

Appendix B

Versions of former standing order 344.

Source: The House of Representatives Standing Orders (temporarily adopted by the House on 6 June 1901)

341. When a Committee is examining witnesses Strangers may be admitted, but shall be excluded at the request of any Member, or at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee, and shall always be excluded when the Committee is deliberating.

[Note: The original standing order was “borrowed” from the South Australian standing orders. The current South Australian version of the standing order is: “338. Admission of strangers (392)

When a committee is examining witnesses, persons other than Members of the committee and its advisers may be admitted but are excluded at the request of any Member or at the discretion of the Chairman of the committee and are always excluded when the committee is deliberating.”

Source: The House of Representatives Standing Orders (as at 9 November 1994)

337. When a committee is examining witnesses, strangers may be admitted, but shall be excluded at the request of any member, or at the discretion of the chair of the committee, and shall always be excluded when the committee is deliberating.

[Note: The changes are stylistic only – capitals are deleted and Chairman is changed to “chair”].

Source: The House of Representatives Standing Orders (as at 3 December 1998)

344. When a committee or subcommittee is examining a witness, or engaged in other proceedings for the purpose of gathering information, visitors may be admitted. They shall withdraw if requested by the chair or if any member of the committee or subcommittee asks the chair to request their withdrawal. All visitors must withdraw when the committee or subcommittee is deliberating or taking evidence in camera.

[Note: There is no substantive change to the operation of the standing order. The word "strangers" is changed to "visitors"; the order is changed in that the chair's request for withdrawal is placed before a similar initiative of an individual member. Also, members are to go through the chair in requesting visitors to leave. There appears to be no discretion for the chair to refuse the request].