

From the Editor

Rodney Smith

Professor of Australian Politics, University of Sydney

This is my first issue of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* as editor. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Professor Colleen Lewis for editing the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* from 2014 to August 2017. She has left her mark on the journal and will be a difficult act to follow.

Partly due to the editorial changeover and partly due to some other factors, this issue of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* has appeared later than scheduled and is shorter than most recent issues. I apologise for those shortcomings but am confident that this issue of the journal still contains much of current and future interest.

In the first article in this issue, Anne Twomey provides a thorough analysis of the recent Section 44 controversies and High Court cases, from their origins until mid-February 2018. Mel Keenan examines the equivalent issues at state level, focusing particularly on eligibility to sit in the New South Wales Parliament. On a different issue of parliamentary representation, Kelvin Matthews argues that the existing governance arrangements for Christmas Island leave the Island's residents facing a democratic deficit. Alex Hickman explores recent cases in which actions by the Executive in Western Australia have made parliamentary scrutiny more difficult and suggests some remedies. The final two articles explore aspects of the relationship between parliaments and other parts of integrity systems. Chris Aulich and Roger Wettenhall provide an overview of integrity systems before analyzing the importance of independence for integrity agencies. Peter Wilkins focuses more specifically on statutory reviews of Auditors General, using a comparison of four recent reviews to suggest ways in which Australian parliaments might make such reviews more effective, while maintaining the independence of watchdog bodies. David Clune closes the issue with a review of the first volume of John Edward's biography of John Curtin.

I would like to thank the helpful experts who refereed papers for this issue of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. All six articles in the current issue were double-blind refereed. The authors found the comments of the referees constructive. When enough people have acted as referees to ensure that their identities cannot be linked to particular papers, I will publish a list of those who have helped the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* in this way.

At its 2017 Meeting, the Australasian Study of Parliament Group Executive agreed to move the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* from its long-standing hard copy format to an on-line only format. This is the first entirely on-line issue of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. The basic structure of the journal remains the same. Readers can read articles on screen or download and print them as desired. Apart from its environmental and cost advantages, the online journal format allows for easier article searches, as well as the inclusion of electronic links and graphical material that is difficult to reproduce in a paper-based journal. The change to online production has been led by Lesley Ferguson. I would like to thank her for the skills and hard work she has put into ensuring the transition has been a smooth one.

Finally, an apology arising from the last issue of the journal: in a review of the book *Party Rules? Dilemmas of Political Party Regulation in Australia* (Canberra, ANU Press, 2017), co-edited by Anika Gauja and Marian Sawer, Anika Gauja's name was misspelt several times as 'Gaula'.