

Procedural Digest

No. 29

47th Parliament

4 – 13 February 2025

February 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14

Motions

29.01 Motion on antisemitism

In the morning on Tuesday, 4 February, the Leader of the House moved a motion, without notice, to suspend standing orders to permit the Member for Wentworth moving a motion relating to antisemitism, including the parameters for debate. To this, the Manager of Opposition Business attempted to move an amendment. The Leader of the House moved to close the question, which was deferred until after the discussion on the matter of public importance (MPI) in accordance with standing order 133.

The Leader of the House then moved to suspend standing orders in similar terms but included a clause to suspend standing order 133. The Manager of Opposition Business again attempted to move an amendment to this motion. The Leader of the House moved to close the question with the resultant division again deferred until after the MPI.

Following this, the Leader of the House moved to suspend standing order 133, which was resolved in the affirmative by an absolute majority on division. He then moved his original suspension motion, which provided that: the Member for Wentworth to move a motion relating to antisemitism; each member to speak for no longer than five minutes; amendments to the motion not permitted; the question on the motion to be put no later than 1:25 pm; and any variation to be made only on the motion of a minister. The question was closed, on division, and the motion put and passed by an absolute majority.

The Member for Wentworth moved the motion and debate ensued. Thirteen members spoke on the motion and at 1:25 pm, in accordance with the earlier resolution of the House, the question was put and agreed.

After the MPI, the Deputy Speaker made a statement that due to the intervening proceedings, the two deferred divisions called for earlier that sitting relating to motions to suspend standing and sessional orders would not proceed.

That evening, the Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth moved to suspend standing orders so that standing order 133 would recommence. The question was put and agreed to with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Standing order 133 provides that on Tuesdays, any division called for prior to 2 pm shall be deferred until after the MPI, except for a division called on a motion to suspend any standing or other order of the house moved by a minister during this period (SO 133(b)). It also provides that standing orders 80 and 81 (relating to the closure of a member or of a question) shall not apply during a period of deferred divisions (SO 133(d)).

29.02 Government suspensions of standing orders

This sitting fortnight, the Government suspended standing orders to:

- suspend standing order 133 to allow for divisions during the period of deferred divisions (Leader of the House, 4 February, passed on division; see Digest 29.01 above)
- set the parameters for debate on a motion on antisemitism (Leader of the House, 4 February, passed on division; see Digest 29.01 above)
- recommence operation of standing order 133 following its earlier suspension (Minister for Youth, 4 February, put and passed; see Digest 29.01 above)
- provide for late sittings in the House and Federation Chamber (Leader of the House, 5 and 11 February, both motions put and passed; see Digest 29.04 below), and
- suspend standing order 43(a) until the conclusion of proceedings on the Early Childhood bill (Leader of the House, 13 February, passed on division).

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P2-6; 59

5 February 2025, P98-9

11 February 2025, P48

13 February 2025, P49-50

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/P2139; 2140; 2145; 2170; 2209; 2210; 2233-4

SOs 33, 43, 47, 133

29.03 Non-government motions to suspend standing orders

During the sitting fortnight, private members moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to:

- return the Electricity Infrastructure Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House for immediate debate (Member for Fairfax, 11 February, negated on deferred division in accordance with standing order 133)
- call on an item of government business, the Treasury Laws Amendment (Tax Incentives and Integrity) Bill 2024, for immediate debate and completion of all stages of the bill (Manager of Opposition Business, 12 February, negated on division), and
- introduce a private members bill, Keeping Cash Transactions in Australia Bill, for immediate debate (Member for Calare, 12 February, negated on division).

Hansard: 11 February 2025, P1-3; P46-7

12 February 2025, P8-9; 11-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2205; 2207-8; 2215-17

SOs 47, 133

Business

29.04 Extended sitting hours

On Wednesday 5 February, the House resolved to suspend standing order 33 (limit on business after normal time of adjournment) and so much of the standing orders to allow the House and Federation Chamber to continue to meet after the usual time for adjournment. The motion was moved, pursuant to notice, by the Leader of the House and provided that at 8 pm the adjournment debate was to be interrupted and government business would continue until business concluded, 10 pm, or a later time specified by a Minister. The motion also provided for government business to continue in the Federation Chamber until

approximately 9:30 pm. In accordance with the resolution, the Federation Chamber adjourned at 8:29 pm and the House adjourned at 8:46 pm.

