

## From your editor

This edition I hope continues with interesting articles and research reports covering a lively variety of areas and topics.

We have two extremely insightful pieces on the NSW and Queensland elections. They make fascinating comparative reading given that both governments were in trouble especially over infrastructure; yet both States had very weak Oppositions. NSW is an example of a Labor government returned under a new leader, Morris Iemma and Queensland is an example of a Labor government under the then existing premier, Peter Beattie who has since retired.

There are two articles looking at the abortion issue, one focussing on the handling on the issue in Australia by parliament and one looking at its handling in the UK. I commend them both and point to Helen Pringle's analysis of the actual levels of support for abortion in Australia as compared to parliamentarians' views of these support levels.

New Zealand is well represented with two important pieces on the working of the Bill of Rights after approximately twenty-five years of its existence. They serve to remind us that first we have no bill of rights in any form; and second, that a non-Constitutional Bill of Rights has its problems as well as its important strengths.

I am also delighted to be able to present a substantial number of the papers from the ANZACATT courses. These papers form a vital resource base for in-depth research into the workings of parliament. As someone from NSW I particularly enjoyed the piece by Stephanie Hesford on the Bear Pit. However each article has expanded my understanding of how different parliaments deal with different issues and the way things actually work.

Finally I am delighted that regular reports about what's been happening in each parliament are starting to appear. In this issue we have quite remarkable insights on South Australia and Western Australia as well as an extensive analysis of the way the Victorian Parliamentary Internship Program has been operating. It would be exciting to receive similar analyses from the other States.

By the time this issue is out I trust we will have had another federal election and be dealing with its results; whichever way the cookie crumbles we should be in for a fascinating time.

I wish you well over the end of year holidays and hope you enjoy this issue. I can promise that the next issue which centres on the ASPG Conference held in Adelaide in September will be stimulating as well.

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