



Australasian Study
of Parliament Group
New Zealand Chapter

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Te Manawaroatanga o
Pāremata i te Ao Hurihuri
**Parliament's Resilience
in a Changing World**

2 - 4 October 2024, Wellington



Foreword from the ASPG NZ Chapter

The 2024 ASPG Annual Conference is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to welcoming our 83 delegates to New Zealand Parliament here in Wellington from 2 – 4 October.

Te Manawaroatanga o Pāremata I te Ao Hurihuri – Parliament's Resilience in a Changing World is this year's conference theme, and we were delighted to receive an excellent response to our call for papers.

The final programme is included in this flyer. Presentations and panel sessions will cover topics ranging from transforming parliamentary practice in committees, engagement and participation in decision making, youth participation, AI, engagement through social media, parliamentary preparedness for pandemics and climate change, the safeguarding of members and staff, Parliament in the media age, and accessibility and inclusiveness.

We look forward to hearing from other jurisdictions about how they have maintained strong and accessible Parliaments in the face of polarisation, a pandemic, climate change, and rapid technological changes. These challenges also present opportunity, and so we look forward also to reports about ways that Parliaments are building resilience now and for the future.

With attendees from universities and Parliaments around Australasia, including current members of Parliament, the conference will benefit from the expertise of both academics and those working within the parliamentary context.

While we cannot predict the weather and the strength of the wind over the days of the conference, we can promise manaakitanga/hospitality, many opportunities for questions and discussion, and the sharing of valuable experience and ideas.

Ngā mihi nui,



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Mihi Whakatau information

At the Welcome Reception we will have a mihi whakatau (a speech of welcome in Māori). This will be conducted by our Parliament's Tumu Whakarae (Principal Cultural Advisor) Mr Kura Moeahu who is from Te Āti Awa, an iwi (tribe) from Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington).

The manuhiri (visitors) will gather inside the Grand Hall and then someone will lead you into the mihi whakatau in the Legislative Council Chamber. There will be a hongī harirū where the visitors will form a line and move along to hongī the tangata whenua (hosts). This involves the shaking of hands and a gentle pressing of noses, signifying the sacred breath of life – the mauri (life principle). The tangata whenua will be seated facing the manuhiri to welcome you.

Kura will explain all the protocol ahead of the mihi commencing. The hosts will support him with a waiata (song). At the end, there will be a waiata sung by the manuhiri. The words to this will be provided on a screen. Afternoon tea will be served afterwards.

Theme

Parliaments are responsible for adapting laws to changing needs and circumstances. They must also preserve the integrity of the Government system by effectively holding the Executive to account. To achieve these objectives and remain relevant to the people they represent, parliamentary systems must remain constitutionally sound while becoming increasingly adaptable. Parliamentarians themselves need to be forward-looking, resilient, and open to change.

As we navigate the challenges of a fast-paced and changing world, Parliaments are confronted with technological advancements, evolving communication methods, information overload, and increasing political and social polarisation. Addressing persistent issues like climate change requires long-term consensus and commitment. The ability for Parliaments to identify opportunities and manage risk in this environment is paramount to our future as trusted democratic institutions.

Final deadlines

Friday, 27 September

Final call for copies of presentation papers for posting on the conference page of the ASPG website post-conference (optional).

Final call for PowerPoint slides, if using them for your presentation.

Monday, 11 November

Final conference paper due to the Editor of the ASPG journal, *Australasian Parliamentary Review (APR)*, if submitting to the journal.

After the conference, the Editor will determine whether a conference paper will be published in the Spring/Summer 2024 *APR*. [Click here](#) for further information. If you would like the opportunity to be published, please comply with the *APR* style guide for footnote references.

