

Received
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
29 September 2006

Mrs Margaret May MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Procedure
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs May

Thank you for your letter of 15 August 2006 inviting a submission from the Department of the House of Representatives to the committee's inquiry into the petitioning process.

The attached submission has been prepared in consultation with departmental staff. It draws on material from submissions to previous inquiries undertaken by the committee, particularly the one on community involvement in the procedures and practices of the House and its committees which culminated in the presentation of the report *It's your House*.

I would be happy to elaborate on matters raised in the submission if it would assist the committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'I C Harris'.

I C HARRIS
Clerk of the House

Inquiry into the petitioning process — Submission by Department of the House of Representatives

Summary

The Department welcomes this inquiry. It sees it as an opportunity for the committee to

- affirm the petitioning process as a feature of a democratic parliament;
- note changes that have occurred in the nature of petitions;
- assess the present arrangements for dealing with petitions, and
- consider possible changes to the arrangements.

Petitioning is an ancient right of citizens. These days there are often more effective means of pursuing individual grievances, which was the historical purpose of petitions. While some petitions continue to raise particular grievances which the House is asked to act upon, a substantial proportion could be classified as advocating a position on major issues of the day, including overseas issues or conflicts, government policy initiatives and social and moral concerns. The reality is that in many cases there is little that the House can do to effect the changes sought. Despite this reality, it is very important that the House affirms the right of citizens to place relevant concerns before it.

The rules which apply to preparing a petition for presentation to the House were simplified in 2001 as a result of recommendations by the Procedure Committee. General information about petitioning is more widely available than previously, partly because it is disseminated through the parliamentary website. There is however little evidence of a lower incidence of out-of-order petitions being received.

The 2001 amendments to the standing orders also provided Members with the option of presenting petitions personally during Members' statements in the Chamber and the Main Committee. This has worked well, with Members regularly exercising the option, although the majority of petitions are still received by the House through the well established procedure of the Clerk's announcement after Question Time on Mondays.

There continues to be very little evidence of any formal action being taken subsequently to a petition being received by the House. Each petition is referred to the appropriate Minister but formal responses from Ministers are rare.

Areas in which changes could be considered include:

- improved web-access to the petitions pro-forma;
- allowing Members to present petitions personally on a wider range of occasions;
- automatic reference of petitions to standing committees;
- the establishment of a petitions committee, and
- the introduction of electronic petitioning.

Each of these options has attractions – in part to do with facilitating access, an important goal. The challenge is to avoid or minimise the possibility of the process being devalued and being used as another front in the wider ongoing party-political contest.

Members of the Procedure Committee will be well placed to make judgments about the value and practicality of all options, and the Department will be pleased to provide any further assistance the committee may wish.

Purpose of petitions

The ability to petition Parliament has been described as ‘a fundamental right of the citizen’ and ‘the only means by which the individual can directly place grievances before the Parliament’.¹ However, today a plethora of ombudsmen-like and administrative review mechanisms exist to deal with individual grievances, and public grievances may be raised via local Members in the many opportunities available to them, such as Members’ statements, private Members’ business and grievance debate, not to mention various forums outside the Parliament.

The fact that petitioning survives in coexistence with these methods may imply that there is more to the process than meets the eye. Antiquity may be the main preservative: in the words of Redlich, petitions are ‘the oldest of all parliamentary forms, the fertile seed of all the proceedings of the House of Commons’.² It is perhaps their existence as an ancient right as well as the recognition by citizens of the symbolic value of speaking directly to the Parliament which ensure that petitions survive.

The committee has commented on the benefits of petitioning in its report *It’s your House*³. The committee would have useful additional evidence of the value of petitions if it were able to obtain insights into the views of the citizens who participate in the process as well as those who choose not to, although this would probably be a major undertaking.

While acknowledging that there will be different perceptions about the value of the petitioning process, the Department believes that the right to petition the House is indeed fundamental and that it should be affirmed.

Before outlining options for change, this submission comments on the preparation and sources of petitions, their receipt, processing and presentation, and subsequent action on them.

