

Appendix 1



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE SCOTT RYAN

REF: D19/90926 PC19-000060

Senator Sue Lines
Deputy President and Chair of Committees
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Procedure

Dear Senator *Sue* Lines

As you know, in March this year, I referred to two matters to the committee, which formally lapsed following the prorogation of the 45th Parliament. In its first report of 2019, the committee discussed the proposals in the following terms:

Closing the Gap statement Indigenous Australian languages

The President referred the above matters to the committee, on 13 March 2019, at the request of the Manager of Opposition Business, Senator O'Neill. Senator O'Neill's letter is reproduced at Appendix 4. Each matter proposes procedural changes.

The first proposal asks that the Senate add to its current practices surrounding consideration of the Prime Minister's annual 'Closing the Gap' statement. Senator O'Neill proposes a short suspension of Senate sittings to enable senators to attend the presentation of the statement in the House of Representatives.

The second proposal is that, where evidence is taken before a Senate committee in an Indigenous Australian language, the Senate requires that the evidence be transcribed in Hansard both in that language and in English.

The committee asks that senators consider these two matters, with the expectation that they will be considered further by the committee in the next Parliament.

In order to facilitate the committee's further consideration, I again refer the matters to the committee, in accordance with standing order 17(3).

I have copied this letter to Senator O'Neill, and will table it in the Senate at the next convenient opportunity.

Yours sincerely

SCOTT RYAN,

29 July 2019



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE SCOTT RYAN

REF: D19/19667

Senator Sue Lines
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Procedure
Suite SG.44
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Chair

Reference of matters to the Senate Standing Committee on Procedure

I have received a letter from the Manager of Opposition Business, Senator O'Neill, asking that I refer two matters to the Procedure Committee, pursuant to standing order 17(3). Those matters involve:

- suspending the sittings of the Senate to enable senators to attend the presentation of the annual Closing the Gap statement, and
- the transcription of Indigenous Australian languages into Hansard.

I am happy to refer the two matters, as requested. A copy of Senator O'Neill's letter is attached.

Yours sincerely

SCOTT RYAN



March 2019



Senator Deborah O'Neill
NEW SOUTH WALES

Monday, 25 February 2019

Dear Mr President,

In accordance with standing order 17(3), I request that the following matters be referred to the Procedure Committee:

Closing the Gap Statement

A resolution, or amendment to the existing continuing order relating to parliamentary consideration of the Closing the Gap report, requiring that the sittings of the Senate be suspended for the presentation in the House of the annual Closing the Gap Statement:

That each year, on the day on which the Prime Minister presents the annual report on progress in meeting the 'Closing the Gap' targets, the sitting of the Senate be suspended 30 minutes prior to the time set for the presentation of the report in the House of Representatives, until the ringing of the bells, to enable senators to attend.

Indigenous Languages and Hansard

When committees take evidence in Indigenous languages that the Hansard record of proceedings recorded the language in which the evidence was given, the Indigenous language, as well as an English translation. An amendment to the standing orders along the following lines may achieve that end:

At the end of standing order 35, add:

(3) *If evidence is heard by a committee in an Indigenous Australian language the transcript of that evidence shall record both:*

(a) *the evidence as submitted in the Indigenous Australian language; and*

(b) *an English translation of the evidence.*

The phrase 'Indigenous Australian language' has been used noting that it appears to be the term used by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

In addition, alongside this amendment the following resolution expressing a preference that the transcription of the evidence as submitted and its translation be supported by the witness or a person from their community, along the following lines:

The Senate resolves that, where a committee has heard evidence in an Indigenous Australian language, the transcription by Hansard staff of the evidence as submitted, and its translation into English, should be assisted by the person who gave the evidence or a person from their community.

Yours sincerely,

SENATOR DEBORAH O'NEILL