

Dear Committee members, thank you for your representation & this Inquiry & Report.

Question Time is an important opportunity for the government to communicate with & answer to the voters.

It is currently [& has for some time] being used as a campaigning tool.

I believe that questions from the governing party [parties] are time wasters & offer no benefit. It is time this practice was stopped.

Questions from the opposition, cross benchers & minor parties only would be appropriate.

Condolence Motions are not questions. They should be dealt with elsewhere.

MPs need to be more respectful of their role as representatives of the public.

Interjections are a sign of robust communication & should be tolerated, but the Speaker has the opportunity to manage excessive & inappropriate interjections.

The way the Speaker does this needs and to be fair & non partisan. The imbalance of 94A ejections has been obviously partisan since the 44th parliament.

Shouted answers are inappropriate & insulting. Using volume to accentuate a point is acceptable, however, again since the 44th parliament it is rare that answers are given in a respectful & considered manner.

Avoidance of direct answers which cover the object of questions has become an artform. This has not only been due to efforts of government ministers but has taken place under the oversight & progressively with the assistance of the Speaker.

It would seem that my objections to current parliamentary behaviour are critical of current & recent parliaments. That is because it is true that behaviour has sharply regressed in that time frame.

My submission is not intended as a biased attack on any one party, but as a way forward to a respectful & mature parliament for this government & others to come.

Anne O'Sullivan.