Preparation of petitions – sources

A glance at the *Hansards* for the early years of the Commonwealth Parliament suggests that there may have been more involvement by small, community-based groups such as church congregations than may be the case today when many petitions seem to originate from

¹ *House of Representatives Practice*, 5th edn, 2005, 612.

² quoted in *House of Representatives Practice*, 5th edn, 2005, 611.

³ House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure, *It’s your House: Community involvement in the procedures and practices of the House of Representatives and its committees*, October 1999, paras 2.49–52.

organised campaigns by non-government organisations or political, or semi-political, interest groups. The Department does not monitor this aspect of the process but the committee may find some value in itself examining the extent to which petitions originate spontaneously as stand-alone initiatives by independent citizens or alternatively as elements of broader ongoing campaigns by particular groups⁴.

Attachment 1 is a summary of petitions presented on the last three sitting Mondays. It gives a good indication of the wide range of petitions received and shows the emphasis on matters of public or government policy.

One of the outcomes of the committee's *It's your House* report was the adoption of 'clearer, simpler and more accessible'⁵ standing orders governing petitions. The Department does not maintain statistics which would indicate the ratio between in-order and out-of-order petitions. However the impression of long-serving staff is that the number of out-of-order petitions reaching the Table Office has not diminished. The most common technical defect is confusion between the House and the Government—that is, instead of being addressed to the Speaker and Members, many petitions are addressed to Ministers or the Government. A second common problem is that petitions may outline a grievance, but not call for any action (as required by the standing orders).

Following recommendations of the Procedure Committee in its 1985 *Days and hours* report, the arrangements for processing petitions were tightened in 1988 and presentation became a weekly, rather than a daily, event.

A significant change was the prohibition on any indication on a petition that it had been sponsored or distributed by a member of the House⁶. In practice however the intent of this requirement is easily defeated by the preparation of documents which contain the terms of the petition and provisions for signatures, but with instructions that the lines showing sponsorship be cut off or the covering sheet be removed after the signatures have been obtained.

So as not to disadvantage petitioners who had prepared their petitions before the stricter provisions came into effect, the Leader of the House, as an interim measure,⁷ tabled petitions which were out of order under the tighter regime. The practice of tabling out-of-order petitions as documents has however become institutionalised, although the documents are not individually described in the *Votes and Proceedings* as they were at the onset and the terms are not recorded in *Hansard*.

The fact that the 'interim measure' was used on eleven occasions in 2005 and five occasions in the first half of 2006 suggests that there is still a relatively high level of petitions which are not prepared in accordance with the requirements of the House. The Department's view is that although such petitions are out of order it is consistent with the ideal of being open to the views of citizens for devices such as tabling by the Leader of the House to be used – at least this allows the views of signatories to reach the House in some manner.

⁴ The record number of signatories on a petition since the numbers have been recorded was set in 2000 – the subject concerned the GST and beer.

⁵ *It's your House*, recommendation 1.

⁶ But a petition may show a member's name and an address to which it may be returned for presentation.

⁷ HR Deb (19.5.1988) 2674.

It would be possible for the House to require that proposed petitions be submitted prior to signatures being obtained so that their technical validity could be checked. That would certainly help reduce the proportion of out of order petitions, but such a requirement would not sit easily with the thought that petitions can be prepared and coordinated by any citizen in a more spontaneous way.

House *Infosheet No 11* has detailed information on petitions, including a pro-forma that can be used to develop a petition. Useful as this is, it is only accessible after some navigation through the House website or by other inquiry. Accessibility to the community would be improved by a button being placed on the first screen on the House site – *and see below*.

Receipt, processing and presentation of petitions

The procedures for dealing with petitions once they have left the hands of the petitioners have changed since the department made its last submission on this matter in June 1999 to the inquiry which resulted in the *It's your House* report. The House adopted amended standing orders relating to petitions with effect from early 2001 as a result of recommendations in that report. The new provisions remained substantially the same when the redrafted and reorganised standing orders were adopted with effect from November 2004.

The 2001 amendments added the option of Members presenting petitions personally during Members' 90-second statements in the House and 3-minute statements in the Main Committee. Until then, the standing orders had allowed only one exception to presentation per announcement by the Clerk: if the petition referred to a motion or an order of the day, it could be presented when that item was called on or read for the first time.⁸ There is no ready record of this provision ever being used, although it has been mentioned in discussions between members and staff.