On Tuesday 11 February, the House resolved to suspend standing order 33 and so much of the standing orders to extend the sitting that day. The motion was moved, pursuant to notice, by the Leader of the House and provided that at 8 pm the adjournment debate was to be interrupted and government business would continue until business concluded, 10 pm, or a later time specified by a Minister. In the Federation Chamber, when the grievance debate was adjourned, government business was to continue until the Federation Chamber adjourned. In accordance with the resolution, the Federation Chamber adjourned at 7:56 pm and the House adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Hansard: 5 February 2025, P98-9; 121; 195

11 February 2025, P48; 79; 110

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2170; 2173; 2209-11; 2214

SOs 31, 47

Bills

29.05 Consideration in detail of the Hate Crimes bill

On 5 February, in accordance with the resolution agreed earlier that day to facilitate the House and Federation Chamber to meet after the usual time for adjournment (see Digest 29.04 above), consideration in detail on the Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill 2025 commenced with leave granted for the bill to be taken as a whole. The Member for Banks, by leave, moved four Opposition amendments together and debate ensued. Before the question on the amendments was put the member withdrew the amendments, by leave. The Leader of the House presented two supplementary explanatory memoranda, and by leave, moved two sets of amendments (20 amendments in total). Following debate, by leave, the Leader of the House withdrew the motion to move the two sets of amendments together. Instead, by leave, he moved 19 Government amendments together. Debate ensued, and the question that the amendments be agreed to was put and not resolved. The Leader of the House then moved another Government amendment, debate ensued and the question that the amendment be agreed to was put and not resolved. The Member for Wentworth, by leave, then moved two sets of detail amendments (14 amendments in total) with the questions that the amendments be agreed to put and not resolved. The Member for Banks, by leave, then moved four Opposition amendments together. Debate ensued and the question that the amendments be agreed to put and not resolved. The bill was ordered to be returned to the House with unresolved questions and the Federation Chamber adjourned.

On 6 February, during Government business time, the Speaker reported that the Federation Chamber had been unable to complete its consideration of the bill and returned it with unresolved questions. Each unresolved question was then put to the House in turn. The Government and Opposition amendments were agreed to, and the Member for Wentworth's amendments were not agreed. The bill, as amended, was agreed to and leave was granted for the third reading to be moved immediately. The Leader of the House then moved to closure debate on the third reading, which was agreed to, on division. The bill was then read a third time.

Hansard: 5 February 2025, P128-195

6 February 2025, P4-14

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2172-3; 2176-7

SOs 121, 148, 150, 188, 195, 198

29.06 Consideration of Senate amendments to Veterans bill

On Thursday, 13 February, the Speaker read a Senate message reporting the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2025 with a request for an amendment and informing the House that other amendments had been made by the Senate. The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister moved that the requested amendment be considered immediately, which was agreed by the House and the requested amendment was made. The amendments made by the Senate were not considered at this time, and the bill was returned to the Senate for a third reading.

Later that morning, the Deputy Speaker read a message from the Senate reporting the bill with the Senate amendments. The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Speaker, made a statement drawing the attention of the House to the fact that one of the Senate amendments (amendment 4) raised an important point of constitutional principle and should have instead been made as a requested amendment. The Assistant Minister moved that the House endorse the Speaker's statement in relation to the constitutional question and the message be considered immediately, which was put and passed. The Assistant Minister then moved that the Senate's purported amendment (4) be disagreed to, debate ensued, and the purported amendment was disagreed. The Deputy Speaker read a message from the Governor-General recommending an appropriation for the purpose of amendments to be made on motion moved by a Minister. The Assistant Minister then moved a Government amendment in place of the Senate's purported amendment (4), which was agreed. He then moved that Senate amendments (1) to (3) be agreed, which was put and carried on the voices.

Hansard: 13 February 2025, P1-2; 33-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2227; 2231-2

SOs 158, 161, 165, 180

29.07 Additional appropriation bills

On 4 February, following messages from the Governor-General recommending proposed additional expenditure, the Assistant Treasurer presented three additional appropriation bills: Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2024-2025; Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2024-2025; Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2024-2025. After the second reading speech, debate on each bill was adjourned. The cognate second reading debate on these bills resumed on 11 February, before each bill was read a second and third time.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P52-3

11 February 2025, P51-67

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2144-5; 2210-1

SOs 141, 142, 155, 178, 180

Documents

29.08 Responses to Procedure Committee's report

After Question Time on Thursday, 13 February, the Speaker presented his response to recommendation 3 of the Standing Committee on Procedure's report *Maintenance of the standing and sessional orders* (see Digest [28.12](#)). The Leader of the House then presented the government response to the remaining recommendations.

The Speaker's response agreed to recommendation 3 regarding minor cosmetic enhancements to the Federation Chamber, subject to cost and time constraints and asked for scoping of the work to be done. The Government response agreed to recommendation 5 (regarding changes to the counting of divisions) and noted the other recommendations.

