



Australasian Study
of Parliament Group

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



*Parliaments
when democracy
is under challenge*

30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2026

NSW Parliament, Sydney

Democracy is the cornerstone of modern governance in our jurisdictions. It promotes individual freedoms, equality, and the right to participate in the open decision-making processes that shape our society. Despite its ideals, democracy is facing challenges on several fronts in the 21st century.

Challenges include the implications of new technologies, the proliferation of mis and disinformation, and declining trust and engagement. In light of these challenges, parliaments, parliamentarians and those who support the work of parliament face the challenge of how to respond to protect and preserve democratic values.

This year, the ASPG National Conference will be held at the Parliament of NSW hosted by the NSW Chapter. The conference will explore the theme of *parliaments when democracy is under challenge*. Under this theme, the NSW Chapter of the ASPG invites wide-ranging discussions on topics such as:

- the unique value of parliamentary systems of government in the pursuit of democratic ideals
- the role of the parliamentary procedures in strengthening, preserving and/or hindering democracy
- modern risks and challenges to parliamentary democracy
- the interaction between the three of arms of government – the legislature, the executive and the judiciary – in maintaining democracy
- civic engagement in parliamentary and democratic processes
- accountability and transparency in democratic governance.

We welcome a diverse range of speakers to address the conference theme and other related topics.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest are now open to those who may wish to present a paper at the conference. Expressions of interests are due **24 April 2026**. Please read the information below if you wish to submit an expression of interest and fill in the form by clicking the link below.

[Submit your expression of interest here](#)

Abstract and paper

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words. Papers should be between 4,000 - 6,000 words. Footnotes references should comply with the [Australasian Parliamentary Review style guide](#).

After the conference, the editorial board will determine whether a conference paper will be published in the ASPG journal Australasian Parliamentary Review (APR). [Read further information regarding contributions to the APR](#).

Presentations

Presentations will be 15-20 minutes depending on the number of people per session. Presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Presenters are encouraged to speak to their paper rather than read it.

Audio visual equipment will be available. Please advise us of your audio-visual requirements with your finalised conference paper.



Timeline

- **Friday 24 April 2026:** Deadline for submitting an expression of interest
- **Friday 8 May 2026:** Expressions of interest will be confirmed
- **Friday 24 July 2026:** Title, abstract (300 words), and biographical information of author/s required
- **Friday 28 August 2026:** Electronic copy of the finalised paper and accompanying PowerPoint presentation required.

Contact

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