The petitions process as it stood before 2001 is summarised in Figure 1. The expanded process following the *It's your House* changes is shown in Figure 2.

⁸ Standing order 114 as at the last sitting before 2001.

Figure 1—Petitions process before 2001

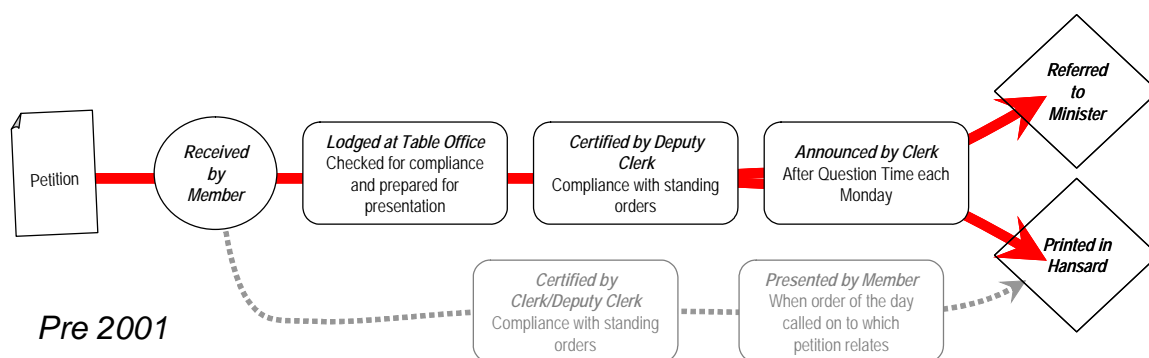
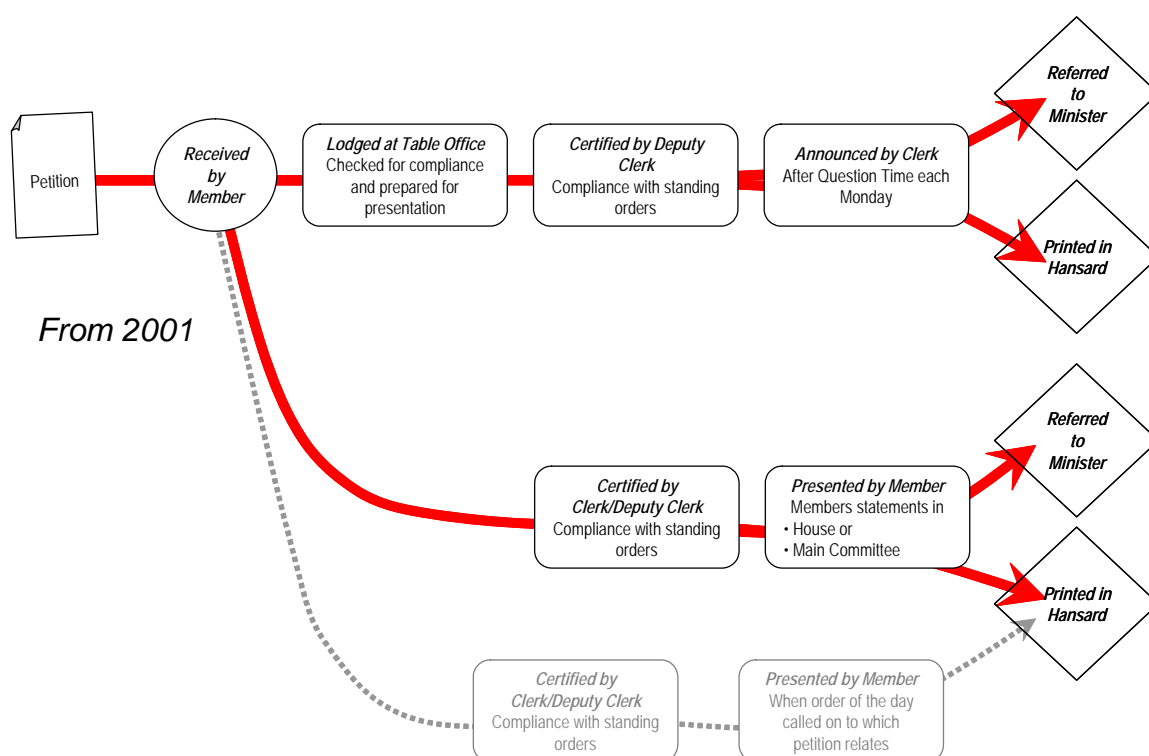