Programme

Wednesday 2 October	
1pm Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House	Mihi whakatau – welcome ceremony and afternoon tea
1pm Grand Hall, Executive Wing (the Beehive)	Registration desk opens
2.30pm Departing from Legislative Council Chamber	Optional tour of Parliament for those not attending ASPG Executive Meeting
3pm–4.15pm Debating Chamber, Parliament House	ASPG Executive Committee Meeting
4.30pm–5.15pm Debating Chamber, Parliament House	ASPG AGM
5.30pm–7.30pm Grand Hall, Parliament House	Welcome reception

Thursday 3 October

8.15am Grand Hall, Parliament House	Registration and tea and coffee
8.45am Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House	Karakia and conference opening remarks <i>Greg O'Connor MP – Assistant Speaker, NZ Parliament</i> Welcome on behalf of the ASPG Executive Committee <i>Dr Isla Macphail – ASPG President</i>
9am Transforming parliamentary practice – engagement and participation in decision making in a changing world	Dr Sarah Moulds, University of South Australia and Lena Ormsby, NZ Parliament <i>Building inter-generational resilience through youth engagement with parliaments: Green shoots in Australia and lessons from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales</i>
9.30am	Bernice Watson, Parliament of Queensland <i>Parliamentary committees innovating for greater participation and representation in parliamentary decision-making – is parliamentary privilege a barrier?</i>
10am Panel session	Caleb Triscari, Parliament of Victoria <i>Parliamentary petitions as a voice for local communities</i> Hong Tran, Parliament of Victoria <i>Beyond the pandemic: to what extent should parliament embrace remote participation in the digital age?</i> Facilitator: James Picker, Clerk Assistant (Committees)
10.45am	Morning tea

11.15am	<p>Guest Speaker: Dr Dean Knight, Professor of Law, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington <i>Parliament, resilience and the full power to make laws</i></p>
<p>12pm</p> <p>Panel session: Parliaments and artificial intelligence</p>	<p>Caitlin Connally, Parliament of Victoria <i>Protecting parliamentary procedure: bridging the gap in institutional memory with artificial intelligence</i></p> <p>Dr Antonino Nielfi, Parliament of Australia <i>The AI guidelines for parliaments: leveraging the strengths of AI in legislative institutions</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Suze Jones, Deputy Clerk of the House</p>
12.45pm	<p>Lunch - Optional short tour of Parliament @ 1.15pm</p>
<p>1.45pm</p> <p>Panel session: Engagement through social media</p>	<p>Rachel Tan, Waikato University <i>Legal jurisdictions in a digital age: challenges and opportunities in parliamentary oversight of social media platforms</i></p> <p>Dr Kit Kowol, Parliament of Queensland <i>Disrupting the disrupters: resilient parliamentary procedure and culture in an era of disruptive protest</i></p> <p>Emma McAuliffe, NZ Parliament <i>Staying social: How NZ Parliament communicated with the public during the pandemic and what's changed (nearly) five years on</i></p> <p>Meredith Ross-James, Post-graduate student, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington; NZ Parliament intern <i>Online incitement to violence: Aotearoa's problem and legislative solutions</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Amy Brier, Deputy Chief Executive, Parliamentary Library and Engagement</p>

3pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm Parliamentary preparedness – from disaster response and pandemics to climate change	Adjunct Professor Tamara Smith, MP for Ballina, Parliament of NSW <i>Strengthening community led recovery from extreme weather events: case studies from the frontline</i>
4pm	Dr Luke Buckmaster and Dr Matthew Thomas, Parliament of Australia <i>Follow the (meta-) experts: helping parliamentarians to understand complex research</i>
4.30pm	Maria Mead, Parliament of Queensland <i>Turbocharging civics education for parliamentary resilience: A case study of Queensland Parliament's 2024 'Build your Parliament in Minecraft' competition for schools</i>
5pm	Conference photo
5.15pm	Free time
6.30pm Banquet Hall, the Beehive	Pre-dinner drinks
7pm–9.30pm Banquet Hall, the Beehive	Conference dinner

