

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to share my views on Question Time in the Australian Parliament.

I have always been interested in politics, being a local councillor in the UK in my early 30's. When my children went to university, I studied in the UK at the Open University, where I worked. My degree was made up of social psychology/business management as two minor subjects, my last two years were spent studying Contemporary Politics and Government Policy. When I retired I watched Question Time in the UK, at which time my daughter (a Civil Servant) said I was the only person in the UK who would watch that tripe!

When we moved to Australia 8 years ago, I started to watch Question Time here. I thought the UK Question Time was below par, however, I am sorry to say I find Question Time in Australia utterly dire and unedifying. It is a point scoring Punch and Judy Show. That is not what taxpayers, your employers, pay you to do. Can politicians name any other work place where it would be OK for the staff to behave as politicians do?

I suggest after Question Time, politicians should be made to sit and watch what they have just delivered to their employers in Question Time - those people who pay politicians salaries/super/expenses. Is what you have just dished up in Question Time good enough – let me save your time and tell you it absolutely is not.

Not answering questions – it is **QUESTION TIME** for goodness sake. **In reality it is HOW TO AVOID ANSWERING THE QUESTION TIME.** Disingenuous answers, talking about about anything, but not **ANSWERING THE QUESTION.**

I also do not care what somebody wrote or said 10 or more years ago, things change, opinions change, the global world we live in means we have to tweak our views as circumstances change. So please, no more of this. Only do the history run if it is relevant.

Dorothy Dixers – my goodness, how bereft of policies or activity does a government have to be to resort to **Dixers?** Politicians clearly have no idea how degrading Dixers are to them individually and their party – they are embarrassing and unedifying. Scrap them. It is **QUESTION TIME**, where the Opposition tests the policies of the Government, it is not for the government to say “lets big ourselves up by one of our party asking one of our Ministers a question about ourselves” you are not there to wax lyrical about your government, you are there to answer questions, it is **QUESTION TIME!**

Wedging – this is the most egregious of games politicians play. It makes those wedged look weak, those wedging look like bullies. Please stop it, remember, it is **QUESTION TIME, NOT WEDGING TIME.**

Politicians should be concerned about **QUESTION TIME, or as I like to call it, WASTE OF TIME.**

You should register somebody with a degree in Contemporary Politics and Government Policy is probably the most knowledgeable audience member you are likely to get. I have made a conscious decision not to watch it any more, not because I am disinterested in Australian politics, far from it, it is just a case of not wanting to watch something so irrelevant, unedifying, and pointless.

Jenny Harrison
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