



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

MEDIA RELEASE

DREYFUS OFF THE MARK

Mr Dreyfus's statement on the recall of the Parliament reveals a surprising ignorance of constitutional practice.

This is the 29th time since federation that the Parliament has been prorogued and called back. It is a practice that is very well-established in the Australian constitutional system.

The constitutional provision under which it is done has existed in the same form since federation.

Mr Dreyfus refers to just four instances where prorogation has occurred. Inexplicably, he ignores the other 24 occasions in which it has been done.

In a few cases, it has been done largely for ceremonial reasons. In the overwhelming majority of cases, it has been done to advance the government's legislative agenda, as is the case here.

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