

Bicameralism: Australia in Comparative Context

Sponsored by the Parliamentary Studies Centre, Crawford School of Economics and Government, ANU
in conjunction with the Departments of the Senate and House of Representatives
Main Committee Room, Parliament House
Canberra, 9-10 October 2008

This free conference will locate the Australian Senate, and selected aspects of Australian state parliamentary arrangements, in an international context of bicameral parliamentary systems. Bicameralism refers not simply to the role of second chambers in parliamentary systems but also to the political management of inter-chamber relationships. This two-day international conference is one of a series of research activities organised through the Parliamentary Studies Centre at the Australian National University. The conference is part of a three year research project on 'Strengthening Legislative Institutions' sponsored by the Australian Research Council (ARC) through a Linkage Grant involving the ANU and the Departments of the Senate and of the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament.

The aim of the Bicameralism conference is to investigate trends in bicameralism in Australia and to relate these trends to international developments in bicameral parliamentary systems. Day One will be devoted to the Australian scene at national and state level. Day Two will examine international developments with reports from bicameral parliamentary systems around the world. The papers from the conference will be considered for publication in the one of the edited research collections arising from this ARC research project.

International and academic speakers include: Professor Anthony Mughan, Ohio State University; Dr Meg Russell, University College London; Professor John Owens, Westminster University, London; Professor Campbell Sharman, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Janet Hiebert, Queens University, Canada; Dr Stanley Bach, Washington DC, USA; Dr Riccardo Pelizzo, Griffith University, Brisbane; Dr Ashok Acharya, University of Delhi, India; Dr Stephen Sherlock, Indonesia; Dr Bruce Stone, University of Western Australia; Dr Richard Herr, University of Tasmania; Professor Brian Costar, Swinburne University, Melbourne.

Day One: Australian Developments

8.45am-9.15am Opening Session:

'The Senate: Blessing or Bane?'

Senator the Hon John Faulkner, Special Minister for State, Cabinet Secretary, and Vice-President of the Executive Council

9.15am-10.30am 'Looking Forward: Priorities for Australian Bicameralism'

Three political party representatives: Opposition; Greens; Australian Democrats; including Sen Marise Payne; former Sen Andrew Murray; Dr Deb Foskey, MLA ACT Greens.

11am-12.30pm 'Takes Two to Tango'
Politicians with experience in two chambers or parliaments,
including Sen Louise Pratt, former MP and senator Michael Baume.

1.30pm-3.00pm 'State Innovations in Bicameralism'
Panel of State parliamentary officials and academics
including Professor Brian Costar, Swinburne University; Dr Bruce Stone, UWA; and
Lynn Lovelock, Clerk of the NSW Legislative Council.

3.30pm-5.00pm 'Australia and the Asia Pacific Region'
Professor Richard Herr, University of Tasmania
Dr Stephen Sherlock, political development consultant, Indonesia

Day Two: International Developments

8.30am-9.15am Opening Keynote Speaker:
'Ten Things You Should Know about Contemporary Bicameralism'
Professor Anthony Mughan
Co-editor, 'Senates: Bicameralism in the Contemporary World' (1999)
Director, International Studies,
Ohio State University, USA

9.15am-10.30am:
'US Bicameralism in Theory and Practice'
Dr Stan Bach (USA); Professor John Owens (Westminster University))

11am-12.30pm:
'European Arrangements, Old and New: UK and Italy'
Dr Meg Russell (University College London); Dr Riccardo Pelizzo (Griffith University,
Australia)

1.30pm-3.00pm:
'Bicameralism and Representation: Canadian Perspectives'
Prof Janet Hiebert (Queens University, Canada); Prof Campbell Sharman (UBC, Canada)

3.30pm-5.00pm:
'Asian Innovations: India and Japan'
Dr Ashok Acharya (U Delhi); Dr Yusaku Horiuchi (Crawford School, ANU)

Bookings essential. Contact:
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