



Australasian Study  
of Parliament Group  
Conference Adelaide 2025

# ASPG

**1 - 3  
OCTOBER  
2025**

**MODERN PARLIAMENTS:  
CHANGING ROLES,  
EXPECTATIONS & CHALLENGES**

HOSTED BY ASPG - SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ADELAIDE, KAURNA COUNTRY

# ASPG 2025

MODERN PARLIAMENTS:  
CHANGING ROLES, EXPECTATIONS & CHALLENGES

# DAY ZERO

TUESDAY  
30 SEPTEMBER

## Foreword from the ASPG SA Chapter

The 2025 ASPG Annual Conference is fast approaching and we look forward to welcoming delegates to the Parliament of South Australia in Adelaide from 30 September to 3 October. Modern Parliaments: Changing Roles, Expectations & Challenges is this year's theme and we have been fortunate to again receive a strong response to the call for papers.

With 2025 bringing another year of political, social and technological change, presenters at this year's conference will examine how the role of parliaments around the world continues to evolve to meet the demands of the modern age, and with it, the expectations of its Members, staff and the communities they represent, including:

- adopting AI and other new technologies to engage more widely with citizens and to modernise parliamentary procedure;
- managing and combatting misinformation;
- taking responsibility as an employer for the wellbeing of Members and staff and responding to external reviews of workplace culture;
- rethinking the role of committees in engaging with the community;
- changing roles and expectations of the core business of parliament; and
- scrutinising Executive spending and policy decisions.

Please find the final programme included in this circular as well as information on delegates from around Australia and New Zealand.

3.30pm	National Executive Committee Meeting Chapter Representatives and Executive Committee	Watarru Room
4.00pm	Optional registration and conference materials collection	Old Chamber
5.00pm	Welcome Reception Hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia The Honourable Frances Adamson AC	Government House Cnr King William Rd and North Terrace, Adelaide CBD

# DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY  
1 OCTOBER

8.30am	Arrive between 8.30am to 8.45am to allow time to pass through security, register and collect conference materials	Old Chamber Lobby
9.00am	<b>Welcome to Country</b> Luke Wilson	House of Assembly Chamber
9.10am	<b>Conference Opening</b> ASPG SA Chapter President - Mr Josh Teague MP, Member for Heysen ASPG President - Dr Isla MacPhail	
9.30am	<b>Plenary</b> <b>Engaging with First Nations People</b> Representatives from the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament and secretariat	House of Assembly Chamber
Facilitator: Josh Teague MP, Member for Heysen, Parliament of SA		
10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Balcony Room
11.00am	<b>Panel</b> <b>New Technologies &amp; Parliamentary Engagement</b>  <i>Bridging the Gap - Using Digital Platforms to Reach New Audiences</i> Anna Ingleton, Parliament of NZ  <i>Online Publication and the Accessibility of Parliamentary Information</i> Robin Howlett, Parliament of NSW  <i>From Agora to Algorithm: Reinventing the Public Square in the Digital Age</i> Will Coad, Parliament of SA  <i>VR, AI, VCs: Embracing Modern Parliamentary Education</i> Natalie Badcock, Parliament of SA	House of Assembly Chamber
Facilitator: Glen Bennett MP, Member for New Plymouth, New Zealand Parliament		
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Balcony Room
1.00pm	Optional Tour of Parliament House	Beginning from Balcony Room

# DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY  
1 OCTOBER

1.30pm	<b>Panel</b> <b>New Technologies &amp; Parliamentary Procedure</b>  <i>Tradition v Transformation: Navigating the Tension Between Parliamentary Customs and Modernisation</i> Caitlin Connally, Parliament of Vic  <i>Out of Bounds - Parliamentary Privilege Considerations When Witnesses Give Evidence from Outside the State</i> Verity Smith, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW  <i>Harnessing Generative-AI in Parliamentary Research: Balancing Risks and Opportunities</i> Dr Alba Boer Cueva, Parliament of NSW	House of Assembly Chamber
Facilitator: Rick Crump, Clerk of the House of Assembly, Parliament of SA		
3.10pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Balcony Room
3.30pm	<b>Panel</b> <b>Managing Misinformation</b>  <i>We Need to Chat About ChatGPT: A Case Study of a Submission Written by AI</i> Dr Merry Brown, Parliament of SA  <i>Managing Misinformation in Electronic Petitions</i> Kate Roggeveen, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia  <i>Combating Misinformation From Inside the House: the Challenges Faced by Parliamentary Researchers</i> Paige Timms, Parliament of SA	House of Assembly Chamber
Facilitator - Glen Ryall, Director, Procedure and Research, Australian Senate		
5.00pm	<b>Day 1 concludes</b>	

# DAY TWO

THURSDAY  
2 OCTOBER

8.45am	Arrive and allow time to pass through security	
9.00am	<p><b>Panel</b></p> <p><b>Modern Parliamentary Workplaces</b></p> <p>Facilitator – Vaughn Koops, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria</p> <p><i>Transforming Ministers, Members and Parties Office Accommodation in a Modern Parliament</i> Dave Wills, Parliament of NZ</p> <p><i>Keeping Our People and Members Safe in a Changing Environment</i> Alyson Groves, Parliament of NZ</p> <p><i>Privilege and the Enforcement of Health and Safety in the Parliamentary Workplace</i> Dr Evan Smith, Parliament of SA</p>	House of Assembly Chamber
10.30am	Morning Tea	Balcony Room
11.00am	<p><b>Panel</b></p> <p><b>Modern Parliamentary Committees</b></p> <p>Facilitator – Amanda Ward, Committee Secretary, Queensland Parliament</p> <p><i>Can Parliamentary Committees Solve Policy Problems?</i> David Monk, ACT Legislative Assembly</p> <p><i>Unpopular Inquiries – Alternative Approaches to Engage with the Public on Complex Topics</i> Dr Chiara De Lazzari, Parliament of Victoria</p> <p><i>Balancing Learning and Legitimation: Public Participation in Select Committees in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> Will Dreyer, Te Herenga Waka   Victoria University of Wellington</p>	House of Assembly Chamber
12.30pm	Lunch	Balcony Room
1.00pm	ASPG Annual General Meeting	Watarru Room

# DAY TWO

THURSDAY  
2 OCTOBER

1.30pm	<p><b>Panel</b></p> <p><b>Changing Roles and Expectations</b></p> <p>Facilitator – Dr Josh Forkert, Clerk Assistant (Procedure), House of Assembly, Parliament of SA</p> <p><i>Strengthening the Normative Power of Rule of Law in Australia: What is Parliament's Role and Who Else Should Help?</i> Dr Michael Hooper &amp; Dr Sarah Moulds, University of South Australia</p> <p><i>Reimagining parliament - Deepening Feedback Loops to Strengthen Parliamentary Performance</i> Sandy Killick, Democracy Matters</p> <p><i>Parliamentary Diplomacy and the Role of Parliament in Crisis: Analyzing Sri Lanka's 9th Parliament Amidst Political and Economic Crises (2020-2024)</i> Malindu Weerakkody, Victoria University of Wellington</p>	House of Assembly Chamber
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	Balcony Room
3.30pm	<p><b>Plenary</b></p> <p><b>Reimagining Parliament</b></p> <p>Facilitator – Dr Sandy Killick, Managing Director, Democracy Matters</p> <p><i>Reimagining Parliament</i> Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Leeds (via video conference)</p> <p><i>Five Obvious Engagement Rules and How to Apply them to the Best Element of Parliament – the Committee System</i> Iain Walker, New Democracy</p>	House of Assembly Chamber
4.45pm	Day 2 concludes	
6.30pm	Conference Dinner	Adelaide Zoo
<p>Enter via the main entrance on Plane Tree Drive</p> <p>We recommend you Uber or walk in groups up Frome Rd to North Tce at the conclusion of the evening</p>		 <p>Directions</p>

