



Queensland Parliamentary Service

Submission No. MP/25

Received 03/07/2009

Law Reform Committee

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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29 June 2009

Mr Johan Scheffer MLC
Chair
Victorian Parliament Law Reform Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr Scheffer

REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) ACT 1978

At the outset I would like to apologise to the Committee for the inexcusable oversight and consequent delay in responding to the Committee's request for a submission on the Committee's review of Victoria's *Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978*.

I appreciate that the Committee considers the experience of other Parliaments with codes of conduct and registers of interests as important to its review of the Act.

With the Committee's indulgence, I would first like to outline the arrangements in Queensland as regards our Code of Ethical Standards, Register of Interests, education and advice. I will then attempt to provide comments or insights about the current arrangements in the Queensland Parliament, issues that your Committee may wish to consider and answer your specific questions/issues raised in your letter.

OVERVIEW

The Parliament of *Queensland Act 2001* and *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* are the authoritative sources on ethical matters for members. The *Code of Ethical Standards* is published by the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee to:

- assist members to better understand the nature of their public office and the distinct obligations that arise by virtue of that office;
- provide an educative tool to assist members manage conflicts of interest and resolve ethical dilemmas; and
- provide an overview of the current obligations which members are required to observe.

The code is the primary guide in relation to the major ethical issues and obligations on members. It is important to note that the Code does not itself impose any obligations, it merely puts existing requirements within an ethical framework and is a comprehensive overview.

CODE OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

The *Code of Ethical Standards* includes a:

- summary of the purpose of the code;
- statement of fundamental principles adopted by the Legislative Assembly;
- brief overview of the current obligations on members;
- complaints procedure; and
- section dealing with the resolution of conflicts of interest.

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/committees/documents/MEPPC/other/ethicalStandards/CodeOfEthicalStandards.pdf> >

In summary, the code has an aspirational component in the form of the fundamental principles which underpin a member's parliamentary role but is specific enough to provide guidance to members in fulfilling their duties as members.

Disclosure requirements on members

Members of the Legislative Assembly are subject to stringent public declaration, registration and disclosure obligations of their financial and other relevant interests under the standing orders of the House. These disclosure requirements are both continual and ad hoc.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND REGISTER OF RELATED PERSONS' INTERESTS

The *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* provides for a Register of Members' Interests and a Register of Related Persons' Interests. The registers provide for the permanent disclosure requirements on member. The rules for disclosure and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the registers are contained in Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders (**attached**). It is the responsibility of each member to conscientiously comply with these rules. A member who knowingly fails to comply with the rules in the Standing Orders commits a contempt of parliament.

The purpose of the disclosure requirements is to place on the public record any pecuniary or other interests which may give rise to a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest.

Each member is required to provide a statement of their interests to the Registrar of Members' Interests (the Clerk of the Parliament) within one month of making an oath or affirmation as a member of the Legislative Assembly. A member must also register the interests of their related persons - for example, spouse and any dependent children - only if the member is aware of the interest. Any changes in those interests must be notified within one month of the member becoming aware of the change. Members must also submit a yearly statement of interests (or a confirmation of correct particulars) to the registrar by 31 July each year.

Members are required to register their interests under 20 categories.

1. Shareholdings or controlling interest in shares in companies [7(2)(a)(i)]
2. Shareholdings of company in other companies [7(2)(a)(ii)]
3. Details of investments or beneficial interests of private companies [7(2)(a)(iii) and 7(2)(a)(iv)(A) and (B)]
4. Details of investments or beneficial interests of subsidiary companies [7(2)(a)(iv)(C) and (D)]
5. Positions held as officer of company [7(2)(b)(i)-(iii)]
6. Beneficial interests in family or business trusts and/or nominee companies [7(2)(c)(i)-(iii)]
7. Investments or beneficial interest of trusts [7(2)(c)(iv)]
8. Trustee of family or business trusts [7(2)(d)]
9. Trustee or director of private superannuation fund [7(2)(e)]
10. Interests in partnerships [7(2)(f)]
11. Interests in real estate [7(2)(g)]
12. Liabilities [7(2)(h)]
13. Debentures, managed funds or similar investments [7(2)(i)]
14. Savings or investment accounts [7(2)(j)]
15. Gifts over \$500 [7(2)(k)]
16. Sponsored travel or accommodation [7(2)(l)]
17. Other income over \$500 [7(2)(m)]
18. Other assets over \$5,000 [7(2)(n)]
19. Memberships [7(2)(o)]
20. Other interests [7(2)(p)]

