affairs of any person, alive or dead, or would otherwise be an exempt record under s. 33 of the *Archives Act 1983*, if that Act had applied to the record, the release and transfer of that record is not authorised by this resolution;
- (2) this resolution has effect notwithstanding the provisions of any other resolution or standing order of the House; and
- (3) this resolution has effect from 1 January 2001 and continues in force unless and until amended or rescinded by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.

Broadcasting and re-broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings

Resolution adopted 30 November 1988

That this House authorises the broadcasting and re-broadcasting on Australian radio and television stations of a sound record of excerpts of its proceedings, subject to the conditions determined for this purpose by the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Televising of proceedings

Resolution adopted 16 October 1991

That:

- (1) the House authorises live television broadcast and rebroadcast of:
 - (a) the proceedings of the House and excerpts of proceedings, including the adjournment debate; and
 - (b) the public proceedings of House of Representatives committees, subject to the approval of individual committees—
as provided for by this resolution;
- (2) the House supports in principle the amendment of the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946* to make statutory provision for the televising of the proceedings of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the committees of each House and joint committees of both Houses;
- (3) a standing committee be appointed in each Parliament to consider and determine in respect of live television broadcast and rebroadcast of proceedings and excerpts of proceedings of the House of Representatives and the public proceedings of House of Representatives committees:
 - (a) the conditions to apply to television broadcasters;
 - (b) the guidelines for operators of sound and vision equipment;
 - (c) the guidelines for the televising of House of Representatives committees; and
 - (d) whether breaches of the conditions and guidelines have occurred and, if so, what penalties should apply;
- (4) the committee referred to in paragraph (3) of this resolution shall:
 - (a) consist of those Members of the House of Representatives who are members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings in each Parliament, who shall elect a chairman and deputy chairman; and
 - (b) have power to send for persons, papers and records;
- (5) until otherwise determined the conditions and guidelines to apply to live television broadcast and rebroadcast shall be those set out in the Report of the Inquiry into the Televising of the House of Representatives and its committees, dated August 1991 [*current conditions adopted 1 May 1996, see p. 115*];

- (6) the arrangements relating to the live television broadcast and rebroadcast of proceedings and excerpts of proceedings of the House of Representatives shall be reviewed by the committee established under paragraph (3) of this resolution prior to the end of the 1993 Autumn sittings of the House;
and
- (7) The House requests the Government to seek advice from the Attorney-General as to the legal position of bodies authorised to receive the signal of proceedings with a view to the House granting access to that signal to government departments, political party headquarters and others.

Extension of House monitoring service

Resolution adopted 28 September 1993

That the House authorises the extension of the provision of the House Monitoring Service television coverage of proceedings of the House and its committees to government departments and others, as may be determined by the Speaker, on such terms and conditions as stipulated by the Speaker.

Radio broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings—general principles

Resolution adopted 20 September 1994

That the following general principles upon which there should be determined the days upon which, and the periods during which, the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be broadcast, as specified by the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings in its report dated May 1994, be adopted with effect from 10 October 1994 in place of the general principles previously adopted by both Houses:

General principles relating to the radio broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings

1. *Days upon which proceedings shall be broadcast and their allocation between the Senate and the House of Representatives.*

The proceedings of Parliament shall be broadcast on each day on which either House is sitting. While there will be a usual allocation of broadcasts between the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings or its Sub-Committee shall take into account the importance of the impending debate and the public interest attaching thereto in deciding on the allocation. It is anticipated that, over time, the coverage of each House will be approximately equal.

2. *Rebroadcast of questions and answers.*

(a) The following Parliamentary Proceedings shall be rebroadcast by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation at the conclusion of the broadcast of live proceedings from either House unless otherwise ordered by the Committee:

Senate proceedings—Questions without notice and answers thereto;

House of Representatives proceedings—Questions without notice and answers thereto;

(b) The rebroadcast shall be of the House that is not allocated the broadcast;

(c) When a member makes a personal explanation in rebuttal of misrepresentation contained in a question asked that day or an answer thereto, the question and answer shall, subject to the next succeeding subparagraph, be excluded from the rebroadcast; and

- (d) The Presiding Officer may, in his or her discretion, refer any case to the Joint Committee for decision as to whether such a question and answer shall be excluded from the rebroadcast.
3. The general principles specified here and adopted by both Houses shall be observed generally by the Joint Committee in making determinations in accordance with the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946*, but nothing in those general principles shall be taken to prevent the Joint Committee from departing from those general principles in order to meet any unusual or special circumstances.

Broadcasting of proceedings— conditions for broadcasters

Resolution adopted 1 May 1996

That the conditions for broadcasters of the live broadcast and rebroadcast of the proceedings and excerpts of proceedings of the House of Representatives and its Main Committee be amended to read as follows:

1. Access to the proceedings of the House of Representatives and its Main Committee for the recording and broadcasting of proceedings is subject to an undertaking to observe, and to comply with, the following conditions:
 - (1) Broadcasting and recordings may only be made from the official and dedicated composite vision and sound feed provided by the Sound and Vision Office (channels 1 and 5 on the House Monitoring System);
 - (2) Broadcasts shall be used only for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings, and shall not be used for:
 - (a) political party advertising or election campaigns;
 - (b) satire or ridicule; or
 - (c) commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising;
 - (3) Reports of proceedings shall be such as to provide a balanced presentation of differing views;
 - (4) Excerpts of proceedings which are subsequently withdrawn may be rebroadcast only if the withdrawal also is rebroadcast;
 - (5) The instructions of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Speaker's delegate, in respect of broadcasting, shall be observed.
2. Non-compliance with the guidelines listed above may incur penalties. Breaches of the guidelines and penalties are determined by the House members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings. The following is a general guide to the penalties which may be imposed on stations or programs:
 - (a) first breach—access to the broadcast withdrawn for three sitting days;
 - (b) second breach—access to the broadcast service withdrawn for six sitting days; and

- (c) third or subsequent breaches—such penalty as is determined by the House members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Registration of Members' interests

Requirements of the House of Representatives

Resolution adopted 9 October 1984 a.m., amended 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986, 30 November 1988, 9 November 1994, and 6 November 2003

(1) Registration of Members' interests

That—

- (a) within 28 days of making and subscribing an oath or affirmation as a Member of the House of Representatives each Member shall provide to the Registrar of Members' Interests, a statement of—
 - (i) the Member's registrable interests, and
 - (ii) the registrable interests of which the Member is aware
 - (a) of the Member's spouse and (b) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support,in accordance with resolutions adopted by the House and in a form determined by the Committee of Members' Interests from time to time, and shall also notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar within 28 days of that alteration occurring, and
- (b) the statement to be provided by a Member shall include:
 - (i) in the case of a Member who was not a Member of the House of Representatives in the immediately preceding Parliament, interests held at the date of his or her election and any alteration of interests which has occurred between that date and the date of completion of the statement, and
 - (ii) in the case of a Member who was a Member of the House of Representatives in the immediately preceding Parliament, interests held at the date of dissolution of the House of Representatives in the previous Parliament and any alteration of interests which has occurred between that date and the date of completion of the statement.

(2) Registrable interests

That the statement of a Member's registrable interests to be provided by a Member shall include the registrable interests of which the Member is aware (1) of the Member's spouse and (2) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support, and shall cover the following matters:

- (a) shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies;
- (b) family and business trusts and nominee companies—
 - (i) in which a beneficial interest is held, indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and beneficial interest, and
 - (ii) in which the Member, the Member's spouse, or a child who is wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support, is a trustee (but not including a trustee of an estate where no beneficial interest is held by the Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children), indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and the beneficiary of the trust;
- (c) real estate, including the location (suburb or area only) and the purpose for which it is owned;
- (d) registered directorships of companies;
- (e) partnerships indicating the nature of the interests and the activities of the partnership;
- (f) liabilities indicating the nature of the liability and the creditor concerned;
- (g) the nature of any bonds, debentures and like investments;
- (h) saving or investment accounts, indicating their nature and the name of the bank or other institutions concerned;
- (i) the nature of any other assets (excluding household and personal effects) each valued at over \$7,500;
- (j) the nature of any other substantial sources of income;
- (k) gifts valued at more than \$750 received from official sources, or at more than \$300 where received from other than official sources provided that a gift received by a Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children from family members or personal friends in a purely personal capacity need not be registered unless the Member judges that an appearance of conflict of interest may be seen to exist;
- (l) any sponsored travel or hospitality received where the value of the sponsored travel or hospitality exceeds \$300;
- (m) membership of any organisation where a conflict of interest with a Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise, and
- (n) any other interests where a conflict of interest with a Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise.

(3) Register and Registrar of Members' Interests

That—

- (a) at the commencement of each Parliament, and at other times as necessary, Mr Speaker shall appoint an officer of the Department of the House of Representatives as the Registrar of Members' Interests and that officer shall also be clerk to the Committee of Members' Interests;
- (b) the Registrar of Members' Interests shall, in accordance with procedures determined by the Committee of Members' Interests, maintain a Register of Members' Interests in a form to be determined by that committee from time to time;
- (c) as soon as possible after the commencement of each Parliament the chairman of the Committee of Members' Interests shall table in the House a copy of the completed Register of Members' Interests and shall also table from time to time as required any notification by a Member of alteration of those interests, and
- (d) the Register of Members' Interests shall be available for inspection by any person under conditions to be laid down by the Committee of Members' Interests from time to time.

