

Procedural Digest

No. 133

9 – 12 November 2015

November 2015				
M	T	W	T	F
9	10	11	12	13

Business

133.01 *Statements by indulgence regarding the achievements of jockey Michelle Payne and the Australian Wallabies*

Just before question time on 9 November, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each made statements by indulgence regarding Michelle Payne, who the previous week became the first female jockey to ride the winner of the Melbourne Cup, and the Australian Wallabies, who were defeated by the New Zealand All Blacks in the final of the Rugby World Cup.

*Hansard: 9 November 2015, 12395-7***SO 65**

133.02 *Leader of the House updates Members on proposed sitting arrangements for Remembrance Day*

Just prior to the discussion on a matter of public importance on Tuesday 10 November, the Leader of the House, by indulgence, informed Members that the House would be suspended at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 11 November, the bells would ring at 11.45 a.m. and the House would resume at 11.50. The Federation Chamber would not meet on 11 November and Members who wished to make constituency statements at that time would be given time to make those statements on Thursday 12 November. These arrangements were to enable Members who wished to attend at the War Memorial for Remembrance Day services.

*Hansard: 10 November 2015, 12695***SO 65**

133.03 *Opposition seeks to delay debate on citizenship bill until opposition briefings concluded*

After the acknowledgement of Country and prayers on 11 November, the Manager of Opposition Business, by indulgence, raised an issue with respect to the day's program regarding item no. 4 – the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015.

The Member stated that briefings for the opposition on the bill had not yet concluded and he hoped that by the time the bill was brought on, it was not done so prior to the opposition being ready to commence debate. Later that evening, the Manager of Opposition Business made a further brief statement, by indulgence, to indicate that the opposition stood ready for the bill to be brought on for debate at whatever time the government chose.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12817, 12940

SO 65

133.04 *Sitting suspended for Remembrance Day services*

At 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 11 November the House suspended to enable Members who wished to attend at the War Memorial for Remembrance Day services (*see* entry **133.02**). The Deputy Speaker announced that the chair would be resumed at the ringing of the bells. The bells were rung at 11.45 a.m. and the House resumed at 11.50 a.m.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12833

Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1707

133.05 *Death of former Member, Mr Peter Knott*

Before question time the Speaker informed the House of the death, on 29 October 2015, of Mr Peter John Knott, former Member for the Division of Gilmore from 1993 to 1996. As a mark of respect all Members present rose and stood in silence.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12867

Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1708

133.06 *Statements by indulgence regarding Remembrance Day*

Just prior to question time, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each made statements by indulgence regarding Remembrance Day.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12865-7

SO 65

133.07 *Ministerial statement, by leave, regarding deregulation*

During government business time on 12 November, the Assistant Minister for Productivity, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to a new regulatory reform agenda and presented a copy of his statement. The Shadow Assistant Minister for Productivity then addressed the House in reply. The Assistant Minister then introduced a number of government bills relating to his ministerial statement.

Hansard: 12 November 2015, 13010-16
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1715-6

SOs 63, 63A, 199

Committees

133.08 *Committee membership changes read aloud at request of opposition*

Between items of government business on 11 November, the Minister for Social Services, by leave, moved that Members be appointed and discharged as members of certain committees in accordance with a list which had been placed on the table. As the list was a lengthy one, the Minister stated that he did not propose to read the names aloud. The Manager of Opposition raised a point of order and stated that under normal procedures, the opposition would be provided with an advance copy of the list of proposed changes prior to being asked to vote on them. The Minister, in response to the point of order, read out all the membership changes that were proposed. The question regarding the appointment and discharge of certain Members was then put and carried on the voices.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12940-1
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1713

SOs 63, 86, 229

Debate

133.09 *Intervention accepted during second reading debate*

During the second reading debate on the Health Insurance Amendment (Safety Net) Bill 2015 on 11 November, a government Member accepted an intervention from an opposition Member.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12825-6

SO 66A

Documents

133.10 Program of sittings for 2016 agreed to

After question time on 9 November, the Leader of the House presented a document showing the proposed program of sittings for 2016 and, by leave, moved that the program be agreed to. The question was carried on the voices.

