

Legislation Advisory Committee Seminar



Legislative process

Series of tests to be met before a proposal can become law

- ◆ Is it a needed addition to the law?
- ◆ Is it fit for purpose?

House's rules establish tests

- ◆ General form requirements
- ◆ Three readings
- ◆ Detailed committee consideration
- ◆ Delay to study and reflect

Series of hurdles in House

- **First reading**
 - ◆ follows introduction
 - ◆ available on third sitting day or
 - ◆ if introduced on sitting day available following Tuesday
- **Second reading – third sitting day after select committee report presented**
- **Third reading - after final details settled in committee of the whole House**

Form

Standing Orders establish minimum requirements

- Enacting formula
- Separate clauses for title and commencement
- Explanatory notes
- Temporary law
- Relate to one subject area only, unless an approved type of omnibus bill or
 - ◆ Dealing with interrelated topic implementing single broad policy
 - ◆ Making similar amendments to a number of Acts
 - ◆ Approved by Business Committee

Delay

- **Successive stages taken on separate days**
- **Stand down between introduction and first reading**
- **Three sitting day stand down between committee report and second reading**
- **Six months for committee consideration**
- **Reprinted copy of amended bill must be available before progress to next stage**

Select committee stage – distinctive features

- **Public input**
- **Role of departmental officials**

Committee of whole House stage

- **Implications of part by part consideration**
- **Form of amendments**
 - ◆ **Relevant**
 - ◆ **Consistent with principles**
 - ◆ **Otherwise conform with rules for admissibility**

Legislative process does not stand still

- **Evolving and adapting to keep pace**
- **Parliamentary process prioritises**
- **Rules are there to ensure quality legislative outcomes**

Questions?

