

# Procedural Digest

No. 27

46<sup>th</sup> Parliament

8 – 17 February 2022

February 2022				
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7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18

## Bills

### 27.01 Coronavirus response bills introduced and pass all stages in one day

On 9 February, the Assistant Treasurer presented Appropriation (Coronavirus Response) Bills Nos. 1 and 2. Before the presentation of each bill, a message from the Governor-General was announced recommending appropriation for the purposes of the bill. In his second reading speeches, the Assistant Treasurer explained that the bills were time sensitive as they provided additional appropriation for coronavirus response programs through February and March. At the conclusion of the minister's speech on each bill, leave was granted for the debate to resume later in the day.

Debate later resumed on Appropriation (Coronavirus Response) Bill (No. 1) 2021-2022, in cognate with the second bill. The Shadow Treasurer was the first speaker and moved a second reading amendment. At the conclusion of the debate, the amendment was negated on the voices and both bills, in turn, passed all remaining stages on the voices.

*Hansard: 8 February 2022, 118-9; 122-37  
Votes and Proceedings: 2021/2446-7*

**SOs 63, 142**

### 27.02 Extended sitting for passage of religious discrimination bills; Speaker gives casting vote; government loses votes on the floor of the House

On 9 February, debate resumed on the second reading of the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021, in cognate with the Religious Discrimination (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021 and the Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Just before the time for the adjournment of the House to be proposed, standing orders were suspended to allow for an extended sitting for consideration of the three bills, as well as three unrelated bills. The second reading cognate debate on the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 then continued until after 1am.

At the conclusion of the debate, a second reading amendment was negated on division and the question that the bill be read a second time was carried on division. The bill then

proceeded to the consideration in detail stage. Amendments moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens and by the Member for Hughes were disagreed to.

Government amendments were then moved and carried on the voices. A minister moved another set of government amendments and the Shadow Attorney-General moved an amendment to one of these amendments. The question that the opposition amendment to the government amendment be disagreed to was put and a division called. The numbers for the ayes and the noes being equal, the Speaker gave his casting vote with the ayes on the principle that, where further discussion is not possible, decisions should not be taken except by a majority. The government amendments were then carried.

Opposition amendments were then moved and disagreed to on division. Consideration in detail concluded and the question that the bill be read a third time was carried on division.

The Religious Discrimination (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021 was then called on, read a second time and passed by the House.

Next, the Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was called on and read a second time before proceeding to the consideration in detail stage. The Centre Alliance member, Ms Rebekha Sharkie, moved an amendment which was negated on division. She then moved another amendment. The House divided on the question that the amendment be disagreed to. The question was negated, with five government members 'crossing the floor' to vote in support of the amendment. The question that the amendment be agreed to was then put and carried on division. The question that the bill, as amended, be agreed to was put and carried, with most government members voting against. Consideration in detail concluded and the bill was read a third time.

Two other bills listed in the suspension motion were then passed by the House and consideration of a third bill was postponed. The House finally adjourned at 5.01am.

*Hansard: 9 February 2022, 204-88*  
*Votes and Proceedings: 2022/2451-62*  
**SOs 29, 31, 47, 145, 148, 150, 155**

## Business

### 27.03 Statements on anniversary of national apology to the Stolen Generations

The House suspended standing orders on 14 February to allow for the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Indigenous Australians and the shadow minister to each speak for 10 minutes on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national apology to the Stolen Generations. After the speeches, the House agreed to allow further statements in the Federation Chamber. Further statements were made the next day. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 14 February 2022, 595-601*  
*15 February 2022, 818-29*  
*Votes and Proceedings: 2022/2473, 2500*  
**SOs 47, 183**

## 27.04 Statements on Bangka Island Massacre

On 16 February the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements, by indulgence of the Chair, on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bangka Island Massacre. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 16 February 2022, 883-4*

## 27.05 Statements on Commonwealth Integrity Commission

On 17 February seven members, including independent, minor party, government and opposition members, made statements by indulgence regarding the establishment of a Commonwealth Integrity Commission.

*Hansard: 17 February 2022, 1023-5*

## 27.06 Statements on Senator Payne's length of service

Also on 17 February, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition spoke by indulgence to congratulate Senator the Hon Marise Payne on becoming the longest serving female senator in Australian history.

*Hansard: 17 February 2022, 1054-5*

# Committees

## 27.07 New select committee on parliamentary standards

On 14 February a message was reported informing the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution to establish a Joint Select Committee on Parliamentary Standards, to develop a code of conduct for Commonwealth parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and parliamentary workplaces to ensure safe and respectful behaviour. The question that the House concur with the Senate resolution to establish the joint select committee was carried on the voices.

