



Parliamentary Workplaces
Submission 8
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Mr Shayne Neumann MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Procedure
By email: Procedure.Committee.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Neumann 

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure's *Inquiry into recommendations 10 and 27 of Set the standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces* (the Report) in my capacity as the Manager of Opposition Business.

As a continuation of our work in government, and having committed to implement all 28 recommendations, the Opposition supports the sensible implementation of Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins' important report.

The Morrison Government had a strong track record of responding to the report, including through the establishment of the Parliamentary Leadership Taskforce and by legislating to ensure that the Fair Work Act, the Age Discrimination Act and the Disability Discrimination Act apply to parliamentarians' staff. I note as well the delivery of the statement of acknowledgement to the Parliament delivered by the Presiding Officers in February this year pursuant to recommendation 1 of the report.

To progress the implementation of the Report, the Opposition has already supported changes to the standing and sessional orders in the 47th Parliament. These include agreeing in-principle to changes to the Hours of Sitting and to supporting the remote participation of Members in the Federation Chamber. More recently, it is disappointing that the Albanese Government has sought to have the Parliament sit on a Saturday and during the school holidays. Such actions are entirely inconsistent with the recommendations of the Report and undermine the Parliament's ongoing efforts to progress its implementation.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to contribute to its Inquiry, and look forward to working with Members on behalf of the Opposition to continue to improve the operation of the Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Paul Fletcher