

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

SESSIONAL ORDER 344

House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Procedure

June 2003
Canberra

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ISBN 0 642 78438 8



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Membership of the Committee

Chair	Mrs Margaret May MP
Deputy Chair	Hon Roger Price MP
Members	Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP
	Mr Martin Ferguson MP
	Mr Barry Haase MP
	Mr Peter King MP
	Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary	Ms Judy Middlebrook
Research Officer	Mr Peter Fowler
Administrative Assistant	Ms Anna Gadzinski

House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6277 4685
Email: Procedure.Committee.Reps@aph.gov.au
URL: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/proc/index.htm>



Terms of reference

Terms of reference of the committee

To inquire into and report on the practices and procedures of the House generally with a view to making recommendations for their improvement or change and for the development of new procedures.

Terms of reference of the inquiry

To oversee the operation of sessional order 344 and report on the effects of any changes.



Recommendation

The committee recommends that sessional order 344 should be made a standing order replacing former standing order 344.

The committee further recommends that the new standing order should be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with the presumption that proceedings of committees should be by agreement. The next edition of *House of Representatives Practice* should make this clear.

Text of former standing order 344:

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.

Text of sessional order 344:

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 the committee or subcommittee resolves for their withdrawal. All visitors must withdraw when the committee or subcommittee is deliberating or taking evidence in camera.

