



Appendix A

Conduct of the review

The committee resolved at its meeting on 24 November 1999 to review the operation of the Main Committee. The committee sent a questionnaire to all Members in December 1999 and sought submissions from a range of potentially interested parties. It held a round table discussion with selected office holders and staff on 6 March 2000. Principal sources of information used in this report are identified in the following pages of this appendix.

Round table discussion

During the evening of 6 March 2000, the committee held a round table discussion about various aspects of the Main Committee with the following office holders and staff:

The Hon. Dick Adams MP, *Member of the Speaker's Panel*

Ms Cate Clunies-Ross, *Adviser to the Leader of the House*

Mrs Kay Elson MP, *Government Whip*

Mr Ian Harris, *Clerk of the House of Representatives*

Mr David Hawker MP, *Member of the Speaker's Panel*

Mr Harry Jenkins MP, *Second Deputy Speaker*

Mr Leo McLeay MP, *Chief Opposition Whip*

Mr Matt Minogue, *Parliamentary Liaison Officer (H of R)*

Mr Kerry Morcombe, *Parliamentary Liaison Officer (Main Committee)*

Mr Frank Mossfield AM MP, *Member of the Speaker's Panel*

Mr Garry Nehl MP, *Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Selection Committee*

Mr Michael Ronaldson MP, *Chief Government Whip*

Mr Bernard Wright, *Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives*

Survey of Members

All Members of the House of Representatives were invited to respond to a questionnaire. Forty-three members, or 29 per cent, responded. A summary of the responses follows:

Respondents' participation in the Main Committee				
Total responses	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
43	4	30	7	0

Responses to propositions in questionnaire						
Proposition	Agree		Disagree		Unsure/No answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Main Committee has been a success	36	84	3	7	4	9
Should meet more often	19	44	16	37	8	19
Provide more time for debating committee reports	28	65	9	21	6	14
Allow an adjournment debate each sitting	28	65	7	16	8	19
Provide more time for 3 minute statements	25	58	8	19	10	23
Deal with other types of business	22	51	11	26	10	23
Have concerns about the rules	3	7	31	72	9	21
Like the title	18	42	18	42	7	16
Like the atmosphere/style of debate	28	65	8	19	7	16

Alternative titles			
Second Chamber	13	Alternative Chamber	1
House of Representatives Chamber 2	1	Supplementary Chamber	1
Deputy Chamber	1	It doesn't matter	1
Parliamentary Annex	1		

Briefing by Sir Alastair Goodlad

On 10 May 2000, His Excellency Sir Alastair Goodlad KCMG, British High Commissioner and a former Member of the UK House of Commons, briefed the committee on aspects of House of Commons practice in debate.

Evidence

The committee received the following evidence:

Submissions

- 1 Clerk of the House of Representatives
- 2 Parliamentary Liaison Officer, House of Representatives
- 3 Attorney-General's Department

Exhibits

- 1 Dr John Uhr and Professor John Wanna, *The future roles of Parliament*, chapter prepared for forthcoming publication: Michael Keating and Patrick Weller (eds), *Institutions on the edge? Capacity for Governance*, Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2000.

Correspondence

- 1 Ms Ann Stewart, Office of the Chief Opposition Whip
- 2 Ms Cay McVeigh, Office of the Government Whip
- 3 Mrs Geraldine Rath, Office of the Chief Government Whip