

SECURITY SCREENING PROCEDURE:
EXEMPTIONS FOR CARRIAGE OF A KIRPAN INTO PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The agreed procedure for a Sikh visitor to enter Parliament and be able to carry a Kirpan is approved through prior consultation with the Presiding Officers by the Security & Electorate Properties Unit (SEPU) on behalf of the person making the request.

It must be deemed that the carriage of the Kirpan is, in the opinion of the Presiding Officers, for the specific purpose of their religious observance. Moreover, the following conditions are applied:

- The names of persons carrying a Kirpan are provided in advance
- Each Kirpan is to be openly declared to security on arrival by the visitor
- Each visitor remains subject to a search of their person and baggage
- A Kirpan is not to be openly displayed inside Parliament

This is viewed as an appropriate solution that satisfies the requirements of security and allows for visiting Sikhs to observe their religious practice. It is the view of security that these conditions should apply in all circumstances for a Kirpan to be carried in Parliament by visitors, underpinned by a prerequisite that their visit is approved by the Presiding Officers who are satisfied that the carriage of the Kirpan is:

- For the specific purpose of their religious observance

Unless all of the aforementioned conditions apply then the person will be asked to surrender their Kirpan for storage for the duration of their visit. This will be done sympathetically and with due respect for the Kirpan and the visitor. This is for the common sense reason that no knife or dagger can ordinarily be allowed to be carried by visitors inside Parliament.

Exemption requests can be made by contacting SEPU by email security.team@parliament.vic.gov.au or phone 8682 2979.