In a practical sense, the lodging of interests is done via four forms approved by the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (**copies of Forms 1-4 attached**).

At the beginning of each new parliament and in accordance with the Standing Orders, every member is required to complete and return forms for the registers. The forms must be returned to the Registrar within one month after taking the oath or affirmation as a member. Following a by-election, the newly elected member must complete and return the relevant forms within one month after taking the oath or affirmation as a member. During the life of the Parliament, a member must notify the registrar of any change to their entry by completing a required form within one month of becoming aware of the change. If a member forwards a letter advising of changes, this is also acceptable and lodged on the register.

Where in any year there is no change to the details contained in the member's last statement, the member is required to lodge a confirmation of correct particulars by completing a another form within one month after 30 June.

The Registrar maintains a hard copy register available for viewing, and an electronic register. The latter is essentially used to compile the annual report (see below). Furthermore, when forms are received, the Registrar acknowledges receipt and attaches to the acknowledgement to the member an extract as to how the amended entry of the member (or related person) appears. (**Sample acknowledgement letter is attached.**)

Reminders and acknowledgement

Registrars have established procedures to administer the Register of Members' Interests, including a system of periodic pro forma notifications to members about their obligations to register and update their interests. The system of notifications from the office of the Registrar is intended to provide members notice and opportunity to update their statements of interests and to check the details of their entries in the register

Following a recommendation by the MEPPC (arising from the 1995/96 review of the register) the MEPPC from about 1996 to June 2005 periodically wrote to members (generally on a six-monthly basis) to remind them about their obligations to update their statements of interests. (It was decided that the MEPPC's six-monthly notifications to members about their obligations to update their statements of interests duplicated the notifications by the Registrar and was thus discontinued.)

From the commencement of the 51st Parliament in February 2001, a system of acknowledgement by the Registrar to members on their submission of the required statements or when making changes to their Registers of Interests was introduced.

Report

A report is prepared by the Clerk and tabled by the Speaker as soon as practicable after the first sitting day of each new Parliament and after 30 June in each subsequent year during the life of that Parliament. This report is a copy of the Register of Members' Interests at a point in time. (**A copy of past report is attached.**)

The report is **not** made available in electronic form or made available on the internet or intranet.

Archiving of registers

Following each Parliament, all information in the Members' Register of Interests and the Related Persons' Register of Interests is removed by the Registrar and archived in the Legislative Assembly strongroom.

When a member resigns from Parliament their information in the Members' Register of Interests and the Related Persons' Register of Interests is removed by the Registrar and archived in the Legislative Assembly strongroom.

REGISTER OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Chapter 4, part 2 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides a number of restrictions on members holding paid public appointments. The consequences of a member holding a paid public appointment may result in a member's seat being declared vacant. Section 65 of the act allows a member to hold a public appointment if he or she irrevocably waives all entitlements to rewards of that office in writing and gives a copy of the waiver to the Speaker. The Speaker holds a register of such waivers in their office.

OTHER AD HOC DISCLOSURES

Standing Orders 259, 260 and 262 (**attached**) provide for members to disclose pecuniary interests that they may have in any matter before the House. Depending on the nature and extent of the interest, in rare cases members may also be prevented from voting on the matter. Similarly, Standing Order 260 applies to parliamentary committee proceedings in which the member is involved.