Figure 2—Petitions process from 2001



Members have made relatively low-level but regular use of the ability to present petitions personally during Members' statements. Table 1 shows annualised figures from which no clear pattern emerges. Nevertheless, the procedure continues to be used and may be seen as a valuable opportunity for private Members to represent the people.

Table 1—Presentation of petitions during Members' statements

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
All petitions received by House	250	319	369	471	235	119
Presented during statements						
in House	5	4	11	5	6	3
in Main Committee	1	6	7	8	1	8
Total presented during statements	6	10	18	13	7	11
Percentage presented during statements	2.4%	3.1%	4.9%	2.8%	3.0%	9.2%

* to 30 June

There has been a little confusion among some Members about the scope of the additional options. There have been cases where a Member has mistakenly believed that petitions could be tabled during speeches made in the adjournment debate both in the House⁹ and the Main Committee.¹⁰ There have also been cases where Members have not obtained certification of compliance with the standing orders, as required by standing order 208, before presenting a petition during a statement—this imposes a small complication in that if the petition is discovered to be out of order after it has been presented, the official records like the *Votes and Proceedings* and *Hansard* must be adjusted to show it as a document, rather than a petition.

As can be seen from Table 1, the majority of petitions continue to be presented in the usual manner, that is by the Clerk's announcement in the House after Question Time each sitting Monday.

When Members lodge petitions they are delivered to the Table Office where they are examined for compliance with the standing orders, certified by the Deputy Clerk and the Clerk's announcement prepared. The Table Office also provides the terms of the petitions to Hansard staff for inclusion in *Hansard* and prepares and dispatches the letters referring petitions to Ministers after the announcement has been made.

Most petitions are lodged by Members but occasionally petitions are received directly through the mail. In such cases, the Table Office approaches an appropriate Member to formally lodge the petition as required by standing orders 207 and 208. The committee may wish to consider the rationale behind SO 207—and consider amendment of the standing order to allow petitions that had not been lodged by Members to be presented by means of the Clerk's announcement without formal lodgement by Members. This would be a significant change from the long-established requirement that petitions can only be presented by members but it would reduce the percentage of member-generated petitions.

Subsequent action on petitions

It has been longstanding practice to record the terms of each petition in *Hansard*. The practice of referring each petition to the responsible Minister was established by a change to the standing orders in 1972 following criticism of the lack of follow-up procedures.¹¹ Continuing concern at inaction led to the provision in 1988 for Ministers' responses to be made and reported to the House. The facility is rarely used.¹²

Further comments on subsequent action are made in the following section of this submission.

Possible changes to the petitioning process

The department respects the principle that petitioning is a fundamental right of citizens, and one which should be affirmed. Even if many petitions raise problems the House has no prospect of solving itself, it is important that the House is willing to receive the properly expressed views or concerns of the community. The existing requirements for preparation

⁹ HR Deb (28.6.2001) 29022; (26.9.2002) 7430–1; (20.3.2003) 13121.

¹⁰ HR Deb (27.3.2003) 13928–30; (18.9.2003) 20583–5.

¹¹ *House of Representatives Practice*, 1st edn, 1981, 693.

¹² A total of twenty responses had been received in the eighteen years to 30 June 2006.

seem fair to petitioners while reflecting the constitutional role of the House. The arrangements for presentation to the House are, from the department's point of view, working well.

It is, however, important that the House keep such practices under review and consider options for change. An awareness of the possibilities for change is particularly important in respect of processes involving citizens. Changes which can improve the value of the process to citizens without detracting from its substance and without exposing it to manipulation would be welcome.

Accessibility—improved web access to petitions pro forma?

