



# PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION  
NO. 6/2019: 17 SEPTEMBER – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

September 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

*This document provides a summary of significant procedural events and precedents in the Legislative Assembly. It is produced at the end of each sitting period. Where applicable the relevant Standing Orders are noted.*

## BILLS

### ***Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019***

On Thursday 26 September the Speaker reported a message from the Legislative Council advising the Legislative Assembly that it had agreed to the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019, with 25 proposed amendments with which the Council requested the Assembly's concurrence.

Earlier, the Legislative Council had considered 122 amendments to the bill over a period of five sitting days, encompassing over 30 hours of debate. In total, the bill was debated for 72 hours in both Houses.

The bill was assented to on 2 October. After assent the Act was titled the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019* in accordance with one of the amendments that was agreed to. The Act decriminalises abortion in NSW and regulates the conduct of health care practitioners in relation to the termination of pregnancies.

The full details of the bill can be found [here](#) on the Parliament of NSW website.

*Votes and Proceedings: 26/9/19, pp. 321-6.*

**Standing Orders 222, 223, 224 and 239.**

## MEMBERS

### ***Parliamentary Ethics Adviser***

On Tuesday 17 September 2019 the Speaker tabled correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser to the Hon. Pru Goward, a former Minister, providing advice to Ms Goward about her post-separation employment.

*Votes and Proceedings: 17/9/19, p. 287.*

**Standing Order 264.**

(Procedural note: The current Parliamentary Ethics Adviser (PEA) was appointed by a resolution of both Houses, dated 17 June 2014. The PEA's functions are to provide advice, on request, to Members of Parliament on ethical issues, and to Ministers on post-separation employment.

If the PEA becomes aware that a Minister or a former Minister has accepted a position on which he has given advice, the PEA must provide a copy of the advice to the Presiding Officer of the House to which the Minister or Former Minister belongs or belonged. In the case of current or former Legislative Assembly Ministers, the Speaker may then table the PEA's correspondence in the House in accordance with the tabling provisions of Standing Order 264.)

## CHAMBER

### ***Reference to the Independent Commission Against Corruption***

On Wednesday 18 September 2019 Temporary Speaker Sonia Hornery MP reported a message from the Legislative Council informing the Assembly that it had agreed to refer the following matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for investigation and report:

- a) Issues raised in the Budget Estimates inquiry hearing for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans on 12 September 2019;
- b) Whether or not the pecuniary interest disclosure regime, the Code of Conduct for Members, and the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct are sufficient to ensure that a Member of Parliament's private interests and public duty do not conflict and do not present an unacceptable perception of a conflict of interest in the mind of the public, and;
- c) Whether or not any reforms are required to ensure public confidence is maintained in the conflict of interest arrangements for Members of Parliament.

Later that day the Manager of Opposition Business, Mr Ryan Park MP, sought leave to move a motion to suspend Standing and Sessional Orders to permit the consideration forthwith of the message from the Legislative Council. Leave was not granted.

On Thursday 19 September the Manager of Opposition Business again sought leave to move a motion to suspend Standing and Sessional Orders for the same purpose, and again leave was not granted.

*Votes and Proceedings: 18/9/19, pp. 296-7, p. 299; 19/8/19, p. 306.*

### **Standing Order 340.**

(Procedural note: [Section 73](#) of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* provides that both Houses of Parliament may, by resolution of each House, refer a matter to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for investigation.

This provision means that both Houses must resolve to refer a matter to the ICAC for the referral to take place. Once referred by Parliament it is the duty of the ICAC to fully investigate that matter.)