



Australian Government

Australian Government Response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure:

Motion to suspend standing orders and condemn a Member Report on events of 10 October 2006

Opening Statement

The Government thanks the Committee for its work and the care it has taken to examine the events surrounding the suspension and condemnation of a Member of the House on 10 October 2006.

The Government's response to the single recommendation is as follows:

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that standing order 47 be amended, to insert the following:

(e) When a suspension motion has been carried which provides for the alteration of the order of business and related machinery matters, the House's agreement to the proposed alteration shall be understood, without any further motion being necessary.

(f) A suspension motion in itself is not effective as a device for declaring the opinion of the House on a matter, including criticism of the conduct of a Member. The purpose of the suspension motion must be to enable the moving of a motion for such a purpose.

Response:

The Government notes the Committee's conclusions and principles set out in its recommendation. The Government notes that current practice of the House is that the passage of a procedural or suspension motion in itself does not declare the House's position in relation to a substantive matter. In light of the current practice, however, the Government does not see the need to amend the Standing Orders to give effect to those conclusions.