Additional resolution adopted 13 February 1986

That any Member of the House of Representatives who—

- (a) knowingly fails to provide a statement of registrable interests to the Registrar of Members' Interests by the due date;
- (b) knowingly fails to notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar of Members' Interests within 28 days of the change occurring, or
- (c) knowingly provides false or misleading information to the Registrar of Members' Interests,

shall be guilty of a serious contempt of the House of Representatives and shall be dealt with by the House accordingly.

Note: no reference has been made to—

- (a) earlier registration and declaration requirements deleted on 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986, 30 November 1988 and 9 November 1994, *and*
- (b) resolutions of 21 March 1985 and 13 February 1986 which related to the lodgement of initial statements of interests by Members of the 34th Parliament.

Right of reply of persons referred to in the House

Resolution adopted 27 August 1997

That:

- (1) Where a person who has been referred to by name, or in such a way as to be readily identified, in the House, makes a submission in writing to the Speaker:
 - (a) claiming that the person has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in occupation, trade, office or financial credit, or that the person's privacy has been unreasonably invaded, by reason of that reference to the person; and
 - (b) requesting that the person be able to incorporate an appropriate response in the parliamentary record;and if the Speaker is satisfied:
 - (c) that the subject of the submission is not so obviously trivial or the submission so frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character as to make it inappropriate that it be considered by the Committee of Privileges; and
 - (d) that it is practicable for the Committee of Privileges to consider the submission under this resolution, the Speaker shall refer the submission to that Committee.
- (2) The Committee may decide not to consider a submission referred to it under this resolution if the Committee considers that the subject of the submission is not sufficiently serious or the submission is frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character, and such a decision shall be reported to the House.
- (3) If the Committee decides to consider a submission under this resolution, the Committee may confer with the person who made the submission and any Member who referred in the House to that person.
- (4) In considering a submission under this resolution, the Committee shall meet in private session.
- (5) The Committee shall not publish a submission referred to it under this resolution or its proceedings in relation to such a submission, but may present minutes of its proceedings and all or part of such submission to the House.
- (6) In considering a submission under this resolution and reporting to the House the Committee shall not consider or

judge the truth of any statements made in the House or of the submission.

- (7) In its report to the House on a submission under this resolution, the Committee may make either of the following recommendations:
 - (a) that no further action be taken by the House or by the Committee in relation to the submission; or
 - (b) that a response by the person who made the submission, in terms specified in the report and agreed to by the person and the Committee, be published by the House or incorporated in *Hansard*, and shall not make any other recommendations.
- (8) A document presented to the House under paragraph (5) or (7):
 - (a) in the case of a response by a person who made a submission, shall be succinct and strictly relevant to the questions in issue and shall not contain anything offensive in character; and
 - (b) shall not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of:
 - (i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy, in the manner referred to in paragraph (1); or
 - (ii) unreasonably adding to or aggravating any such adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by a person.
- (9) The Committee may agree to guidelines and procedures, not inconsistent with this resolution, to apply to the consideration by it of submissions.
- (10) This resolution shall continue in force unless and until amended or rescinded by the House in this or a subsequent Parliament.

General principles relating to the selection of private Members' business

Resolution adopted 30 November 2004

1. In formulating the priority to be given to items of private Members' business the Selection Committee shall have regard to:
 - (a) the importance of the subject;
 - (b) the current level of interest in the subject;
 - (c) the extent of the current discussion on the subject both in the Parliament and elsewhere;
 - (d) the extent to which the subject comes within the responsibility of the Commonwealth Parliament;
 - (e) the probability of the subject being brought before the House by other means within a reasonable time; and
 - (f) whether the subject is the same, or substantially the same, as another item of business which has been debated or on which the House has already made a decision in the same period of sittings and, if so, whether new circumstances exist.
2. The Committee shall accord priority to private Members' business:
 - (a) with regard to the numbers of Members affiliated with each party in the House;
 - (b) in a way which ensures that a particular Member or the Members who comprise the Opposition Executive do not predominate as the movers of the items selected; and
 - (c) in a way which seeks to ensure balance is achieved over each period of sittings.
3. When a private Member has the responsibility for the carriage of a bill transmitted from the Senate for concurrence, the bill shall be accorded priority following the question for the second reading being put to the House in the same way as a private Member's bill originating in the House is accorded priority by standing order 41.
4. Priority shall not be accorded to any item of private Members' business if the matter should be dealt with by the House in another, more appropriate, form of proceeding.
5. The general principles set out above shall be observed by the Selection Committee but nothing in the general principles shall be taken to prevent the Selection Committee departing from those general principles in order to meet circumstances, which, in its opinion, are unusual or special.
6. These general principles shall continue in effect until altered by the House following a report from this or a future Selection Committee.

Index

Note: Numbers indicated are those of standing orders

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Affairs, Standing
Committee, 215(a)**

Absence—

- Clerk, 21
- Deputy Speaker and Second
Deputy Speaker, 18
- Members, 26
 - notice given for, 107
- Speaker, 18–19

Absolute majority, 173, 47(b)(c)
definition, 2

Acting Speaker, 18(a)

Address in Reply—

- Governor-General's speech, in
reply to—
 - committee appointed, 6(c)
 - presentation, 7

Addresses—

- Governor-General's reply, 270
- motions for, 267
- presentation, 268–269
- Queen, Royal Family, Governor-
General, to, 267–270
- transmission through Governor-
General, 268

Adjournment debate—

- House, 31
- Main Committee, 191

Adjournment of debate, 79

- Main Committee, in, 194

Adjournment of the House—

- absence of Speaker, Deputy
Speaker and Second Deputy
Speaker, 18(b)
- automatic, 31
- by resolution, 32

**Adjournment of the House—
*continued***

- debate, 31
- grave disorder, 32(b), 95
- time of, 29
- lack of quorum, 32(b), 57

**Adjournment of the Main
Committee—**

- adjournment of House, 190(c)
- debate, 191
- disorder, 187(b)(c)
- motion for, 190(e)(f)

**Administrator, references to
Governor-General to apply to, 2**

Affirmation of Members, 4(e)

**Agriculture, Fisheries and
Forestry, Standing
Committee, 215(a)**

Allotment of time, 84

Amendments—

- amendments, to, 124
- bills, to—
 - Governor-General, proposed
by, 176–177
 - inadmissible, 150(e)
 - inconsistent, 150(e)
 - message required, 180(d)
 - question on, 150(c)(d)
 - reasoned, 145
 - relevancy of, 150(b)
 - requested by Senate, 165
 - reconsideration of bill, 150(e)
 - same in substance, 150(e)
 - seconding not required, 151
 - second reading, to, 145
 - six months amendment, 146,
155(b)

Amendments—*continued*

- bills, to—*continued*
 - Senate, made by, 158–164
 - Governor-General's message for, 181
 - reasons for disagreement with, 161(c), 170(b)
 - seconding not required, 159
 - Senate bills, to, 168–172
 - taxation bills, to, 179(b)
 - third reading, to, 155(b)
 - title, to, 150(d)
- censure, of, 48
- earlier part of question, to, 123(b)
- form of, 121
- inadmissible, 123, 150(e)
- inconsistent, 123(a), 150(e)
- kinds of, 121(a)
- moving of, 121
- order of moving, 123
- questions put, 122
- relevancy of, 121(c)
- restrictions on, 123
- seconding of, 121(b)
 - not required, 151, 159
- signed, to be, 121(b)
- withdrawal of, 121(d)
- words already agreed to, to, 150(e)
- writing, in, 121(b)

Annual reports, reference to committees, 215(c)

Anticipation—

- business on Notice Paper, 77
- questions seeking information, 100(f)

Appropriation bills—

- definition, 2
- message from Governor-General, 147, 180–182
- notice, 178
- scope of debate, 76(c)
- second reading amendment, 145(b)

Arrest—

- Members, 94(f)
- visitors, 96

Assent, 175, 176(e)

Attendance of Members, 26

Auditor-General's reports, reference to committees, 215(c)

Ballot—

- Election of Speaker, Deputy and Second Deputy Speaker, 11(i)
- Members, selection of, by, 136–137

Bar of the House, witnesses at, 255(b)

Bells rung—

- ballot, 136(b)
- division, 129(a), 131(a)
- meeting of House, 54
- quorum, 56(a)(d)

Bills—

- amending bill, definition, 2
- amendments—
 - Governor-General, proposed by, 176–177
 - reasoned, 145
 - reasons for disagreement with Senate, 161(c), 170(b)
 - requested by Senate, 165
 - second reading, 145
 - six months amendment, 146, 155(b)
 - Senate, made by, 158–164
 - Senate bills, to, 168–172
 - taxation bills, to, 179(b)
 - third reading, 155(b)
 - and see* 'Bills—consideration in detail—amendments'
- appropriation—
 - definition, 2
 - message from Governor-General, 147, 180–182
 - notice, 178
 - scope of debate, 76(c)
 - second reading amendment, 145(b)

