

Procedural Digest

No. 7

46th Parliament

24 February – 5 March 2020

| February/ March 2020 | | | | |
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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

7.01 Closure of Member motions during second reading debate

Several closure motions were moved during the second reading debate on the following bills:

- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2019-2020;
- Australian Education Amendment (Direct Measure of Income) Bill 2019; and
- Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Improved Home Care Payment Administration No. 1) Bill 2020.

In each case, an opposition Member moved that the government Member speaking be no longer heard and the question was negatived.

Hansard: 26 February 2020, 1883-901
27 February 2020, 1950-93
4 March 2020, 2515-33; 2576-93
5 March 2020, 2665-98

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/752-5; 764-9; 801-4; 805-8; 814-6

SOs 80, 129, 130, 142

7.02 Leave not granted to move third reading– contingent notice used

Following second reading debate, the House did not grant leave to move immediately to the third reading stage to the following bills:

- Australian Education Amendment (Direct Measure of Income) Bill 2020; and
- Statute Update (Regulations References) Bill 2020.

The Minister for Defence Industry, pursuant to contingent notice, moved a suspension of standing orders to enable the third reading to be moved without delay. Debate ensued and the Minister moved that the question be put, which was carried on division. The motion to suspend standing orders was subsequently agreed to on division and the Minister moved that the bills be read a third time. The question was debated and carried on the voices.

Hansard: 26 February 2020, 1873-9
4 March 2020, 2593-600

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/749-52; 805-8

SOs 47, 63, 129, 130, 131, 155

Business

7.03 Statements on Indulgence – Domestic and Family Violence

Before question time on 24 February, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each made statements, by indulgence, regarding the deaths of Hannah Clarke and her children and expressed sympathies to family and friends. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition reflected on the broader impacts of domestic violence in Australia. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, all Members present stood in silence.

[\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 24 February 2020, 1392-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/717*

7.04 Ministerial statement regarding disaster risk reduction

On 26 February, the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to disaster risk reduction and presented a copy of his statement. A shadow minister (Ms King) addressed the House in reply. The Minister moved that the House take note of the statement and the matter was referred to the Federation Chamber, where it was further debated on 3 and 4 March. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 26 February 2020, 1748-54
3 March 2020, 2451-61
4 March 2020, 2640-2
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/735; 797; 811*

SOs 63A, 183, 199, 202

7.05 Consideration of Senate message relating to Aged Care Assessment Teams

On 26 February, the Deputy Speaker reported a message from the Senate, communicating that the Senate had agreed to a resolution rejecting the Government's proposal to privatise Aged Care Assessment Teams. The Senate requested the agreement of the House with this resolution. An Assistant Minister moved that consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting. The Member for Franklin (Ms Collins) moved, as an amendment, that the message be considered immediately. Before the amendment could be seconded, the Assistant Minister moved that the question be put, which was agreed to on division. The question that the Senate message be considered at a later sitting was accordingly put and carried on division.

*Hansard: 26 February 2020, 1856-60
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/742-3*

SOs 81, 261

7.06 Statements by indulgence regarding the Australian Associated Press

Following question time on 3 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each made statements, by indulgence, in relation to the closure of the Australian Associated Press. Members then applauded AAP journalists present in the press gallery. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 3 March 2020, 1455-6

7.07 Motion to postpone order of the day withdrawn

On 4 March, an Assistant Minister moved that government business order of the day No. 4, resumption of debate on the second reading of Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 1) Bill 2020, be postponed until a later hour in the day. The Manager of Opposition Business and the Member for Whitlam (Mr Jones) spoke against the motion. The Assistant Minister then, by leave, withdrew the motion and debate resumed on the bill.

*Hansard: 4 March 2020, 2600-6
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/809*

SOs 37(b), 63

Debate

7.08 Independent and minor party Members all speak on matter of public importance discussion

On 25 February, the Speaker announced that an Independent Member (Mr Wilkie) had proposed a matter of public importance for discussion in the House regarding the rule of law, sovereignty and democracy. The Member spoke for approximately five minutes to allow time for another non-aligned Member to speak. This meant that all six non-aligned Members could speak on the matter.

Standing orders allow one hour for the discussion, ten minutes for the mover and the next speaker and five minutes for any other Member.

*Hansard: 25 February 2020, 1628-42
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/730*

SOs 1, 46

Documents

7.09 Proposed work in the parliamentary zone

On 24 February, a proposal for a sculpture of Sir John McEwen and associated works, within the Parliamentary Zone, was recorded in the Votes and Proceedings as a deemed document. On 4 March, the House approved the proposal, on a motion moved by the Deputy Prime Minister.

A 'deemed paper' is a document, usually a statutory instrument, which—to save the time of the House—is not formally presented at the Table but received by the Clerk of the House and, under the terms of SO 199(b), is deemed to have been presented and is recorded as such in the Votes and Proceedings.

The Parliament Act 1974 requires proposals for works in the parliamentary zone to be laid before, and approved by, each House before implementation.

