

## STANDING ORDERS 73 AND 74 GOVERNING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 73 Rules for questions

- (1) The following rules shall apply to questions:  
questions shall not contain:
  - (a) statements of fact or names of persons unless they are strictly necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated;
  - (b) arguments;
  - (c) inferences;
  - (d) imputations;
  - (e) epithets;
  - (f) ironical expressions; or
  - (g) hypothetical matter;questions shall not ask:
  - (h) for an expression of opinion;
  - (i) for a statement of the government's policy; or
  - (j) for legal opinion;questions shall not refer to:
  - (k) debates in the current session; or
  - (l) proceedings in committee not reported to the Senate.
- (2) Questions shall not anticipate discussion upon an order of the day or other matter which appears on the Notice Paper.
- (3) The President may direct that the language of a question be changed if it is not in conformity with the standing orders.
- (4) In answering a question, a senator shall not debate it.

### 74 Questions on notice

- (1) Notice of a question shall be given by a senator signing and delivering it to the Clerk, fairly written, printed, or typed. Notice may be given by one senator on behalf of another.
- (2) The Clerk shall place notices of questions on the Notice Paper in the order in which they are received.
- (3) The reply to a question on notice shall be given by delivering it to the Clerk, a copy shall be supplied to the senator who asked the question, the publication of the reply is then authorised, and the question and reply shall be printed in Hansard.
- (4) A senator who has received a copy of a reply pursuant to this standing order may, by leave, immediately after questions without notice, ask the question and have the reply read in the Senate.
- (5) If a minister does not answer a question on notice asked by a senator within 30 days of the asking of that question, or if a question taken on notice during a hearing of a legislative and general purpose standing committee considering estimates remains unanswered 30 days after the day set for answering the question, and a minister does not, within that period, provide to the senator who asked the question an explanation satisfactory to that senator of why an answer has not yet been provided:
  - (a) at the conclusion of question time on any day after that period, the senator may ask the relevant minister for such an explanation; and
  - (b) the senator may, at the conclusion of the explanation, move without notice – That the Senate take note of the explanation; or
  - (c) in the event that the minister does not provide an explanation, the senator may, without notice, move a motion with regard to the minister's failure to provide either an answer or an explanation.