

PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES CENTRE

CRAWFORD SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT



Varieties of Unicameralism

ACT Legislative Assembly

Canberra Australia

Friday 31 July 2009

Unicameralism refers to single-chamber parliamentary systems. This conference is a contribution to the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia's youngest parliament. The conference also supplements the Parliamentary Studies Centre's 2008 conference on Bicameralism, details of which can be found at:

<http://www.parliamentarystudies.anu.edu.au/activities.php>

The aim of the 'Varieties of Unicameralism' conference is to locate the experience of the ACT Legislative Assembly in the wider Australian and international context, and to illustrate the many varieties of unicameralism. The conference will feature reports of historical and contemporary developments from a wide range of unicameral legislatures: some, such as New Zealand and Scotland, at national level; and others, like Queensland and the Northern Territory, at sub-national level. All sessions will be held at the ACT Legislative Assembly and will be open to the general public. The conference is being co-sponsored by the Parliamentary Studies Centre and the ACT Legislative Assembly, with funding from the Australian Research Council.

Opening Address: Overview of the varieties of unicameralism.

Speaker: Professor Louis Massicotte, Laval University, Canada

Session 1 The Australian Scene: eg, QLD; NT; the ACT; SA's debate over unicameralism.

Speakers: Professor John Wanna, ANU/Griffith University; Dr Dennis Shoosmith, Charles Darwin University; Dr Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide; Dr Janine O'Flynn, Crawford School, ANU

Session 2 Older forms of unicameralism: eg, Canadian provinces; Nebraska.

Speakers: Professor Louis Massicotte, Laval University; Professor Donald DeBats, Flinders University

Session 3 Newer forms of unicameralism: eg, New Zealand; Scotland, Wales

Speakers: Professor Elizabeth McLeay, Victoria University, Wellington; Dr Phil Larkin, University of Canberra

Session 4 Pacific Islands Region

Speakers: Quinton Clements, Centre for Democratic Institutions; Ian Harris, Clerk of the House of Representatives; David Hegarty, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies

Sponsored by the Parliamentary Studies Centre (PSC), Crawford School

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CONFERENCE

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