

Routine of business in the Senate as set out in standing order 57 and related orders (as at 14 May 2003)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>12.30 pm Prayers</p> <p>Government business only</p> <p>2 pm Questions</p> <p>Motions to take note of answers <i>(Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>Petitions</p> <p>Notices of motion</p> <p>Placing of business</p> <p>Discovery of formal business</p> <p>MPI or urgency motion <i>(Time limit: 1 hr, or if no motions to take note, 90 mins)</i></p> <p>Ministerial statements</p> <p>Tabling of documents</p> <p>Committee memberships</p> <p>Messages from House of Representatives</p> <p>Order of business</p> <p>6.30 to 7.30 pm Sitting suspended— (DINNER BREAK)</p> <p>7.30 pm Order of business continued</p> <p>9.50 pm Adjournment proposed <i>(Time limit: 40 mins)</i></p>	<p>12.30 pm Prayers</p> <p>Government documents <i>(Presented pursuant to order)</i></p> <p>Government business only</p> <p>2 pm Questions</p> <p>Motions to take note of answers <i>(Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>Petitions</p> <p>Notices of motion</p> <p>Placing of business</p> <p>Discovery of formal business</p> <p>MPI or urgency motion <i>(SO 75—Time limit: 1 hr, or if no motions to take note, 90 mins)</i></p> <p>Ministerial statements</p> <p>Tabling of documents</p> <p>Committee memberships</p> <p>Messages from House of Representatives</p> <p>Order of business</p> <p>6.50 pm Consideration of government documents tabled earlier in the day <i>(SO 61—Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>7.20 pm Adjournment proposed <i>(No time limit)</i></p>	<p>9.30 am Prayers</p> <p>Government documents <i>(Presented pursuant to order)</i></p> <p>Government business only</p> <p>12.45 pm Discussion of matters of public interest <i>(SO 57(2))</i></p> <p>2 pm Questions</p> <p>Motions to take note of answers <i>(Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>Petitions</p> <p>Notices of motion</p> <p>Placing of business</p> <p>Discovery of formal business</p> <p>MPI or urgency motion <i>(SO 75—Time limit: 1 hr, or if no motions to take note, 90 mins)</i></p> <p>Tabling and consideration of committee reports <i>(SO 62(4)—Time limit: 1 hr)</i></p> <p>Ministerial statements</p> <p>Tabling of documents</p> <p>Committee memberships</p> <p>Messages from House of Representatives</p> <p>Order of business</p> <p>6.50 pm Consideration of government documents tabled earlier in the day <i>(SO 61—Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>7.20 pm Adjournment proposed <i>(Time limit: 40 mins)</i></p>	<p>9.30 am Prayers</p> <p>Petitions</p> <p>Notices of motion</p> <p>Placing of business</p> <p>Discovery of formal business</p> <p>Tabling and consideration of committee reports <i>(SO 62(4)—Time limit: 1 hr)</i></p> <p>Committee memberships</p> <p>Messages from House of Representatives</p> <p>Order of business</p> <p>12.45 pm If agreed to, 'non-controversial' legislation</p> <p>2 pm Questions</p> <p>Motions to take note of answers <i>(Time limit: 30 mins)</i></p> <p>MPI or urgency motion <i>(Time limit: 1 hr, or if no motions to take note, 90 mins)</i></p> <p>Ministerial statements</p> <p>Government responses to parliamentary committee reports</p> <p>Tabling of documents</p> <p>Not later than 4.30 pm General business <i>(Notices of motion and orders of the day)</i></p> <p>Not later than 6 pm General business, cont. <i>(SO 61(3)—Consideration of government documents. Time limit: 1 hr)</i></p> <p>Not later than 7 pm Consideration of committee reports and government responses and Auditor-General's reports <i>(SO 62—Time limit: 1 hr)</i></p> <p>8 pm Adjournment proposed <i>(Time limit: 40 mins)</i></p>

GENERAL TIMES

Times of meetings of the Senate

Monday	12.30 pm to 6.30 pm, 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Tuesday†	12.30 pm to adjournment
Wednesday†	9.30 am to 8 pm
Thursday	9.30 am to 8.40 pm

† = Broadcast day

Petitions close (see: Brief Guide* No. 21—Petitions)

9.30 am on a day on which the Senate sits at 12.30 pm.
11 am on a day on which the Senate sits at 2 pm.
5 pm on the day prior to the Senate sitting at 9.30 am.

Questions on notice close (see: Brief Guide* No. 17—Questions)

At 5 pm on sitting days and 2 pm on the Wednesday before the next day of sitting in non-sitting weeks.

SENATE NUMBERS

Quorum	19 (one-quarter)
Absolute majority	39

DEBATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TIME LIMITS

(see: Brief Guide* No. 4—Rules of Debate)

Bills (see: Brief Guide* No. 9—Consideration of legislation)

1° of non-amendable bill.....	15 mins	SO 112(2)
2°.....	20 mins	SO 189(1)
In committee.....	15 mins	SO 189(3)
	(+ possible extension of 15 mins)	
3°.....	20 mins	SO 189(1)
Selection of Bills Committee— adoption of report.....	5 mins	SO 24A(7)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	
Reference of a bill to committee.....	5 mins	SO 115(6)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	

SO = standing orders

* Brief Guides to Senate Procedure at www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/guides/index.htm

DEBATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TIME LIMITS—CONTINUED

Committee reports and government responses (see: Brief Guide* No. 3—

Opportunities for debating documents and reports)

Motions relating to report on Wednesday or Thursday	10 mins	SO 62(4)
	(limit for debate: 1 hr)	
Resumption (<i>Thursday</i>).....	10 mins	SO 62(1)
	(limit for debate: 1 hr)	

Debate

General	20 mins	SO 189(1)
Extension of time (<i>possible</i>).....	10 mins	SO 189(1)
In committee	15 mins	SO 189(3)
In reply	20 mins	SO 189(2)

Documents (General)

Motions moved by leave	10 mins	SO 169(2)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins per motion, 1 hr for all motions)	

Government documents—consideration (see: Brief Guide* No. 3—Opportunities

for debating documents and reports)

Motion to take note (<i>Tuesday and Wednesday</i>).....	5 mins	SO 61(3)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	
Resumption (<i>Thursday</i>).....	5 mins	SO 61(3)
	(limit for debate: 1 hr)	

Matters of Public Importance/Urgency (see: Brief Guide* No. 10—Matters of public importance and Urgency)

All speakers	10 mins	SO 75(7)
	(limit for debate: 1 hr, or 90 mins if no motions are moved after question time to take note of answers)	

Discussion of matters of public interest.....

15 mins SO 57(2)

Questions (see: Brief Guide* No. 17—Questions)

Without notice		
Asking question	1 min	SO 72(3)
Answering question	4 mins	SO 72(3)
Supplementary question.....	1 min	SO 72(3)
Answering supplementary	1 min	SO 72(3)
Debate on motions relating to answers.....	5 mins	SO 72(4)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	

Suspension of standing orders (see: Brief Guide* No. 5—Suspension of standing

orders).....	5 mins	SO 209(4)
	(limit for debate: 30 mins)	

Debate for the election of the

President of the Senate..... 15 mins SO 6(2)

Adjournment of the Senate..... 10 mins SO 54(5)

(limit for debate: 40 mins, except for Tuesday which has no limit on debate)

SO = standing orders

* Brief Guides to Senate Procedure at www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/guides/index.htm