Bills—continued

assent, 175, 176(e)
Clerk's certificate, 157, 164, 167, 171, 175, 176(d), 198(b)
committee, referred to, 143(b), 227
 report from committee, 144, 148
consideration in detail, 148–151
 amending bill, 149(d)
 amendments—
 inadmissible, 150(e)
 inconsistent, 150(e)
 message required, 180(d)
 question on, 150(c)(d)
 relevancy of, 150(b)
 same in substance, 150(e)
 seconding not required, 151
 tax proposals, 149(d)
 title, 150(d)
 when bill reconsidered, 150(e)
 appropriation bill, 149(d)
 committee report, to await, 148
 new clauses, 149(a), 150(e)
 order of consideration, 149
 postponed clauses, 149(a)
 preamble, 149(a)
 question on clauses, 149(c)
 reconsideration, 154
 schedules, 149(a)
 title and preamble, 149(a)
 when not considered, 148
 whole, considered as a, 149(b)
Constitution, to alter, 173
corrections by Deputy Speaker, 156
explanatory memorandum, 141(b)
financial, 178–182
first reading, 141
guillotine, 82
House bill, definition, 2
initiation, 138
laid aside, 158(b), 162(d), 169
 definition, 2

Bills—continued

lapsed, 174
Main Appropriation Bill, definition, 2
Main Committee, referred to—
 consideration in detail in, 148,
 stages referred, 183(a)
 referral to, 143(a)
 report to House, 152–153, 198
 return to House, 197
 unresolved questions, 188(b), 195
messages—
 bills, transmitting—
 House amendments to Senate bill, 168, 169(c), 170
 House bill to Senate, 157
 Senate amendments to House bill, 161–163
 Senate requests, 165
 Senate bill, return to Senate, 167(a)
 Governor-General, from, recommending appropriation, 147, 180–182
 amendment to bill, for, 180(d)
 announcement of, 147, 180(b)(c), 181, 182
 Senate amendment or request for, 181
 notice of intention to present, 139
 when not required, 178
 passing of, after third reading, 155(c)
 presentation—
 bill, of, 140, 141
 first reading, 141
 notice of, 139
 signed copy, 140
 statement on, 41(d), 141
 private Members', 41(c) (d)
 prorogation, resumption of proceedings after, 174

Bills—continued
 reading of, definition, 2
 reasons for disagreement with
 Senate amendments, 161(c),
 170(b)
 reconsideration, 154
 reintroduction, 174(d)
 report from Main Committee,
 152–153
 requested amendments by Senate,
 165
 Royal assent, 175, 176(e)
 schedules, 149
 second reading—
 amendment to, 145
 day fixed for, 142(b)
 moving of, 142
 Senate amendments, 158–164
 Governor-General’s message
 for, 181
 reasons for disagreement with,
 161(c), 170(b)
 seconding not required, 159
 Senate bills, 166–172
 amendments to, 168–172
 definition, 2
 procedure for, 166
 Senate requests, 165
 Senate, transmission to, 157(b)
 stages, intervals between, 142, 155
 supply bill, definition, 2
 taxation, 149(d), 179
 third reading—
 absolute majority on
 constitution alteration bill,
 173
 leave to move forthwith, 148(a)
 question for, 155
 time for moving, 155
 time limits, 1
 title—
 amendment to, 150(d)
 amendment to bill to be within,
 150(a)
 clauses to come within, 140(b)

Bills—continued
 title—*continued*
 definition, 2
 must agree with notice, 140(a)
 when considered, 149
 urgent, 82
 withdrawn, 138
Bow to Chair, 62(b)
Broadcasting and televising, *see*
 resolutions of the House, pp. 109–
 115
Budget debate (on Main
 Appropriation Bill), 76(c)
Business—
 after 9.30 pm, 33
 formal before Governor-General’s
 Speech reported, 6(a)
 government—
 order, 45
 priority to, 35
 Main Committee, 183
 motion to call on, 46(e)
 new, 33
 Notice Paper, set down on, 36
 obstruction of, 78
 order of, 34
 precedence or priority to—
 censure motion, 48
 leave of absence motion, 26(a)
 no confidence motion, 48
 orders of the day, 37
 point of order, 86(a)
 privilege matter, 51
 private Members’, 41–42
 accorded priority, 41(c)
 alternation of, 41(f)
 bills, 41(c)–(e)
 place in routine of business, 35
 procedure, 41
 removal from Notice Paper, 42
 selection committee, 222
 timetable, 222(a)
 routine of, 34
 time limits for certain, 1

- Casting vote**—
 chair of committee, 232
 chair of subcommittee, 234(b)
 Speaker, 14(d), 135(c) (*and see*
 Constitution s. 40)
- Censure**, motion of, or
 amendment, 48
 notice for, 106(c)
- Certificate, Clerk's**, *see* 'Bills' and
 'Petitions'
- Chair of Main Committee**—
 Deputy Speaker as, 3(d), 16(b)
 duties, 16(b), 186–187, 190–191
 meeting times, sets, 186
 member of Speaker's panel as,
 17(c)
 order, maintains, 60(b), 187
 quorum, want of, action by,
 190(b)
and see 'Deputy Speaker'
- Chair of committee**, *see*
 'Committees, Operation of'
- Chair of House**—
 Clerk acting as, 10(b)
 Deputy Speaker as, 16(b)
 maintains order, 60(a)
 member of Speaker's panel as,
 17(b)
 Second Deputy Speaker as, 16(c)
 Speaker as, 3(d)
- Chamber**—
 Members—
 exclusion from, 94(e)
 movements in, 61(b), 62, 129(b)
 places in, 62(d)
 to remain in, 56(d), 128
 physical limits of—
 definition, 2
 applied for quorum, 56
 area of Members seats—
 definition, 2
 applied in divisions, 128–129
 visitors, 96, 257
and see 'Galleries'
- Charges, financial**, 179
- Clerk Assistant**, 21
- Clerk at the Table**, definition, 2
- Clerk of the House**—
 absence of, 21
 Chair, acts as, 10(b)
 duties in regard to—
 ballots, 137
 bills—
 certificates for, 157, 164, 167,
 171, 175, 176(d)
 errors in, 156
 divisions, 129, 135
 election of Speaker, 10(b)
 motions, notices of, 106, 108,
 110
 censure and no confidence,
 106(c)
 papers, 199, 200
 petitions, 208–212
 proclamations, 4(a)–(b), 8(b)
 questions on notice, 102, 105(a)
 roll of Members, 25
 Speaker, 18, 19
 Votes and Proceedings, 27–28
 witnesses, summoning of, 254
 writs, election, 4(d)
 vacancy in office, 22
- Clerk of the Main Committee**—
 certifies bills, 198(b)
 records minutes, 189
- Closure**—
 debate, of, by reply, 71
 election of Speaker and Deputies,
 11(h)
 Member, of, 80
 MPI, of, 46(e)
 question, of, 81
 Speaker's discretion to refuse,
 78
 urgent matter, not possible,
 85(c)
- Committee, Main**, *see* 'Main
 Committee'

Committee reports—

- adoption, 246
- alternative draft, 245
- bill, on, 144, 148
- chair signature, 246
- consideration by committee, 244
- consideration by House, 248
- dissenting, 244(e), 246(c)
- draft—
 - alternative, 245
 - consideration, 244
 - preparation, 244
 - reconsideration, 244(c)
- Main Committee, referred to, 39(c)
- Members' Interests, Committee of, 220(d)
- power to report, 243
- presentation, 39–40, 247
 - advisory report on bill, 144
- print, order to, 248
- protest or dissent, 244(e), 246(c)
- publication—
 - authorised, 242
 - before presentation, 247(c)
 - premature, 242(b)
- reconsideration, 244(c)
- Selection Committee, 222(e)(f)
- Speaker may give directions for circulation, 247(c)

Committees, *see* 'Committees, Joint', 'Committees, operation of', 'Committees, Select', 'Committees, Standing', and committees by name

Committees, Joint—

- appointment, 224
- bills referred to, 227
- House members of, 224, 227
- quorum, 225
- reports, 226

Committees, operation of—

- appointment, 214–224
- audio visual or audio links, use of, 235(b)
- bills, referred to, 143(b), 144, 215(b), 227, 229(c)
- chair—
 - admission of visitors, 240(b)
 - casting vote, 232
 - direction to summons
 - witnesses or produce documents, 236(b)
 - election, 232
 - preparation of draft report, 244(a)
 - signs minutes, 239
 - signs report, 246
 - subcommittee, of, 234(b)
- conferences with Senate committees, 219(c), 238, 258
- Deputy and Second Deputy Speaker on, 230
- deputy chair, election of, 232
- dissenting report, 244(e), 246(c)
- documents
 - ordered by committee, 236
 - presented to committee, 239(b)
 - printing of, 248
 - publication of, 242 *and see* resolutions of the House, pp. 107–108
- evidence—
 - audio visual or audio links, hearing by, 235(b)
 - by House employees, 252–253
 - definition, 2
 - power to call for, 236
 - premature publication, 242
 - publication, 242 *and see* resolutions of the House, pp. 107–108
 - unpublished, disclosure of, *see* resolution of the House, p. 105 *and see* 'Witnesses'
- meetings and sittings, 235

