

Senate routine of business

OCTOBER 2022

MONDAY

10 am

- Acknowledgement of country and prayers
- Documents presented
- Committees—proposals to meet [SO 33\(5\)](#)
- Government business only

1.30 pm

- 2 minute statements [SO 57\(4\)](#)

2 pm

- Questions
- Motions to take note of answers [30 mins](#)
- Petitions
- Notices of motion
- Placing of business
- Formal business
- MPI or urgency motion [SO 75—30 mins each for up to 2 proposals](#)
- Consideration of documents tabled earlier in the day [SO 61—30 mins](#)
- Ministerial statements
- Committee memberships
- Messages
- Business of the Senate (if any)
- Government business

From 6.30 pm

[No divisions](#)

8 pm

- Adjournment proposed [30 mins](#)

8.30 pm

- Adjournment

TUESDAY

12 pm

- Acknowledgement of country and prayers
- Documents presented
- Committees—proposals to meet [SO 33\(5\)](#)
- Government business only

1.30 pm

- 2 minute statements [SO 57\(4\)](#)

2 pm

- Questions
- Motions to take note of answers [30 mins](#)
- Petitions
- Notices of motion
- Placing of business
- Formal business
- MPI or urgency motion [SO 75—30 mins each for up to 2 proposals](#)
- Consideration of documents tabled earlier in the day [SO 61—30 mins](#)
- Tabling and consideration of committee reports [SO 62\(4\)—1 hr](#)
- Ministerial statements
- Committee memberships
- Messages
- Business of the Senate (if any)
- Government business

From 6.30 pm

[No divisions](#)

7.30 pm

- Adjournment proposed [No time limit](#)
- Adjournment

WEDNESDAY

9 am

- Acknowledgement of country and prayers
- Documents presented
- Committees—proposals to meet [SO 33\(5\)](#)
- Private senators' bills [1 hr 10 mins](#)
- Government business only

12.15 pm

- Senators' statements [SO 57\(2\)](#)

1.30 pm

- 2 minute statements [SO 57\(4\)](#)

2 pm

- Questions
- Motions to take note of answers [30 mins](#)
- Petitions
- Notices of motion
- Placing of business
- Formal business
- MPI or urgency motion [SO 75—30 mins each for up to 2 proposals](#)
- Consideration of documents tabled earlier in the day [SO 61—30 mins](#)
- Tabling and consideration of committee reports [SO 62\(4\)—1 hr](#)
- Ministerial statements
- Committee memberships
- Messages
- Business of the Senate (if any)
- Government business

From 6.30 pm

[No divisions](#)

7.30 pm

- Adjournment proposed [30 mins](#)

8 pm

- Adjournment

THURSDAY

9 am

- Acknowledgement of country and prayers
- Clerk's documents presented
- Committees—proposals to meet [SO 33\(5\)](#)
- Private senators' bills [1 hr 10 mins](#)
- Government business only

11.15 am

- Petitions
- Notices of motion
- Placing of business
- Formal business
- Committee memberships
- Messages
- Business of the Senate (if any)
- Government business

12.15 pm

- Non-controversial government business only

1.30 pm

- 2 minute statements [SO 57\(4\)](#)

2 pm

- Questions
- Motions to take note of answers [30 mins](#)
- Reports and documents
 - Tabling and consideration of committee reports
 - Consideration of documents
 - Consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports [SO 61\(3\), 62\(1\)—1 hr](#)
- Ministerial statements
- General business debate

From 4.30 pm

[No divisions](#)

5.30 pm

- Adjournment proposed [30 mins](#)

6 pm

- Adjournment

TIMES OF MEETINGS

Monday	10 am to 8.30 pm
Tuesday	midday to adjournment
Wednesday	9 am to 8 pm
Thursday	9 am to 6 pm

LODGEMENT TIMES

Documents

To be received by the Sub-Table Office no later than 5 pm of the working day before the document is to be tabled.

Notices of motion

Signed notices may be lodged with the Sub-Table Office, or the Clerk at the table, by 3.15 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and by 11 am on Thursday.

Notifications authorising a committee to meet during the sitting of the Senate

The form, signed by the chair of the committee, is to be lodged with the Sub-Table Office by 5 pm.

Extensions of time for a committee to report

The form, signed by the chair of the committee, is to be lodged with the Sub-Table Office by 5 pm.

Petitions

Must be lodged with the Table Office by:

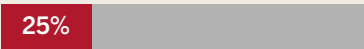
- 9 am on a day on which the Senate sits at midday; and
- 5 pm on the working day prior to the Senate sitting at 9 am or 10 am.

Questions on notice

Must be lodged with the Table Office no later than 5 pm on sitting days, and in non-sitting weeks by 2 pm on the Wednesday before the next day of sitting, to be registered in the next Notice Paper.

SENATE NUMBERS

Quorum: 19



Absolute majority: 39



DEBATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TIME LIMITS

(Guide No. 2 – Rules of debate +)

Adjournment

► Monday	5 mins	SO 54(4)
► Tuesday	5 mins 10 mins	SO 54(4)&(6)
► Wednesday	5 mins	SO 54(4)
► Thursday	5 mins 10 mins	SO 54(4)&(7)

Limit for debate: 30 mins on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, no limit on Tuesday

Bills

(Guide No. 16 – Consideration of legislation +)		
► 1st reading of non-amendable bill	15 mins	SO 112(2)
► 2nd reading	15 mins	SO 189(1)
► In committee	10 mins	SO 189(3)
► 3rd reading	15 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 a committee	5 mins	SO 115(6)
		Limit for debate: 30 mins

Reports and documents

(Guide No. 11 – Opportunities for debating documents and reports +)

Committee reports and government responses

► Motion to take note (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)	10 mins	SO 62(4)
		Limit for debate: 1 hr on Tuesday and Wednesday; Thursday*
► Resumption, including Auditor-General's reports (Thursday)	5 mins	SO 62(1)&(2)
		Limit for debate*
► Motion moved by leave	10 mins	SO 169(2)
		Limit for debate: 30 mins per motion, 1 hr for all motions

Documents

► Motion to take note (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)	5 mins	SO 61(3)
		Limit for debate: 30 mins
► Resumption (Thursday)	5 mins	SO 61(3)
		Limit for debate*
► Motion moved by leave	5 mins	SO 169(2)
		Limit for debate: 15 mins per motion, 30 mins for all motions
		*1hr combined debate on Thursday

Debate

► General	15 mins	SO 189(1)
► In committee	10 mins	SO 189(3)
► In reply	15 mins	SO 189(2)

Matters of public importance and urgency

(Guide No. 9 – Matters of public importance and urgency motions +)		
► All speakers	5 mins	SO 75(7)
		Limit for debate: 30 mins for each proposal, for up to 2 proposals each day

Ministerial statements

► Motion to take note	10 mins	SO 169
		Limit for debate: 30 mins per motion, 1 hr for all motions

Questions

(Guide No. 6 – Questions +)

Without notice

► Primary question	1 min	SO 72(3)
► Answering question	2 mins	SO 72(3)
► Supplementary questions (2)	30 sec	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

Senators' statements

► Each day between 1.30 pm and 2 pm	2 mins	SO 57(4)
► Wednesday between 12.15 pm and 1.30 pm	10 mins	SO 57(2)

Suspension of standing orders	5 mins	SO 209(4)
		Limit for debate: 30 mins

(Guide No. 5 – Suspension of standing orders +)