



ANU

Parliamentary Studies Centre



Forum of Federations  
THE GLOBAL NETWORK ON FEDERALISM

CRAWFORD  
ANU SCHOOL



## Political Parties and Civil Society

Roundtable

Parliament House, Canberra

4 November 2009

The Parliamentary Studies Centre acknowledges the generosity of the Department of the Senate in hosting the event.

The Forum of Federations is an independent organization that was initiated in Canada and is supported by many countries and governments.

The Forum is concerned with the contribution federalism makes and can make to the maintenance and construction of democratic societies and governments. It pursues this goal by:

- Building international networks and fostering the exchange of experience on federal governance.
- Enhancing mutual learning and understanding among practitioners of federalism and
- Disseminating knowledge and technical advice of interest to existing federations and of benefit to countries seeking to introduce federal elements into their governance structures and constitutions

The Forum works with countries and organizations of the North and of the South, with established federal countries and newly-emerging federations. In addition, the Forum works with countries that are exploring the possibilities of a federal political system.



*George Anderson has been President and CEO of the Forum of Federations since 2005. He served over thirty years in Canada's federal public service, where his positions included Deputy Minister of Natural Resources (2002-2005) and Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs in the Cabinet office (1996-2002) He is the author of Federalism: An Introduction (Oxford University Press: 2008) and is a trustee of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.*

## **Parliamentary Studies Centre**

This three-year Australian Research Council-funded project, under the directorship of Professor John Uhr, builds on a partnership between the ANU and the Commonwealth Parliament to establish a research community of parliamentary analysts to improve international understanding of processes of parliamentary innovation and modernization.

The project began in 2007, investigating 'Strengthening Parliamentary Institutions' through extensive case studies of the Commonwealth Parliament and through associated comparative studies of institutional strengthening in legislatures elsewhere. The theoretical aim of this project is to revise and renew political science theories of parliamentary capacity-building. The practical aim is to improve governmental and non-governmental strategies of democracy-assistance through analysis of success and failure in institutional strengthening of parliaments, based on lessons arising from Australian change processes.

## Program

Venue: Parliament House, Senate committee room 2S3

*Please try to arrive around 9am in order to be signed in at public entrance*

*Each panel session will be followed by questions and discussion. Proceedings will be recorded.*

**9.15:** Welcome and introduction – Norman Abjorensen, Parliamentary Studies Centre, ANU

**9.20** Opening address, George Anderson, President, Forum of Federations

**9.30:** Session 1 Civil society, federalism and public policy  
*Chair: Norman Abjorensen*

Marian Sawyer (ANU)  
Paul Elton (COAG Reform Council)  
Steve Dovers (Fenner School, ANU)  
Will Sanders (ANU)  
Brad Kinsela (Queensland Government)

**10.55** *Morning tea*

**11.10** Session 2: Parties and civil society  
*Chair: Scott Prasser*

Nick Martin (ALP)  
James Connor (ADFA)  
Ian Marsh (UTas)  
Brian Costar (Swinburne)  
Vern Hughes (Centre for Civil Society)

*12.45 Lunch*

**1.20 Session 3 The Dynamics of Civil Society**

*Chair: Brian Costar*

Senator Ursula Stephens (Parliamentary Secretary for Social  
Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector)

Tully Fletcher (ANU)

Ros Dundas (ACTCOSS)

Bill Rowlings (Civil Liberties Australia)

Barry Naughten (ANU)

*2.45 Afternoon tea*

**3.00 Session 4 Federalism, public policy and regional identity**

*Chair: Phil Larkin*

Chrissy Sharp (Former WA Greens MLC)

Rob Oakeshott MP (Independent, NSW)

Zed Seselja (Opposition Leader, ACT)

Scott Prasser (ACU)

Garrett Purtill (ACT)

**4.20** Closing remarks: George Anderson

**4.25** Closure – Norman Abjorensen

## PARTICIPANTS

**Dr Norman Abjorensen** is Research Director, Parliamentary Studies Centre, ANU and teaches public policy in the Crawford School of Economics and Government. He is co-author (with Marian Sawer and Phil Larkin) of *Australia: The State of Democracy*.

