



Speaker's Rooms
Hobart

14 November 2025

Ms Sharon Claydon MP
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure
By Email: Procedure.Committee.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure's inquiry into disrespectful behaviour towards other Members in the Chamber.

I note that the Clerk of the House of Assembly will provide a detailed submission concerning the relevant practices and procedures of the House of Assembly.

My submission consists of the following information which may be of interest to your Committee:

52nd Parliament

As the 52nd Parliament has only recently commenced, along with my tenure as Speaker of the House, I take this opportunity to note my intent to ensure respectful behaviour and debate in the House of Assembly Chamber throughout this Parliament.

The Standing Orders of the House set an expectation that Members behave respectfully in the Chamber. At the beginning of each Parliament each Member subscribes to the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, which is detailed in Standing Order 2. Among other matters, the Code of Conduct specified in Standing Order 2 states that as Members of Parliament we value:

- *'integrity, honesty, accessibility, accountability, fairness, transparency, courtesy, respect and understanding, without harassment, victimisation or discrimination;*
- *respect for differences, equity and fairness in political dealings, with fellow Members of Parliament'*¹

¹ Standing Order 2, House of Assembly

Standing Order 2 also reflects that Members '*agree to respect the religious and cultural beliefs of others, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*', and that a Member '*conducts themselves in Parliament in ways that will protect the public interest, and enhance public confidence and trust in Parliament*'.²

On the second day of this new Parliament I made a statement to the House in relation to respectful debate, reminding Members that, per the House of Assembly's Guide to Procedure, other Members should be referred to as 'the Honourable Member' for their respective electorate and their title and surname, or as 'the Honourable the Premier' or 'the Honourable Minister' if applicable.³ In my view, ensuring that Members address each other appropriately in a respectful manner within the Chamber sets a standard and expectation for how debates are to be conducted and how Members generally treat each other.

More recently I have reminded the House in relation to the need to use parliamentary language in the Chamber, and for the Chamber to be a safe place for all Members.⁴

Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (August 2022)

Similar to other jurisdictions, in recent years an Independent Review was commissioned into Parliamentary Practices and Procedures to Support Workplace Culture.

The Review, undertaken by former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sarah Bolt, resulted in the [Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services](#) of August 2022. The Motion for Respect Report included a range of findings and recommendations relating to behaviour in the parliamentary workplace, and highlighted the importance of the Chamber being a safe place for all Members.

The findings most relevant to this inquiry's Terms of Reference are:

- *The concern that the public display (in the gallery or live streaming) of vitriol, name calling, insensitivity, disrespectful comments and body language, the inappropriate use of Parliamentary Privilege and the weaponising of the Integrity Commission by some Members of Parliament causes reputational harm and impacts on public opinion of the institution and those elected to represent the people of Tasmania.*
- *There exists an overwhelming appetite for cultural change, accountability and consistent workplace practices.*⁵

Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight

The Parliament has established a [Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight](#), with a responsibility to oversee the implementation of any recommendations contained in the Motion for Respect report. This Committee has been re-established following each dissolution of the House of Assembly since the Committee's original establishment in 2022.

I am a Member of the current Committee, and I note that the Committee has recently tabled an interim report concerning the Code of Conduct for Members, an Independent Complaints

² Standing Order 2, House of Assembly

³ Hansard, House of Assembly, 9 September 2025, p. 1.

⁴ Hansard, House of Assembly, 6 November 2025, p. 1.

⁵ Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (August 2022), p 27.

Commissioner process, and an Alcohol and Other Drugs Members' Statement. The Report is available on the [Parliament's website](#).

The Committee's Report recommends that a new Code of Conduct for Members, an Independent Complaints Commissioner process, and an Alcohol and Other Drugs Members' Statement be established by resolution in each House at the commencement of each new Parliament. Further detail is provided in the Report and I encourage your Committee to review it if you have opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Jacquie Petrusma MP
Speaker