Through its infosheet on petitions and by staff members' willingness to speak to any person inquiring about a petition, the department seeks to ensure that knowledge about petitions is available as widely as possible, so that the risk of signatures being collected and petitions sent in but being found to be out of order is reduced. Nevertheless the details about petitions are not prominent for the public on the House website, and would be improved by the provision of a 'button' on petitions on the first page for the House.

A petitions pro forma is available for access by Members under the 'Chamber proformas' link in the H of R Chamber Documents content block, on the Senators' and Members' Services portal.

Personal presentation by Members — can the 2001 changes be taken further?

The department's submission to the *It's your House* inquiry in 1999 referred to a number of alternative processes, including presentation in person by the petitioners or a Member. The first of these alternative processes was exemplified in a proposal contained in a private Member's notice of motion. This was either to allow petitioners to present petitions at the Bar of the House and read the prayer to the House or to allow Members lodging petitions to read the prayer to the House. The submission noted that the first element of the proposal was somewhat inconsistent with the principle of the House being a deliberative body of elected representatives whose role was themselves to speak for their constituents. Both elements were seen to have potential overhead costs in terms of valuable House time.

The option of allowing Members to present petitions during Members' statements has neatly avoided the potentially large cost in House time of adopting the private Member's proposal—that is, the objective of the change to allow Members to read petitions have been achieved, but no additional time has had to be allocated to achieve this.

The Committee could consider whether the ability for members to present petitions personally should be extended, for example to allow presentation during adjournment or grievance debates. The advantages of this would be that members would have more opportunities to present petitions, and they could make longer speeches on the issues. A disadvantage would be that the presentation of petitions would be further diffused and possibly, should the facility be used extensively, the procedure seen as very routine.

Automatic reference to standing committees?

The standing orders could be amended to provide for the automatic referral of all petitions to relevant committees. The advantages of this are that it would, as a minimum, allow a group of Members with some subject expertise or familiarity to see indications of the views or concerns of citizens, and the committees could take some sort of appropriate action. It would presumably be necessary for committees to have discretion as to whether they took any action on petitions which stood referred to them. The downside is that expectations could be raised but not fulfilled if, because of other priorities or perceptions committee members may have about the true value of some petitions or about their ability to do anything useful about them, petitions might not receive very much consideration. It is clear that many petitions appear to be the products of relatively well organised campaigns and that, many address matters which the House has little or no prospect of changing. To take no action on such petitions could expose a committee to criticism, yet effective or meaningful action may not be practicable.

In New Zealand all petitions are referred to committees automatically. Each committee has discretion with respect to the action it takes. It is common for committees to ask petitioners to make written submissions, but committees are not obliged to do this. Written submissions may also be invited from other sources, such as government departments, and oral evidence may be taken. Substantive reports may be made. If petitions have been received concerning a bill which has also been referred to a committee the report on the bill may also deal with the petitions. In other cases stand- alone reports may be made. It is also possible for a committee to report very quickly and briefly to the effect that it has no matters to draw to the attention of the House in respect of a petition. No time limits are put on committees in these matters. A recent development has been petitioners apparently seeking to reopen court cases which had led to their conviction – committees are understandably very cautious in such matters. Predictably, many petitions are referred to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee.¹³ – and see <http://www.parliament.govt.nz> –and see below.

A petitions committee?

Instead of automatic reference to standing committees a specialist committee could be charged with responsibility to look at all petitions. This would enable a group of members to develop familiarity and expertise with petitions and make the necessary recommendations or decisions. One of the challenges here would be the very wide range of subjects raised by petitioners, including many which reflect party-political differences. This approach is followed in Scotland. Its Public Petitions Committee has been active in promoting the petitioning process at meetings away from Edinburgh. Petitions are lodged by citizens, and not through members and it appears that petitions are presented to the committee, not referred to it by the House. The committee has a well established method of operation – for example hearing from petitioners in person, referring petitions to the executive or to other committees and even writing to members about them. The committee can inform petitioners of responses received and invite their further views. The committee usually meets once each fortnight and the record shows some meetings lasting for over 1.5 hours, with consideration being given to new and current petitions and decisions made about each. One of the interesting points is that the committee has raised the issue of the resubmission of petitions and recommended that a petition substantially similar to one which has closed should not be received within one year of the closure. The committee's annual report for 2005-06 records that it considered 122 new

¹³ David McGee, *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*, 3rd edn, pp 525-9

petitions and heard evidence from 51 petitioners, and that 41 e petitions had been submitted - <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk> - and see below.

