

Procedural Digest

No. 10

46th Parliament

12-14 May 2020

May 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

10.01 Introduction and passage of Privacy Amendment (Public Health Contact Information) Bill 2020

On 12 May, the Attorney-General, by leave, introduced the Privacy Amendment (Public Health Contact Information) Bill 2020. Following the first reading of the bill, the Attorney-General moved that the bill be read a second time and made his second reading speech.

Leave was granted for the second reading debate to continue immediately. Debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 43 (Members' Statements) and was resumed at a later hour. Upon resumption of debate, the Deputy Manager of Opposition Business moved a second reading amendment. The amendment urged the government to do more to build public confidence in the COVIDSafe app. Several Members spoke to the bill and subsequent amendment. At the conclusion of debate, the question on the amendment was put in a form such that most Members would not have to move across the Chamber to vote if a division was called (see entry **10.18**). The amendment was subsequently negated on the voices, and the bill was read a second time. By leave, the Attorney-General moved that the bill be read a third time and the question was carried.

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3076-81; 3127-70
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/858; 862-3

SOs 63, 141, 142, 145, 148, 155

10.02 Introduction and passage of Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Emergency Leave) Bill 2020

On 13 May, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, for the Minister for Health, introduced the Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Emergency Leave) Bill 2020. Following the first reading of the bill, the Minister moved that the bill be read a second time and made his second reading speech.

Following the Minister's speech, leave was granted for debate to resume at a later hour in the day. Following a ministerial statement, several members spoke to the second reading of the bill. Debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 43 (Members' Statements) and was resumed at a later hour.

Later in the day, debate continued, and the bill was subsequently read a second time. By leave, an Assistant Minister then moved that the bill be read a third time and the question was carried.

Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3254-5; 3284-95; 3372-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/876; 877; 833

SOs 43, 63, 141, 142, 155

Business

10.03 Special sitting of the House

On 8 April, the House adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by the Speaker, in accordance with the resolution agreed to earlier in the day. On 29 April, in accordance with standing order 30(c), the Speaker set 12 noon on Tuesday, 12 May 2020 as the next meeting of the House.

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3061
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/857

SO 30

10.04 Suspension of standing orders – May sittings

In accordance with Standing Order 47(c)(ii), on 12 May the Leader of the House moved that standing orders be suspended so that the House and Federation Chamber could meet on Wednesday, 13 May and Thursday, 14 May. In moving the motion, the Leader of the House noted that he and the Manager of Opposition Business had agreed that an absolute majority was not required to agree to the suspension.

The Manager of Opposition Business moved, as an amendment, that the first item of business on Wednesday, 13 May be the presentation of a revised program of sittings for 2020. The amendment was disagreed to on division and the suspension motion was carried on the voices.

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3061-4; 3123-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/858; 857-8; 860-1

SO 47

10.05 Ministerial statement regarding the economy

On 12 May, by leave, the Treasurer made a ministerial statement relating to the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to noting the current financial and economic impacts faced by the nation, the Treasurer noted the forecast economic decline. The Treasurer acknowledged the increase in borrowings to support the Government's economic response but reassured the House that measures had been designed 'to protect the structural integrity of the budget'. The Treasurer concluded by highlighting the financial and economic action taken by the Government in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In response, the Shadow Treasurer acknowledged the current and foreshadowed economic impacts of the coronavirus on the nation. The Shadow Treasurer reiterated the Opposition's position on current JobKeeper legislation and stressed the need to include additional groups into the scheme. The Shadow Treasurer expressed concern with the Government Budget and response to the forecast deficit. He concluded by stressing the need for an economic plan.

*Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3064-75
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/858*

SOs 63A, 199

10.06 Statements on indulgence – Death of police officers

Following Statements by Members on 12 May, the Prime Minister, on indulgence, made a statement regarding the deaths of Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Senior Constable Kevin King, Constable Glen Humphris and Constable Joshua Prestney. The Prime Minister acknowledged the efforts made by the community to honour the fallen police officers during a time of social restriction. To conclude, the Prime Minister spoke of the lives of each officer.

The Leader of the Opposition joined the Prime Minister in paying tribute to the police officers. He acknowledged the careers of each officer and reflected on the loss and shock felt by family, friends and colleagues. He concluded his remarks by giving thanks for the service of each officer. As a mark of respect, all Members present rose in silence. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3090-3

10.07 Ministerial statement regarding Australia's COVID-19 health response

On 13 May, the Minister for Health, by leave, made a statement relating to Australia's COVID-19 health response and presented a copy of his statement. The Minister noted that 12 May was International Nurses Day, and acknowledged the work of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health workers, aged care workers and disability workers. The Minister also acknowledged the sacrifices Australians had made to protect the nation against the spread of the coronavirus. The Minister identified the strategies put in place to flatten the epidemiological curve and reduce the daily rate of growth, as well as reducing the daily numbers of those affected by coronavirus. The Minister also identified strategies to build the capacity of primary care, aged care, hospitals and medical research. To conclude, the Minister thanked several Health Department staff, the Chief Medical Officer and the Prime Minister.