RESTRICTIONS ON MEMBERS DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

There have always been restrictions on members of Parliament having financial dealing with executive government. This has come about because of the perceived need to ensure the independence of members from the executive. Members who are appointed under the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, and who are remunerated as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries by the executive government, do not by that appointment engage in restricted financial dealings with the executive government (*Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 65(3)).

Chapter 4, part 3 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides restrictions on members having dealings with entities of the State. Under these provisions a member cannot have a direct or indirect interest in a contract with or perform a duty or service for reward for an entity of the State. There are a number of exclusions to this general rule and waiver and disclosure requirements. A breach of these statutory provisions can have serious consequences for a member, including financial detriment.

EDUCATION AND ADVICE

It is obviously important that members become familiar with ethical issues and the rules that apply to their activities and disclosure requirements. A failure to comply with some of these rules can have serious consequences for a member. These consequences range from embarrassment, sanction by the Legislative Assembly and, in the worst case, loss of their seat. From time to time, conflicts of interest or other ethical dilemmas arise which are unavoidable. Members are encouraged to seek advice if they are uncertain as to an ethical issue.

Sources of advice

There are at least five sources of advice for members:

- The Speaker (as regards procedural matters and entitlements issues).
- The Clerk of Parliament (as Registrar of Members' Interest and as regards procedural matters and, as accountable officer, entitlements issues).
- The Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee in resolving issues and complicated questions under Schedule 2 of Standing Orders.
- The Integrity Commissioner, as regards certain Officeholders or Members who are members of the political party or parties making up the government.
- Private legal advice.

The reality is that in Queensland most advice to members about the Registers of Interests, ad hoc declarations, the restrictions of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and general 'ethical advice' is provided by the Clerk of the Parliament.

It is postulated that the Clerk is utilized more than other sources of advice because of accessibility (especially on sitting days), familiarity (the Clerk has constant contact with members over a range of matters), confidence in impartiality and confidentiality, lack of cost (as opposed to private advice) and, particularly in the case of new members, the Clerk provides a significant role in upfront education in induction and ongoing programmes.

The *Code of Ethical Standards* is the primary guide for members on ethical matters and the Code also states:

Members are able to obtain confidential and impartial advice concerning parliamentary practice and procedure and the register of interests from the Clerk of the Parliament and regarding the register of interests in an anonymous manner from the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee.

.....

As the Registrar of Members' Interests, the Clerk of the Parliament, an independent officer of the Parliament, has a pivotal role in providing advice to all members as to their obligations under the members' interests requirements.

The Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee also has a role in relation to Schedule 2 and the standing orders establishing the members' interest registers, and may be requested for an interpretation of the requirements and advice to members in relation to conflict of interest matters.

The committee has a role in providing briefings to newly-elected members on the members' interests requirements, and may also issue guidelines regarding Schedule 2 for the benefit of all members.

In a practical sense, the Clerk's Office receives hundreds of telephone calls, email inquiries and physical visits for advice regarding compliance with the Registers of Interests each year, either from members or their staff. Most matters are simple inquiries easily answered, such as "Do I have to declare ...". In these instances the answer is more often than not yes, and the member is directed to the correct form and it is completed and lodged accordingly.

In perhaps a couple of dozen occasions a year, the inquiry is more complex. In these instances, the Clerk as Registrar will formally write to the member with advice or, if verbal advice is provided, it is recorded. The Clerk's Office now maintains a confidential register of such advice so as to ensure consistency and provide a record should the matter become an issue.

It is very rare that the advice of the Registrar is challenged or the Registrar sees the need to have the Committee resolve the matter in accordance with Schedule 2. I believe that this has, in fact, only occurred on two occasions since the registers were established in 1990.

Members who are members of the political party or parties making up the government and other designated persons can also seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner. Information about the Integrity Commissioner can be found at: <http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au/>. The 8th Report of the Commissioner revealed that in each of the eight years of operation of the Commissioner between 7 and 15 matters raised by the Premier, Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries were raised with the Commissioner: http://www.integrity.qld.gov.au/pdf/annual_report_08.pdf.