Models

The range of models for committee activity in relation to petitions is shown in the following examples (details are taken from the official sources in each case):

New Zealand¹⁴

People can request that the House take action on a matter of public policy or law, or to address a personal grievance, by presenting a petition to the House, through their local member of Parliament. The petition is referred to the appropriate committee, which decides whether to seek submissions from affected people or organisations. If the committee reports to the House with recommendations, the Government must respond within 90 days.

Canada (House of Commons)¹⁵

The rules of the House require that the Government reply to a petition within 45 calendar days of its presentation. If such a petition remains without a response at the expiration of this time, a committee of the House, designated by the Member presenting the petition, is required to look into the reason.

UK (House of Commons)¹⁶

... a copy of the Petition, once printed, is sent to the appropriate Government department. Any observations made by a Minister in reply are printed and circulated as a Supplement to the Votes and Proceedings and a copy is sent to the Member who presented the Petition. There is no obligation on the Minister to make observations. If no observations are to be made, this fact will also be communicated to the presenting Member. Copies of Petitions and observations are also sent to the relevant select committee of the House.

Scotland¹⁷

The public petitions process is a key part of the Scottish Parliament's overall commitment to openness and accessibility. It allows individuals, community groups and organisations to participate fully in the democratic process, by raising issues of public concern with the Parliament and allowing members to consider the need for change. Any person or group may submit a petition to the Parliament. Once petitions are submitted, they are considered by the Public Petitions Committee (PPC).

¹⁴ New Zealand Parliament, *Fact Sheet—Parliament Brief: Select Committees*, available online at <http://www.parliament.govt.nz/en-NZ/PubRes/About/FactSheets/> [accessed 30 August 2006].

¹⁵ Canada House of Commons, *Detailed Article: Compendium: Procedure Online—Petitions*, available online at http://www.parl.gc.ca/sites/compendium/web-content/c_d_petitions-e.htm [accessed 31 August 2006].

¹⁶ UK House of Commons, *Public Petitions to the House of Commons*, available online at http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_publications_and_archives/publicpetitions.cfm [accessed 31 August 2006].

¹⁷ Scottish Parliament, *Guidance on the Submission of Public Petitions*, available online at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/guidance/index.htm> [accessed 31 August 2006].

Wales¹⁸

... the Table Office will refer the petition to the Assembly Minister or, if appropriate, committee, with responsibility for the matter covered by the petition, who will consider the petition and seek advice as appropriate from the relevant section of the Assembly Government staff. The main petitioner shall receive a written response from the Minister, with a copy sent to the Petitions Clerk, receiving Assembly Member (if any) and the Members' Library.

... The Assembly or any of its committees may resolve to debate the contents of the petition, or a Member may wish to utilise Standing Order 34 in order to Table a No Named Day Motion regarding the petition.

India (Lok Sabha)¹⁹

Every petition after presentation by a member, or report by the Secretary-General, as the case may be, stands referred to the Committee on Petitions. No discussion or debate is permitted on the presentation of a petition.

...

The Committee on Petitions examines every petition which, after presentation to the Lok Sabha, stands referred to it. It is the function of the Committee on Petitions to report to the House on specific complaints made in the petitions after taking such evidence as it deems fit. The Committee also suggests remedial measures, either on the specific case under review or in a general way, to prevent such cases in future. The Rules empower the Committee to direct that the petition be circulated, either in extenso or in a summary form, to all members of the House. In practice, however, the Committee directs circulation of only those petitions which deal with Bills pending before the House. In the case of petitions on matters of general public interest, the Committee examines the suggestions made therein, and calls for formal comments from the Ministries concerned, takes evidence of the petitioner, where necessary, and the officials of the Ministry, before making suitable recommendations in its report to the House.

The Procedure Committee would be aware from its recent study tour of how some of these models work in practice. The committee might find value in seeking further practical evaluations from, for example, Canada, New Zealand and India.

