

Procedural Digest

No. 22

47th Parliament

28 May – 6 June 2024

| May/June 2024 | | | | |
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Federation Chamber

22.01 30 years of the Federation Chamber

On Thursday, 6 June, the Deputy Speaker made a statement commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Federation Chamber.

Originally named the Main Committee (Legislation), the parallel debating chamber first met on 8 June 1994. In February 2012, the House agreed to amend standing orders to change the Main Committee's name to the Federation Chamber.

Hansard: 6 June 2024, P80

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1627

Bills

22.02 Passage of the annual appropriation bills

On Tuesday, 28 May, debate resumed on the 2024-25 appropriation bills, with the Prime Minister and Shadow Treasurer delivering their speeches in the second reading debate. Later that day, the House agreed to a debate management motion, suspending standing orders to provide for arrangements for the consideration of the bills, including changes to the hours and order of business, as well as setting the order and timings for consideration of portfolios to facilitate consideration in detail in the Federation Chamber. In accordance with the resolution, the bills then stood referred to the Federation Chamber, where the second reading cognate debate continued on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday, 4 June, in accordance with the resolution, the main appropriation bill was returned to the House and read a second time before being referred back to the Federation Chamber for consideration in detail. Consideration in detail, by portfolio, continued in the Federation Chamber on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in accordance with the resolution. The three appropriation bills were then returned to the House on Thursday, where they were each agreed to and read a third time.

Hansard: 28 May 2024, P4-8, 47-8

29 May 2024, P127-70

30 May 2024, P85-104

4 June 2024, P1, 98-117

5 June 2024, P123-187

6 June 2024, P38-9, 86-106

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1552, 1557-8, 1593, 1604-6, 1622, 1627

SOs 47, 148, 152, 155

22.03 House insists on disagreeing to Senate amendments

On Tuesday, 28 May, a message from the Senate was reported returning the Treasury Laws Amendment (Support for Small Business and Charities and Other Measures) Bill 2023, informing the House that the Senate insists upon the amendments disagreed to by the House (see Digest 21.05). The amendments were considered immediately and, following debate, the House agreed, on division, to insist on disagreeing to the amendments insisted on by the Senate.

Hansard: 28 May 2024, P51-63
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1559

SO 162

Committees

22.04 Bill introduced proposing new statutory committee

On Thursday, 30 May, the Assistant Minister for Defence introduced the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence) Bill 2024, which would establish a Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence. The establishment of such a committee was a recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into international armed-conflict decision-making. The committee would be modelled on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and be able to receive and consider classified information in carrying out its oversight functions.

Hansard: 30 May 2024, P7-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1577

SOs 141, 142

Motions

22.05 Attempted suspensions of standing orders

During the sitting fortnight, several crossbench members moved to suspend standing and sessional orders in order to move the following motions:

- relating to recognition of Palestine (29 May, Leader of the Australian Greens, negated on division)
- expressing support for Israel (29 May, Member for Kennedy, debate adjourned)
- relating to the trade of military equipment (5 June, Leader of the Australian Greens, debate adjourned)
- to call on a private member's bill for consideration (6 June, Member for Berowra, debate adjourned) and
- relating to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (6 June, Manager of Opposition Business, negated on division).

Hansard: 29 May 2024, P7-12, 79-81
5 June 2024, P75-8
6 June 2024, P1-6, 65-71
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1565, 1571, 1610-2, 1617-8, 1624

SO 47

22.06 Business of the day called on during MPI discussion

On 6 June, the Speaker announced that two definite matters of public importance had been proposed and that, in accordance with standing order 46(d), he had selected the matter proposed by the Member for Deakin. Shortly after the Member for Deakin commenced his speech, the Leader of the House moved, in accordance with standing order 46(e), that the business of the day be called on. The motion was agreed to on division and the next item of business called on.

Closure of question cannot be moved during the matter of public importance discussion, as there is no question before the House. Standing order 46(e) provides that the motion 'That the business of the day be called on' may be moved at any time during the discussion and must be put immediately and decided without debate. If agreed to, the House immediately proceeds with business of the day.

*Hansard: 6 June 2024, P71-2
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1624-5*

SO 46

Privilege

22.07 Australian Federal Police investigations and privilege

On Thursday, 30 May, the Speaker made a statement informing the House that he, the President of the Senate and the Attorney-General had signed a new memorandum of understanding regarding Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigations where parliamentary privilege may be involved. He noted that the AFP have also issued a new national guideline which updates the procedures they follow for the collection and quarantining of material that could be subject to parliamentary privilege.

The Speaker presented a copy of the memorandum and the national guidelines and noted that he and the President would be writing to all parliamentarians immediately, providing copies of the documents, along with an explanation of the changes that have been made.

*Hansard: 30 May 2024, P1
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1575*

Offensive words[#]

| | Hansard | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| | <i>Date</i> | <i>Page</i> |
| 'That's the drug dealers defence!' | 30 May 2024 | P4 |
| '...he is still an absolute rissole...' | 5 June 2024 | P85 |
| '...you should apologise for the fraud you perpetrated amongst the defence industry...' | 5 June 2024 | P128 |
| '...being morally bankrupt and ideological from the sanctity of Hobart...' | 6 June 2024 | P20 |

[#] List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.

| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| '...deliberate misleading of this House.' | 6 June 2024 | P65 |
| '...being crap at managing the NDIS...' | 6 June 2024 | P68 |

SOs 89, 90, 92