



Australasian Study
of Parliament Group

Circular No 4 (August 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

1. 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 (#4) includes:

- Information for presenters;
- a detailed draft program;
- accommodation options; and
- registration form.

2. 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, and Māori 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

3. INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Expressions of interest to present at the 2019 conference closed on Friday 28 June 2019.

The general approach to presentations is to prepare a paper and to speak to the paper before taking questions from the audience.

Presentations

Presentation time is usually 15 minutes depending on the number of presenters per session. Following presentations, time is allocated for a Q & A session and general discussion. Audiovisual equipment will be available.

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.

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.

Timeline

Provision of biographical details to the ACT Chapter	Friday 2 August 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

4. DRAFT PROGRAM

DAY 1: Wednesday, 2 October 2019	
2.30 pm – 4.30 pm	ASPG national executive meeting <i>Bluebell Room, Level 1, Legislative Assembly for the ACT, London Circuit, Canberra City</i>
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Welcome reception hosted by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of Australia

DAY 2: Thursday, 3 October 2019							
9.00 am – 9.30 am	Registration outside the Main Committee Room <i>Level 1, Australian Parliament House</i>						
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Commencement of conference Welcome to country and official conference opening						
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Keynote speech						
10.30 am – 10.45 am	Morning tea						
10.45 am – 12.00 pm	Session 1: Navigating disruption—Parliamentary deliberation and debate						
	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Patrick O’Brien, Secretary, Legislative Council Standing Committees, Parliament of Victoria</td> <td>The quality of debate in upper houses in Australia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Jed Reardon, Assistant Director, Black Rod’s Office, Department of the Senate</td> <td>Examining parliamentary debate in the Senate during the 45th Parliament</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Janine Freeman MLA, Member for Mirrabooka, Western Australian Legislative Assembly</td> <td>Private members’ bill case study: abortion legislation in Western Australia</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1. Patrick O’Brien, Secretary, Legislative Council Standing Committees, Parliament of Victoria	The quality of debate in upper houses in Australia	2. Jed Reardon, Assistant Director, Black Rod’s Office, Department of the Senate	Examining parliamentary debate in the Senate during the 45th Parliament	3. Janine Freeman MLA, Member for Mirrabooka, Western Australian Legislative Assembly	Private members’ bill case study: abortion legislation in Western Australia
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3. Janine Freeman MLA, Member for Mirrabooka, Western Australian Legislative Assembly	Private members’ bill case study: abortion legislation in Western Australia						
12.00 pm – 1.15 pm	Lunch Optional tour of parliament house (from 12.45 pm – 1.15pm) (TBC)						
1.30 pm – 2.45 pm	Session 2: Navigating disruption—Influences on policy and legislation						
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3. Parliamentary Budget Office (Commonwealth)	The role that independent bodies can play to support Parliament navigate disruption						
2.45 pm – 3.30 pm	Session 3: The procedural and institutional disruption on social media - part 1						
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2. Joshua Forkert, Economic and Finance Committee, House of Assembly, South Australia	Guidelines on the use of social media in parliament						
3.30 pm – 3.45 pm	Afternoon tea						

3.45 pm – 4.30 pm	Session 4: The procedural and institutional disruption on social media - part 2	
	1. Dr Luke Buckmaster, Director and Dr Tyson Wils, Senior Researcher, Social Policy, Australian Parliamentary Library	'Fake news' and political processes in Australia
	2. Chris Piggott-McKellar, Communication and Media Coordinator, Office of the Queensland Governor	From Fleet Street to official Tweet: the evolution of vice-regal communications in Australia
5.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Optional tour of Old Parliament House prior to dinner	
6.30 pm – 10.00 pm	Conference dinner at Old Parliament House Guest entertainer: Tim the Yowie Man	

