



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE**

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## **Use of electronic devices in the Chamber of the House of Representatives made clear**

The Standing Committee on Procedure welcomes the [resolution](#) of the House of Representatives regarding the use of electronic devices in the Chamber, Federation Chamber and parliamentary committees. On 26 March House resolved that Members may use electronic devices in the Chambers and committees provided that their use does not interfere with proceedings.

The Leader of the House, Hon Christopher Pyne MP, proposed the House adopt the resolution on 26 March 2015, in the terms recommended by the Procedure Committee in its September 2014 inquiry report: [Use of electronic devices in the Chamber and Federation Chamber](#). This proposal was agreed to by the House.

The Committee's 2014 inquiry was a result of uncertainty expressed regarding the appropriate use of electronic devices in the Chamber and Federation Chamber. It was also an acknowledgement of the ways increased use of smartphones and tablets, and easier connectivity, have changed how Members work and communicate. The Committee found that greater clarity was needed for Members about the appropriate use of these devices in the parliamentary context. While it did not recommend changes to the current regulatory framework it did recommend ways that current arrangements could be made clear.

Committee Chair Don Randall MP said the Committee was pleased to see the implementation of its recommendation. The recommendation was aimed at clarifying the rights and responsibilities of Members in their use of electronic devices in these venues. Deputy Chair Michael Danby MP said the recommendation was non-partisan, and he was pleased the Committee could offer these clarifications.

For more information, please refer to the Committee's [report](#) and the [Resolution of the House](#) adopted 26 March 2015.

**For further information:** contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4672, email [procedure.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:procedure.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Procedure](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Procedure)