Committees, operation of—*continued*

- members—
 - appointment of, 229
 - allegations against, 250
 - change reported by Speaker, 229(b)
 - charge against, 250
 - discharge of, 229
 - leave of absence, 26
 - names recorded, 233
 - pecuniary interest, 231
 - presence of other, 241
 - replacement, 229(c)
 - supplementary, 215(d), 229(c)
 - witnesses as, 249, 252
- minutes, 239, 247(a)
- petition referred to, 213(c)
- press release, 242(c)
- quorum, 233
 - joint committee, 225
 - subcommittee, 234(c)
- record of proceedings, 239
- records of previous committees, 237
- reports, *see* 'Committee reports'
- secretary—
 - notifies next meeting, 233(b)
 - summonses witnesses, 236(b), 254(a)
 - requests evidence, 236(b)
 - records minutes, 239(a)
 - signs documents presented, 239(b)
- Senate committee, conference with, 219(c), 238, 258
- Speaker on, 217–218, 230
- standing orders of House apply, 3(c)
- subcommittees—
 - appointment, 234(a)
 - chair, 234(b)
 - casting vote, 234(b)
 - quorum, 234(c)
 - other members, 234(d)

Committees, operation of—*continued*

- visitors, admission of, 240
- witnesses, *see* 'Witnesses'

Committees, Select—

- appointment, 223
- bills referred to, 143(b)
- report, 223

Committees, Standing—

- annual reports, reference to, 215(c)

appointment—

- commencement of each Parliament, at, 214

Auditor-General's reports—

- Public Accounts and Audit, Joint Committee of, notified, 215(c)

reference to, 215(c)

bills referred to, 143(b), 215(b), 227

general purpose, 215

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, 215(a)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 215(a)

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, 215(a)

Economics, Finance and Public Administration, 215(a)

Education and Vocational Training, 215(a)

Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation, 215(a)

Environment and Heritage, 215(a)

Family and Human Services, 215(a)

Health and Ageing, 215(a)

Industry and Resources, 215(a)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs, 215(a)

Science and Innovation, 215(a)

Transport and Regional Services, 215(a)

Committees, standing—*continued*

House, 218

Library, 217

Members' Interests, 220

Privileges, 216

Procedure, 221

Publications, 219

Selection, 222

Communication between the Houses—

conferences between committees of both Houses, 219(c), 238, 258

conferences between the Houses, 162(d), 262–266

messages—

transmitting bills—

House amendments to

Senate bill, 168, 169(c), 170

House bill to Senate, 157

Senate amendments to

House bill, 161–163

Senate requests, 165

Senate bill, returning, 167(a)

seeking restoration of a bill, 174(b)

Senate, to, 259–260

Senate, from, 261

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Standing Committee, 215(a)**Conference between committees of both Houses, 219(c), 238, 258****Conference with Senate, 162(d), 262–266****Consideration in detail of bill, 148–151**

amending bill, 149(d)

amendments—

inadmissible, 150(e)

inconsistent, 150(e)

message required, 180(d)

question on, 150(c)(d)

relevancy of, 150(b)

same in substance, 150(e)

Consideration in detail of bill,*—continued*amendments—*continued*

seconding not required, 151

tax proposals, 149(d)

title, 150(d)

when bill reconsidered, 150(e)

appropriation bill, 149(d)

committee report, to await, 148

new clauses, 149(a), 150(e)

order of consideration, 149

postponed clauses, 149(a)

preamble, 149(a)

question on clauses, 149(c)

reconsideration, 154

schedules, 149(a)

title and preamble, 149(a)

when not considered, 148

whole, considered as a, 149(b)

Constitution alteration bill, 173**Constitution, references in standing orders to—**

s. 5 (time for session of Parliament), 4(a)

s. 35 (election of Speaker), 15

s. 40 (Speaker's casting vote), 135(c)

s. 42 (oath or affirmation of allegiance), 4(e)

s. 49 (privilege), 2

s. 50 (rules of Houses), 3(a)

s. 53 (Senate's power to amend bill), 165

s. 56 (message for appropriation), 147, 180

s. 58 (assent to bill), 175, 176, 177

s. 126 (deputy of Governor-General), 9(b)

s. 128 (constitution alteration), 173

Contempt, see 'Privilege'**Count-out—**

definition, 2

House adjourned, 57

resumption of proceedings after, 59

and see 'Quorum'

Custody—

- Members, taken into, 94(f)
- Visitors, taken into, 96(b)
- Votes and Proceedings, records, etc., of, 28

Customs tariff resolution—

- amendments to, 179(b)(c)
- initiated by Minister, 179(a)

Days and hours of meeting—

- House, 29–30
- Main Committee, 186

Debate—

- abuse of orders or forms of House, 78
- addressed to Speaker, 65
- adjournment of, 79
 - Main Committee, in, 194
- allotment of time, limitation of, 84
- allusion to—
 - former debate, 73
- anticipation, 77
- call of Chair to speak, 65(c), 79(b)
- closure of, 81
- conclusion of, question put, 72, 117(c)
- count-out, interrupted by, 59
- curtailment of, 80–81
- discussion of matter of public importance, 46
- documents quoted from, 201
- explanation—
 - personal, 68
 - speech, of, 69(e)
- extension of time for speech, 1
- Governor-General, references to, 88
- imputations, 90

Debate—*continued*

interruption of debate—

- adjournment of House, by, 31(c)
 - adjournment debate, 31(b)
 - count out, by, 59
 - grievance debate, 44(b)
 - Main Committee business, 190(c), 196
 - Members' statements, by, 43
 - private Member's business, 41, 42
 - question time, by, 97
 - urgent matter, by, 85(a)
- interruption of Member speaking, when allowed, 66
- interventions, 66A
- irrelevance *see* 'relevancy'
- Judiciary, references to, 89
- limitation of (guillotine), 82–85
- matters not open to, 78
- Members—
- 'be further heard' motion, 75
 - 'be heard now' motion, 65(c)
 - closure of Member speaking, 80
 - interruption of, 66
 - not speaking, behaviour of, 65(b)
 - references to, 64
 - reflections on, 90
 - rising together, 65(c)
 - unable to stand, 65(a)
- misrepresentation, 69(e)
- obstructing business, 78
- offensive words, 89
 - refusal to withdraw, 91(b)
- personal explanation, 68
- personal reflections, 90

Debate—continued

- point of order—
 - division, in, 86(c)
 - Member called resumes seat, 86
 - Member may be interrupted to raise, 66(a)
 - Member may raise point at any time, 86
 - precedence to, 86
 - Speaker gives ruling, 86
- previous debates, references to, 73
- privilege matter, 51–52, 66
- quarrels, 92(a)
- Queen, references to, 88
- question under discussion stated, 67
- questions seeking information, not to be debated, 100(a)
- references to—
 - debates or proceedings, 73
 - Governor-General, 88
 - Members, 64
 - Judiciary, 89
 - Queen, 88
- reflections on—
 - Members, 90
 - vote of House, 74
- relevancy—
 - address in reply, 76(b)
 - adjournment of House motion, 76(a)
 - appropriation and supply bills, 76(c)
 - election of Speaker and Deputies, 11(g)
 - persistent irrelevance, 75
 - supply bills, 76(c)
- repetition, tedious, 75
- reply—
 - right of, 69(c)
 - closes debate, 71
- resumption of, 59, 79(b), 196
- ruling of Speaker, 86–87
 - dissent to, 87

Debate—continued

- seconded of motion, 70
- Speaker, duties of, *see* 'Speaker'
- speaking twice, 69
- speeches, manner and right, 64–72
- statutes, references to, 74
- tedious repetition, 75
- time—
 - limitation of debate (guillotine), 82–85
 - time limits, 1
- unparliamentary language, 89
- refusal to withdraw, 91(b)

Delegation reports, presentation and consideration, 39–40**Deputy Clerk—**

- absence of Clerk, 21–22
- certifies petitions, 208(b), 210

Deputy Speaker—

- absence, 18
- absence of Speaker, 18(a)
- election, 13–14
- bills, makes corrections in, 156
- committees—
 - member of, 230
 - Selection Committee, member of, 222(b)
- House, meeting of, fixed by, 20

Main Committee—

- keeps order in, 187
- meeting of, fixed by, 186
- takes chair of, 3(d), 16(b), 186
- messages, signs, 259
- takes chair of House, when requested by Speaker, 16(b)

Disagreement between the Houses—

- conferences with Senate, 262–266
 - and see* 'Bills, Senate amendments to' and 'Bills, Senate bills, amendments to'

