



Editor's Report 2017

Australasian Parliamentary Review

The Australasian Parliamentary Review (APR) has published two editions in the past 12 months: Spring/Summer 2016 (Vol 31 No 2) and Autumn/Winter 2017 (Vol 32 No 1). The first consisted of 12 articles and one book review and the second 11 articles and two book reviews. Both editions included the informative 'From the Tables' section that offers an overview of significant events occurring in state and territory parliaments around Australia and in the New Zealand Parliament.

It is interesting and informative to look at the topics covered by contributors to the APR these past 12 months, as it demonstrates the diversity of topics that relate to the study of parliaments or closely related issues. The two volumes referred to above canvassed the following range of issues:

- Parliamentary privilege;
- The 2015 New South Wales election;

- The extent of the New South Wales Legislative Council's power to order papers from organisations not in the control of a minister;
- Navigating an ocean of media in the New South Wales Parliamentary Library;
- Western Australia's 2017 state election;
- Queensland's 2016 fixed four-year term proposal;
- Budget scrutiny in Australian state parliaments;
- The 2016 double dissolution election;
- Political leadership and public policy debate in the 2016 Federal election;
- One Nation's support and why 'income' is a poor predictor;
- Parliament's reputation as the 'pre-eminent' institution for defending rights;
- Parliamentary oversight of Australia's regional processing arrangements;
- The influence of parliamentary committees including whether inquiry submissions are dominated by a handful of organisations and academics, and whether fixed reporting dates for Senate reference committees are effective;
- The political consequences of Hansard editorial policies;
- Parliament and its impact on policy making;
- A parliamentary budget office in Fiji;
- Dual Language legislation and what New Zealand can learn from the Canadian model; and
- A Samoan case study on language and the law.

Changes

Earlier this year, responsibility for contributing the 'From the Tables' section passed from Liz Kerr (Clerk Assistant, Procedure, Western Australian Legislative Assembly) to Tim Bryant (Clerk Assistant, Committees, Senate). I would like to express my thanks to Liz for her work on behalf of the APR and extend a welcome to Tim who took over the responsibility for researching and writing 'From the Tables' earlier this year.

In my newsletter to ASPG members, sent some months ago, I advised that I was standing down as editor of APR effective 1 August 2017 and subsequently advised that Professor Rodney Smith from the University of Sydney was taking on the role. It gives me great pleasure to pass the baton to Professor Smith. Rodney brings many skills to the role of editor and I am sure the journal will go from strength to strength under his editorship.

As this is the last report I will submit as editor, I would like to take the opportunity to strongly urge ASPG members to carefully consider moving from a printed (hard) copy of the journal to an electronic version. Very few journals publish hard copies these days and there are several reasons for this. There are natural resource implications for continuing to do so. For example, maintaining a hard copy version of the APR involves printing approximately 550 copies of the journal twice a year with each edition consisting of approximately 180 to 200 pages per edition. Another consideration is the ease of being able to access an electronic version of the journal at any time and from anywhere in the world. There is also the considerable drain

on financial resources associated with continuing to print and distribute over 1000 copies of the APR each year. I believe the time has come to make the change from print to electronic but the decision to do so rests with ASPG members.

I close this report by thanking members of the ASPG for allowing me to edit APR these past three years. I have enjoyed the role as, among other things, it has allowed me to read, analyse and evaluate many interesting articles. I am certainly wiser about various aspects of parliamentary studies from having done so.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed articles to the journal these past three years. Without your well-researched articles the ASPG would not have a journal. Please keep them coming, as I feel very confident in saying that the new editor will greatly appreciate receiving them.

Colleen Lewis