

DESPATCH BOX

HOUSE OF REPS APP LAUNCHED

The House of Representatives has gone digital with the launch of an app that features an interactive seating plan showing where members and parliamentary officials sit during debates in the chamber.

The interactive seating plan includes each member's name, photo, electorate name and information on any parliamentary position held.

There is also a link that takes you direct to the member's home page on the Parliament House website, where you will find biographical information, latest speeches and electorate details.

More information on the work of the House is being progressively added to the app, which is free to download. ■



DAILY PARLIAMENT DIARY



Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP (Mackellar, NSW)

Each morning when parliament meets, just before 9am, Speaker of the House of Representatives Bronwyn Bishop previews the business before the House on a new television segment broadcast on Sky News. Parliament Diary is shown during the AM Agenda program.

At the end of each sitting period, the House of Representatives television program MPI (Matters of Public Importance) is broadcast on the Australian Public Affairs Channel, with segments also available on the About the House TV webpage at www.aph.gov.au/athtv or from the House of Representatives YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/athnews

MPI shows highlights from the fortnight in the House, focusing on bills presented, committee reports tabled, issues raised by backbench MPs, events held at Parliament House, and a one on one interview. ■

FORWARD TOGETHER, WITH NO LIMITS



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (pictured) has joined a select group of world leaders who have been given the opportunity to address Australia's federal parliament. Previous speeches to both houses have been given by leaders from the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Canada, Indonesia and New Zealand.

"Let us walk forward together, Australia and Japan, with no limits," Mr Abe told members and senators who had gathered in the House of Representatives chamber for the historic speech.

The visit capped off a busy period of international visits to the Australian parliament, including official visits by parliamentary delegations from Afghanistan, Malaysia, Peru, Poland and Sri Lanka during May and June.

Information on parliamentary delegations is available at www.aph.gov.au/international and includes video reports from Australian parliamentary delegations travelling overseas. ■