



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FACT SHEETS

FACT SHEET 27: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

In the routine of business for each sitting day, ministerial statements follow immediately after any proposals under standing order 201 and before ministerial replies to matters raised on the adjournment (SO 38). Ministerial statements may also be made at any time when there is no business before the House (SO 48). Ministers do not require leave to make such statements. It is not uncommon for ministerial statements to be made at the end of Question Time.

Ministerial statements may be used to:

- notify changes in the Ministry;
- reply to a question on notice;
- announce legislative proposals;
- announce the government's intention to propose a change in the arrangement of government or other business in the House;
- correct remarks made by the minister in answer to a question without;
- notice or in other debate in the House.¹

The Leader of the Opposition, or a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, may reply to a ministerial statement for a period not exceeding the time taken by the minister in making the statement (SO 48(2)). Although not mandatory, it is not uncommon for a minister making such a statement, particularly if the statement deals with proposed legislation or government policy, to have previously advised the Leader of the Opposition of the nature of the statement to be made.

The President may also make statements to the House on matters of procedure or practice, arrangements concerning the sittings of the House, or the administration of the House or the Parliament.² There is no provision for the Leader of the Government, Leader of the Opposition or other members to speak to such a statement.

¹ There is an early President's ruling to the effect that in a ministerial statement a member should refrain from controversial subjects as much as possible. See *LC Hansard* (30/11/1904) 1942. There is also a ruling that in making a ministerial statement a minister is allowed considerable latitude in order to answer certain allegations made by a member against a minister in the other House. See *LC Hansard* (15/9/1915) 1808.

² For example, on 14 September 2004, the President informed the House of a restructure of the Department of the Legislative Council. See *LC Minutes* (14/9/2004) 976.