*Hansard: 4 March 2020, 2486
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/720; 799*

SO 199

Federation Chamber

7.10 Disorder in the Federation Chamber – closure of Members speaking

During Members' constituency statements in the Federation Chamber on 27 February, an opposition Member interrupted a government Member to move that the Member be no longer heard. The question was unresolved and was returned to the House. An opposition Member then rose to speak. A government Member moved that the Member be no longer heard. The question was unresolved and was returned to the House. Another closure motion was moved on the next speaker. The Deputy Speaker advised that he considered the repeated closure motions to be disorderly and suspended the Federation Chamber for 10 minutes. When the meeting resumed, a further closure motion was moved and the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Federation Chamber due to disorderly conduct.

On 2 March, the Speaker reported the events to the House. He reaffirmed that it was his and the Deputy Speaker's opinion that the repeated closure motions were an abuse of the forms of the House and were disorderly.

On indulgence, the Manager of Opposition Business made a statement explaining that the opposition had moved closure motions in the Federation Chamber in response to closure motions being moved against opposition Members in the House.

*Hansard: 27 February 2020, 2056-8
2 March 2020, 35
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/777; 781*
SOs 80, 187, 188

Motions

7.11 Health insurance determination agreed to

During government business on 4 March, the Minister for Education, on behalf of the Minister for Health, pursuant to notice, moved that, in accordance with section 10B of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, the House approve the *Health Insurance (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Amendment Determination 2020* made on 24 February and presented to the House on 26 February. The question was carried on the voices.

*Hansard: 4 March 2020, 2488-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/799*
SOs 111, 117

Private Members' Business

7.12 Private Members share speaking time on presentation of bills

On 24 February and 2 March, by mutual agreement, private Members shared their second reading speaking time on the presentation of four bills.

The Member for Fenner (Dr Leigh) and the Member for Bean (Mr David Smith) each spoke for five minutes on the second reading of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (ACT Integrity Commission Powers) Bill 2020.

The Member for Clark (Mr Wilkie) and the Member for Mayo (Ms Sharkie) each spoke for five minutes on the second reading of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Amendment (Transparency in Carbon Emissions Accounting) Bill 2020.

The Member for New England (Mr Joyce) and the Member for Kennedy (Mr Katter) each spoke for five minutes on the second reading of the Representation Amendment (6 Regions per State, 2 Senators per Region) Bill 2020.

The Member for Melbourne (Mr Bandt) and the Member for Warringah (Ms Steggall) each spoke for five minutes on the second reading of the Climate Emergency Declaration Bill 2020.

The standing orders allow the mover of the second reading of a private Member's bill to speak for ten minutes at the time of presentation. Sometimes, the mover chooses to share their speaking time with the seconder.

Hansard: 24 February 2020, 1335-7
2 March 2020, 13-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/713-4; 779
SOs 41, 145, 116

Questions

7.13 Extension of time granted for answer

During question time on 4 March, the Member for Leichhardt (Mr Entsch) asked the Treasurer a question. Before the Minister had concluded his answer, the Manager of Opposition Business moved that the Minister be granted an extension of time. The question was agreed to on the voices and the Minister continued his answer.

The House may resolve to grant a Member speaking an extension of time. Under Standing Order 1, the extension may not exceed half the original period allotted (to a maximum of 10 minutes). As a limit of three minutes applies to answers during question time, the Minister was granted an extension of 90 seconds.

Hansard: 4 March 2020, 2547
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/713-4; 804
SOs 1, 78, 104

Speaker

7.14 Repeated quorum calls; remarks by Speaker

Several quorum calls were made throughout the sitting fortnight. On 4 March the Speaker noted that a Member had left the Chamber after a quorum was called. The Speaker reminded the House that *House of Representative Practice* makes it clear that it is highly disorderly to leave the House once a quorum has been called. The Speaker advised the House that, if such behaviour occurred again, the Member would be named.

Hansard: 4 March 2020, 2581-2
SO 56(d)

Offensive words[#]

| | Hansard | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| | <i>Date</i> | <i>Page</i> |
| '...they put a gun to the head of Australian agriculture...' | 24 February 2020 | 1406 |
| 'polishing a turd' | 24 February 2020 | 1434 |
| 'Those opposite have the hypocrisy to walk in here—' | 26 February 2020 | 1814 |
| 'He's a hypocrite!' | 26 February 2020 | 1830 |
| 'I enjoyed the irony of the member for Ballarat using the word 'rort' at the dispatch box. It's a word that's become synonymous with the member for Ballarat, so I think we all enjoyed the irony there.' | 26 February 2020 | 1850 |
| 'this corrupt government' | 26 February 2020 | 1888 |
| 'You talk about rorting—Ballarort!' | 27 February 2020 | 1970 |
| 'This is a corrupt government' | 27 February 2020 | 2026 |
| 'It's good that he's awake at least today' | 4 March 2020 | 2552 |
| 'But why did he have to lie about it?' | 4 March 2020 | 2565 |
| 'What an idiot!' | 4 March 2020 | 2568 |
| 'Listen, knucklehead, just behave yourself.' | 4 March 2020 | 2590-1 |
| 'In saying that, I do understand that the concept of tax integrity—or integrity, period—is difficult for the member for Whitlam because has the same—' | 4 March 2020 | 2611 |
| 'When the member opposite likes to cite her diversity as something better than other people's diversity, she ignores reality.' | 5 March 2020 | 2735-6 |

SOs 89, 90, 92

[#] List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.