**George Anderson** has been President and CEO of the Forum of Federations since 2005. He served over thirty years in Canada's federal public service, where his positions included Deputy Minister of Natural Resources (2002-2005) and Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs in the Cabinet office (1996-2002). He held assistant deputy minister level positions in the energy, finance and foreign ministries. He has degrees in political science from Queen's University and Oxford University, and a diploma from the École nationale d'administration in Paris. He was a fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs in 1992-93. He is the author of *Federalism: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press: 2008) and is a trustee of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

**Dr James Connor** is in the School of Business of the University of New South Wales at Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA). His primary research interest is emotions, his work seeks to further our understanding of how emotional expression, interaction and feeling guides social action. In his seminal book, *The Sociology of Loyalty* (Springer, 2007), he argues that loyalty must be considered an emotion on a par with the likes of love, shame and trust. He goes further by establishing the role loyalty plays in guiding social action, identity, belonging and conflict.

**Professor Brian Costar** is Professor of Victorian Parliamentary Democracy and the Director of the Democratic Audit of Australia – Swinburne. His principal areas of research are Australian political parties, state and federal parliamentary politics, and Australian electoral history. He is a frequent commentator on state and federal politics in the press and the broadcast media, and has written widely on contemporary political issues. His current research focuses on the contemporary role of small parties and independents in Australian parliaments, and the political history of Victoria. Among his books are *The Victorian Premiers: 1856-2006* (co-editor and contributor) (Federation Press, 2006), *The Great Labor Schism: A Retrospective* (co-editor and contributor) (Scribe, 2005), *Rebels With a Cause: Independents in Australian Politics* (with Jennifer Curtin) (UNSW Press, 2004), *Deadlock or Democracy? The Future of the Senate* (editor) (UNSW Press, 2000) and *The Kennett Revolution* (co-editor and contributor) (UNSW Press, 1999).

**Professor Stephen Dovers** is Director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU and is associated with the national adaptation research networks in settlements and infrastructure, disasters, and social science. He is Associate Editor of *Environmental Science and Policy* and the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*, and a member of the editorial board of *Global Environmental Change*. Widely acknowledged as a leading scholar of environmental policy, he is active in research and education in policy and institutional analysis, decision making in the face of uncertainty, science-policy linkages, natural resource management and environmental history. His research and teaching interests include policy and institutional aspects of sustainable development, natural resource management, disaster policy, integrative research design.

**Roslyn Dundas** is director of the ACT Council for Social Services and is a former Australian Democrats member of the ACT legislative Assembly.

**Paul Elton** was recently appointed to the position of Deputy Head of Secretariat of the COAG Reform Council. Previously, Paul was the director of a policy branch in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, with responsibility for policy areas such as the environment, water, energy, planning, transport and economic development. Including his five years with premier and cabinet, Paul has worked in various NSW agencies for over 15 years. Paul has also worked for a large engineering consultancy firm.

**Tully Fletcher** is president of the ANU Students' Association and a former editor of the ANU student newspaper. He is an arts-law student and a former candidate at the last Victorian state election.

**Vern Hughes** is Secretary of the National Federation of Parents Families and Carers and Director of the Centre for Civil Society and has been Australia's leading advocate for civil society over a 20-year period. He has been a writer, practitioner and networker in social enterprise, church, community, disability and co-operative movements. He is a former Executive Officer of South Kingsville Health Services Co-operative (Australia's only community-owned primary health care centre), a former Director of Hotham Mission in the Uniting Church, the founder of the Social Entrepreneurs Network, and a former Director of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria. He is also a writer and columnist on civil society, social policy and political reform issues.

**Brad Kinsela** is director, Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Queensland. Prior to joining the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, he has spent the past 11 years in various Queensland Government agencies working in a diversity of areas including disability services, Indigenous policy, corporate services, energy conservation and climate change policy.

**Dr Phil Larkin** is a lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Canberra and is co-author, with Marian Sawer and Norman Abjorensen, of *Australia: The State of Democracy*. He has previously worked in the Clerks Department of the British House of Commons, the Australian Senate, and has lectured in politics at the Australian National University and the Universities of Sussex, Hertfordshire and Brighton in the UK. He managed the Democratic Audit of Australia project between 2005 and 2007. His principal research interests are in parties and parliaments in the Australia, the UK and in comparative perspective more generally. He has also written on industrial and competition policy. He is currently working on a book, *Australian Party Politics in Comparative Perspective*, for Manchester University Press.