Discharge of orders, 37(c)**Disobedience to orders of House**, 93

Disorder, 88–96

- disorderly conduct, 91
 - sanctions, 94
- grave, in House, 95
- Main Committee, in, 187
 - reported to House, 60(b), 187(c)
- Member, by, 91–95
- Speaker—
 - intervention by, 92
 - urgent action by, 94(c)
- visitor, by, 96

Dissent—

- from Speaker's ruling, 87
- from vote by one Member recorded, 126
- from report of committee, 244(e), 246(c)

Distinguished visitors, 257(a)**Divisions—**

- bells rung, 129(a), 131(a)
- call for, 125
- call of more than one Member required, 125, 126
- casting vote—
 - chair, committee, 232
 - Speaker, 135(c)
- confusion in, 131(c), 132
- correction of record, 135(b)
- deferred, 133
- dissent of one Member, 126
- doors locked, 129
- errors in, 131(c), 132
- Main Committee—
 - division not possible in, 188
 - suspended for division in House, 190(a)
- Members—
 - calling for, 125, 128
 - counted, 130
 - four or fewer, 127
 - names taken, 126, 127
 - one Member dissenting, 126
 - pecuniary interest, 134

Divisions—continued**Members—continued**

- seats—
 - to stay in until result declared, 129(d)
 - to remain in and vote, 128
- mistakes in records, 132
- point of order during, 86(c)
- question stated, 129(c)
- quorum, want of, 58
- record corrected, 135(b)
- recorded in Votes and Proceedings, 135
- result declared, 130(b)
- Speaker's casting vote, 135(c)
- Speaker's opinion challenged, 125
- successive, 131
- tellers—
 - appointed, 129(c), 131(a)
 - duties, 130(a), 131(b)

Documents—

- authorised for publication, 203, 242, *and see* resolution of the House, p. 107
- committee, presented to, 239
- committee records, 237, 239
- custody, 28
- deemed presentation, 199(b)
- definition of document, 2
- motion to take note of, 202
- ordered by committee, 236
- ordered by House, 200
- Parliamentary Paper—
 - definition, 2
 - motion to make, 202
- presentation of, 199, *and see* resolution of the House, p. 106
- printing of, 248
- publication of, 203, 219, 242
 - Hansard, authority to publish, *see* resolution of the House, p. 107
 - Privileges Committee records, *see* resolution of the House, p. 108

Documents—continued

- Publications Committee, reference to, 219
- quoted from, by Minister, 201
- recorded in Votes and Proceedings, 199(b)
- Speaker, presented by, 199(a)
- Statute, presented by, 199(a)
- unpublished, disclosure of, *see* resolution of the House, p. 105

Doors of the Chamber, 56(b), 129**Economics, Finance and Public Administration, Standing Committee, 215(a)****Education and Vocational Training, Standing Committee, 215(a)****Election of—**

- Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker, 13–14
- Member by ballot, 136–137
- new Speaker to fill vacancy, 19(a)
- Speaker, 4(f), 10–12

Employees of House—

- witnesses, as, 252–253
- and see* ‘Clerk Assistant’, ‘Clerk of the House’, ‘Clerk of the Main Committee’, ‘Deputy Clerk’, ‘Serjeant-at-Arms’

Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation, Standing Committee, 215(a)**Environment and Heritage, Standing Committee, 215(a)****Evidence—**

- audio visual or audio links, hearing by, 235(b)
- by House employees, 252–253
- definition, 2
- power to call for, 236
- premature publication, 242
- publication, 242

Evidence—continued

- unpublished, disclosure of, *see* resolution of the House, p. 105
- and see* ‘Witnesses’

Excise tariff resolution—

- amendments to, 179(b)(c)
- initiated by Minister, 179(a)

Explanations—

- conduct of Member, 93
- personal, 68
- words, of, 69(e)

Explanatory memorandum, 141(b)**Extensions of time for speeches, 1****Family and Human Services, Standing Committee, 215(a)****Financial proposals, 178–182****First reading of bill, 141**

- statement on presentation, 41(d), 141

Formal business, 6(a)**Galleries—**

- admission to, 257
- distinguished visitors, 257(a)
- misconduct in, 96
- Senators, 257(c)

General purpose standing committees, *see* ‘Committees, Standing’**Government business—**

- order of, 45
- priority to, 35

Governor-General—

- Address in Reply, 6, 7
- addresses presented to—
 - by whole House, 269(b)
 - by Speaker, 269
- addresses to, 267–270
- addresses to Royal Family, 268
- Administrator, 2
- amendments to bill, proposed by, 176–177
- assent to bills, 175, 176(e)

Governor-General—*continued*

- conduct challenged by substantive motion, 100(c)
- declares causes of calling Parliament together, 4(i), 5, 8(d)
- Deputies appointed by, 9(b)
- messages from, 180–182
- opening speech, 5–6
- presentation of—
 - bills for assent, 175, 176(e)
 - Speaker, 4(h)
- proclamation, 4(a)(b), 8(a)(b)
- questions critical of, 100(c)
- references to—
 - in debate, 88
 - to apply to Administrator, 2

Governor of State—

- conduct challenged by substantive motion, 100(c)
- questions critical of, 100(c)
- references to in debate, 88

Grave disorder, 95

Grievance debate, 44

Guillotine, 82–85

Hansard—

- authority to publish, *see* resolution of the House, p. 107
- petitions printed in, 213(d)
- replies to questions printed in, 105(a)

Health and Ageing, Standing Committee, 215(a)

Hours of meeting—

- House, 29–30
- Main Committee, 186

House Committee, 218

House employees—

- witnesses, as, 252–253
- and see* ‘Clerk Assistant’, ‘Clerk of the House’, ‘Clerk of the Main Committee’, ‘Deputy Clerk’, ‘Serjeant-at-Arms’

House Monitoring System, *see* resolution of the House, p. 112

Imputations—

- in debate, 90
- in questions, 100(d)

Industry and Resources, Standing Committee, 215(a)

Interventions, 66A

Irrelevance, *see* ‘Relevancy’

Joint committees—

- appointment, 224
- bills referred to, 227
- House members of, 227
- quorum, 225
- reports, 226

Judiciary—

- conduct challenged by substantive motion, 100(c)
- offensive words against, 89(b)
- questions critical of, 100(c)

Laid aside—

- bills, 158(b), 162(d)
- definition, 2

Lapsed bills, 174

Leader of the House,

- government business arranged by, 45

Leave of absence, 26 (*and see* Constitution s. 38)

Leave of House, 63

Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Standing Committee, 215(a)

Library Committee, 217

Mace, 12(c)

Main Committee, 183–198

- adjournment debate, 191
- adjournment of, 190–191
 - adjournment of House, 190(c)
 - debate, 191
 - disorder, 187(b)(c)
 - motion for, 190(e)(f)
- adjournment of debate in, 194
- appointment, 183

Main Committee—*continued*
 bills—
 consideration in detail in, 148,
 stages referred, 183(a)
 referral to, 143(a)
 report to House, 152–153, 198
 return to House, 197
 unresolved questions, 188(b),
 195,
 business—
 completion of, 190(e)
 referred to, 183
 order of, 192
 returned to House, 197
 unfinished, 191(b)
 Chair, 16, 17(c), 186
 Committee and delegation
 reports, referred to, 39(c), 192
 Deputy Speaker, 16(b), 186
 disorder, 187
 division in House, suspension for,
 190(a)
 division not possible in, 188(b)
 interventions, 66A
 matters referred, 183
 matters returned to House, 197
 meetings of, 186, 192
 members of, 184
 Members' 3 minute statements,
 193
 petitions presented during,
 209(b)
 minutes of, 189
 order, maintenance of, 187
 quorum of, 184, 190(b)
 rules, 185
 Second Deputy Speaker, 16(c)
 standing orders of House apply,
 3(c)
 suspension of—
 disorder, 187(b)(c)
 division in House, 190(a)
 quorum, lack of, 190(b)
 resumption of proceedings
 after, 196

Main Committee—*continued*
 unresolved questions, 188(b), 195
 voting in, 188
 division not possible, 188(b)
 unresolved questions, 188(b),
 195
Matter of public importance, 46
Matter of special interest, 50
Meeting of House—
 fixed by Deputy Speaker, 20
 fixed by Speaker, 30(b)
 motion by Minister, 30(a)
 times of, 29–30
Members—
 absence, leave of, 26 (*and see*
 Constitution s. 38)
 affirmation by, 4(e)
 allegations against, received by
 committee, 250
 arrest of, 94(f)
 attendance ordered by House, 93
 attendance record of, 25
 charges against, before
 committee, 250
 closure of, 80
 committees, admission to, 241
 conduct
 challenged by substantive
 motion, 100(c)
 considered disorderly, 91
 custody, taken into, 94(f)
 debate, conduct in and manner
 and right of, *see* 'Debate'
 definition of, 2
 directed to leave Chamber, 94(a)
 disobedience, wilful, 93
 disorderly conduct, 91
 Interests—
 Committee of, 220
 Register of, 220
 and see resolution of House,
 p. 117
 leave of absence, 26 (*and see*
 Constitution s. 38)

