

# Procedural Digest

No. 7

48th Parliament

3 – 12 February

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## Budget

### 7.01 Report of the Appropriations and Administration Committee

On 5 February, the Speaker, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration, presented report No. 34, *Additional estimates 2025-26*.

*The Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration is required by standing order 222A to consider the draft budget estimates for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives.*

Hansard: 5 February 2026, P60  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/462

**SOs 199, 222A**

## Standing and sessional orders

### 7.02 Amendments to sessional order

On 3 February, the Leader of the House moved to suspend standing orders to amend sessional order 65A in response to recent party changes. The suspension motion was agreed with the concurrence of an absolute majority. The Leader of the House then moved the amendments to sessional order 65A to increase speaking opportunities for crossbench members such that:

- During Question Time, priority be given to:
  - a crossbench member seeking the call on the third, seventh, eleventh, fifteenth, seventeenth, twenty-first, twenty-fifth and twenty-ninth questions, and
  - an opposition member seeking the call on the first, fifth, ninth, thirteenth, nineteenth, twenty-third, twenty-seventh and thirty-first questions
- During each period of members' statements in the House, priority be given to at least five crossbench members seeking the call
- During each period of members' statements in the Federation Chamber on Mondays, priority be given to at least seven crossbench members seeking the call
- During each 30 minute period of members' constituency statements in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to at least two crossbench members seeking the call
- During each one hour period of members' constituency statements in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to at least five crossbench members seeking the call
- During grievance debate in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker

- During adjournment debate in the House, priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker
- During adjournment debate in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker.

Debate ensued and the Manager of Opposition Business moved amendments to the proposed amendment to require, under standing order 97, that Question Time shall not conclude until at least eight questions have been asked by opposition members. These were negatived on division and the question on the amendment moved by the Leader of the House was put and passed.

*If a suspension motion is moved without notice, it can only be carried by an absolute majority of members, or by a majority of members present if agreed by the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business.*

*Hansard: 3 February 2026, P1-6  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/429-31  
**SOs 47, 65A, 97***

## Bills

### 7.03 Additional appropriation bills

On 5 February, following messages from the Governor-General recommending appropriation, the Assistant Treasurer presented three additional appropriation bills: Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2025-2026, Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2025-2026, and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2025-2026. After each second reading speech, debate on each bill was adjourned. The cognate second reading debate on these bills resumed on 12 February.

*Hansard: 5 February 2026, P6-7  
12 February 2026, P12-26; 32-9; 69-70  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/459-60; 502-3  
**Sos 141, 142, 178, 180***

## Motions

### 7.04 Non-government motions to suspend standing orders

Over the sitting fortnight non-government members moved to suspend standing and sessional orders in order to move the following motions:

- On 3 February, in relation to the Perth bombing attack (Member for Curtin). The question was put and passed with the concurrence of an absolute majority. The Member for Curtin then moved the motion on the bombing attack; debate ensued and the motion was agreed to.
- On 9 February, in relation to small business (Member for Goldstein). The motion to suspend standing orders was seconded before a minister moved that the debate be adjourned, which was agreed on division.

*Hansard: 3 February 2026, P49-58  
9 February 2026, P177-81  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/437; 470-1  
**SOs 47, 79, 111***

## 7.05 Condolence motion on the death of Hon Nick Bolkus

On 3 February, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion on the death of the Hon Nick Bolkus, a former minister and Senator for South Australia from 1981 to 2005. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and members then rose in their places as a mark of respect. Debate was adjourned and the motion referred to the Federation Chamber for further debate, where further statements were made on 4 and 5 February. On 10 February, the motion was returned from the Federation Chamber and agreed to, with members again rising in their places.

*Condolence motions are usually moved following the death of a Governor-General, a sitting member or senator, or former members or senators who held certain offices. From time to time, condolence motions may also be moved following the death of a distinguished Australian or a foreign Head of State or Government.*

*Hansard:* 3 February 2026, P21-3

4 February 2026, P159-63

5 February 2026, 91-100

10 February 2026, P3, 20

*Votes and Proceedings:* 2025-26/434; 458; 465; 484

**SO 49**

## Committees

### 7.06 Membership of certain committees

For some committees, the standing order or resolution of appointment, or the legislation establishing the committee, specifies the number of opposition members on the committee.

On 3 February, the Speaker informed the House that due to recent party changes a number of members (who were no longer members of the Opposition) had been discharged from certain committees, effective 27 November 2025 and 22 January 2026.

On 9 February, the Speaker informed the House that he had received advice from the Chief Opposition Whip nominating members of certain committees. The Leader of the House moved that the members be so appointed, and the motion was agreed to.