Induction programs and ongoing

There is in Queensland a comprehensive induction program for new members running over three days. During the induction, ethical matters are covered in great detail, as indicated in the program for the 2009 induction for the 53rd Parliament (**attached**). There is also a hard copy (A5) of the *Members Information Manual* and the *Code of Ethical Standards* for reference. Both of these documents are also available on the Queensland Parliament's Intranet, together with various other pages on ethical matters under the "For Members" pages.

There have, in the past, been ad hoc sessions offered to members on a range of matters. Unfortunately, they have not been well attended due to time constraints on members and were abandoned. However, it is intended to trial these sessions again this Parliament.

As described above, there are numerous reminders to members sent by the Registrar every year about the requirements to disclose.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS/ISSUES RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

- *Whether, and how, members of parliament can seek advice about the arrangements and their application whether, and how, training or guidance is provided to members of parliament about the arrangements, for example through induction programs for new members of parliament*

I believe these issues have been thoroughly canvassed above. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of:

- education;
- availability of advice; and
- periodic reminders.
- *Current arrangements for making complaints about and investigating alleged breaches the number and types of occasions, if any, on which alleged breaches have been formally investigated and the nature and outcome of those investigations.*

Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders provides for a complaint process.

If the complaint is by a member of the public, the Clerk as Registrar must assess whether the complaint should be referred to the Committee.

If the complaint is by a member, it must be referred to the Committee.

Since the existence of the register, there have only been three complaints. One complaint is still before the committee, pending a criminal trial relevant to the alleged non-disclosure. Two complaints have been resolved and the Committees reports can be viewed at:

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/committees/documents/MEPPC/reports/Report%2096.pdf>

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/committees/documents/MEPPC/reports/Report%2093.pdf>

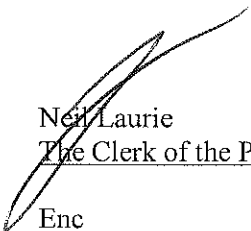
OTHER

I note that the matters which most frequently arise in respect of the Registers of Interest, and the most difficult to resolve, involve:

- sponsored hospitality and travel;
- gifts (especially complimentary/honorary memberships or tickets to events); and
- memberships of organisations/groups.

Invariably, much turns upon the definitions within the register regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely


Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament

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SCHEDULE 2 – REGISTERS OF INTERESTS

Purpose

The purpose of the Register of Members' Interests is to place on the public record any pecuniary or other relevant interests of a member which may give rise to a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest between a member's private interests and the public interest. The register seeks to provide information which might be thought by others to affect a member's public duties, or to influence their speeches or votes in the Legislative Assembly.

Preamble

1. It is vital that in a representative democracy the public have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives.
2. It is also vital that elected representatives be continually reminded that they exercise a public trust which should not be subject to any private interest.
3. It is also in the interests of elected representatives that they be able to demonstrate that at all times they have made scrupulous disclosure of their private interests.
4. The Legislative Assembly requires its members to demonstrate a commitment to maintain the highest possible standard of propriety and to avoid, or where required to disclose, register or declare, any potential conflict of interest.
5. The Register of Members' Interests and Register of Related Persons' Interests are mechanisms to encourage and foster transparency, accountability and openness.
6. The Register of Members' Interests is a continually evolving primary record of members' registrable interests as submitted by members under the Standing Orders.
7. The tabled Register of Members' Interests gives public notification of members' registrable interests as at the date of publication.
8. The following provisions are the minimum registration required by members and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible financial arrangements which are required, in the spirit of the Standing Orders, to be registered.



STATEMENT OF INTERESTS OF A MEMBER

FORM 1

Version: Effective from 30 June 2006

NOTE

Members should refer to the notes on page 8 before completing this form.

PARTICULARS OF MEMBER

SURNAME

OTHER NAMES

ELECTORATE

REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

1. Shareholdings* or controlling interests in companies See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(i)

NAME OF COMPANY

Note: Shares held solely as an executor or trustee of a deceased estate are not required to be registered.