Members—continued

Main Committee, members of, 184
naming of, 94(b)(c)
oath, 4(e)
offensive references to, 89–90
ordered to attend to answer for conduct, 93
personal or pecuniary interest, 134, 231
quarrels between, not allowed, 92(a)
referred to by name of electoral division, 64
reflections on, 90, 100(c)
roll, 25
seats in Chamber, 23–24
selection by ballot, 136–137
Serjeant-at-Arms, removed by, 94(f)
suspension of, 94
sworn in, 4(e)
witnesses, as, 249, 252

Members' interests—

Committee of Members' Interests, 220
 allegations against a Member, 250(a)
 investigation by, 220(c)
pecuniary interest—
 committee inquiry, in, 231
 vote of House, in, 134
Register of Members' Interests, 220(a)
and see resolution of the House, p. 117

Members' statements—

3 minute, in Main Committee, 193
90 second, in House, 43
presentation of petitions during, 209(b)

Messages—

bills, transmitting—
 House amendments to Senate bill, 168, 169(c), 170
 House bill to Senate, 157
 Senate amendments to House bill, 161–163
 Senate requests, 165
 Senate bill, return to Senate, 167(a)
Governor-General, from, recommending appropriation, 147, 180–182
 amendment to bill, for, 180(d)
 announcement of, 180(b)(c), 181, 182
 Senate amendment or request for, 181
Governor-General, from, to House for opening, 5(a), 8(d)
House to Senate, 259–260
 delivered by Serjeant, 259
 resolution of House, communicating, 260
 signed by Speaker or Deputy Speaker, 259
seeking restoration of a bill, 174(b)
Senate to House, 261

Ministerial statements, time for, 34**Ministers—**

documents quoted from, 201
questions to, 98
response to petition, 211(b), 212
seats, 23

Misrepresentation of speech, 69(e)**Money bills**, *see* 'Appropriation bills'**Motions—**

absence, for leave of, 26(a)
adjournment of debate, 79
adjournment of House, 31–32
allotment of time, 84
bills, for, *see* 'Bills'

Motions—continued

- business, to obstruct, 78
- business of the day, to call on, 46(e)
- called on and not moved, 113
- censure, 48
- closure—
 - debate, of, 81
 - debate of matter of public importance, of, 46(e)(f)
 - Member, of, 80
 - question, of, 81
 - Speaker, election, 11(h)
- condolence, 49
- debate on, when not allowed, 78
- declaration of urgency, 83
- disallowed, 114 (b)
- dissent from Speaker's ruling, 87
- documents—
 - print or take note of, 202
 - production of, 200
- leave of absence, for, 26
- Main Committee, referred to, 183
- meeting of House, for next, 30
- Member—
 - 'be further heard', 75
 - 'be heard now', 65
 - 'be no longer heard', 80
 - 'be suspended', 94
- Member failing to move, 113
- moving of, 111
 - order of moving, 112
 - second time, 114
 - without debate or amendment, 78
- not called on, 115
- not moved, 113
- not seconded, 116(a)
- notice of, *see* 'Notices'
- papers—
 - print or take note of, 202
 - production of, 200
- pecuniary interest, 134

Motions—continued

- petition—
 - relating to motion or order of day, 209(c)
 - motions moved on, 213(b)(c)
- possession of the House, in, 117(b)
- postponement of, 112–113
- private Members', 41–42
- privilege, matter of, 51, 52(c)
- procedural, debate not allowed, 78
- question to Member concerning, 99
- question from Chair on, 117–118
- removed from Notice Paper, 114(a)
- requiring notice, 111
- return matter to House, to, 197(a)
- same motion, 114
- seconding, 116
- seconder not required, 116(a)(b), 151, 159, 197(a)
- special interest, matter of, 50
- substantive—
 - conduct of certain persons challenged by, 100(c)
 - definition, 2
 - Member's vote challenged by, 134(b)
 - reply allowed to, 69(c)
- suspension of—
 - Member, 94(b)(c)
 - term of, 94(d)
 - standing and other orders, 47
- no confidence, 48
- thanks, 49
- urgent, 83
- withdrawal of, 50, 114(a), 117(b)
- without notice, 111

Naming of Member, 94(b)(c)

New business (after 9.30 pm), 33

No confidence motion, 48

- notice for, 106(c)

Notice Paper—

- anticipation of matter on, 77
- business set down on, 36
- government business on,
arranged by Leader of the
House, 45
- notice—
 - alteration of, 110(a)
 - not called on, 42, 115
 - order of, on, 45, 108
 - publication on, 108
 - private Members', 41(c), 42
 - removed, 42
 - withdrawal from, 110(c)
- orders of the day—
 - order of, 37(a)
 - not called on, 37(d)
- questions placed on, 98(a), 102
- restoration to, of lapsed bill, 174

Notices—

- absent Member, for, 107
- alteration by Member, 110(a)
- amendment by Speaker, 109
- authorisation, 106(b)
- bills, notice of intention to present,
139
 - not required for some financial
bills, 178
- censure or no confidence motion,
for, 106(c)
- division of, 109(b)
- giving of, 106–107
 - during 90 second statement,
106(a)
- government business, order of, 45
- language, inappropriate, 109(a)
- not called on, 42, 115
- operation of, 108
- oral, 106(a)
- order of moving, 41, 112
- order on Notice Paper, 45, 108
- postponement of, 110(b)
- private Members', 41–42
- publication on Notice Paper, 108
- removed from Notice Paper, 42

Notices—continued

- seconding, 106(b)
- signatures required, 107
- terms of certain notices reported
to House, 106(c)
- withdrawal of, 110(c), 114(a)
- writing, in, 116(a)

Oaths, taken by Members, 4(e)**Objection to ruling, 87****Obstruction of business, 78****Offensive or objectionable
words, 89**

- refusal to withdraw, 91(b)

**Officers of House, see 'Employees
of House'****Opening of—**

- new session, 8
- Parliament, 4

Order, 60–62

and see 'Disorder', 'Point of order'

Orders of the day—

- definition, 2
- discharge of, 37(c)
- government business, order of, 45
- grievance debate, for, 44(a)
- not called on, 37(d)
- order of, 37(a)
- petition relating to, 209(c)
- postponement, 37(b)
- referred to Main Committee,
183(b)
- removed from Notice Paper, 42

Orders of the House—

- disobedience to, 93
- papers, for, 200
- suspension of, 47

Papers—see 'Documents'**Parliament—**

- new, meeting of, 4
- new session, commencement of, 8
- opening by—
 - Deputy, 9(b)
 - Governor-General, 4–8
 - Queen, 9(a)

Parliamentary Paper—

- definition, 2
- motion to make, 202

Parliamentary Secretaries—

- definition, 2
- Members' statements in Main Committee, 193
- questions seeking information, 98

Pecuniary interest—

- allegations against a Member, 250(a)
- committee inquiry, in, 231
- Committee of Members' Interests, 220
 - investigation by, 220(c)
- Register of Members' Interests, 220(a)
- vote of House, in, 134
- and see* resolution of the House, p. 117

Personal—

- explanation, 68
- interest, in committee inquiry, 231
- reflections, 90

Petitions—

- action taken on, 212–213
- announcement, 211
- certificate by Clerk or Deputy Clerk, 208(b), 210
- content, 204
- language of, 205(c)(f)
- lodge, persons entitled to, 207
- Members' responsibilities, 208
- Members' statements, presented during, 209(b)
- motion or order of day, relating to, 209(c)
- motions moved on, 213(b)(c)
- preparing, 205
- presentation, 209
- reference—
 - by Clerk to Minister responsible, 212
 - to committee, 213(c)

Petitions—continued

- response by Minister, 211(b), 212(b)
- signatures, 206

Point of order—

- division, in, 86(c)
- Member called resumes seat, 86
- Member may be interrupted to raise, 66(a)
- precedence to, 86
- raised at any time, 86
- Speaker gives ruling, 86

Postponement of—

- clauses, 149(a), 150(c)
- motion, 112
- notice of motion, 110(b)
- order of the day, 37(b)
- Senate amendments to House bill, consideration of, 158(b)

Prayers, 38**Private Member, definition, 2****Private Members' business—**

- accorded priority, 41(c)
- alternation of, 41(f)
- bills, 41(c)–(e)
- place in routine of business, 34
- procedure, 41
- removal from Notice Paper, 42
- selection committee, 222
- selection principles, *see* resolution of the House, p. 122.
- timetable, 222(a)

Privilege—

- complaint of breach of, reference to Committee, 51–52, 216
- definition, 2
- matters—
 - raising of, 66, 51–52
- prima facie case, 51(d), 52(b)
- publication, complaint against, 53

Privileges Committee, 216
allegations against a Member, 250(a)
matter referred to, 51–52
publication of records *see*
resolution of the House, p. 108

Procedure Committee, 221

Proceedings—

broadcasting, conditions for
broadcasters, *see* resolutions of
the House, pp. 109–116
Hansard, authority to record *see*
resolution of the House, p. 107
resumption of, after count-out,
59