In response, the Shadow Minister for Health thanked the Minister for Health for his statement and acknowledged his efforts. The Shadow Minister went on to acknowledge the efforts taken by the Department of Health, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, as well as state and territory premiers and chief ministers and their health ministers and officials. The Shadow Minister added that the Opposition had supported measures from the Government when it should. However, the Shadow Minister emphasised the importance of scrutiny and holding the Government to account during a crisis. The Shadow Minister continued by highlighting several constructive suggestions made by the Opposition in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Following the conclusion of the Shadow Minister's speech, the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management moved that the House take note of the Minister for Health's statement. The matter was referred to the Federation Chamber, where it was debated on 14 May. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3273-84

14 May 2020, 3568-91

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/877; 898

SOs 63A, 183, 199

10.08 Ministerial statement regarding Australian natural disasters

On 14 May, the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, by leave, made a statement relating to the bushfire recovery and response to the drought. The Minister outlined strategies, funding and support the Government had put in place to support farmers, as well as those communities devastated by the bushfires.

In response, the Leader of the Opposition noted that the Opposition had acted and continues to act in the national interest during these national emergencies. The Leader of the Opposition outlined the ideas put forward by the Opposition to reduce the impact of these events, as well as supporting those affected. In particular, the Leader of the Opposition highlighted the work on the ground by opposition Members during the bushfires. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 14 May 2020, 3477-85

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/893

SO 63A

Committees

10.09 Reference to Joint Committee

On 13 May, the Attorney-General moved that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services inquire into a number of matters relating to the level of regulation applying to the class action industry, and its impact on fair and equitable outcomes for plaintiffs. The referral required that the Committee report by 7 December 2020. During debate the Member for Whitlam (Mr Stephen Jones) moved, as an amendment, that an alternative matter be referred regarding the recommendations of the royal commission into misconduct in the banking, superannuation and financial services industry. At the conclusion of debate, the Speaker put the question on the amendment in the form that the amendment be disagreed to, which was carried on division. The original motion was agreed to on division.

Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3339-66

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/879-82

SOs 224

10.10 Statement on indulgence – Communications and the Arts Committee

On 12 May, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts presented the following report: *The Next Gen Future: Inquiry into the Deployment, Adoption and Application of 5G in Australia*. Following the presentation of the report, the Chair, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

As the first item of business on 13 May, the Speaker granted indulgence to the Deputy Chair of the committee to make a statement relating to the report that was presented on 12 May.

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3126-7
13 May 2020, 3217
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/862

SO 39

Documents

10.11 Revised 2020 program of sittings agreed to

On 14 May, the Leader of the House presented the revised program of sittings for 2020 and moved that the program be agreed to. The motion was agreed to on the voices.

Hansard: 14 May 2020, 3529
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/895

SOs 29, 199

Federation Chamber

10.12 Statement by Deputy Speaker regarding social distancing in the Federation Chamber

On 13 May, the Deputy Speaker made a statement regarding special arrangements in the Federation Chamber to ensure social distancing is maintained. The Deputy Speaker advised Members that increased space had been made between seats, to better satisfy social distancing requirements. Members were encouraged to dispose of water bottles supplied or to bring their own water. Members were also advised that hand sanitiser was available and that the entry doors to the Federation Chamber would remain open throughout the day. The Deputy Speaker informed the Federation Chamber that permission had been given to photographers to sit in the press gallery and take photos, due to the historic nature of the current sittings.

Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3398

10.13 Adjournment Debate in the Federation Chamber

On Wednesday, 13 May, the Deputy Speaker informed the Federation Chamber that the whips had agreed that the motion 'That the Federation Chamber do now adjourn' would be debated for one hour. Following the Deputy Speaker's statement, the Deputy Prime Minister moved that 'the Federation Chamber do now adjourn'. Debate continued from 4.00 pm until 5.11 pm, when the Federation Chamber was adjourned.

While an adjournment debate is scheduled to occur in the Federation Chamber on Thursdays, adjournment debates can occur on other days by agreement between the whips.

*Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3417-33
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/886*

SO 191

Members

10.14 Resignation of Member and valedictory remarks incorporated into *Hansard*

On 12 May, the Speaker announced that he had received a letter from the Hon. Michael Joseph Kelly resigning his seat as the Member for Eden-Monaro. The Speaker advised that possible dates for the by-election were being considered.

On 14 May, the Speaker noted that Dr Kelly did not make a valedictory speech as he resigned prior to the House sitting. The Speaker subsequently presented a document relaying Dr Kelly's valedictory remarks, and advised that the remarks would be incorporated into *Hansard*.

On indulgence, the Leader of the Opposition made a statement acknowledging Dr Kelly's work and service, both in uniform and in the Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition concluded his remarks by wishing the former Member well. The Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, on indulgence, also made a statement regarding Dr Kelly's resignation. The Assistant Minister acknowledged the work and friendships formed over the past decade and wished Dr Kelly every success with his endeavours into the future. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3061
14 May 2020, 3462-7
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/857; 892*

SO 199

10.15 Leave of absence to all Members

On 14 May, the Leader of the House moved that leave of absence be given to every Member of the House from the determination of the sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting. The question was carried on the voices.

*Hansard: 14 May 2020, 3530
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/895*

SO 26

Motions

10.16 Crossbench motion to suspend standing orders – Dairy industry

On 14 May, the Member for Kennedy (Mr Katter) moved to suspend standing orders to allow him to move a motion which, among other things, called on the Government to support Australia's dairy farmers by enforcing a minimum farmgate milk price.

The motion was seconded by the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources (Mr Fitzgibbon). Following debate, the question was put that the suspension motion be disagreed to, which was resolved in the affirmative on division.

The Speaker then made a statement regarding the increased length of motions to suspend standing orders. The Speaker pointed out that this was against practice and that motions needed to put forward a concise point that the House could decide on. The Speaker warned Members that, if argument continued to be the dominating feature of suspension motions, he would withdraw the call, ask the Member to go and amend their motion and give them the call at a later date.

Hansard: 14 May 2020, 3444-50
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/888-90

SO 47

Petitions

10.17 Petitions Committee presents petitions on Wednesday

On Wednesday, 13 May, a member of the Standing Committee on Petitions presented report No. 12: *Report Relating to the Consideration of Petitions and Matters Relating to the Petitions System*. By leave, the Member then presented 36 petitions, approved by the committee.

The Chair of the Petitions Committee usually presents petitions on Monday mornings.

Hansard: 13 May 2020, 3258-71
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/888-7

SOs 34, 207

Speaker

10.18 Statement by Speaker – Procedure for Divisions and Recording of Pairs

Prior to the first division for the week, the Speaker advised the House that questions would be put in such a way that most Members would not need to move from one side of the Chamber to the other during divisions. This approach has been adopted since the 23 March sitting (see entry **8.13**).

The Speaker noted that, due to COVID-19, large numbers of pairs of opposition and government Members had been necessary to limit the number of Members in the Chamber during divisions. He added that in the last two sittings the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip had read into the *Hansard* the names of those Members of their respective parties who had been paired as a way of recognising the special arrangements and recognising how Members would have voted if they had that opportunity. To support this practice, the Speaker informed the House that pairs would be recorded in the House records, the *Votes and Proceedings*, and in the *Hansard*. Pairs have previously been recorded in this way, including during the first parliament.

Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3063
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/858

10.19 Statement by Speaker – Department of Parliamentary Services

On 12 May, the Speaker informed the House that the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) had worked with Services Australia to redeploy staff who were available to help in the national effort. The Speaker noted that staff were helping with the processing of JobKeeper payment claims, as well as helping the Department of Health with accurate and timely messaging. The Speaker added that a satellite processing centre had been established in Parliament House, where 32 staff were currently working.

*Hansard: 12 May 2020, 3108
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/859*

10.20 Question to Speaker

Following Question Time on 14 May, the Leader of the Opposition expressed his, and the Parliament's, appreciation for the staff of the parliamentary departments and contractors. The Leader of the Opposition particularly acknowledged the efforts taken by the cleaners during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Leader of the Opposition asked the Speaker if he could liaise with the President of the Senate to ensure that staff across the Parliament are recognised for their hard work.

In response, the Speaker acknowledged the work of many people in the building who have allowed the Parliament to continue operating while protecting the health of building occupants. The Speaker also acknowledged the work of the cleaners, as well as the COVID-19 Taskforce, those who had volunteered to work at the Services Australia satellite centre, the accommodation team, the ICT team, DPS and the catering team.

The Speaker assured the Leader of the Opposition that he would communicate with the President of the Senate to ensure appropriate recognition is given, once the Parliament is back to business as usual.

Hansard: 14 May 2020, 3527-8

SO 103