

November 2007 workshop to be co-sponsored by Parliamentary Studies Centre

**Public Leadership in Australia and Beyond:
Political, bureaucratic and civic leadership in comparative perspective**

Politics Program, Research School of Social Sciences (Professor Paul 't Hart)
and the ANU Parliamentary Studies Centre (Professor John Uhr)

University House, Australian National University
29-30 November 2007

The workshop has three purposes:

1. to take stock of the breadth of ongoing research and reflection on leadership in Australian society, to examine Australian leadership practices and research from both a cross-disciplinary and international-comparative perspective;
2. to facilitate dialogue, cooperative work and perhaps network-building between leadership researchers (and practitioners) who would not otherwise come into contact with one another;
3. to lay the ground work for an edited volume that not only presents the state of the art in Australian public leadership research but also breaks new ground in identifying cutting-edge questions, theories, methods and practices to enhance our understanding and critical assessment of public leadership in and beyond Australia.

Thursday 29 November: Understanding Public Leadership

What research questions should shape the study of public leadership in Australia? What can 'theory' contribute to the study of leadership and what, of anything, is distinctive about Australian approaches to the study of public leadership?

8.30am-9.00 am

Registration and coffee

9.00am-9.15am: Welcome, with overview of Paul and John's Background Paper

9.15am-10.45am Up Close and Personal, from leaders to leadership:
questions about person, personality and biography

coffee

11.00am-12.30pm From the Personal to the Political:
questions about politics and the institutions of leadership

Lunch

1.30pm-3.00pm From the Political to the Social:
questions about sociology and the social psychology of leadership

coffee

3.30pm-5.00pm Getting Down to Business:
Three discussion groups exploring themes in the leadership theory-practice nexus
(themes TBA on basis of the day's discussions)

7.00pm-9.30pm Dinner, University House
Key note speech (PM)

Friday 30 November: Comparing Leadership Practices

What research answers emerge from the study of contemporary Australian practices of public leadership? What can 'practice' contribute to the study of leadership and what is distinctive about contemporary Australian 'practices' of public leadership?

9.00am-10.30am. Three working groups investigating distinctive Australian practices in three spheres of public leadership, with reference to the Plenary Questions below:

(i) how much do we really know about Australian practices of public leadership (e.g. in comparative perspective)?

(ii) how can academic study and 'theory' enrich reflection on Australian public leadership?

Group 1. Distinctive leadership practices in the political sphere:
executive-legislative-judicial leadership

Group 2. Distinctive leadership practices in the public sector:
bureaucratic organizations and public governance networks

Group 3. Distinctive leadership practices in the community sector:
civil society, religious organizations and the media

coffee

11am-12.30pm Plenary I: Patterns of Practice Compared.
How much do we really know about Australian practices of public leadership? What remains unknown?

Three reports and general discussion
(Drawing Room)

Lunch (Drawing Room Terrace)

1.30pm-3.30pm Plenary II: Reframing Leadership Analysis.

How can academic study and 'theory' enrich reflection on Australian public leadership?

What remains unexplored: in theory as well as practice?

Three reports and general discussion

Wrap up discussion:

1. From workshop to volume: publication plans
2. From workshop to network: consolidation plans

Conclusion