

Procedural Digest

No. 20

46th Parliament

11–13 May 2021

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Selected entries contain links to video footage via *Parlview*. Please note that the first time you click a [\[Watch\]](#) link, you may need to refresh the page (ctrl+F5) for the correct starting point.

Bills

20.01 Presentation of 2021-22 Budget and budget reply

On Tuesday 11 May, following a suspension of sitting from 4.27 pm to 7.30 pm, the Speaker reported a message from the Governor-General recommending an appropriation for the purposes of Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2021-2022. The Treasurer then presented the bill, moved the second reading and delivered the budget speech. Debate was adjourned and the Assistant Treasurer presented budget-related documents. [\[Watch\]](#)

The Assistant Treasurer then presented Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021-2022 and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2021-2022. Before each bill was introduced, the Speaker announced receipt of a message from the Governor-General recommending appropriation. The House then adjourned at 8.18 pm, without debate.

In accordance with normal practice, the Leader of the Opposition gave his budget reply speech on Thursday evening. The second reading debate on Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2021-2022 was called on immediately prior to the suspension of the sitting at 6.43 pm. On resumption of the sitting at 7.31 pm, the Leader of the Opposition addressed the House. The House then adjourned at 8.07 pm.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3654-717

13 May 2021, 4169-76

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1802-4; 1844

SOs 32, 141, 142, 147, 178, 180, 182, 199

Business

20.02 Special arrangements for budget day

At the beginning of the sitting on 11 May, the House agreed to suspend standing orders to set the order of business for the day. The resolution included provision for an address of condolence on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, followed by a 90-minute suspension of sitting, a motion relating to the appointment of members to committees, and suspension of the sitting before presentation of the Budget at 7.30 pm.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3654-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1793-4

SOs 34, 47

20.03 Ministerial statements

On Wednesday, 12 May, the minister representing the Minister for Women, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the women's budget statement for 2021-22. The Shadow Minister for Women addressed the House in reply.

The next day, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development also made a ministerial statement, by leave, regarding rural and regional budget outcomes. The shadow minister spoke in reply.

Hansard: 12 May 2021, 3891-9

13 May 2021, 4077-87

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1822; 1840

SOs 63, 63A

20.04 Changes to Federation Chamber order of business to facilitate consideration of the budget

On 13 May, the House agreed to suspend standing orders to rearrange the order of business in the Federation Chamber over coming weeks to allow time to debate the main appropriation bills.

Hansard: 13 May 2021, 4043-4

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1835

SOs 47, 192

Committees

20.05 Attempt to discharge government member from committee

On 11 May, in accordance with a resolution agreed earlier in the sitting, a minister moved to confirm the appointment of certain members to committees. The Manager of Opposition Business moved, as an amendment, that Mr Laming, Chair of the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training, be discharged from that committee in light of recent allegations against him. The Manager of Opposition Business was closed and the amendment was seconded. Before the Speaker proposed the question on the amendment, the debate was closed and the amendment therefore lapsed. The question on the motion moved by the minister was carried.

The Manager of Opposition Business then moved that Mr Laming be discharged from the committee. He was permitted to move this because of an interpretation of the resolution noted above (see 20.02), which provided for 'a motion relating to the appointment of members to committees' in the order of business for the day. The mover and seconder were closed and the debate was closed. The motion moved by the Manager of Opposition Business was then disagreed to on division.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3688-93

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1796-802

SOs 80, 81, 117, 229

20.06 Statement by Chair of Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on draft budget estimates for the ANAO and PBO

Just prior to the suspension of the sitting before the presentation of the Budget, the Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit made a statement regarding the draft estimates for the Australian National Audit Office and the Parliamentary Budget Office for 2021-2022 and presented a copy of her statement.

As the committee responsible for parliamentary oversight of the ANAO and PBO, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is required by legislation to consider the draft budget estimates for each office. Therefore, on Budget day each year, the committee makes a statement on whether, in its opinion, these offices have been given sufficient funding to carry out their respective mandates. See the Parliamentary Service Act 1999 regarding the committee's role in respect of the PBO and the Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951 regarding the ANAO.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3702-3
Votes and Proceedings: 2018/1802

SO 199

20.07 Appropriations and Administration Committee report on budget estimates for the House

On 13 May, the Speaker presented the Appropriations and Administration Committee's report on budget estimates for the Department of the House of Representatives for 2021-22.

Hansard: 13 May 2021, 4037
Votes and Proceedings: 2018/1833

SOs 39, 222A

20.08 Procedure Committee report on question time

On 13 May, the Chair of the House Procedure Committee presented the committee's report on its inquiry into the practices and procedures relating to question time. The chair and deputy chair both spoke to the report, by leave. Recommendations include a minimum number of questions each question time, provision for supplementary questions and a reduction in the time limit for answers.

Hansard: 13 May 2021, 4044-7
Votes and Proceedings: 2018/1835

SOs 39, 221

Documents

20.09 Resolution from the ACT Legislative Assembly

On Tuesday, the Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by the Assembly on the need to restore Territory rights regarding voluntary assisted dying. The Speaker presented a copy of the letter.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3686
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1795

SO 199

Members

20.10 Revised ministry list presented

The Prime Minister presented a revised ministry list on 11 May. The list was incorporated in *Hansard*.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3662-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1794

SO 199

Motions

20.11 Address of condolence on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

On 11 May the Prime Minister moved that the House agree to an address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in relation to the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and other members spoke in support before the question was carried, with all members present standing in silence. As a mark of respect, the sitting was then suspended for 90 minutes. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3655-62
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1794

SOs 267, 268, 269

20.12 Condolence motion on the death of the Honourable Andrew Sharp Peacock AC

Prior to question time on Tuesday, 11 May, the Prime Minister moved a motion of condolence in relation to the death of the Honourable Andrew Peacock, a former minister and Member for Kooyong from 1966 to 1994. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and the Speaker shared a message from Mr Peacock's family before all members

present rose in silence as a mark of respect. The motion was then referred to the Federation Chamber for debate. [\[Watch\]](#)

On Thursday, the condolence motion was debated in the Federation Chamber, returned to the House and carried, with all members again rising in silence.

Hansard: 11 May 2021, 3665-9

13 May 2021, 4104

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1794; 1841

SOs 49, 183

Parliamentary administration

20.13 Statement by Speaker regarding COVID-19 arrangements

On Tuesday morning, the Speaker made a statement informing members of various COVID-19 arrangements in the Chamber and Federation Chamber during the budget sittings. He noted that, for the first time since March last year, all 151 members could be accommodated in the House at the one time.

Hansard: 11 May 2021; 3653-4

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1793

Private members' business

20.14 Private members' business in Federation Chamber on Wednesday

In accordance with a resolution of the House agreed on 13 May, most of the Federation Chamber meeting on Wednesday, 2 June, was dedicated to private members' business.

Private members' business is scheduled for debate on Mondays in the House and Federation Chamber. However, the House did not sit on Monday, 31 May.

SOs 47, 192, 222

Privilege

20.15 Privilege—complaint of breach

Independent member Mr Craig Kelly raised a matter of privilege on 13 May regarding his ban by Facebook and its effect on his ability to communicate with constituents. He presented a number of related documents. The Speaker responded that he would consider the matter and report back to the House at a later time.

Hansard: 13 May 2021, 4035-7

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1833

SOs 51, 199