

Law-Making script

The Parliament of Australia
The House of Representatives

The Drinking Age Bill

A Bill for an Act to raise the national drinking age to 21.

THE SPEAKER

When you are led in by the Serjeant-at-Arms, sit down and say:

 **Members, please sit down. The House is now in session. The rules of the House must be obeyed. Clerk, please read out the rules.**

After the Clerk has read out the rules, say:

 **Clerk, read the title of the bill.**

Then say:

 **I call the Minister for Health to introduce the bill.**

Wait for the speech to be read.

 **I call the Shadow Minister for Health.**

Wait for the speech to be read.

 **I call the Member for Kingston.**

Member speaks.

 **I call the Member for Aston.**

Member speaks.

 **I call the Member for Lyne.**

Member speaks.

 **Order! The House is now adjourned.**

When the debate begins again, say:



Members, please sit down. The House is now in session.

Are there any other comments on this bill?

Stand if you wish to speak. *(wait for people to stand)*

I call the Member for _____ *(say the first name of somebody who is standing, then let them speak)*

If any more members wish to speak, repeat “stand if you wish to speak”. When all the members have finished speaking, say:



Order! A vote on the bill will now be taken.

The question is should the bill be read a second time.

Those who agree say ‘AYE’ *(wait for them to say ‘aye’)*

Those who disagree say ‘NO’ *(wait for them to say ‘no’)*

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it.

Order! Is a division required?

Wait for an answer.



Division is required.

Clerk, ring the bells for 4 minutes. *(wait)*

Order! Serjeant-at-Arms, lock the doors.

Those who support the bill move to the right of the Speaker’s chair.

Those who oppose the bill move to the left of the Speaker’s chair.

Whips, count the vote.

After the whips have told you the results of the vote, stand up and say:



Order! Result of the division:

The number of votes for the bill is _____

The number of votes against the bill is _____

If the vote is FOR the bill, say: *If the vote is AGAINST the bill, say:*



The bill is agreed to. Clerk, read the title of the bill a second time.



The bill is not agreed to.

To end the session, say:



Order! The House is now adjourned.

THE CLERK

Stand up, ring the bell and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

When the Speaker asks you to read the rules, stand up and say:

 **Always stand up to speak.**

Begin your speech with the words ‘Madam Speaker’ or ‘Mr Speaker’.

Members should not interrupt each other.

The Speaker keeps order.

The Speaker will ask you to read the title of the bill. You say:

 **First reading, the Drinking Age Bill. A Bill for an Act to raise the national drinking age to 21.**

When the Speaker says ‘the House is now adjourned’, stand and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

The Speaker and the Serjeant-at-Arms will leave.

When it is time to start again stand up, ring the bell and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

Later, the Speaker may ask you to read the title of the bill a second time. You say:

 **Second reading, the Drinking Age Bill. A Bill for an Act to raise the national drinking age to 21.**



When the Speaker says ‘the House is now adjourned’, stand and say:

 **Honourable members, please stand.**

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

When the Clerk rings the bell, lead the Speaker into the chamber, carrying the Mace on your right shoulder.

Say:

 **Honourable members, the Speaker.**

Place the Mace on the table, then sit down.

When the Clerk says ‘Honourable members, please stand’, pick up the Mace and lead the Speaker out of the chamber.

Later, when the Speaker says ‘Serjeant, lock the doors’, go over to the door and pretend to lock it.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH



Mr/Madam Speaker

In Australia, we have an alarmingly high rate of binge drinking. Alcohol-fuelled violence is a common occurrence on weekends in many Australian cities and towns. This has to stop.

By raising the legal drinking age from 18 to 21, the government will be giving Australia's youth a chance to develop good decision-making skills before they can regularly use alcohol.

The House should pass this bill.

SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH



Mr/Madam Speaker

The Opposition will not support this bill.

Raising the drinking age puts Australia at odds with most of the world. Only ten countries have a drinking age 19 years or above. Thirty countries have drinking ages below 18.

Young tourists and backpackers will turn their backs on Australia. This bill will cause more harm than good.

MEMBER FOR KINGSTON

YOU ARE A GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER (SA)



Mr/Madam Speaker

I am going to vote for this bill. In the 1980s, the USA raised the drinking age from 18 to 21. This resulted in a decrease of car accidents by 12%.

We need to act now to ensure the safety of our young drivers.

MEMBER FOR ASTON

YOU ARE AN OPPOSITION BACKBENCHER (VIC)



Mr/Madam Speaker

Setting the drinking age at 21 is unfair because it is discriminating against 18 to 20 year olds.

18 year olds are adults and should be given the respect every adult deserves. Education is a far better method of reducing the issues around drinking.

MEMBER FOR LYNE

YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER (NSW)



Mr/Madam Speaker

The idea behind this bill is a good one, but I think it goes too far. If the aim of this bill is to reduce violence in public, or to reduce road accidents, then a total ban for 18-20 year olds is excessive.

I will propose an amendment to raise the public drinking age to 21, but remain at 18 for private residences.

GOVERNMENT WHIP

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Prime Minister.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.

OPPOSITION WHIP

When the Speaker asks 'is a division required?' stand up and say:

 **Mr/Madam Speaker, a division is required.**

When the Speaker says 'Whips, count the vote', stand up and count the members on your side.

Don't forget to count yourself and the Leader of the Opposition.

Go and tell the Speaker the results.