

Procedural Digest

No. 6

48th Parliament

19-20 January 2026

January				
M	T	W	T	F
19	20	21	22	23

Sittings

6.01 Special sitting following Bondi terrorist attack

The Prime Minister announced on 12 January that the Parliament would return for a special sitting to remember the victims of the Bondi antisemitic terror attack, and to consider national security legislation in the wake of the terrorist attack. In accordance with standing order 30, the Acting Speaker set 19 January as the date for the next meeting of the House.

The House met at 9.30 am on 19 January. Following an acknowledgement of country and prayers, the Speaker made a statement in relation to the victims of the Bondi antisemitic terror attack. The Leader of the House then moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to set the order of business for 19 and 20 January. The motion, which was agreed on the voices, provided for:

- on 19 January, the moving and debate of a condolence motion in relation to the Bondi antisemitic terror attack – including that the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition could speak for no more than 10 minutes and any other member to speak for no longer than five minutes, before the house to immediately stand adjourned until 9am Tuesday, 20 January;
- on 20 January, presentation of a report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS), arrangements for the introduction, debate and passage of two national security bills (see Digest 6.03), Question Time and leave of absence motions;
- no business other than that specified in the motion to be conducted in the sitting, the Federation Chamber to not meet, and the suspension of relevant standing orders so that:
 - on Monday, there was no automatic adjournment of the House and no adjournment debate (standing order 31), no limit on business after the normal time of adjournment (standing order 33), and members statements did not occur (standing order 43); and
 - on Tuesday, the above applied, and in addition there was no period of deferred divisions (standing order 133).

The Prime Minister then moved the motion of condolence and, as a mark of respect to the victims, all members rose in their places in silence. The Prime Minister immediately spoke to the motion before the Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion. A further 126 members made contributions. At the conclusion of debate, members rose in their places to signify their agreement to the motion. As a further mark of respect, at 9.25 pm the House immediately adjourned until 9 am Tuesday, 20 January.

The House ordinarily meets in accordance with the program of sittings agreed by the House and at the times set out in standing order 29(b). Standing order 30 provides for a minister or the Speaker to initiate a change to the meeting time of the House. When the House is not sitting, the Speaker may set an alternative day or hour for the next meeting and must notify all members of such a change.

*Hansard: 19 January 2026, P1-102
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-2026/407-9
SOs 30, 31, 33, 43, 47, 49, 133*

6.02 Sitting day held over two calendar days

On Tuesday, following the third reading of the second national security bill (see Digest 6.03), the Leader of the House explained that following Question Time, the House would suspend and resume at the ringing of the bells on Wednesday 21 January (to consider any messages from the Senate relating to either of the bills in accordance with the resolution of the House of 19 January).

At the conclusion of Question Time, the House suspended at 3.30 pm and returned at 8 am on Wednesday. Following resumption of the sitting, the Speaker reported two messages from the Senate returning the national security bills without amendment. After some intervening business (see Digest 6.04 and 6.05) the House adjourned at 8.12 am. This is counted as a single day in the Votes and Proceedings.

*Hansard: 20 January 2026, P49; 62-4
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-2026/427*

Bills

6.03 National security bills introduced and passed in one day

The resolution of 19 January (see Digest 6.01) provided that after the presentation of the PJCIS report, two national security bills were to be introduced and debated with the bills to proceed through all stages without interruption. The second reading debate was to proceed immediately on each bill, with the first Opposition speaker able to speak for an equal time as the Minister and all other members to speak for no more than five minutes. The time for the conclusion of the second reading debate was specified (10.30 am for the first bill and 1 pm for the second bill). If required, each bill would be considered in detail following the second reading, and when each bill had been agreed to, the question to be put immediately on the third reading.

On Tuesday morning, a member of the PJCIS presented its report, incorporating a dissenting report, *Review of the exposure draft legislation: Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026*.

The Minister for Home Affairs then presented the Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Bill 2026. The second reading debate ensued and at 10.30 am, when the time for debate had expired, the question on the second reading was put and agreed to on division. A message from the Governor-General was announced by the Speaker recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill before consideration in detail commenced. Three crossbench members moved detail amendments which were all negatived. The minister moved that the bill be read a third time, which was agreed to on division.

The Attorney-General then presented the Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Bill 2026. The second reading debate ensued and at 1 pm, when the time for debate had expired, the question on the second reading was put and passed. Consideration in detail commenced. A shadow assistant minister moved an Opposition amendment, which was negatived on division. The Attorney-General moved two Government amendments, which were agreed on the voices. Seven crossbench members moved detail amendments which were all negatived on the voices. The bill, as amended, was agreed on division and consideration in detail concluded. On the motion of the Attorney-General the bill was read a third time.

Hansard: 20 January 2026, P1-49
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-2026/421-7
SOs 39, 141, 142, 147, 148, 150, 155

Statements

6.04 Statements on indulgence

On Tuesday, statements on indulgence were made by:

- the Prime Minister immediately after prayers regarding the death of Tim Picton;
- the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition before Question Time regarding the extreme weather events in Queensland and Victoria; and
- a shadow minister to associate the coalition with an answer by the Deputy Prime Minister during Question Time.

When the House resumed on Wednesday, after the Speaker reported messages from the Senate, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition made statements by indulgence relating to the passage of the national security bills.

Hansard: 20 January 2026, P1; 49-52; 62-4

Members

6.05 Leave of absence

In accordance with the 19 January resolution of the House (which provided for leave of absence motions), on Wednesday, the Prime Minister moved that leave of absence for parental leave purposes be given to the Member for Canberra until 23 March, the Member for Macnamara until 12 May and the Member for Robertson until 2 March. The question was carried on the voices.

Hansard: 20 January 2026, P64
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-2026/427

SO 26

Offensive words[#]

No offensive words.

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