The challenge will be to assess the extent to which any other model or combination of arrangements might be adapted to the needs of the House. A long-established national parliament in a federation like Australia, for example, is likely to face quite different issues in respect of petitions than a devolved parliament like Scotland's that is still establishing itself – compare, for example the range of subjects shown at Attachment 1 with the emphasis on health and community care, planning and education issues reported for the Scottish Parliament.

¹⁸ National Assembly for Wales, *Guidance on public petitions procedure*, available online at <http://www.wales.gov.uk/organipochamberbusiness/petitions-e.htm> [accessed 31 August 2006].

¹⁹ Indian Parliament: Lok Sabha, *Parliamentary Procedure: Abstract Series: Petitions*, available online at <http://164.100.24.208/ls/abs%20series/petitions.htm> [accessed 31 August 2006].

Government action

It is not clear how Ministers could effectively be compelled by the House to respond to petitions without the process being reduced to a pro forma exercise, especially given that many petitions are recurrent—that is, a formulation in much the same words being presented on subsequent occasions, and given the highly political nature of many petitions.

New media

The broadening of the media through which citizens may petition the House—also explored in the department’s previous submission—remains a field for vigorous debate. In short, on the one hand the House risks appearing antediluvian by not embracing the expanded opportunities for community involvement afforded by new technologies, while on the other hand the ‘Wild West’ ethos which characterises so much of communication in cyberspace carries some risk to the integrity of any House procedure which is exposed to it.

The adoption of electronic petitioning can be considered in the light of the perceived importance of petitioning itself. If petitioning is seen as heavily symbolic, an ancient right, even if rarely an immediately effective process, then it is perhaps of less moment if all of the digital signatures on an electronic petition are not authentic or if the details of the petition are altered somewhere along the line. If, however, the process is seen in terms of real persons raising immediate or tangible grievances which may be acted upon then authentication becomes a more significant issue.

As we understand it, although the Senate Standing Orders do not refer to electronic petitions, in practice such petitions are received. The Senator lodging the petition must present a print-out of the terms of the petition and the electronic signatures and sign a certification as to the authenticity of the document. A copy of the certification is shown at [Attachment 2](#). Anecdotal comment is that the percentage of such petitions is not high, but that some of them may have larger numbers of signatures than traditional petitions.

The Queensland Parliament has had a system of e-petitions since 2002. As we understand it the system was introduced at the behest of the government as part of a wider program. A Member must agree to be the sponsor of the petition, the terms are agreed between the Member and the person/group involved, checked by House staff and then posted for a period of between 1 week and 6 months on the Queensland Parliament’s website. The document eventually presented is a print-out of the e-petition after it is closed for signature. This model places a member at the heart of the process from the beginning. It has been reported that 36 petitions with 9975 signatures were received in the period August 2002 to April 2004.²⁰

E petitions are permitted in the Scottish Parliament. Detailed guidelines and proformas are available, and supporters of a petition can add their names and addresses on line, see who else has supported it and join an on-line discussion about it. Petitioners are allowed to gather support from anywhere around the world. Petition are not presented by members but sent in directly by the organisers. – see <http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk>.

²⁰ Hogan, M, Cook, N and Henderson, M. 2004. The Queensland Government’s e-democracy agenda. A paper prepared for the Australian Electronic Governance Conference, Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, 14 – 15 April 2004.

The department supports the principle that making the House more open to the people is an institutional obligation. However, it acknowledges that just as email, still to mature as a means of communication, has added significantly to workloads, the adoption of electronic petitioning could impose a significant burden on resources, and it would be important to assess the advantages and disadvantages carefully and to focus on the importance of delivering other than superficial outcomes. The view of the department is that the medium on which a petition is set out is only one issue. Other significant issues are the basic view to be taken of petitions and the process for their presentation and any further consideration of them.

The department will be pleased to support the Committee in any way in its further consideration of these matters.

