

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# **Standing and Sessional Orders**

AS AT 23 JULY 2025

DEPARTMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CANBERRA

Being the revised standing orders adopted on 24 June and 13 August 2004, to come into effect on the first day of sitting of the 41st Parliament (16 November 2004), as amended on:

18 November 2004,	19 September 2019,
17 March 2005,	23 March 2020,
10 August 2005,	26 July 2022,
9 February 2006,	27 July 2022,
29 March 2006,	2 August 2022,
29 November 2006,	30 March 2023,
13 February 2007,	9 October 2024, and
9 May 2007,	23 July 2025.
13 February 2008 a.m.,	
12 March 2008,	
24 June 2008,	
17 August 2009,	
23 June 2010,	
29 September 2010,	
19 October 2010,	
20 October 2010,	
8 February 2012,	
10 October 2012,	
13 November 2013,	
14 November 2013,	
13 February 2014,	
19 March 2014,	
26 March 2015,	
13 October 2015,	
2 February 2016,	
31 August 2016,	
1 September 2016,	
13 September 2016,	
4 December 2017,	
4 July 2019,	

# Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>CHAPTER 1. TIME LIMITS AND DEFINITIONS</b>	
Maximum time limits apply when speaking	1
Definitions and application	7
<b>CHAPTER 2. PROCEEDINGS WHEN PARLIAMENT CALLED TOGETHER</b>	
First meeting of new Parliament after general election	13
Governor-General's speech and reply	14
First meeting for new session – continuing Parliament	15
When Governor-General does not attend	15
<b>CHAPTER 3. ELECTION OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTIES</b>	
Election of Speaker	16
Election of Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker	18
<b>CHAPTER 4. THE SPEAKER AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE CHAMBER</b>	
The Speaker and other offices	21
The Clerk	22
Members' seats and attendance	23
Public record of proceedings	23
<b>CHAPTER 5. MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE</b>	
Times of meeting	24
Adjournment	25
<b>CHAPTER 6. BUSINESS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE</b>	
General	27
Committee and delegation business	29
Private Members' business	31
Government business	32
Other business	33
<b>CHAPTER 7. PRIVILEGE</b>	35

## **CHAPTER 8. DEBATE, ORDER AND DISORDER**

Quorum of the House	37
Order	39
Leave of the House or Federation Chamber	39
Manner and right of speech	40
References to other matters	43
Matters not open to debate	44
Adjournment of debate	45
Closure of debate	45
Debate of urgent bills	45
Point of order and Speaker's ruling	47
Disorder	47

## **CHAPTER 9. QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION**

Oral and written questions	51
Replies to questions	53

## **CHAPTER 10. MOTIONS**

Notices of motion	54
Proceeding with motions	55
Questions on motions	56
Amendments	57

## **CHAPTER 11. VOTING**

On the voices	58
Divisions	58
Ballots	61

## **CHAPTER 12. BILLS**

House bills	62
First reading	64
Second reading	64
Consideration in detail	65
Report from Federation Chamber	67
Reconsideration	68
Third reading and passing the House	68
Senate amendments to House bills	69
Bills the Senate may not amend	71
Senate bills	71

Bills altering the Constitution	73
Lapsed bills	73
Governor-General's consideration of bills	74
<b>CHAPTER 13. FINANCIAL PROPOSALS</b>	
Proposals for appropriation and taxation	76
Messages recommending appropriation	76
<b>CHAPTER 14. FEDERATION CHAMBER</b>	
General	78
Suspension and adjournment of Federation Chamber	80
Federation Chamber business	81
<b>CHAPTER 15. DOCUMENTS AND PETITIONS</b>	
Documents	84
Preparing a petition	85
Presentation of petitions	87
Action on petitions	87
<b>CHAPTER 16. STANDING, SELECT AND JOINT COMMITTEES</b>	
Standing committees	89
Select committees	94
Joint committees	94
Operation of committees	95
<b>CHAPTER 17. WITNESSES AND VISITORS</b>	
Members, Senators and employees of the Parliament	100
Other witnesses summoned	101
All witnesses	101
Visitors	102
<b>CHAPTER 18. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE</b>	
General	103
Messages	103
Conferences	103
<b>CHAPTER 19. ADDRESSES TO THE SOVEREIGN OR THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL</b>	105

<b>RECORD OF AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS</b>	106
<b>RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE</b>	
Disclosure of evidence and documents of House and joint committees	111
Procedures for tabling ministerial papers	112
Hansard – authority to publish record of debates and proceedings	113
Privileges Committee – publication of records	114
Broadcasting of proceedings	115
Registration of Members’ interests	118
Right of reply of persons referred to in the House	122
Special provisions for nursing mothers	124
Procedures for the protection of witnesses before the Committee of Privileges and Members’ Interests	125
Procedures for dealing with witnesses	127
Procedures of the House of Representatives for dealing with matters of contempt	130
Government responses to committee reports	131
Use of electronic devices in the Chamber, Federation Chamber and committees	132
Parliamentary Papers	133
Members’ qualifications	134
Special provisions for human biosecurity emergency period	138
Remote participation in proceedings – official facility	139
Independent Parliamentary Workplace Complaints Mechanism	140
Members’ Training Program Register	142
Remote participation in proceedings – Federation Chamber	143
Standards of behaviour and behaviour codes	144
<b>INDEX</b>	150

*List of Figures*

<b>Figure 1.</b> The Chamber	8
<b>Figure 2.</b> House order of business	28
<b>Figure 3.</b> Stages a House bill goes through	63
<b>Figure 4.</b> Federation Chamber order of business	82