



Australasian Study
of Parliament Group

Circular No 1 (February 2019)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Australian Parliament House, Canberra
2–4 October 2019



Parliaments navigating disruption in 2019

Conference information

Hosted by the ACT Chapter of the
Australasian Study of Parliament Group

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This year's annual conference will be held at Australian Parliament House from **Wednesday 2 October to Friday 4 October 2019**, coordinated by the departments of the House of Representatives, Senate and Parliamentary Services, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, and the ACT Chapter of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG).

This circular sets out the conference theme and calls for expressions of interest to make presentations.

Further information will be circulated in the lead up to the conference, including a detailed program, accommodation options and a registration form.

CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of the conference is:

Parliaments navigating disruption in 2019

Parliaments perform a number of key democratic functions. They represent, legislate, form the executive, and hold that executive to account. While these functions have more or less remained constant throughout the history of parliamentary democracy, powerful executives, technological disruption and the diversity and inclusion agenda all pose challenges (and opportunities) for parliaments in performing the legislative, representative and accountability aspects of their remit.

Innovation offers the chance for parliaments to assert their democratic pre-eminence, but not without risk.

The 2019 conference theme has been deliberately cast in broad terms. It is intended to give participants a chance to consider how, as parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, academics, journalists and other stakeholders, we might guide and manage the health of our parliamentary form of government.

Possible areas of exploration include, but are not limited to:

- The role of a professional parliamentary service
- Constitutional change—how constitutional arrangements impact on the capacity of parliaments to perform their accountability, representative and legislative roles in the 21st century
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives of parliament
- Representation of minority groups
- Parliamentary privilege and the exercise of executive functions
- Access to documents and information—balancing security with scrutiny
- The role of parliaments in assessing the effectiveness of their legislation
- Productive use of technology to engage citizens
- The use of social media to influence parliamentary debate

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The ACT Chapter Executive invites expressions of interest to present at the 2019 conference.

Anyone wishing to lodge an expression of interest may do so by sending an email with a short abstract seeking to explain how their presentation will address a particular element of the conference theme aspg2019.sen@aph.gov.au by **Friday 10 May 2019**.

See Appendix A for more information.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Toni Matulick

Chair

ASPG, ACT Chapter

Email: aspg2019.sen@aph.gov.au

Telephone: 02 6277 3232

APPENDIX A: 2019 ASPG CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The ACT Chapter invites expressions of interest from those with an interest in the study of parliament to make presentations at the 2019 conference. The Chapter has a particular interest in accessing the diverse perspectives of parliamentary officers, students, academics, journalists, parliamentarians and others on the conference theme of *Parliaments navigating disruption in 2019*.

The general approach to presentations is to prepare a paper and abstract and to speak to the paper before taking questions from the audience. However, expressions of interest to present information in a different format are welcome. Please set out the proposed format when submitting an abstract.

Presentations provoke interesting discussion among attendees and result in considerable sharing of ideas and experience—for example, students and academics may use the process to seek feedback on writing and research in progress and parliamentary officers to gain insights into practices in other jurisdictions.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation time is usually 15 to 20 minutes depending on the number of presenters per session. Following presentations, time is allocated for a Q & A session and general discussion.

Consideration will be given to presentations that follow a different format and this should be clearly set out as part of the abstract. Audiovisual equipment will be available.

If papers are submitted, it is anticipated that presenters will speak to their paper rather than read it.

PAPERS

Any papers submitted should be no more than 5000 words. Abstracts should be less than 300 words.

After the conference, the Editor will determine whether a conference paper will be published in the ASPG journal *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. At the request of authors, articles can be subject to a double-blind review process. In such cases, it is the reviewers who recommend publication or not.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If you are interested in presenting, please provide:

- the topic of your proposed presentation
- an abstract (<300 words) which identifies the presentation's relevance to the conference theme
- your name, organisation and position, and
- your contact email and phone.

Please send these by email to: aspg2019.sen@aph.gov.au by **Friday 10 May 2019**.

It is not necessary to have registered for the conference at the time you express an interest in presenting a paper. If you are selected to present, you will be required to register your attendance.

TIMELINE

Deadline for submitting EOI with abstract	Friday 10 May 2019
Acceptance of proposals to persons lodging an EOI	Friday 24 May 2019
Provision of biographical details to the ACT Chapter	Friday 14 June 2019
Provision of electronic copy of the finalised conference paper and advice from presenters as to audio-visual or other technological support that might be required	Friday 20 September 2019
Conference	2-4 October 2019