ATTACHMENT 1

Number of Subject	Number of Petitions	Signatures
WHEAT SALES - SINGLE DESK POLICY Supporting the single desk wheat policy	1	339
PHONE BOX - CANN RIVER praying that a public phone box not be removed from Cann River.	1	280
BROADBAND - FLAGSTAFF HILL Availability of ADSL Broadband in Flagstaff Hill, S.A.	1	137
COMMUNICATIONS - FREE TO AIR TV/RADIO free-to-air radio and television access for all Tasmanians	1	3,216
ABC CLASSIC FM - MANSFIELD Installation of a repeater station within the Shire of Mansfield.	1	450
DEFENCE TRAINING FACILITIES - SHOALWATER BAY Rejecting proposals to locate a joint military training facility with USA at Shoalwater Bay, QLD.	1	1,562
EDUCATION FUNDING - INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AUST Rejecting applications of public funding from Independent Colleges of Australia Pty Ltd	1	800
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS – WORK CHOICES Ensuring that no employee will be worse off under the new industrial relations system	4	970
EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS - AWA INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS that employers to provide fair working conditions.	1	47
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - WORK CHOICES Repealing the Work Choices legislation and replace it with just laws.	2	574
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - FAIR SYSTEM praying that a fair industrial relations system be provided for workers.	7	519

KYOTO PROTOCOL - RATIFICATION

Support for the Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol Ratification) Bill 1 112

WHALING - PROTECTION IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS

Protecting the whale population in Australian waters 2 767

NUCLEAR REACTOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

proposal to build a nuclear reactor in Western Australia 2 1,490

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY – LIBRARIES/CHILDCARE CENTRES

Installation of mandatory Internet pornography filters in public libraries and in childcare centres. 1 9

FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEMES - FUNDING

Family Day Care funding changes 1 67

CHILD CARE - OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Removal of cap on Outside School Hours Care places 1 11

TIWI LAND COUNCIL - INQUIRY

commission an into matters relating to the Tiwi Land Council. 1 493

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS - INCREASE

Increasing Australia's Millennium Development Goals for overseas aid. 1 11

FALUN GONG

Supporting the International Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong. 32 15,283

GUANTANAMO BAY - CLOSURE

Calling for the closure of the military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. 1 43

MIDDLE EAST - CONFLICT

Calling for a non-partisan stance in relation to the Middle East conflict. 2 133

ISRAELI - PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Demand that Israel cease attacking Palestinians. 2 343

ISRAELI - LEBANON CONFLICT

demand that Israel cease its attack on Lebanon. 2 360

MEDICARE - IVF FUNDING

changes to Medicare funding for IVF 1 13

BREAST CANCER - FREE MAMMOGRAMS

free mammograms for all women 3 329
irrespective of medical history.

DENTAL HEALTH - COMMONWEALTH DENTAL SCHEME

re-introducing the Commonwealth Dental 3 193
Scheme.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME - HERCEPTIN

that Herceptin be included on the 6 33,169
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

HEALTH - GPS

replacement GPs in the Shortland electorate 1 32

HEALTH - DOCTOR SHORTAGE

shortage of doctors in the Lake Macquarie 2 64
and Hunter areas.

FOOD LABELLING - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

imported food be labelled with the name of 1 3
the country in which it was grown/produced.

PHARMACY - ADELONG

an application to open a pharmacy in Adelong. 1 414

MEDICARE OFFICE - CITY OF CASEY

praying for a Medicare office in the 1 530
City of Casey, Victoria.

MEDICARE - MORISSET

praying for a Medicare office in 1 89
Morisset.

DETENTION CENTRES - PINKENBA

Conversion of an Army stores site into 2 267
an immigration detention centre.

POWER PRODUCTION - ALTERNATIVE METHODS

alternative methods for producing power 1 126

NATIONAL FLAG - BURNING

Burning the Australian flag 1 3,086

SYDNEY AIRPORT - MASTER PLAN

review of the Sydney Airport Master Plan 1 617

SUPERANNUATION - SMALL BUSINESS

small business exemption to changes 1 3,207
to superannuation.

TOTALS 96 70,155

ATTACHMENT 2

Certification of an Electronic Petition

I certify that the attached petition of (number) signatures requesting (subject matter) has been published in electronic form and that the signatories have attached their signatures with the full text of the petition visible as they did so.

(If needed: I also certify that multiple signatures have been removed to reflect an accurate count of petitioners).

This is a true and accurate petition to the Senate.

Senator (Name)