

Procedural Digest

No. 24

46th Parliament

23 August – 2 September 2021

August – September 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

24.01 Bill introduced and passed all stages in one sitting

On 25 August, a minister presented the Foreign Intelligence Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and gave the second reading speech. Leave was granted for the debate to be adjourned to a later hour (rather than, as is normal practice, a future sitting day).

Later, the Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security presented its advisory report on the bill. Debate resumed on the bill later in the day and, after two speakers, the bill was read a second time. During consideration in detail, an assistant minister moved government amendments and explained that they had been prepared in response to the recommendations of the committee. The amendments were agreed to and the bill was read a third time.

By indulgence of the Chair, Dr Helen Haines noted the fast passage of the bill and placed on record that independent and minor party members had not been given the opportunity to properly consider it.

Hansard: 25 August 2021, 8517-23; 8617-8; 8644-8; 8649
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2151; 2154; 2155

SOs 39, 63, 141, 142, 148, 155

24.02 Senate bill introduced and passed all stages in one sitting

On 2 September, a message from the Senate was reported transmitting the Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Bill 2021. The bill was read a first time. The minister representing the Attorney-General then moved the second reading and delivered the second reading speech. In it, he explained that the bill implemented reforms in response to the Respect@Work report on the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces. When the minister concluded his speech, the House gave leave for the debate to continue immediately.

The Manager of Opposition Business was the first speaker and he moved a second reading amendment calling on the government to fully implement the legislative changes recommended by the Respect@Work report. Debate continued and several members spoke before the amendment was negated and the bill was read a second time.

The bill was considered in detail and opposition amendments were negated on division.
The bill was then read a third time.

Hansard: 2 September 2021, 9222-77
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2190-1
SOs 63, 141, 142, 145, 148, 155

Business

24.03 Statements on Tokyo Paralympic Games

The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition made statements regarding the Tokyo Paralympic Games and the Australian Paralympic Team, on 24 August, 25 August and 2 September.

Hansard: 24 August 2021, 8431
25 August 2021, 8601
2 September 2021, 9290-2

Committees

24.04 Privileges Committee report regarding citizen's right of reply

On 2 September, the Privileges and Members' Interests Committee presented its report on an application from a citizen for the publication of a response to references made in the House. In its report, the Committee noted that the applicant had not been named, nor were they readily identifiable in the remarks in question. As such, the committee found that a response from the applicant was not warranted.

Hansard: 2 September 2021, 9217
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2190

SO 216

Members

24.05 Member named and suspended

During question time on 26 August, the Speaker ordered opposition member Mr Julian Hill to leave the chamber for one hour for interjecting. The member continued to interject as he left the Chamber.

At the end of question time, the Speaker stated that the member's behaviour had been unacceptable and that members asked to leave the chamber should do so immediately, without directing comment or abuse at anyone. The Speaker named the member and the Leader of the House accordingly moved that the member be suspended from the service of the House. The question was carried on division and the member was suspended for 24 hours.

Hansard: 26 August 2021, 8745; 8755-7
Votes and Proceedings: 2163-4

SO 94

24.06 Leave of absence

On the last day of the sitting fortnight, the Leader of the House moved that leave of absence be given to all members until the date of the next sitting of the House. The question was carried.

The Leader of the Opposition then moved that Mr Jason Clare be given leave of absence from 18 to 28 October for the birth of his child. He wished the member and his partner well and the question was carried.

A member's place becomes vacant if, without permission of the House, he or she does not attend the House for two consecutive months of any session of the Parliament (s. 38, The Constitution).

*Hansard: 2 September 2021, 9311
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2193*

SO 26

Motions

24.07 Prime Minister's motion on Afghanistan

On 23 August, the House agreed to suspend standing orders to allow the Prime Minister to move a motion regarding the urgent and dangerous situation in Afghanistan. The suspension motion provided for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to each speak for 10 minutes and for the Deputy Prime Minister, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Defence and the Member for Gorton to each speak for five minutes. The Prime Minister's motion was debated throughout the sitting fortnight, with several members speaking in the debate. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 23 August 2021, 8303-13
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2139-40*

SO 47

24.08 Expediency motion for quarantine facilities

On 25 August, a minister moved that work commence on new quarantine facilities in Queensland and Western Australia without referral to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, due to the urgent nature of the works. The minister and the Leader of the Opposition both spoke to the motion before the question was carried on the voices.

*Hansard: 25 August 2021, 8533-4
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2152*

24.09 Condolence motion on death of Senator Alexander Gallacher

On 30 August, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made statements on the death of sitting senator, Senator Alex Gallacher. As a mark of respect, all members present rose in silence.

The next day, the Prime Minister moved a motion of condolence, acknowledging Senator Gallacher's service to Australia and offering sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

The Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the House and Manager of Opposition Business each spoke to the motion. All members present rose in silence and debate was adjourned. The motion was further debated and carried on 1 September. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 30 August 2021, 8852-3
31 August 2021, 8937-6
1 September 2021, 9183-200
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2175; 2186
SO 49

24.10 Prime Minister's motion on the ANZUS Treaty

On 1 September, the House again agreed to suspend standing orders to allow the Prime Minister to move a motion, this time regarding the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty. The suspension motion provided for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to each speak for 10 minutes and for the Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Defence and the Member for Gorton to each speak for five minutes, before adjournment of the debate. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 1 September 2021, 9060-70; 9077-8
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2181-2
SO 47

Parliamentary administration

24.11 Members' attendance and remote participation

Due to COVID-19 outbreaks across the country, attendance in the House was low, with around 60 members attending the House each day. The official video facility enabled members who were unable to attend in person to participate in debates remotely. In total, 61 members spoke via video link at least once over the fortnight.

On 26 August and 2 September, the Manager of Opposition Business presented the voting intentions of independent and minor party members unable to attend the sittings.

Hansard: 26 August 2021, 8773; 8775
2 September 2021, 9330
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2164-5; 2195
SO 199

Private members' business

24.12 Private members' motions during government business time

During government business time on 31 August, independent member Dr Helen Haines moved to suspend standing orders to allow her to move a motion calling on the government to establish a strong, independent integrity commission. The motion was debated and disagreed to on the voices.

On 2 September, another independent member, Mr Craig Kelly, moved to suspend standing orders during government business time, to allow him to move a motion calling on the

government to immediately bring on his No Domestic COVID Vaccine Passports Bill 2021. The House divided and, with only two members voting in support, the Speaker declared the motion disagreed to without completing the count.

Hansard: 31 August 2021, 8984-8
2 September 2021, 9324-7
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2176, 2194
SO 47

Offensive words[#]

	Hansard	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'The biggest fraud in Australian politics is the Prime Minister...'	24 August 2021	8442
'But this money should be distributed on the basis of merit and need, not this mysterious alchemy, which ordinary Australians know is nothing more than corruption and roting...'	24 August 2021	8443
'Meanwhile, the shadow Treasurer has been spreading lies that JobKeeper funds were sent to dead people.'	31 August 2021	9001
'He is the bloke who starts the bushfire and then starts telling people who are trying to put the bushfire out to put down the hose.'	1 September 2021	9146

SOs 89, 90, 92

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