Proclamation calling

Parliament, 4(a), 8(b)

Prorogation—

definition, 2
resumption of proceedings on
lapsed bills after, 174

Public Accounts and Audit,

Joint Committee of, notified,
215(c)

Public importance, matter of, 46

**Publications, complaint of breach
of privilege founded on, 53**

Publications Committee, 219

Quarrels in debate, 92(a)

Queen, Her Majesty The—

addresses to, 267–270
conduct challenged by
substantive motion, 100(c)
Parliament, opens, 9(a)
questions critical of, 100(c)
references to in debate, 88

Questions from the Chair—

adjournment of House, 31(a)
adjournment of debate, 79, 194
adjournment of Main Committee,
191
amendments, 122
'Be now put' (closure), 11(h), 81,
85(c)
complicated, division of, 119

Questions from the Chair—

continued

debate not allowed, 78
debate to be relevant to, 76
declaration of urgency, 82(b),
83(b)
definition, 2
determined, 125–126
determined in Main Committee,
188
divide, motion to, 119
motions, 117–118
negatived, if numbers equal, 11(h)
possession of the House, in, 117(b)
proposed to House, 117(a)
put—
immediately, 78
no debate after, 72
when debate concluded, 117(c)
when time allotted expired,
85(b)
stated if required, 67
same question, 114
unresolved, 188(b)
proceedings on bill, 195
reported to House, 152–153, 198

**Questions seeking
information—**

alteration of, 101(a)
answers to, 104–105
anticipating discussion, 100(f)
delay in reply, 105(b)
form and content rules, 98(d), 100
Hansard, replies printed in, 105(a)
inadmissible, 98(d), 100
language, 101(c)
Members other than Ministers, to,
99
Ministers, to, 98
notice, on, 98(a), 102
oral, 98(b)
persons, regarding, 100(c)(d)
relevance of answers, 104
replies to, 104–105

Questions seeking information—*continued*
Speaker, to, 103
supplementary, 101(b)
time for, 97
without notice, 97, 98(b)
written answers, 105
written questions, 98(a), 102

Question Time—
definition, 2
time of, 97

Quorum—
count deferred, 55(b)
count out, 57
definition of, 2
House adjourned on, 57
resumption after, 59
counting, 56
debate interrupted by want of, 59
election Acting Speaker, 18(b)
Main Committee, in, 196
number required—
committee, 233
House, 2, 9, 54
joint committee, 225
Main Committee, 2, 184
want of—
committee, in, 233
division, in, 58
Main Committee, in, 190(b)
noticed by Member, 55
Speaker, action by, 56
time of meeting, at, 54
Member speaking interrupted, 66(c)
Members not to leave Chamber, 56(d)

Reasoned amendments, 145

Reasons—
casting vote, 135(c)
Senate amendments to—
House bills, 161(c)
Senate bills, 170(b)

Recess, definition, 2

Reconsideration of bill, 154

Records—
committees, of, 239, *and see*
resolutions of the House, pp. 105,
108
House, of, 28
Members' Interests, Register of,
220
minutes of proceedings of Main
Committee, 189
Votes and Proceedings, 27–28

References in debate to—
debates or proceedings, 73
Governor-General, 88
judiciary, 89
Members, 64
Queen, 88

Reflections on—
Members, 90
vote of House, 74

Relevancy—
answers to questions, 104
amendments, 121(c)
amendments in bills, 150(a)
Senate amendments, 158(b),
160, 162(a)
clauses of bills to title, 140(b)
debate—
address in reply, 76(a)
adjournment of House motion,
76(a)
appropriation and supply bills,
76(c)
election of Speaker and
Deputies, 11(g)
persistent irrelevance, 75
notices of motion, parts of, 109(b)

Repetition, tedious, 75

Reply, right of—
citizens, *see* resolution of the
House, p. 120
debate, in, 69(c), 71

Report—

- bill from Main Committee, 152–153, 198,
- committee—
 - adoption, 246
 - alternative draft, 245
 - bill, on, 144, 148
 - chair signature, 246
 - consideration by committee, 244
 - consideration by House, 248
 - dissenting, 244(e), 246(c)
 - draft—
 - alternative, 245
 - consideration, 244
 - preparation, 244
 - reconsideration, 244(c)
 - Members' Interests, Committee of, 220(d)
 - power to report, 243
 - presentation, 39–40, 247
 - advisory report on bill, 144
 - print, order to, 248
 - protest or dissent, 244(e), 246(c)
 - publication—
 - authorised, 242
 - before presentation, 247(c)
 - premature, 242(b)
 - reconsideration, 244(c)
 - Selection Committee, 222(e)(f)
 - Speaker may give directions for circulation, 247(c)
- conference, 266
- delegation, 39–40
- disorder in Main Committee, 60(b), 187(c)
- message from Senate, 261

Rescission of resolution or vote, 120**Resolutions—**

- rescission of, 120
- Senate, communicated to, 260
- and see* 'Motions'

Roll of Members, 25**Royal assent, 175, 176(e)****Royal Family, address to, 267–268****Rulings, Speaker's—**

- after point of order, 86
- dissent, 87
- in division, 86(c)
- previous rulings, regard to, 3(e)

Same motion, 114**Science and Innovation, Standing Committee, 215(a)****Seats—**

- distinguished visitors, for, 257(a)

Members—

- Chamber, in, 24
- during divisions, to remain in, 129(d), 131(b)
- to resume, 61(a), 86(b)
- to take, 62(a)

Ministers, 23**Second Deputy Speaker—**

- absence, 18(b)
- absence of Deputy Speaker, 18
- acts as Deputy Speaker, 16(c)
- acts as Speaker, 18(a)
- election, 13–14
- committees—
 - member of, 230
- Main Committee—
 - assists Deputy Speaker, 16(c)
 - takes chair of House when requested by Speaker, 16(c)

Second reading of bill—

- amendment to, 145
- day fixed for, 142(b)
- moving of, 142

Second speech, 69**Seconding—**

- amendments, 121(b)
 - consideration in detail, during, 151
 - not seconded, 121(b)
- Senate, 159
- Chief Government Whip, 116(c)
- consideration in detail, during, 151
- dissent from Speaker's ruling, 87

Seconding—*continued*

election of Speaker and Deputies,
11(b)

Minister, 116(b)

motions, 116

not seconded, 116(a)

not required—

Chief Government Whip, by,
116(c)

consideration in detail, during,
151

Minister, by, 116(b)

motion to return matter to
House, 197(a)

Senate amendments, 159

notices of motion, 106(b)

seconder may speak later, 70

Senate amendments, 159

Select committees—

appointment, 223

bills referred to, 143(b)

report, 223

and see 'Committees, operation of'

Selection Committee—

appointment, 222(a)

general principles, 222(c)

quorum, 222(b)

reports, 222(e)(f)

Senate—

attendance of Members and
House employees before, 252

bills—

Senate amendments to, *see*
'Senate amendments'

Senate bills, *see* 'Senate bills'

Senate, transmission to, 157(b)

communication with, 258

conference between committees,
238

conferences with, 262–266

employees as witnesses, 251

messages—

from, 261

to, 259–260

offensive words against, 89(a)

requests, 165

Senate amendments, 158–164

Governor-General's message
for, 181

reasons for disagreement with,
161(c), 170(b)

requests for amendment, 165

seconding not required, 159

Senate bills, 166–172

amendments to, 168–172

definition, 2

procedure for, 166

Senate requests, 165**Senators**—

admission to Chamber, 257(c)

conduct challenged by

substantive motion, 100(c)

offensive words against, 89(a)

questions critical of, 100(c)

witnesses, as, 251

Serjeant-at-Arms—

delivers messages to Senate, 259

takes into custody—

Member, 94(f)

visitor, 96

Service of the House—

definition, 2

suspension from, 94(b)

Session—

definition, 2

new, opening of, 8

**Sessional orders, suspension
of**, 47**Sitting of House**—

adjournment of—

absence of Speaker, Deputy

Speaker and Second Deputy

Speaker, 18(b)

automatic, 31

debate, 31

by resolution, 32

grave disorder, 32(b), 95

time of, 29

want of quorum, 32(b), 57

days and hours of meeting, 29

definition, 2

next meeting, motion to fix, 30

Sitting of House—continued

- suspended—
 - election, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker, 11(l)
 - grave disorder, 95
 - opening of Parliament, 2(i)
 - want of quorum, 57

Speaker—

- absence of, 18
- Acting Speaker, 18
- Address in Reply presented by, 7
- addresses presented by, 268–269
- adjourns House, 31, 32(b)
- arrests, reports, 96
- assistance in Chair, 16–17
- authority to be recognised, 61
- bills, presents for assent, 175, 176(d)
- bow to, 62(b)
- calls Members to speak, 65(c)
- casting vote, 14(d), 135(c) (*and see* Constitution s. 40)
- committees—
 - determines areas of responsibility, 215(c)
 - member of, 217–218, 230
 - report, gives directions for printing and circulation, 247
- definition, 3(d)
- determines question on—
 - anticipation, 77
 - obstructive motions, 78
 - offensive or disorderly conduct, 92(b)
 - privilege, 51
 - public importance matter, 46(d)
 - same motion, 114(b)
- divisions, duties, 125–131
- election of—
 - new Parliament, 4(f)
 - procedure, 10–12
 - vacancy, 10(a)

