

Procedural Digest

No. 25

47th Parliament

9 – 12 September 2024

September 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
9	10	11	12	13

Bills

25.01 Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission bill passed

On Tuesday, the Leader of the House declared several bills referred to the Federation Chamber, including the Parliamentary Workplace Support Service Amendment (Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission) Bill 2024 (introduced in the previous sitting, see [Digest 24.02](#)) to be referred at the adjournment of the House for that sitting.

Later that day, the second reading debate resumed on the bill. During debate, the Member for North Sydney moved an amendment to the question that the bill be read a second time, and the Member for Wentworth moved an amendment to that amendment. Following the summing up speech from the assistant minister, the question was put on the amendment moved by the Member for Wentworth and more than one voice called for a division. In accordance with standing order 133, the division was deferred until the next sitting day and debate adjourned. Pursuant to the declaration made earlier in the day, the bill then stood referred to the Federation Chamber at the adjournment of the House.

On Wednesday morning, the Leader of the House declared the bill returned to the House for further consideration. The deferred division was held and the amendment negated. Debate on the bill was then adjourned and resumed later that morning, following other government business, at which time the amendment moved by the Member for North Sydney was also negated on division before the bill was read a second time. During consideration in detail, the House agreed to a set of government amendments to the bill and did not agree to two sets of crossbench amendments. The bill, as amended, was agreed to and, by leave, read a third time. The bill was then considered and passed by the Senate the next day.

Hansard: 10 September 2024, 6355; 6402-27

11 September 2024, 6465-6; 6475-86

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1859; 1862-3; 1867; 1869-1872

SOs 133, 143, 145, 155

Documents

25.02 Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission Final Report

On Monday, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence presented the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and made a statement on indulgence. The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs also made a statement on indulgence. Each commended the work of the Royal Commission and those who advocated for its establishment, including Ms Julie-Ann Finney, the mother of David Finney, a Royal Australian Navy veteran who had died by suicide in 2019, who was present in the gallery for the presentation.

The terms of reference and timing for a Royal Commission are outlined in the Commonwealth Letters Patent. The amended Letters Patent for the Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission required the final report to be delivered to the Governor-General by 9 September. The Royal Commissioners had delivered the final report to the Governor-General in person earlier on Monday before it was presented to the Parliament.

Hansard: 9 September 2024, 6261-3
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1836
SOs 65, 199

Federation Chamber

25.03 Distinguished visitors welcomed

During private members' business on 9 September, distinguished visitors were acknowledged and welcomed to the gallery by the chair in the Federation Chamber:

- the Hon Joan Hall, who was in attendance for the Member for Barker's motion relating to the death of the Hon Steele Hall, her husband, the former Premier of South Australia, Member for Boothby and Senator for South Australia; and
- former Senator Janet Rice, Mr Karma Singey (representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Australia) and members of the Australian Tibetan Council, who were in attendance for the Member for Fisher's motion relating to Tibet.

While the Speaker frequently acknowledges and welcomes distinguished visitors in the House of Representatives, it is less common for distinguished visitors to attend the Federation Chamber.

Hansard: 9 September 2024, 6338; 6350

Motions

25.04 Government motions to alter the routine of business

During the sitting week, the Leader of the House moved to suspend standing and sessional orders on three occasions to alter the routine of business:

- On 10 September, pursuant to notice, to facilitate a scheduled security exercise on Tuesday evening (see Digest 25.07 below) and address the consequent impact on the adjournment debate by extending the adjournment debate in the Federation Chamber on Thursday, 12 September, by 30 minutes.
- On 11 September, pursuant to notice, to rearrange business on 9 October to facilitate the Prime Minister's attendance at ASEAN. The motion provided that, on Wednesday, 9 October, members' statements will commence at 9.30am and questions without notice at 10am, followed by documents, ministerial statements by leave and a matter of public importance discussion, then government business until 7.30pm. The motion also provides for variation to the meeting times for the Federation Chamber on that date.
- On 12 September, following questions without notice and presentation of documents, to allow a minister to immediately introduce a bill without notice before the commencement of the matter of public importance discussion.

Each of these motions were agreed to on the voices.

Hansard: 10 September 2024, 6355

11 September 2024, 6466-7

12 September, 6694-700

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1859; 1868; 1890

SOs 31, 34, 47, 192

25.05 Opposition motion to suspend standing orders

On Thursday, during the time for government business, the Member for Deakin moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to enable him to move a motion relating to antisemitic protests. The suspension motion was seconded by the Member for Berowra, before adjournment of debate was moved and agreed on division.

Hansard: 12 September 2024, 6645-9

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1881-2

SO 47

Statements

25.06 Ministerial statement on the Afghanistan Inquiry Report

On Thursday, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to closing out action on the remaining two outstanding recommendations of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report, known as the Brereton Report, which required government action. In accordance with standing order 63A, the Shadow Minister for Defence then spoke in reply to the statement for an equal amount of time. The Minister, and Shadow Minister by leave, presented copies of their statements to the House.

Hansard: 12 September 2024, 6640-4

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1881

SO 63A, 199

Parliamentary administration

25.07 Lockdown exercise in the House of Representatives

On Tuesday evening, the House of Representatives wing of Australian Parliament House took part in a lockdown exercise. At 7.30 pm, pursuant to a resolution made earlier that day (see Digest 25.04 above), the House was suspended to allow for the exercise to take place. At the conclusion of the exercise, the Speaker resumed the chair at 7.57pm and made a brief statement before adjourning the House until the next day.

This is the first time that this kind of security exercise has occurred during a sitting of the House. It follows a similar exercise held by the Senate during a sitting in late 2023.

Hansard: 10 September 2024, 6355; 6429

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1859; 1863

Privilege

25.08 Committee report on privilege matter referred for investigation

On Thursday, 12 September, the Chair of the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests presented a statement to the House representing the committee's report in response to the matter of privilege referred to it by the House in relation to a concerns notice issued to the Member for Bruce (see [Digest 24.07](#)) and read the statement, by leave.

The Chair informed the House that the Committee considers a properly authorised media release by a parliamentary committee would fall under the definition of 'proceedings in parliament' in the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987*. Therefore, the Committee found it likely that parliamentary privilege would attach to the media release of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit which was included in the concerns notice. The Chair also noted it is the view of the Committee that the threat of legal action contained in the concerns notice, insofar as it pertains to the media release, could have amounted to a serious contempt. However, the Committee did not make any formal recommendations to the House on the matter, as during the course of its inquiry, the concerns notice was withdrawn and an apology provided for the potential interference in the work of the parliament.

Hansard: 12 September 2024, 6644-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1881

SO 39, 216

Speaker

25.09 Behaviour in the public galleries

On Tuesday, following an interjection of applause from the galleries during members' statements, the Deputy Speaker reminded guests in the public gallery that they are not entitled to participate in discussions in the chamber.

Later that day, an incident occurred in the public gallery during Question Time. Following a question to the Speaker from the Member for Warringah about the incident, the Speaker reminded all guests in the public gallery that they are not to interject, converse or signal. The Speaker also reminded members that if they invite guests to the gallery, their conduct is a reflection on the member and there may be consequences if appropriate behaviour is not observed.

Hansard: 10 September 2024, 6372; 6389-90

Offensive words[#]

	Hansard	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'In the question the Leader of the Opposition just asked, he lied...'	10 Sept 2024	6376
'...the shadow Treasurer poisoning grasslands with his company's—'	12 Sept 2024	6684

SOs 89, 90, 92

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