



L. Everton

**THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Mr Don Randall MP
Chair – Standing Committee on Procedure
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Randall

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Procedure for the use of electronic devices in the Chamber and Federation Chamber.

Given that the regulatory framework on this matter currently consists of a few paragraphs in House of Representatives Practice referring to the standards set by previous Speakers, I think this is a timely inquiry.

Some more formal guidance on the standards expected would be appropriate, and my suggestions would be as follows:

- Electronic devices are permitted to be used in the Chamber, and at the dispatch box, as long as they do not disrupt the House.
- Such devices should not produce any audible signal.
- Such devices should not be used to display information to other members to such an extent that it disrupts the House. For example, drawing a neighbouring member's attention to a document displayed on screen would be appropriate; using a device to play video or to show a document to a number of members at once would not be appropriate.
- Cameras or recording devices are not to be used.
- Some consideration would have to be given to the application of Parliamentary Privilege for information communicated from devices whilst in the Chamber.

I look forward to the results of your inquiry, and I hope to be available to participate in the roundtable meeting.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Pyne MP