*Hansard: 14 February 2022, 601-3*  
*Votes and Proceedings: 2022/2474-6*

**SOs 223, 224, 261**

# Parliamentary administration

## 27.08 Most members attend sittings

Just a small number of members were prevented from attending sittings this fortnight for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with recent practice, an *Agreement for members to contribute remotely to parliamentary proceedings* was presented on the first sitting day, to allow those members to speak via the official video facility.

*Hansard: 8 February 2022, 6-7*  
*Votes and Proceedings: 2022/2416-7*

**SO 199**

## Members

### 27.09 Leave of absence

On 8 February, the Leader of the Opposition moved that leave of absence be given to the Member for Hindmarsh (Mr Mark Butler) until 29 March following the birth of his son the previous day. The Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Health and Aged Care both offered their congratulations to Mr Butler and his partner, and the question was carried.

In line with recent practice, the House agreed to grant all members leave of absence on the last sitting day of the fortnight, from the determination of the sitting until the date of the next sitting.

*Hansard:* 8 February 2022, 38  
17 February 2022, 1055  
*Votes and Proceedings:* 2022/P2425, 2513  
**SO 26**

### 27.10 Valedictory speeches by retiring members

Over the sitting fortnight, several members not contesting the next election made valedictory speeches, reflecting on their parliamentary careers:

- Mr John Alexander OAM, Hon Damian Drum and Mr Ken O’Dowd (10 February)
- Mr Andrew Laming (14 February)
- Ms Nicolle Flint and Hon Warren Snowdon (16 February)
- Hon Joel Fitzgibbon and Ms Julie Owens (17 February)

*Hansard:* 10 February 2022, 301-10  
14 February 2022, 634-8  
16 February 2022, 841-9  
17 February 2022, 999-1012

## Motions

### 27.11 Address of Congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen

On 8 February, the Prime Minister moved that an Address of Congratulation be presented to Her Majesty the Queen on the Platinum Jubilee of her accession to the Throne. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and it was referred to the Federation Chamber for debate. The next day, the motion was debated in the Federation Chamber and carried in the House, with all members present standing in support.

*Hansard:* 8 February 2022, 21-3  
9 February 2022, 167-8; 294-8  
*Votes and Proceedings:* 2022/2418-9, 2448, 2464  
**SOs 267, 268**

## 27.12 Condolence motions for former members and senators

Over the sitting fortnight, condolence motions were moved on the passing of former parliamentarians, the Hon Dr Donald (Don) James Grimes AO (9 February), the Hon Sir Ransley (Victor) Garland KBE (10 February), and the Hon Michael Eamon Beahan AM (14 February). In each case, all members present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

*Hansard*: 9 February 2022, 155-7

10 February 2022, 343-5

14 February 2022, 617-8

*Votes and Proceedings*: 2022/2448, 2468, 2481

**SO 49**

## Parliamentary administration

### 27.13 Speaker's statement acknowledging history of bullying and harassment in Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces

On the first sitting of the year, the Speaker made a statement acknowledging the history of workplace bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault in Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces. The statement was delivered on behalf of the Parliamentary Cross-Party Leadership Taskforce, established following the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces by the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins. The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of the Australian Greens and the Member for Warringah each spoke in support. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard*: 8 February 2022, 1-6

*Votes and Proceedings*: 2022/2415-6

## Offensive words<sup>#</sup>

	<b>Hansard</b>	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'I said the Prime Minister was a fraud...'	8 February 2022	24
'So this weak, inexperienced...leader of the Labor Party...is a major threat to the Australian economy.'	10 February 2022	353
'It's a brave choice by the Liberal Party, given their great hero is Robert Gordon Menzies, a man known to be a Nazi appeaser...'	10 February 2022	362-3
'This is why the Australian people are demanding an independent national anticorruption commission. An Albanese Labor government will deliver one; this corrupt Liberal government will not.'	14 February 2022	615
'He's tricked, he's lied, he's played on our fears. To Hawaii he fled in the midst of a fire, A hose he didn't hold; he was labelled a liar. Our global relations have hit a new low. "Did he lie?" a journo asked. I don't think, I know.'	14 February 2022	616
'We've got another Manchurian candidate—'	16 February 2022	397-8
'For anyone to stand up in this place and back in paedophiles, back in murderers, back in—'	16 February 2022	926
'This is without a doubt the most corrupt, rotten and wasteful government in the history of our nation.'	16 February 2022	936

<sup>#</sup> List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.