Hansard: 13 February 2025, P68
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2235

SO 199

29.09 Parliamentary Budget Office annual report

On 4 February, the Speaker presented the 2023-24 annual report of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P40
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2142

SO 199

Statements

29.10 Anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

On Monday, 10 February, the Prime Minister made a ministerial statement relating to the 17th anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples and the Closing the Gap annual report and implementation plan. The Prime Minister presented copies of his statement and related reports. The Leader of the Opposition then addressed the House in reply. Following these statements, the Leader of the House moved that the House take note of the Prime Minister's statement, before debate was adjourned and resumption of debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, which was referred to the Federation Chamber.

Hansard: 10 February 2025, P78-84
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2189

SO 63A

29.11 Statements on the North Queensland floods

On 4 February, the Speaker made a statement before Question Time about the floods in North Queensland and the absence of the Member for Kennedy. On indulgence, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each spoke about the situation, including members absences to address the situation caused by the floods.

On 5 February, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition made further statements on indulgence about the floods, including their condolences for the second loss of life.

On 13 February, the Member for Kennedy and the Prime Minister each spoke on indulgence about the situation in North Queensland and the government response.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P22-3

5 February 2025, P55

13 February 2025, P68-9

29.12 Condolences

Members rose in their places in respect to mark the death of several notable persons during the sitting fortnight, on:

- 4 February, the Speaker informed the House of the death of Robert Charles Grant Sercombe, Member for Maribyrnong from 1996 to 2007.
- 5 February, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion regarding the death of the Hon Anthony John Messner AM, a former minister and Senator for South Australia from 1975 to 1990. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion, debate was adjourned and the matter referred to the Federation Chamber.
- 6 February, the Speaker informed the House of the death of the Hon Grant Ernest John Tambling AM, a former Member for the Division of the Northern Territory from 1980 to 1983, and a former Senator for the Northern Territory from 1987 to 2001.
- 6 February, the Deputy Prime Minister moved a condolence motion on the death of the Hon John Colinton Moore AO, a former minister and Member for Ryan from 1975 to 2001. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion, before debate was adjourned and the motion referred to the Federation Chamber.
- 11 February, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion regarding the death of the Hon Kevin James Andrews AM, a former minister and the Member for Menzies from 1991 to 2022. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and the current Member for Menzies spoke on the debate. Debate was adjourned and the motion referred to the Federation Chamber.
- 12 February, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion on the death of the Hon Thomas Eyre Forrest Hughes AO KC, a former minister and the Member for Parkes from 1963 to 1969 and the Member for Berowra from 1969 to 1972. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and the current Member for Berowra spoke. Debate was adjourned and the motion referred to the Federation Chamber.

The Speaker presented the report from the Federation Chamber on the condolence motions on 10 February (for Hon Anthony John Messner AM), and 13 February (for Hon John Colinton Moore AO, Hon Kevin James Andrews AM and Hon Thomas Eyre Forrest Hughes AO KC), with members again rising in their places.

Also on 5 February, before the MPI discussion, the Member for Longman made a statement on indulgence on the death of Charlize Zmuda.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P21-2

5 February 2025, P53-5; 66

6 February 2025, P54-5

11 February 2025, P18-21

12 February 2025, P47-50

13 February 2025, P55-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2141; 2167; 2181-2; 2206; 2220; 2235

SO 49

29.13 Valedictory speeches

During the sitting fortnight several members not contesting the next election made valedictory speeches:

- Mr Graham Perrett MP, Member for Moreton (10 February)
- Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP, Member for Calwell (10 February)
- Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Member for Bradfield (10 February)
- Ms Kylea Tink MP, Member for North Sydney (10 February)
- Hon Stephen Jones MP, Member for Whitlam (11 February)

Hansard: 10 February 2025, P111-139

11 February 2025, P31-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2194; 2207

Members

29.14 Resignation of Members

After prayers on Tuesday 4 February, the Speaker announced that he had received letters of resignation from the Member for Hinkler, the Hon Keith Pitt on 19 January, and the Member for Maribyrnong, the Hon Bill Shorten on 20 January.

The Speaker informed the House that as the general election is pending, he had decided to not issue writs for by-elections for these two divisions to avoid electors from participating in two elections within a short period of time.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P1

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2137

29.15 Revised ministry and shadow ministry lists

Before Question Time on 4 February, the Prime Minister presented a revised ministry list reflecting changes announced on 16 January and the Leader of the Opposition then presented a revised shadow ministry list reflecting the changes announced on 25 January.

Hansard: 4 February 2025, P23-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2142

SO 199

29.16 Leave of absence for all members

On the final sitting day of the fortnight, the Leader of the House moved, and the House agreed, to a leave of absence for all members until the date of the next sitting.

Hansard: 13 February 2025, P68

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24-25/2235

SO 26

Offensive words[#]

	<i>Hansard</i>	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'... now he is wanting, as policy, cash for visas.'	4 February 2025	P38
'That is an outright lie!'	13 February 2025	P59

SOs 89, 90, 92

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