*Hansard: 9 November 2015, 12416
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1694*

SOs 29, 199

133.11 Shadow Minister presents out-of-order petition during second reading debate

During the second reading debate on the Health Insurance Amendment (Safety Net) Bill 2015, a Shadow Minister sought leave to table a document containing the signatures of people expressing concerns about a measure contained within the bill. The Member indicated that the document would not be compliant with the House's standing order requirements for petitions and so she was seeking to table it as a document. Leave was granted.

*Hansard: 10 November 2015, 12769
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1705*

SOs 63, 199

Members

133.12 Resignation of Member for North Sydney; Speaker fixes dates for by-election

Before question time on 9 November, the Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from the Hon Joe Hockey resigning his seat as the Member for the electoral division of North Sydney. The Speaker stated that on Monday 26 October he had issued a writ for the election of a Member to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Hockey's resignation. Dates in connection with the by-election were fixed as follows: close of rolls—Monday, 2 November 2015; close of nominations—Thursday, 12 November 2015; declaration of nominations—Friday, 13 November 2015; polling day—Saturday, 5 December 2015; return of writ—on or before Wednesday, 3 February 2016.

*Hansard: 9 November 2015 12395
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1690*

133.13 MPI proposer absent after being sanctioned for disorderly conduct

After question time on 11 November the Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from the Member for Ballarat proposing that a matter of public importance regarding 'the government's plan to increase the cost of

health and aged care for Australians' be submitted for discussion. When the Speaker called on those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, more than the number of Members required by the standing orders did so. The proposed was absent from the Chamber having earlier, during question time, been directed under standing order 94 to leave for defying the Chair. The Manager of Opposition Business sought leave of the House to enable another opposition Member to take responsibility for the commencement of the MPI. Leave was granted and the discussion ensued.

Hansard: 11 November 2015 12874, 12886
Votes and Proceedings: 2015/1709

SOs 46, 63, 94

Questions

133.14 Minister answers question asked of another Minister

During question time on 10 November, the Member for Kennedy asked a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund loans scheme. The Leader of the House raised a point of order and proposed that the Minister for Agriculture may be better placed to respond to the question as it related to the Northern Australia white paper. The Minister for Agriculture then responded to the question.

Hansard: 10 November 2015, 12680

SO 98

133.15 First occasion of 'constituency question time' trial

On Monday 9 November, the sixth and subsequent questions without notice asked by government Members related to issues which impacted on the Members' constituencies. This reflected a change in the approach to question time by government Members which was announced by the Prime Minister at the previous sitting (*see* entry **132.23**). The Prime Minister stated that the trial would take place until the end of the year.

Hansard: 9 November 2015, 12409-16

SO 98

133.16 *Member anticipates question without notice via Twitter*

During question time on 11 November, the Manager of Opposition Business raised a point of order, stating: 'Is it in order for questions without notice if the Member for Corangamite has just tweeted that she is about to ask a question in parliament on what is being done urgently to fix TV reception in Apollo Bay? Is it still a question without notice if it is broadcast beforehand?' The Speaker responded that 'the standing orders remain unchanged' and called the Member for Corangamite, who proceeded to ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications a question regarding free-to-air television reception in Apollo Bay.

Hansard: 11 November 2015, 12879

SOs 86, 98

133.17 *Question to Foreign Minister regarding loyalty to party leadership rephrased*

During question time on 12 November the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs a question regarding her loyalty to the current leader of her party and to former leaders.

The Speaker ruled the question out of order and asked the Member to rephrase her question, noting that she needed 'to make a connection to the Minister's administration, portfolio responsibilities or statements in the House.' The Member rephrased her question and the Foreign Minister responded.

Hansard: 12 November 2015, 13085

SO 98

133.18 *Point of order regarding question alleged to contain argument*

Later during question time a government Member asked a question of the Minister representing the Minister for Communications regarding broadband service in the Ascot exchange. The Member stated 'What action is the coalition government taking to reverse Labor's inaction and pathetic uselessness, and to help my constituents...?' The Manager of Opposition raised a point of order, stating that the question contained argument. The Speaker allowed the question. After the Minister's response, the Speaker stated that it had been pointed out to him that the question contained some terms which he may have previously said are inappropriate in a question. He informed the House that, if that were the case, it was because he had not heard the question due to the level of interjections.

Hansard: 12 November 2015, 13098-100

SOs 86, 100

Offensive words¹

Nil recorded.

SOs 89, 90, 92

¹ List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.