Example—AMP, Telstra, XYZ Pty Ltd

2. Shareholdings* of companies in other companies, where a shareholding or interest in any company listed in (1) above is a controlling interest See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(ii) (**Note:** Schedule 2, subclause 7(1) provides that the number or monetary value of shares is **NOT** required to be specified.)

NAME OF COMPANY
Example—XYZ Pty Ltd

SHAREHOLDINGS IN OTHER COMPANIES
Example—ABC Holdings Private Co Pty Ltd

* **Note:** It is unlawful, under the *Interactive Gambling (Player Protection—Disqualified Persons) Regulation 1999*, for a member of the Legislative Assembly to hold prohibited shares in a licensed interactive provider.



Legislative Assembly of
Queensland

Standing Rules and Orders of the
Legislative Assembly, Schedule 2 –
Registers of Interests

STATEMENT OF INTERESTS OF A MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S

FORM 2

Version: Effective from 30 June 2006

NOTE

Members should refer to the notes on page 8 before completing this form.

PARTICULARS OF MEMBER

SURNAME

OTHER NAMES

ELECTORATE

PARTICULARS OF MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S

FULL NAME OF EACH RELATED PERSON BY WHOM REGISTRABLE INTEREST HELD	RELATIONSHIP (IF ANY) TO MEMBERS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	



Legislative Assembly of
Queensland

Standing Rules and Orders
of the Legislative Assembly,
Schedule 2 – Registers of
Interests

**CHANGE OF DETAILS
OF MEMBER / MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S**

FORM 3

Version: Effective from 30 June 2006

NOTE

Members should refer to the notes on page 3 before completing this form.

PARTICULARS OF *MEMBER / *MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S

* Cross out whatever is not applicable

MEMBER'S NAME

ELECTORATE

CHANGE OF DETAILS OF REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

**1. TICK THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY (ITEM 1 TO 20) TO BE CHANGED.
COMPLETE THE REQUIRED DETAILS OF THE CHANGE ON PAGE 2.**

1. **Shareholdings or controlling interests in companies** (Include name of company) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(i)
2. **Shareholdings of companies in other companies (where a shareholding or interest in any company listed in (1) above is a controlling interest** (Include name of company and shareholdings in other companies) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(ii)
3. **The investments or beneficial interests of private companies** (Include name of private company or private holding company and investments or beneficial interests of subsidiary of holding company) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(iii) and 7(2)(a)(iv)(A) and (B)
4. **The investments or beneficial interests of subsidiary companies** (Include name of subsidiary company and investments or beneficial interests of subsidiary company) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(a)(iv)(C) and (D)
5. **Positions held as officer of company, including any subsidiary company** (Include name of company, nature of office held and nature of activities of company) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(b)
6. **Beneficial interests in family or business trusts, or nominee companies** (Include name or description of trust/name of company, nature of activities of trust/company and nature of interest) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(c)(i) to (iii)
7. **Investments or beneficial interests of any trust listed in (6) above** (Include name or description of trust and investments or beneficial interests of trust) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(c)(iv)
8. **Trustee of family or business trusts** (Include name or description of trust and nature of activities of trust) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(d)
9. **Trustee or director of private superannuation fund** (Include name or description of fund, nature of activities of fund and investments or beneficial interests of the fund of which you are aware) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(e)
10. **Interests in partnerships** (Include name or description of partnership, nature of activities of partnership and nature of interest) See Schedule 2, subclause 7(2)(f)



Legislative Assembly of
Queensland

Standing Rules and Orders of
the Legislative Assembly,
Schedule 2 – Registers of
Interests

CONFIRMATION OF CORRECT PARTICULARS

FORM 4

Version: Effective from 30 June 2006

NOTE

Members should refer to the notes on page 3 before completing this form.

