
From the Editor

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this Edition of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. This Edition includes contributions that are varied and diverse, reflecting the dynamic parliamentary and political environment of 2023.

Two articles in this Edition focus squarely on the significance of the upcoming constitutional referendum in Australia, and what it means for Australians to be called upon to exercise a form of direct democracy that will characterise a nation. The first is by Professor Gabrielle Appleby, a constitutional law scholar with in-depth knowledge of the *Uluru Statement from Heart* process. The second is by Andrew Cole, an experienced parliamentary officer from South Australia, and focuses on how and when constitutional referenda can enter the deliberative zone.

This Edition also includes a future-looking contribution from senior parliamentary official Fotis Fitsilis, from Greece, and Professor Jörn von Lucke, from Germany, on the topic of reshaping interparliamentary cooperation through advanced information sharing. There are also contributions in this Edition that speak to the significance of procedural changes in our parliaments, and the implications of these changes for the cultural environments in which parliamentary work takes place. This includes a comment piece from Policy Fellow Sonia Palmieri, asking whether language rules improve everyday respect in the parliamentary chamber, and a reflection on the new rules governing the work of the Legislative Council in New South Wales by senior parliamentary officer Allison Stowe.

Scott Prasser has prepared an insightful piece exploring whether we need a royal commission into Australia's response to the pandemic. Dr Paul Williams offers an analysis of the 2020 Queensland state election and the 'six Queensland' he suggests may require revisiting.

The Edition concludes with reviews of Scott Prasser and David Clune's edited collection *The Whitlam Era*, and *Power Politics and Parliament: Essays in Honour of John R Nethercote*, edited by Henry Ergas and Jonathan Pincus. I express deep gratitude to all authors and reviewers involved in this publication and commend the contents to you.



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