

To the review committee,

Terms of reference: To inquire into and report on practices and procedures relating to question time.

From:







Date : August 2019

The Australian public have become increasingly disillusioned with the poor behaviour and lack of relevant information and explanations offered by its representatives during Question Time.

The following is a list of recommendations which would lead to better outcomes for the Australian people by creating a place for real debate, questions and answers in Question Time rather than simply campaigning by political parties.

1. An independent Speaker and deputies.
2. Follow up questions allowed immediately.
3. More questions without notice.
4. Questions taken from electors or members of the gallery in each sitting.
5. No Dorothy Dixers - No questions and answers scripted by ministerial staffers, with the exercise only seen to serve the purposes of talking up the Government, berating the Opposition and wasting time.
6. Must attempt to answer all questions succinctly in a two minute time limit and no taking questions on notice to avoid taking a position. If questions are not answered directly or are answered with irrelevant information than immediate warning then expulsion if it continues. Pay is docked for each expulsion.
7. Code of conduct including no yelling or name calling. Ejection from chamber for obnoxious behaviour, salary docked.
8. Random Sobriety Testing for drugs and alcohol. While sitting, 0.0 to be blown to be eligible to vote in the house.
9. Use of a prop or costume leads to immediate suspension and docking of pay.
10. Salary docking for non-attendance unless bona fide emergency.

11. Electronic voting in chamber so all may vote with their conscience instead of only on party lines.
12. Digital real time fact check by independent body.

These suggestions seek to improve the practices and bring change to the procedures in Question Time to bring about true debate rather than politicking and time wasting. These changes would also have the added benefit of improving the low respect accorded many politicians by the Australian public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Concerned citizen