

# ***PARLIAMENT 2000***

## ***TOWARDS A MODERN COMMITTEE SYSTEM***

### **Introduction by Paul Reynolds\***

On behalf of the committee and members of the ASPG (Queensland Chapter), who organised and hosted the 2000 conference, it gives me great pleasure to edit those papers read to the conference by a variety of past and present Members of Parliament, professional parliamentary staff and academics. Their participation was greatly appreciated by the organisers and delegates, while their work and research captures the organisers' objectives — to provide an insight into current committee systems in Australasian jurisdictions and how further reform may be encouraged.

We all have small parliaments (bicameral or unicameral) which have struggled to perform their role of holding the executive accountable to the legislature. The committee system is one way to achieve this, so hence a conference at the century's end to contemplate the issue in its several manifestations, and the inclusion of a section on New Zealand which has, over several decades, reworked its committee system as a unicameral legislature. Other studies are presented from Australian national and state legislatures.

As the papers and their authors speak for themselves, a long descriptive introduction is unnecessary and unwarranted. It is my hope that this collection will not go unnoticed by those who will seek to move their respective parliamentary committee systems forward in the 21st century. If it is of some assistance in this task then an enjoyable and stimulating conference will have a role beyond its time frame. ▲

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