**Professor Ian Marsh** is on the faculty of the Australian Innovation Research Centre at the University of Tasmania. He is also the research director for CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia). A graduate of the Kennedy School of Government, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Professor Marsh was formerly an Associate Professor of the Australian Graduate School of Management, Research Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, Associate of McKinsey & Co, and Private Secretary to the Minister for Defence. Professor Marsh has been a prolific contributor to public discussion about the role of government through his many books including *Australian Political Parties in Transition* (2006), and *Democracy, Governance and Regionalism in East and Southeast Asia* (2006).

**Nick Martin** is Assistant National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, formerly Director of Research at the party's National Secretariat, in Canberra. He is also the Secretary of the Chifley Research Centre, Labor's policy think-tank. He has worked on numerous campaigns for Labor at federal, state and territory level and delivered Labor's research and messaging program for the 2007 election. His skills include quantitative and qualitative research, message design and delivery as well as policy skills in education and industrial relations.

**Barry Naughten** was a senior economist in a government research agency in Canberra, specialising in energy economics. He is currently a PhD scholar in CAIS (Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies) at the ANU. His thesis topic is the international political economy of oil and United States global power.

**Rob Oakeshott MP** (Independent, NSW) has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons in Government) as well as a Bachelor of Law. He has 13 years experience as a political representative. Rob was the State member for Port Macquarie for 12 years before he resigned to run for the Federal seat of Lyne in 2008. He is a participant and patron of several local organisations including the Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club.

**Professor Scott Prasser** is Professor of Public Policy at the Australian Catholic University and Executive Director of the new Public Policy Institute based in Canberra. Scott has worked previously in senior policy and research roles in federal and state governments and in several universities in Victoria, NSW and Queensland. Scott's most recent publication co-edited with Associate Professor Nicholas Aroney and J.R. Nethercote is, *Restraining Elective Dictatorship: The Upper House Solution?*

**Garrett Purtil** is senior adviser to the ACT Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer and president of the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party.

**Bill Rowlings** is a modern anachronism, a generalist in the age of specialisation. Author, editor, journalist, strategist, lateral thinker, his background includes daily newspapers in Australia, the UK and Asia-Pacific; PR and lobbying for top Australian and US firms; and managing in the Public Service. He is CEO and company secretary of Civil Liberties Australia, which he co-founded with his partner, Dr Kristine Klugman, in 2003.

**Dr Will Sanders** joined the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research Will joined CAEPR as a Research Fellow in 1993 and was appointed as Fellow in 1999 and Senior Fellow in 2007. His undergraduate training was in government, public administration, and political science, and his PhD was on the inclusion of Aboriginal people in the social security system. Will's research interests cover the political and social aspects of Indigenous policy, as well the economic. He regularly works on Indigenous people's participation in elections, on housing and social security policy issues, including the Community Development Employment Projects scheme, and on federal and intergovernmental aspects of Indigenous affairs policy.

**Professor Marian Sawer** is Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Australian National University and Vice-President of the International Political Science Association. She was formerly (2000 - 2003) head of the Political Science Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Marian is the author or editor of 14 books including *Making Women Count: A History of the Women's Electoral Lobby* (2008); *Women's Movements: Flourishing or in Abeyance?* (2008, with Sandra Grey); *Representing Women in Parliament* (2006, with Manon Tremblay and Linda Trimble); *Us and Them: Anti-Elitism in Australia* (2004, with Barry Hindess); *The Ethical State? Social Liberalism in Australia* (2003); *Representing the People* (2001, with Gianni Zappalà) and *Elections: Full, Free & Fair* (2001).

**Zed Seselja MLA**, Leader of the Opposition in the ACT Legislative Assembly, was born in Canberra to Croatian immigrant parents, and he has lived in Canberra his entire life. He studied Arts and Law at the Australian National University and then moved into the Commonwealth Public Service, where he rose to become a senior government lawyer. Zed is a KeepWatch Ambassador with the Royal Lifesaving Society, an Ambassador for Focus ACT and a strong supporter of local charities such as Karinya House and St Vincent de Paul.

**Dr Chrissy Sharp** is a former WA Greens member of the Western Australia Legislative Council and a committed environmentalist.

**Senator Ursula Stephens** is Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector. Dr Stephens was elected to the Australian Senate for NSW in 2001 and re-elected in 2007. She was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector in the Rudd Labor government. In this role she is driving an ambitious change agenda related to the Government's social inclusion framework and third sector reform. Dr Stephens holds a PhD in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Education. Prior to entering parliament she served as Chair of the NSW Rural Communities Consultative Council, a member of the NSW Rural Assistance Authority, a member of the NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training and Deputy Chair of the NSW Women's Advisory Council.