

## From the Editor

### Sarah Moulds

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It is with much gratitude that I have accepted the role of Editor of the Australasian Parliamentary Review following an approach by outgoing Australasian Study of Parliament Group President Professor Colleen Lewis and outgoing Editor of the Review Professor Rodney Smith. The contribution of these two acclaimed scholars to the study of Parliaments in Australia and the region cannot be overstated, and I hope will continue to be evident through the pages of this publication for many years to come. Thank you for your leadership, collegiality, intellectual rigour, and sheer hard work. You have inspired many readers of this publication, including me, to pursue new knowledge and share ideas to improve the quality, accessibility and impact of our parliamentary democracies.

In this bumper edition of the Review, you will see a strong focus on oversight and accountability, with contributions from Dr Emma Banyer and Emma Wannell, both senior researchers with the Department of the Senate, on the role of the National Cabinet and its relationship with the federal and state Parliaments. These authors interrogate the promise of cooperative federalism, with the reality of emergency lawmaking and offer powerful insights into how to ensure this body remains accountable to the Australian people. Peter Wilkins, Adjunct Professor at the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy, also explores the theme of accountability from the perspective of integrity agency funding, with a focus on Auditor Generals and the role these important statutory office holders play in holding governments to account for their expenditure.

Complementing this theme is a contribution from Anthony Close and colleagues at the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office, offering practical insights into how to improve Victoria's fiscal framework, with relevance for other jurisdictions seeking to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of their budgetary processes.

Aleisha Westgate, Acting Committee Secretary in the House of Representatives, Maddison Evans, Research Officer, Legislative Council Committee Office in the Parliament of Western Australia, and Lisa Butson, Senior Research Officer, Department of the Senate, offer useful insights into other key bodies and processes within parliaments that play an integral part in our parliamentary discourse. This includes highlighting the potential power and impact of parliamentary resolutions in Australia and the United States and reflecting on the role of upper house committees in the

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Senate and in the Western Australian Parliament, as well as discussing who counts as 'a stranger' in our House of Representatives.

Dr Kelvin Matthews, Chief Executive Officer in WA Local Government, continues with a comparative analysis, this time considering what lessons the Japanese approach to local government and delegated legislation might hold for Western Australian local government bodies.

Cenz Larcione from the University of South Australia also shares his experience as part of a wonderful team of teachers supporting the South Australian Parliamentary Internship Program, designed and proven to open up the world of parliament to many bright, ambitious students over the years.

This edition also includes three great book reviews reflecting on the life and times of two political heavy weights from two very different eras in Australian politics: Bob Hawke (by Troy Bramston) and Sir William McKell (by David Clune). Reviewer Michael Easson also shares his thoughts on *The Party*, a history of the Communist Party in Australia, written by Stuart McIntyre.

This diversity of contributions and contributors is one of the most valuable assets of the Australasian Parliamentary Review and one I am keen to foster as editor. So, dear reader, whether you are a budding scholar, distinguished academic or practitioner with on the ground experience please do not hesitate to share your work with the Review.