DAY 3: Friday, 4 October 2019		
9.00 am – 9.15 am	Registration outside the Main Committee Room <i>Level 1, Australian Parliament House</i>	
9.15 am – 10.30 am	Session 5: Navigating disruption to parliamentary committees–Evidence, consensus and scrutiny	
	1. Lynley Ducker, Committee Secretary and Aleshia Westgate, Inquiry Secretary, Department of the House of Representatives	The truth, the half-truth, and nothing like the truth [about the provision of false or misleading information by witnesses appearing before House of Representatives committees]
	2. Lynda Pretty, Acting Inquiry Secretary, Queensland Parliament	Does legislative scrutiny by parliamentary committees improve human rights compatibility of legislation?
	3. John Aliferis, Independent Researcher and Dr Anita Mackay, Lecturer, La Trobe Law School	Disrupting Consensus: Understanding the role and nature of minority reports in parliamentary committee inquiries. Some lessons from Victoria.
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Conference photograph and morning tea	
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Session 6: Navigating disruption–Community engagement	
	1. The Hon Jonathan O’Dea MP, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly	Using technology to engage citizens
	2. Dr Alex Prior, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds	Institutional discourses of engagement in British and Australian legislatures
	3. Alex Hickman, Advisory Officer (Legal), Lisa Penman, Advisory Officer and Maddison Evans, Committee Clerk, Legislative Council of Western Australia	Taking on digital disruption: what Parliaments can learn from other sectors about using social media to harness public engagement
	4. Dr Sarah Moulds, School of Law, University of South Australia	From Disruption to Deliberation: Improving the quality and impact of community engagement with parliamentary law making
12.30 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch ASPG AGM (from 1:00 pm – 2.00 pm) Optional tour of parliament house (from 1.30 pm – 2.00pm) (TBC)	

2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Session 7: Navigating disruption—Representation, inclusion and diversity	
	1. Jayden Evett, Office of the Legislative Assembly, Australian Capital Territory	Prayers and commencement practices as a measure of inclusivity in Oceanian parliaments
	2. Angela Casey, Director, Parliamentary Education Office, Department of the Senate and parliamentary educators from other parliaments	Panel of parliamentary educators discussing 4 elements of a successful program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with parliamentarians 2. Finding and engaging your audience 3. Digital outreach 4. Dialogue and pedagogy in a parliamentary environment
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Closing remarks	
3.15 pm – 4.15 pm	Farewell drinks	

5. ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Options for accommodation near Parliament House are listed below:

[Hotel Realm](#)

18 National Circuit,
Canberra ACT 2600

[Hyatt Hotel Canberra](#)

120 Commonwealth Avenue
Canberra ACT 2600

[Hotel Kurrajong Canberra](#)

8 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

[Little National Hotel Canberra](#)

21 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

[Brassey Hotel](#)

Belmore Gardens
Barton ACT 2600

[University House Hotel](#)

1 Balmain Crescent
Acton ACT 2601

REGISTRATION FORM—2019 ASPG CONFERENCE, AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

Registration details	
Title	
First name(s)	
Surname	
Organisation	
Position	
Postal address	
Email address	
Contact telephone/mobile	
Place of accommodation (delegates are required to organise their own accommodation)	
Dietary requirements	
Accompanying person's name (if applicable)	

Event registration	
I will be attending the welcome reception on Wednesday 2 October 2019	Y/N
I wish to attend tour of Old Parliament House at 5.30 pm before dinner on Thursday 3 October.	Y/N
I wish to attend end of conference drinks on Friday 4 October	Y/N

Details of registration (please tick appropriate box)		
1. Full registration – ASPG member	\$400	
2. Full registration – non-member	\$420	
3. Conference dinner – additional person(s)	\$150	
4. Student concession (conference dinner not included)	\$100	
	Total	

Payment	
Electronic Funds Transfer	
Please retain a copy of this registration form as a receipt	
Account Name	Australasian Study of Parliament ACT Chapter
BSB	062900
Account number	10084680
Reference	Include surname or name of agency/institution to facilitate payment reconciliation

Emergency contact	
Name	
Relationship	
Contact	

Signature	Date

Please return this form to aspg2019.sen@aph.gov.au and make the necessary EFT to the above bank account with either your surname or that of your agency/institution in the reference field.