

RESOURCE 2—ROLE PLAY

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE (MPI) DISCUSSION

Explanatory notes: Every sitting day of the Assembly opens with the Serjeant-at-Arms (who is also the Deputy Clerk) leads the Speaker into the chamber and announces them. All members will already be present in the chamber and stand as the Speaker enters. All members remain standing until after the acknowledgement and reflection. Every member can only speak once during the discussion.

(All members stand).

(Serjeant-at-Arms and Speaker enter the Assembly chamber. If a mace has been made, the Serjeant-at-Arms carries this).

Serjeant-at-Arms: Members, the Speaker

(Speaker and Serjeant-at-Arms stand at their chairs).

Speaker: At the beginning of this session of the Assembly I acknowledge that we are meeting on the lands of the Ngunnawal people, the traditional owners. I respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this area. Members, I would ask you to stand in silence and pray or reflect on our responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

(Speaker sits after 5 seconds silence, all members and Clerks sit).

Speaker: I have received letters from _____, _____ and _____ proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly.

In accordance with standing order 79, I have determined that the matter proposed by _____ be submitted,

“The importance of _____

Speaker: I call Mr/Miss [surname] to speak

(Member whose MPI topic was drawn from the hat stands to speak).

Member: Thank you Mr/Madam Speaker (*insert speech written during time provided earlier in the lesson*)

(Member sits).

REPEAT THE FOLLOWING PROCESS—until time expires or all members who wish to speak have spoken. [*suggested total time 5-15 minutes*]

(Other members—Stand if you wish to speak to this debate, wait for the Speakers call).

Speaker: I call Mr/Miss [surname] to speak

(If the Speaker selects you by saying your name stay standing for your speech, members not selected sit).

Member: Thank you Mr/Madam Speaker (*insert prepared speech*)

(Member sits).

(REPEAT until all members have had a chance to contribute to the discussion).

Speaker: The time for the MPI has expired. It is my understanding that the Assembly wishes to adjourn. The chair will be resumed at the next sitting.

(Members can leave the chamber).