Friday 4 October

<p>9am</p> <p>Transforming parliamentary practice – balancing tradition with new opportunities: Committees</p>	<p>Gabor Hellyer and David Bagnall, NZ Parliament <i>Transforming parliamentary practice: new procedures for scrutinising the executive</i></p>
<p>9.30am</p>	<p>Jessica Strout, Parliament of Victoria <i>What's at stake when parliamentary committee inquiries rely on voluntary executive cooperation?</i></p>
<p>10am</p>	<p>Dr Matthew Johnson, Parliament of NSW <i>Informal evidence in committee inquiries</i></p>
<p>10.30am</p>	<p>Morning tea</p>
<p>11am</p>	<p>Jessie Halligan, Stephen Fujiwara, and Kara McKee, Parliament of NSW <i>Going viral: Managing inquiries with thousands of submissions and substantial public interest</i></p>
<p>11.30am</p> <p>Panel session: Safeguarding Members and staff — the importance of parliamentary culture and how we prevent bad choices, bullying, and burnouts</p>	<p>Bruce Pope, Parliament of NSW <i>Governance and sustained cultural change in Parliaments</i></p> <p>Amy Yong, NZ Parliament <i>Psychological wellbeing of Parliament staff: What do we know and what can we do?</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero, Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service</p>
<p>12.15pm</p>	<p>Lunch - Optional short tour of Parliament @ 12.45</p>
<p>1.15pm</p> <p>The parliamentary workplace in a changing world</p>	<p>Emeritus Professor Marian Sawer, Australian National University <i>Making sense of the effect of the #MeToo movement on parliamentary reform</i></p>

1.45pm	Miona Ikeda, Parliament of Australia <i>Inclusive not exclusive: parliamentary committees reaching out to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities</i>
2.15pm	Steve Streefkerk, NZ Parliament <i>Parliamentary resilience: the New Zealand experience</i>
2.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.15pm Transforming parliamentary practice	Leslie Gonye, Former Deputy Clerk, Parliament of NSW <i>The right member given an opportunity! A case study in a transformation of parliamentary practice</i>
3.45pm	Pauline Cullen, Parliament of Australia <i>Raising the Standard – an inquiry by the Procedure Committee</i>
4.15pm Resilience in an everchanging world –what opportunities this brings and how we can leverage these to overcome challenges	Stew Sexton, NZ Parliament <i>Accessibility in the changing world – the need for parliaments to be accessible and inclusive</i>
4.45pm	Conference closing remarks <i>Greg O'Connor MP, Assistant Speaker and Dr Isla Macphail, ASPG President</i> Karakia
5pm - 6.30pm Grand Hall, Parliament House	Farewell reception

List of delegates

Australian Capital Territory

Name	Position
Alicia Coupland	Assistant Secretary, ACT Legislative Assembly
Anika Khwaja	Principal Research Officer, Australian Department of the Senate, Parliament of Australia
Dr Antonino Nielfi	Researcher, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Australia
Fleur Hall	Director, Legislation and Records, Table Office, Department of the House Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Hamish Finlay	Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms, ACT Legislative Assembly
Dr Luke Buckmaster	Director, Research Branch, Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Australia
Emeritus Professor Marian Sawer	Australian National University
Dr Matthew Thomas	Senior Researcher, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Australia
Miona Ikeda	Inquiry Secretary, Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Pauline Cullen	Director, Chamber Research, Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Rachel Turner	Executive Manager, Business Support, ACT Legislative Assembly

New South Wales

Name	Position
Allison Stowe	Principal Council Officer, Procedure, and Former Secretary/Treasurer, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Art Bae	Parliamentary Officer, Parliament of NSW
Bruce Pope	Senior Manager, Governance, Performance, and Planning, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW
Hayley Jarrett	Senior Parliamentary Officer, Parliament of NSW
Ilana Chaffey	Research Officer, Parliament of NSW
Jeremy Travers	Member of Executive Committee, ASPG NSW Chapter
Jessie Halligan	Principal Council Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Joan Douce	Senior Parliamentary Officer, Parliament of NSW
Kara McKee	Principal Council Officer, Parliament of NSW
Kate McCorquodale	Committee Manager, Parliament of NSW
Leslie Gonye	Former Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of NSW
Dr Matt Johnson	Committee Manager, Parliament of NSW
Mohini Mehta	Committee Officer, Parliament of NSW
Hon Natasha Maclaren Jones	Member of the Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW; Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion, Homelessness, and Youth; Member of the Liberal Party
Sam Griffith	Clerk-Assistant, Parliament of NSW

Sonia Hornery	Member for Wallsend, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of NSW; Deputy Speaker; Member of the Australian Labor Party
Stephen Fujiwara	Executive Officer, Office of the Clerk, Parliament of NSW
Tilda Sikes	Director, Events and Program, Office of the Black Rod, Parliament of NSW
Adjunct Professor Tamara Smith MP	Member for Ballina, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of NSW; Member of the Greens Party; Adjunct Professor, School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University
Dr Tara Smith	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard University

