

## APPENDIX 4

### **Matters referred by the Senate – Parliamentary Code for respecting cultural diversity and proposal to amend standing order 193—Rules of debate**

1878

*No. 58—6 September 2017*

#### **21 Procedure—Standing Committee—References**

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale) amended general business notice of motion no. 447 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—

- (1) That the Senate acknowledges the proposal below for a code of conduct:

#### **PARLIAMENTARY CODE FOR RESPECTING CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

##### **PREAMBLE**

The House of Representatives and the Senate have reached agreement on a Code of Conduct which is to apply to all members of Parliament.

Members of Parliament recognise that they are in a unique position of responsibility in influencing the nature of civic conduct in Australia.

Members of Parliament recognise that their words and actions in the Senate and the House of Representatives influence issues relating to multicultural affairs, migration and citizenship, and can assist in guiding respectful public debate.

Members of Parliament acknowledge that parliamentary privilege protects the right of members to participate freely in debate in the Parliament without fear of prosecution.

Members of Parliament recognise the need to exercise their valuable right of freedom of speech in a responsible manner and a failure to do so may have serious implications for individuals and groups of the Australian community and may diminish the social cohesion that is essential to our national character.

##### **THE CODE**

#### **1. Uphold the honour of public office**

- (a) Members of Parliament will take all reasonable steps to represent public office in a manner that is consistent with the values of respect and inclusion.
- (b) This includes behaviour and language during parliamentary proceedings.

#### **2. First Peoples of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**

- (a) Members of Parliament recognise the value and contribution of the First Peoples of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- (b) Members of Parliament recognise that with the exception of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Australia is a nation of migrants.

#### **3. Respect Australians' diversity**

- (a) Members of Parliament recognise that Australia has been enriched by the diversity of colour, ethnic origin, culture and religious belief that exists within our nation.

- (b) Members of Parliament recognise that principles including respect for religious and cultural diversity, tolerance, and justice should be upheld in parliamentary debate in a respectful manner.

**4. Reject discriminatory or exclusionary statements**

- (a) Members of Parliament will not knowingly humiliate or degrade an individual or community based on their colour, national or ethnic origin, culture or religious belief.
  - (b) This includes acts which are intended to incite hatred or create fear of a community.
- (2) That this matter be referred to the Procedure Committee for consideration and report by Wednesday, 15 November 2017.

Question put and passed.

Senator Di Natale amended general business notice of motion no. 448 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—

- (1) That the Senate notes that:
- (a) senators need to exercise their valuable right to freedom of speech in a responsible manner to ensure balanced discussion; and
  - (b) the actions of senators may have serious implications for individuals and groups within the Australian community and may diminish the social cohesion that is essential to our national character.
- (2) That the Senate notes the following proposal to amend standing order 193 and for this amendment to operate as a temporary order from the first sitting day in October 2017, until the second sitting day of 2018:

At the end of standing order 193, add:

- (4) Adverse reflections on an individual or community on the basis of colour, national or ethnic origin, culture or religious belief are highly disorderly.
  - (5) A senator shall contribute to debate in a manner which upholds the honour of public office and the Parliament.
- (3) That this proposal be referred to the Procedure Committee for consideration and report by Wednesday, 15 November 2017.

Question put and passed.