Speaker—continued

- Governor-General—
 - attends to hear speech, 5
 - presentation to, 4(h)
 - presents Address in Reply, 7
 - reports reply to address, 270
 - reports speech, 6(b)
- heard without interruption, 61(a)
- intervenes in debate, 92(a)
- Member—
 - directs to leave Chamber, 94(a)
 - discontinue speech, directs, to, 75(a)
 - names, 94(b)(c)
 - summons to attend, 249(a)
- messages, signs and reports, 259, 261
- notices of motion, 109
- order maintained by, 60
- papers, presents, 199(a)
- prayers read by, 38
- Privileges Committee, referral of matters to, 52(b)
- question—
 - decision on, announces, 130(b)
 - proposed by, 117(a)
 - put by, 117(c), 125, 222
 - stated by, 67
- questions seeking information—
 - alteration, 101(a)(c)
 - cut off time for written questions, 102(c)
 - delay in reply, writes to Minister, 105(b)
 - questions to Speaker, 103
 - supplementary, 101(b)
- quorum, want of, action by, 55–57
- ruling of—
 - after point of order, 86
 - dissent, 87
 - in division, 86(c)
 - previous rulings, regard to, 3(e)
- seats of Members, 24
- sitting suspended by, 57, 95
- Speaker's panel, nominates, 17
- standing orders, interprets, 3(e)
- time of meeting, sets, 30(b)

Speaker—*continued*
 tellers appointed by, 129(c), 131(a)
 vacancy in office, 19–20
 visitors, admits, 257
 Votes and Proceedings, etc., 28

Speaker's panel, 17

Special interest, matter of, 50

Speeches—
 addressed to Speaker, 65
 anticipation, 77
 call of Chair to speak, 65(c), 79(b)
 closure of Member speaking, 80
 explanation of speech, 69(e)
 extension of time for speech, 1
 imputations, 90
 interruption of Member speaking,
 when allowed, 66
 irrelevance *see* 'Relevancy'
 manner and right of, 64–72

Member—
 'be further heard' motion, 75
 'be heard now' motion, 65(c)
 closure of, 80
 interruption of, 66
 not speaking, behaviour, 65(b)
 references to, 64
 reflections on, 90
 rising together, 65(c)
 unable to stand, 65(a)
 misrepresentation, 69(e)
 obstructing business, 78
 offensive words, 89
 refusal to withdraw, 91(b)
 personal explanation, 68
 personal reflections, 90
 previous debates, references to, 73
 quarrels, 92(a)
 references to—
 debates or proceedings, 73
 Governor-General, 88
 Members, 64
 Judiciary, 89
 Queen, 88
 reflections on—
 Members, 90
 vote of House, 74

Speeches—*continued*
 relevancy—
 persistent irrelevance, 75
 repetition, tedious, 75
 reply—
 right of, 69(c)
 closes debate, 71
 speaking twice, 69
 statutes, references to, 74
 tedious repetition, 75
 time—
 limitation of debate (guillotine),
 82–85
 time limits, 1
 unparliamentary language, 89
 refusal to withdraw, 91(b)

Standing committees—
 annual reports, reference to,
 215(c)
 appointment—
 commencement of each
 Parliament, at, 214
 Auditor-General's reports—
 Public Accounts and Audit,
 Joint Committee of, notified,
 215(c)
 reference to, 215(c)
 bills referred to, 143(b), 215(b), 227
 general purpose, 215
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait
 Islander Affairs, 215(a)
 Agriculture, Fisheries and
 Forestry, 215(a)
 Communications, Information
 Technology and the Arts,
 215(a)
 Economics, Finance and Public
 Administration, 215(a)
 Education and Vocational
 Training, 215(a)
 Employment, Workplace
 Relations and Workforce
 Participation, 215(a)
 Environment and Heritage,
 215(a)
 Family and Human Services,
 215(a)
 Health and Ageing, 215(a)

Standing Committees—*continued*general purpose—*continued*

Industry and Resources, 215(a)

Legal and Constitutional
Affairs, 215(a)

Science and Innovation, 215(a)

Transport and Regional
Services, 215(a)

House, 218

Library, 217

Members' Interests, 220

Privileges, 216

Procedure, 221

Publications, 219

Selection, 222

and see 'Committees, operation'**Standing orders—**

application, 3

to committees, 3(c)

to Main Committee, 3(c)

cases not provided for, 3(e)

duration, 3

interpretation, 3(e)

suspension of, 47

State Governor—

conduct challenged by

substantive motion, 100(c)

questions critical of, 100(c)

references to in debate, 88

Statements by Members—

3 minute in Main Committee, 193

presentation of petition during,
209(b)

90 second in House, 43

giving notice during, 106(a)

presentation of petition during,
209(b)**Statute**, papers presented by, 199**Strangers**, *see* 'Visitors'**Subcommittees—**

appointment, 234(a)

chair, 234(b)

casting vote, 234(b)

quorum, 234(c)

participation of other members,
234(d)**Substantive motion—**

conduct of certain persons

challenged by, 100(c)

definition, 2

Member's vote challenged by,
134(b)

reply allowed to, 69(c)

Summons—Member to attend House or
committee, 249

witness, 254

Supply bills—

definition, 2

and see 'Appropriation bills'**Suspension of—**

House, sitting of—

grave disorder, 95

want of quorum, 57

Main Committee—

disorder, 187(b)(c)

division in House, 190(a)

quorum, lack of, 190(b)

resumption of proceedings
after, 196

Members, 94

term of suspension, 94(d)

standing, sessional and other
orders, 47**Tariff resolution—**

amendments to, 179(b)(c)

initiated by Minister, 179(a)

Taxation bills—

amendments to, 179(b)(c)

initiated by Minister, 179(a)

order of consideration, 149(d)

Tedious repetition, 75**Televising of proceedings**, *see*

resolution of House, p. 110

Tellers—

appointed, 129(c), 131(a)

duties, 130(a), 131(b)

and see 'Divisions'**Thanks**, motion of, 49

Third reading of bill—

- absolute majority on constitution alteration bill, 173
- leave to move forthwith, 148(a)
- question for, 155
- time for moving, 155

Time—

- allotment of, limitation of debate, 84
- extension of, for speeches, 1
- limits for debates and speeches, 1
- meeting of House, for, 29

Title of bill—

- amendment to, 150(d)
- amendment to bill to be within, 150(a)
- clauses must come within, 140(b)
- definition, 2
- must agree with notice, 140(b)
- when considered, 149

Transport and Regional Services, Standing Committee, 215(a)**Unparliamentary language, 89**

- refusal to withdraw, 91(b)

Unresolved question, 188(b)

- proceedings on bill, 195
- reported to House, 152–153, 198

Urgency, declaration of, allotment of time, 82–85**Urgent bills, 82****Urgent motions, 83****Vacancy in office of—**

- Clerk, 22
- Deputy Speaker, 13 (a)
- Second Deputy Speaker, 13(a)
- Speaker, 10(a), 19–20

Visitors—

- admission of, 257
- attention drawn to, 66(d)
- chamber, in, 257
- committee proceedings, 240
- definition, 2
- Main Committee, in, 96(a)
- misconduct in galleries, 96(a)
- taken into custody, 96

Voices—

- definition, 2
- question determined by majority of, 125

Vote, casting—

- chair of committee, 232
- determined on the voices, 125
- Speaker, 14(d), 135(c) (*and see* Constitution s. 40)

Vote of House—

- reflection on, 74
- rescission of, 120
- and see* 'Ballot' and 'Divisions'

Votes and Proceedings—

- amendment not seconded not recorded in, 121(b)
- casting vote, 135(c)
- Clerk to keep and sign, 27
- contents, 27
- custody of, 28
- divisions, 135(a)
- Main Committee minutes, 189
- motion not seconded not recorded in, 116(a)

Want of confidence motion, 48

- notice for, 106(c)

Whip, Chief Government—

may move motion without
seconder, 116(c)
member of Selection Committee,
222(b)

Whip, Chief Opposition—

member of Selection Committee,
222(b)

Withdrawal of—

amendments, 121(d)
bill, irregular, 138
Member from—
committee, 241
House, 94(a)(e)
motions, 50, 114(a), 117(b)
nominee from ballot, 11(m)
notice of motion, 110(c), 114(a)
objectionable or offensive words,
91(b)
visitors from—
committee, 240
House, 96

Witnesses—

audio visual or audio links,
hearing by, 235(b)
bar, examined at, 255
charges against Members, 250
definition, 2
employees of House, 252–253
examination of, 255
Members as, 249, 252
power to call, 236
protection of, 256
recusant, 254(b)
refusal of Member to attend when
summoned, 249(b)
Senators or employees of Senate,
251
summons of, 254
unwilling, 254(b)
and see 'Evidence'

Writs, election, tabling of, 4(d)