New Zealand

Name	Position
Amy Brier	Deputy Chief Executive, Library and Engagement, NZ Parliament
Amy Yong	Senior Research Adviser, NZ Parliament
Baili-Ann Francis	Support Staff Experience Adviser, NZ Parliament
Cushla Tangaere-Manuel	Member for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti, NZ Parliament
David Bagnall	Principal Clerk (Procedure), NZ Parliament
Dr Dean Knight	Professor of Law, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington
Emma McAuliffe	Senior Communications Adviser, NZ Parliament
Eve Tucker	Clerk of Committee, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, NZ Parliament
Gabor Hellyer	Principal Clerk of Committee, NZ Parliament
Greg O'Connor	Assistant Speaker; Member for Ōhāriu, NZ Parliament

James Picker	Clerk Assistant, Select Committees and Corporate, NZ Parliament
Meredith Ross-James	Post-graduate student, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington student; NZ Parliament intern
Lacy Jeffries	Doctoral student, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington
Lauren Zamalis	Hansard Editor, NZ Parliament; ASPG Treasurer, NZ Chapter
Lena Ormsby	Chair, Rito Youth Reference Group – Rito o te Pāremata, NZ Parliament
Hon Louise Upston	Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, Member for Taupō, NZ Parliament
Nico Henneveld	Inter-Parliamentary Relations Adviser, NZ Parliament; ASPG Secretary, NZ Chapter
Nicole Cottrell	Manager, Research Services, NZ Parliament
Philippa McLoughlin	Parliamentary Officer (Administration), Justice Committee, NZ Parliament
Rachel Tan	Lecturer, School of Law, Waikato University
Rafael Gonzalez-Montero	Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service, NZ Parliament
Sasha Greig	Manager, Parliamentary Visitor Experience, NZ Parliament
Steph Maiava	Parliamentary Engagement Coordinator, NZ Parliament
Steve Streefkerk	Manager, Business Continuity and Chamber Operations, Serjeant-at-Arms, NZ Parliament
Stew Sexton	Senior Accessibility Adviser, NZ Parliament
Suze Jones	Deputy Clerk of the House, NZ Parliament

Queensland

Name	Position
Bernice Watson	First Clerk Assistant (Committees), Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Queensland
Dr Kit Kowol	Assistant Committee Secretary, Parliament of Queensland
Maria Mead	Parliamentary Education Officer, Parliament of Queensland

South Australia

Name	Position
Dr Sarah Moulds	Associate Professor, University of South Australia; Editor, Australasian Parliamentary Review
Dr Merry Brown	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of South Australia
Leslie Guy	Clerk Assistant, Legislative Council, Parliament of South Australia
Tonia Coulter	Parliamentary Assistant, House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia

Tasmania

Name	Position
Fiona Murphy	Second Clerk Assistant, Parliament of Tasmania
Julie Thompson	Committee Secretary, Legislative Council, Parliament of Tasmania
Kiah Charles	Parliamentary Assistant, House of Assembly, Parliament of Tasmania

Victoria

Name	Position
Ann-Marie Hermans	Member for South Eastern Metropolitan, Parliament of Victoria
Caitlin Connally	Inquiry Officer (Standing Committees), Parliament of Victoria
Caleb Triscari	Data Journalist, Parliament of Victoria
Dr Chiara De Lazzari	Inquiry Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria
Hong Tran	Parliamentary Officer, Procedure Office, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria
Jessica Strout	Committee Manager, Legal and Social Issues Committee, Parliament of Victoria
Hon Maree Edwards	Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly; Member for Bendigo West, Member of Australian Labor Party
Oliver Ferres	Digital Transformation Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria
Tom Bennett	Advisor to the Speaker, Parliament of Victoria
Dr Vaughn Koops	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria

Western Australia

Name	Position
Darren Seet	Parliamentary Officer, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia
Dr Isla Macphail	ASPG President; Clerk Assistant (Committees), WA Legislative Assembly
Lisa Bellano	Parliamentary Officer, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia

Maddison Evans	Research Officer, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia
Hon Martin Pritchard	Member of the Legislative Council (North Metropolitan Region), Parliament of Western Australia
Mia Swift	Methodist Ladies' College, Perth
William Bourne	Research Officer, Parliament of Western Australia

