Chapter 14. Federation Chamber

Chapter outline

This chapter establishes the Federation Chamber and provides for:

- the Chair and administration in the Federation Chamber
- meetings and adjournments, and
- the Federation Chamber's business.

General

183 Establishment of Federation Chamber

The Federation Chamber shall be established as a committee of the House to consider matters referred to it as follows:

(a) proceedings on bills to the completion of the consideration in detail stage;

(b) orders of the day for the resumption of debate on any motion;

(c) subject to paragraph (a), private Members' notices and other items of private Members' and committee and delegation business referred in accordance with a Selection Committee determination pursuant to *standing order 222*;

(d) further statements on a matter when statements have commenced in the House; and

(e) items of government business referred from the House by a programming declaration made in accordance with *standing order 45*.

184 Membership and quorum of Federation Chamber

(a) All Members shall be members of the Federation Chamber.

(b) The quorum of the Federation Chamber is the Deputy Speaker, one government Member and one non-government Member.

185 Rules for House apply to Federation Chamber

The rules applying to the House also apply to the Federation Chamber, subject to the standing orders in this chapter: *see standing order 3 (application of the standing orders)*.

186 Deputy Speaker and meetings of Federation Chamber

The Federation Chamber may meet at any time during a sitting of the House, except as provided by *standing order 190 (suspensions and adjournments of the Federation Chamber)*. The Deputy Speaker must set the meeting times of the Federation Chamber, notify the times to all Members, and take the Chair when the Federation Chamber meets.

187 Maintenance of order

(a) In the Federation Chamber the Deputy Speaker has the same responsibility for the preservation of order as the Speaker has in the House.

(b) If disorder occurs in the Federation Chamber, the Deputy Speaker:

- (i) may direct the Member or Members concerned to leave the room for a period of 15 minutes [*standing order 94(e) (exclusion from Chamber, etc.)* does not apply]; or
- (ii) may, or on motion moved without notice by any Member must, suspend or adjourn the sitting. If the sitting is adjourned, any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the adjournment shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

(c) Following a suspension or adjournment of the Federation Chamber or a refusal of a Member to leave when so directed under paragraph (b), the Deputy Speaker must report the disorder to the House.

(d) The Deputy Speaker may report the conduct of a Member whether or not action has been taken under paragraph (b).

(e) Any subsequent action against a Member under *standing order 94 (sanctions against disorderly conduct)* may only be taken in the House.

188 How questions decided

(a) Every question in the Federation Chamber shall be decided on the voices and the result shall be announced by the Deputy Speaker.

(b) If a Member dissents from the announced result, the question is unresolved. An unresolved question shall be recorded in the minutes, reported to the House and if related to a bill or order of the day, included in a schedule attached to the Federation Chamber's report to the House.

189 Minutes recorded by Clerk of Federation Chamber

The Clerk of the Federation Chamber shall record the proceedings of the Federation Chamber as the Minutes of Proceedings of the Federation Chamber. The minutes shall form part of the Votes and Proceedings of the House for that sitting.

Suspension and adjournment of Federation Chamber

190 General rules for suspensions and adjournments of the Federation Chamber

The following general rules apply to meetings of the Federation Chamber:

(a) The Deputy Speaker must suspend proceedings in the Federation Chamber to enable Members to attend divisions in the House.

(b) If a quorum is not present the Deputy Speaker must immediately suspend proceedings until a stated time, or adjourn the Federation Chamber.

(c) If the House adjourns, the Deputy Speaker must interrupt the business before the Federation Chamber and immediately adjourn the Federation Chamber.

(d) The Federation Chamber need not adjourn between items of business, nor during a suspension of the House.

(e) The Federation Chamber shall stand adjourned on completion of all matters referred to it, or may be adjourned on motion moved without notice by any Member—

That the Federation Chamber do now adjourn.

(f) No amendment may be moved to the question.

191 Adjournment debate in Federation Chamber

(a) The question ***That the Federation Chamber do now adjourn*** may be debated, but no amendment may be moved to the question.

(b) The following qualifications apply:

Member may require question to be put

(i) If a Member requires the question for adjournment to be put immediately it is proposed, the Deputy Speaker must put the question immediately and without debate.

