

# Procedural Digest

No. 9

47<sup>th</sup> Parliament

20 – 30 March 2023

March 2023				
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20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

## Bills

### 9.01 Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023

On the last day of the sitting fortnight, the Attorney-General presented a bill for an Act to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. In his second reading speech, the Attorney-General said that this was the first formal step towards holding a referendum by the end of the year.

The House then agreed to appoint a Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum, to inquire into and report on the provisions of the bill. Later in the day, a message from the Senate was received informing the House that the Senate concurred with the resolution of appointment.

*The bill sets out the terms of the proposed alteration to the Constitution. If it passes both Houses with an absolute majority, the proposal will be presented to Australian voters in a referendum.*

*Hansard: 30 March 2023, 2699-702  
Votes and Proceedings: 2023/649-50*

**SOs 141, 142, 173, 223, 224**

## Standing orders

### 9.02 Amendments to standing orders

Also on 30 March, the House agreed to amend standing orders relating to divisions and quorums. The amendments provide that any division or quorum called for from 6.30pm until the adjournment of the House on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (or from 7.30pm any day during proceedings on urgent bills) is deferred until the next sitting day, except for a division on a motion moved by a minister to suspend standing orders. The amendments also prevent any member from moving a closure of question or a closure of a member speaking during a period of deferred divisions.

In speaking to the amendments, the Leader of the House explained that they supported a family-friendly workplace by allowing members greater freedom to leave the building during a late-night sitting.

*Hansard: 30 March 2023, 2731-6  
Votes and Proceedings: 2023/656*

**SOs 34, 55, 85, 133**

## Statements

### 9.03 Condolences

On 21 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements by indulgence regarding the death of rugby league player Mr John William Sattler.

On 29 March, the Prime Minister informed the House that two former ministers, the Hon John Charles Kerin AO and the Hon Stewart West, had both passed away that day. He advised that the House would formally acknowledge their contributions to the parliament at a later date, after consulting with their families.

Also on 29 March, the Member for Warringah made a statement on indulgence to acknowledge the death of Emeritus Professor Will Steffen in January.

*Hansard:* 21 March 2023, 1925-6  
29 March 2023, 2630; 2632

### 9.04 Statements by indulgence of the Chair

Before question time on 22 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made statements by indulgence to welcome the Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, the Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, and Her Excellency the High Commissioner to Samoa, both present in the gallery.

On the last sitting of the fortnight, the Prime Minister informed the House that he and the Governor-General would attend the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6 May in London.

*Hansard:* 22 March 2023, 2079  
30 March 2023, 2759

### 9.05 Statements on significant matters

During the period for statements on significant matters on Wednesday, 22 March, the Minister for Social Services made a statement on notice acknowledging the ten-year anniversary of the National Apology for Forced Adoptions. The shadow minister addressed the House in reply.

During the same period the following Wednesday, the Minister for Youth made a statement on notice regarding Australia's youth and the Commonwealth Year of Youth 2023, and the shadow minister spoke in reply.

In both cases, the House agreed to allow further statements on the matter in the Federation Chamber.

*Hansard:* 22 March 2023, 2021-4  
29 March 2023, 2565-9  
*Votes and Proceedings:* 2023/591; 639

**SO 50A**

## 9.06 Ministerial statements

The Minister for Defence, by leave, made a ministerial statement regarding the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine pathway on 22 March and the shadow minister addressed the House in reply.

On 29 March the Minister for Resources, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the resources sector and presented a copy of her statement. The shadow minister spoke in reply. The House then agreed to a motion to take note of the document and the order of the day was referred to the Federation Chamber for debate.

*Hansard: 22 March 2023, 2058-63  
29 March 2023, 2598-605  
Votes and Proceedings: 2023/596; 642*

**SO 63A**

## Speaker

### 9.07 Member appointed to Speaker's panel

On 29 March the Speaker presented a warrant nominating Mrs Bridget Archer to be a member of the Speaker's panel, to assist the Chair when requested to do so by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

*Hansard: 29 March 2023, 2616  
Votes and Proceedings: 2023/644*

**SO 17**

## Parliamentary administration

### 9.08 Statement by Speaker regarding incident in the Chamber

Also on 29 March, the Speaker made a statement in the House regarding an incident during a division the previous sitting. He explained that, after the bells had been rung, and after the order had been given to lock the doors, members had exited the Chamber, pushing past an attendant who was attempting to close the doors. The Speaker advised that he would not tolerate such behaviour. He reminded Members that, once the order to lock the doors is given, no member may enter or leave the Chamber until after the division.

A number of Members, on indulgence, then apologised for their involvement in the incident.

*Hansard: 29 March 2023, 2565-6; 2630*

**SO 129**

## Offensive words<sup>#</sup>

	<b>Hansard</b>	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'Come on, Miss Daisy!'	22 March 2023	2079
'This is a dishonest prime minister who deceives the Australian people day in and day out.'	23 March 2023	2231
'You are a sad political hack.'	23 March 2023	2237
'Their blind ideology means women are getting raped and children are getting bashed that weren't beforehand—'	23 March 2023	2249
'This is what happens when you put this ringleader for rorts in a key economic portfolio.'	28 March 2023	2483
'I ask the member for Fadden to stop gaslighting the dead and the bereaved!'	29 March 2023	2631
'run by a bunch of misogynists ... but he did need to implement the "bonk ban"'	29 March 2023	2658

**SOs 89, 91, 92**

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<sup>#</sup> List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.