

Procedural Digest

No. 21

46th Parliament

24 May–3 June 2021

May 2021				
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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

21.01 Budget debate

Debate resumed on the second reading of the main appropriation bill on 24 May, in cognate with Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1). The Shadow Treasurer spoke first and moved a second reading amendment to the bill. Later in the day, the Leader of the Australian Greens moved an amendment to the amendment proposed by the Shadow Treasurer. The three bills were referred to the Federation Chamber, by programming declaration, at the adjournment of the debate.

The budget debate continued in the Federation Chamber throughout the sitting fortnight. On Thursday, 3 June, the question was put on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens and, as it could not be decided on the voices, the main appropriation bill was returned to the House with an unresolved question. There, the amendment was negatived on division and the amendment moved by the Shadow Treasurer was negatived on the voices. The bill was read a second time and was referred back to the Federation Chamber for the consideration in detail stage.

Later in the day, the House agreed to suspend standing orders to alter the order of business in the Federation Chamber, from 15 to 17 June, to allow more time for consideration of the appropriation bills.

Hansard: 24 May 2021, 4283-300; 4329
3 June 2021, 5521; 5556-8; 5651

Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1851-2, 1854, 1948, 1950-1

SOs 45, 121, 124, 142, 145, 188

21.02 Customs Tariff Proposal

On 26 May, the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs moved Customs Tariff Proposal (No. 3) 2021. He explained that the proposal provided a tariff concession for prescribed goods for use in the manufacture and development of motor vehicles designed or engineered in Australia.

By convention, duties can be collected from the day a tariff proposal is moved, even though the motion has not been agreed.

*Hansard: 26 May 2021, 4698
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1882*

SOs 178, 179

21.03 Adjournment negated to allow passage of bill

On 3 June, debate resumed on the second reading of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Your Future, Your Super) Bill 2021. The bill was read a second time and a message from the Governor-General recommending appropriation was announced before the time for the automatic adjournment. At 4.30pm the question that the House do not adjourn was proposed. The Assistant Treasurer required the question to be put immediately without debate and the question was carried on division.

The House proceeded to consider the bill in detail. Amendments proposed by the government, opposition and independent members were decided and the bill, as amended, was agreed. The Assistant Treasurer moved that the bill be read a third time and the question was carried on division. The House was then adjourned, without debate, at 5.14pm.

The House usually adjourns at 5pm on Thursdays, following a thirty minute adjournment debate.

*Hansard: 3 June 2021, 5612-29
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1957-62*

SOs 29, 31, 32

Business

21.04 Statements by indulgence of the Chair

Over the sitting fortnight, statements by indulgence of the Chair were made in relation to a power outage at Callide Power Station in Queensland (25 May) [\[Watch\]](#), the death of Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards AC (26 May) [\[Watch\]](#), and the death of photojournalist Mr Ray Strange (1 June) [\[Watch\]](#).

*Hansard: 25 May 2021, 4493-9
26 May 2021, 4768-9
1 June 2021, 5137-8*

Members

21.05 Leave of absence granted for parental leave

On 3 June, the Leader of the Opposition moved that Ms O'Neil be given leave of absence until 22 November 2021 for the birth of her child. He wished Ms O'Neil well and the question was carried.

*Hansard: 3 June 2021, 5595
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/11955*

SO 26

21.06 Infant in the Chamber

During members' statements on 27 May, the Member for Perth spoke about women in parliament while holding his infant daughter.

Under the standing orders, a member may bring an infant in their care into the Chamber.

*Hansard: 27 May 2021, 4985-6
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/11955*

SO 257

Motions

21.07 Same motion disallowed

On 26 May, an opposition member moved to suspend standing orders to allow her to move a motion calling for the Chair of the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training to be discharged from the committee, in light of recent allegations made against him. The Speaker noted that the motion was almost identical to a motion negated the previous day and similar in substance to a number of other motions recently moved by opposition members. He explained that the same motion could not be continuously moved once the House had determined the matter and ruled that he could not accept the motion.

The Speaker may disallow any motion or amendment which he or she considers is the same in substance as any question already resolved in the same session (SO 114 (b)).

*Hansard: 26 May 2021, 4675-6
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1877*

SOs 47, 114

Parliamentary administration

21.08 Agreement for members to contribute remotely

On 27 May, following the announcement of COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, the Leader of the House presented an *Agreement for members to contribute remotely to parliamentary proceedings* to apply for the following week. As with similar agreements made between the Leader of the House and Manager of Opposition Business this parliament, the agreement

allowed for members unable to attend sittings because of the pandemic to participate in certain proceedings remotely via the official video facility.

Over the next week, five members made various contributions via video link.

*Hansard: 27 May 2021; 5012
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1898-9*

Private members' business

21.09 Private members' business in Federation Chamber on Wednesday

In accordance with a resolution of the House agreed on 13 May, most of the Federation Chamber meeting on Wednesday, 2 June, was dedicated to private members' business.

Private members' business is usually scheduled on Mondays in the House and Federation Chamber.

SOs 47, 192, 222

Privilege

21.10 Statement by Speaker on privilege matter

On 24 May the Speaker made a statement in response to a matter of privilege raised by an independent member (Mr Craig Kelly) the previous sitting week (see **20.15**). The matter concerned whether the member's banning by Facebook on its social media platforms represented an improper interference with the free performance of his duties as a member such as would amount to a contempt of the House.

The Speaker noted Facebook's explanation that it had removed the member's Facebook page because he had violated its policy of not allowing users to share misinformation about COVID-19. He also acknowledged the member's concern that the action had impeded his ability to communicate with his constituents. However, he did not find, on the information provided, that a prima facie case of improper interference had been made out. Accordingly, he did not give precedence to a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests.

*Hansard: 24 May 2021, 4328-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/1852-3*

SO 51

Offensive words[#]

	<i>Hansard</i>	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'...as we've heard from these almost sociopathic contributions...'	27 May 2021	5026
'This is some form of mendacity, deceit and duplicity when in fact the ad was on behalf of the Liberal Party and authorised by the Liberal Party and the homepage solicited donations to the Liberal Party—'	27 May 2021	5078
'idiot'	3 June 2021	1610

SOs 89, 90, 92

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