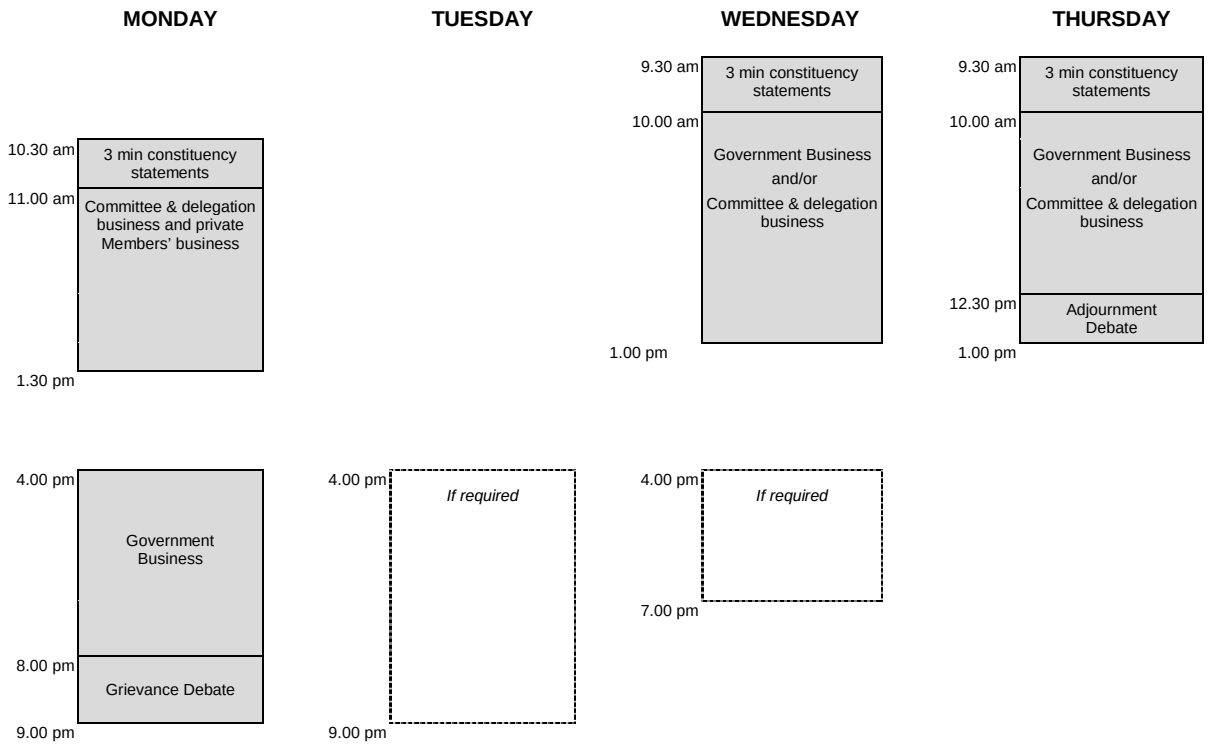
Minister may extend debate

(ii) At the conclusion of the debate a Minister may ask for the debate to be extended by 10 minutes to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised in the debate. After 10 minutes, or if debate concludes earlier, the Deputy Speaker shall immediately adjourn the Federation Chamber.

Unfinished business

(iii) If the business being discussed is not disposed of when adjournment is proposed, the business shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

Figure 4. Federation Chamber order of business



The meeting times of the Federation Chamber are fixed by the Deputy Speaker and are subject to change. Times shown for the start and finish of items of business are approximate. Adjournment debates can occur on days other than Thursdays by agreement between the Whips.

Federation Chamber business

192 Federation Chamber's order of business

The normal order of business of the Federation Chamber is set out in figure 4.

192A ★ ★ ★ ★

192B Grievance debate

(a) The order of the day for the grievance debate stands referred to the Federation Chamber and shall be taken as the final item of business each Monday.

(b) After the Deputy Speaker proposes the question—

That grievances be noted –

any Member may address the Federation Chamber or move any amendment to the question. When debate is interrupted after one hour or if it concludes earlier, the Deputy Speaker shall adjourn the debate on the motion, and the resumption of the debate shall be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

193 Members' three minute constituency statements

The first item of business on any day that the Federation Chamber meets shall be constituency statements by Members. The Deputy Speaker may call a Member to make a constituency statement for no longer than three minutes. The period for Members' constituency statements may continue for 30 minutes, irrespective of suspensions for divisions in the House.

194 Adjournment of debate

If no Member is able to move adjournment of debate, the Deputy Speaker can announce the adjournment:

(a) when there is no further debate on a matter; or
(b) at the time set for the adjournment of the Federation Chamber.

195 Proceedings on bill where question unresolved

The Federation Chamber may continue proceedings on a bill regardless of unresolved questions unless agreement to an unresolved question is necessary to enable further questions to be considered. If progress cannot be made, the Federation Chamber shall return the bill to the House for further consideration.

196 Resumption after suspension or adjournment

The Federation Chamber may resume proceedings at the point at which they were interrupted following any suspension or adjournment of the Federation Chamber.

197 Return of matters to the House

The Federation Chamber may return a matter to the House before its consideration is completed.

(a) A matter may be returned to the House on a motion moved without notice at any time by a Minister—

That further proceedings be conducted in the House.

The motion shall be put without amendment or debate. If the Federation Chamber agrees to, or is unable to resolve, this question, the bill or order of the day shall be returned to the House. Consideration in the House must continue from the point reached in the Federation Chamber and the House must resolve any issues that the Federation Chamber reports.

(b) The House may at any time require a matter to be returned for further consideration, on a motion moved without notice by a Minister. The matter must be set down for consideration at a later hour that day.

(c) An item of government business may be returned to the House by a programming declaration made in accordance with *standing order 45*.

198 Report to the House

(a) When the Federation Chamber has fully considered a bill referred to it, a final question shall be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate—

That this bill be reported to the House, with*[out] [an]* ***amendment****[s] [and with (an) unresolved question(s)]*.

(b) The Clerk of the Federation Chamber shall certify a copy of the bill or other matter to be reported to the House, together with any schedules of amendments and unresolved questions. Unless otherwise provided, the Speaker shall report the matter at a later hour that day when other business is not before the House.