PARTICULARS OF *MEMBER / *MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S

* Cross out whichever is not applicable

MEMBER'S NAME

ELECTORATE

CONFIRMATION OF CORRECT PARTICULARS CONTAINED IN STATEMENT OF INTERESTS OF *MEMBER / MEMBER'S RELATED PERSON/S

* Cross out whichever is not applicable

1. Members should CONFIRM that the particulars contained in the ATTACHED statement of interests are correct and sign Member's Certification "A".
2. If any of the particulars **require changing**, members should **register the necessary change/s** on page 2 of this form, and sign Member's Certification "B".

MEMBER'S CERTIFICATION	
A. NO CHANGE	B. CHANGE TO REGISTER
<p>I certify that the particulars contained in the attached entry correctly reflects</p> <p>* my / my related person/s registrable interests.</p> <p>* <u>Cross out whichever is not applicable</u></p> <p>_____ Signature of Member</p> <p>_____ Date</p>	<p>I certify that the particulars contained in the attached entry AND <i>Change of Details</i> form correctly reflects</p> <p>* my / my related person/s registrable interests.</p> <p>* <u>Cross out whichever is not applicable</u></p> <p>_____ Signature of Member</p> <p>_____ Date</p>

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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Your Ref: Our Ref: MRI

23 June 2009

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear

Register of Members' Interests

I acknowledge receipt of your Form 3 (*Change of Details of Member*) received on today's date. The form has been filed on the appropriate register and your details updated for the next report.

For your information, please find attached your statement of the interest of a member as amended. If there are any discrepancies, please contact me on 3406 7250.

Yours sincerely

Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament

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TWENTY-SECOND REPORT ON THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Laid upon the Table of the House pursuant to s.11 of Schedule 2
of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly

15 June 2009

255. Consequences of suspension under SO 254

When a member is suspended from the House under SO 254 they shall be excluded from the parliamentary precinct.³⁷

256. Speaker may suspend sitting

In the case of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may without any question being put, suspend any sitting to a time to be determined by the Speaker.

257. Disorderly person may be removed³⁸

(1) Where in the opinion of the Speaker, a person other than a member behaves in an offensive or disorderly manner or otherwise disrupts the proceedings of the House or any of its committees, the Speaker may require the person to leave the Chamber and the parliamentary precincts or the place of meeting of the committee and may authorise the removal of the person.

(2) Where in the opinion of a Chairperson of a committee, a person other than a member behaves in an offensive or disorderly manner or otherwise disrupts the proceedings of a committee, the Chairperson may require the person to leave the place of meeting of the committee and may authorise the removal of the person from the place of meeting.

258. Wilful disobedience

(1) A member who wilfully disobeys any order of the House may be ordered by the House to attend to answer for their conduct.

(2) If a member fails to attend despite an order to attend in (1), or if their explanation for failing to attend is deemed unsatisfactory by the House, the House may either:

- (a) if the member is in the parliamentary precinct, direct the Sergeant-at-Arms or another officer of the House to take such member into custody and bring that member before the House; or
- (b) consider the member's conduct in their absence.

CHAPTER 37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

259. No member pecuniarily interested may vote

(1) No member shall be entitled to vote in any division upon a question (not being a matter of public policy) in which they have a direct pecuniary interest, not held in common with the rest of the subjects of the Crown.

(2) The vote of a member may not be challenged except on a substantive motion moved immediately after the division is completed, and the vote of a member determined to be so interested shall be disallowed.

260. Declaration of pecuniary interest in debate and other proceedings

(1) Notwithstanding compliance with any other order of the House concerning the disclosure of interests, a member shall, in respect of any question in the House or a committee, declare any pecuniary interest (of which the member is aware) (whether or not it is a matter of public policy) that the member

³⁷ Section 4 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* defines the term parliamentary precinct.

³⁸ Section 50(1) of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* provides: All persons entering or upon the parliamentary precinct shall comply with the directions of the Speaker as to the behaviour, demeanour and conduct of such persons. Section 51 provides: A prosecution for an offence against s.50 shall be by way of summary proceedings under the *Justices Act 1886* upon the complaint of the Clerk.