*Hansard:* 3 February 2026, P1

9 February 2026, P177

*Votes and Proceedings:* 2025-26/429; 469-70

**SOs 215, 216, 222, 224**

### 7.07 Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests report

On 12 February, the Chair of the Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests, on behalf of the Committee, presented the Committee's *Report concerning the registration and declaration of Members' interests during 2025*.

*Hansard:* 12 February 2026, P11

*Votes and Proceedings:* 2025-26/502

**SOs 39, 216**

## Parliamentary standards

### 7.08 Speaker's statements

Over the sitting fortnight, the Speaker made two statements regarding parliamentary standards:

- On 10 February, after Question Time, the Speaker made a statement regarding parliamentary standards and language. He asked that the House ensure language is moderate and respectful at all times.
- On 11 February, before Question Time, the Speaker made a statement regarding parliamentary standards, stating that the House must find ways of engaging in debate that maintain respectful behaviours and calling on members to rise to the challenge of setting the standard for an inclusive, respectful and professional workplace.

*Hansard:* 10 February 2026, P30  
11 February 2026, P52

**SOs 91, 94**

## Parliamentary administration

### 7.09 Reports presented

On 3 February, the Speaker presented the Parliamentary Service Commissioner Report 2023-24 incorporating the Parliamentary Service Merit Protection Commissioner Report 2023-24.

On 5 February, the Leader of the House presented the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Report 2024-25.

*Hansard:* 3 February 2026, P39  
5 February 2026, P60

*Votes and Proceedings:* 2025-26/434; 462-3

**SO 199**

## Parliamentary delegations

### 7.10 Reports presented

The Speaker presented the following parliamentary delegation reports over the sitting fortnight:

- On 4 February, the report of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Romania and Switzerland and to the 151st Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2025.
- On 12 February, the report of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Zambia and Mauritius in September 2025.

*Hansard:* 4 February 2026, P7  
12 February 2026, P1

*Votes and Proceedings:* 2025-26/445; 499

**SO 39**

## Statements

### 7.11 Ministerial statement on the anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

On 12 February, the Prime Minister made a ministerial statement relating to the 18th anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples and the Closing the Gap annual report and implementation plan. The Prime Minister presented copies of his statement and related reports. The Leader of the Opposition then addressed the House in reply. The Leader of the House moved that the House take note of the Closing the Gap annual report and implementation plan before debate was adjourned and resumption of debate was referred to the Federation Chamber.

*Hansard: 12 February 2026, P27-31  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/502-3*

**SO 63A**

### 7.12 Statements of condolence

Over the sitting fortnight a number of statements of condolence were made:

- On 3 February, the Speaker informed the House of the death of Dr Katrina (Katie) Jane Allen, the Member for Higgins from 2019 to 2022. All members present stood in their places as a mark of respect.
- On 4 February, the Speaker informed the House of the death of Mr Ljupco (Luch) Jonceski, a longstanding parliamentary attendant, and read personal statements from former Speakers. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, by indulgence, both made statements and members then rose in their places as a mark of respect. The Leader of the House moved that further statements be permitted in the Federation Chamber and the motion was agreed to. Further statements were made in the Federation Chamber on 5 and 10 February.
- On 12 February, the Prime Minister, by indulgence, made a statement on the death of Mr Jonathan (Jon) Oscar Kudelka, a cartoonist and artist.

*In most circumstances, the death of a former member or senator who did not hold certain offices is marked with a statement by the Speaker without a condolence motion being moved. Sometimes members have made statements of condolence by indulgence. Members are also able to refer to the deaths of former members at another time, such as during the adjournment debate.*

*Hansard: 3 February 2026, P21  
4 February 2026, P70-2  
5 February 2026, P100-10  
10 February 2026, P99-102  
12 February 2026, P1*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/434; 452; 465; 487*

### 7.13 Statements by indulgence

Over the sitting fortnight, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements by indulgence on the following matters:

- The Perth bombing attack (5 February)

- The Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (9 February)

On 5 February, the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister made a statement by indulgence on the Perth bombing attack.

On 11 February, the Member for Wentworth made a statement by indulgence on parliamentary standards following the Speaker's statement on this matter (see Digest 7.08).

*Hansard*: 5 February 2026, P48-9; 70  
9 February 2026, P161-2  
11 February 2026, P52

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

<i>Offensive words or phrase</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Hansard page reference</i>
'...the dog over here who hasn't barked.'	4 February	P67-8
'I say the Minister for Small Business is dodgy, I say the Treasurer is dodgy and I say the Prime Minister is dodgy.'	5 February	P68
'Once again, the shadow Treasurer is being deliberately dishonest.'	9 February	P164
'Running interference for CFMEU corruption.'	11 February	P51
'...The Treasurer has spent years dishonestly claiming others had hit this milestone...'	12 February	P50

**SOs 89, 90, 92**

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