# DAY THREE

FRIDAY  
3 OCTOBER

8.45am	Arrive and allow time to pass through security	
9.00am	<b>Panel</b> <b>Reviewing Modern Parliaments</b> <i>An Attempt at Contemporary Contempt: Victoria's Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Regime</i> Vaughn Koops, Parliament of Victoria <i>Gender Equality in the Parliament of Victoria? The Long, Unfinished Road to a Gender-Sensitive Parliament</i> Dr Amy Nethery, Deakin University	House of Assembly Chamber
10.30am	Morning Tea	Balcony Room
11.00am	<b>Plenary</b> <b>Life After Parliament</b> <i>Parliamentary Career Exit: Principles of Institutional Design</i> Dr Zim Nwokora, Deakin University Contributions from former Members	House of Assembly Chamber
12.30pm	Lunch	Balcony Room
1.15pm	<b>Panel</b> <b>Scrutiny in Modern Parliaments</b> <i>Citizen Engagement in Parliamentary Oversight of the Executive's Budget</i> Charlotte Lever, Parliament of Victoria <i>Parliamentary Scrutiny and Control of Executive Spending After the School Chaplains Case</i> Glenn Ryall, Director, Procedure and Research, Senate Parliament of Australia <i>Through the Looking-Glass, and What the Legislative Council Found There: The Legacy of the 'Transparency Agenda' in the 58th Parliament</i> Rhea Goundar & Rhia Victorino, Parliament of NSW	House of Assembly Chamber

# DAY THREE

FRIDAY  
3 OCTOBER

3.00pm	Conference Wrap Up	House of Assembly Chamber
	Dr Isla MacPhail, ASPG President	
3.30pm	Farewell drinks and canapes	Balcony Room
4.45pm	Conference Concludes	

# DELEGATE LIST

## Australian Capital Territory

Dr Luke Buckmaster	Director, Research Branch, Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Australia
Hamish Finlay	Deputy Clerk/Serjeant-at-Arms, ACT Legislative Assembly
Chris Gahan	Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Fleur Hall	Clerk Assistant, Procedure, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Dr Kristina Kalfic	Executive Officer, ACT Legislative Assembly
Leonie McGregor	Chief Executive Officer, Parliamentary Workplace Support Service
Dr David Monk	Senior Director, Committee Support, ACT Legislative Assembly
Kate Roggeveen	Inquiry Secretary, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Glenn Ryall	Director, Procedure and Research, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia
Marian Sawyer	Emeritus Professor, Australian National University

## New South Wales

Dr Alba Boer Cueva	Research Officer, Parliament of NSW
Ashlee Dunn	Parliamentary Officer, Parliament of NSW
Rhea Goundar	Principal Council Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Robin Howlett	Senior Council Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Sue Hunt	Manager, House and Procedure, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of NSW
Sandy Killick	Managing Director, Democracy Matters
Carly McKenna	Committee Manager, Parliament of NSW
Hon. Rachel Merton MLC	Member of the Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Michael Regan MP	Member for Wakehurst, Parliament of NSW
Verity Smith	Principal Council Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Mark Taylor MP	Member for Winston Hills, Parliament of NSW
Rhia Victorino	Director, Procedure, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW

# DELEGATE LIST

John Young	Clerk Assistant, Parliament of NSW
Alice Zwar	Committee Manager, Parliament of NSW

## New Zealand

Glen Bennett MP	Member of Parliament, New Zealand Parliament
Alyson Groves	Senior Policy Officer, Parliamentary Service, New Zealand Parliament
Anna Ingleton	Communication Lead, New Zealand Parliament
Nancy Lu MP	Member of Parliament, New Zealand Parliament
Malindu Bathiya Wickramasingha Weerakkody	Student, Victoria University of Wellington
Dave Wills	Project Director Future Accommodation Strategy, New Zealand Parliament
Lauren Zamalis	Hansard Editor, New Zealand Parliament

## Queensland

Alana Bonenfant	Assistant Committee Secretary, Queensland Parliament
Connor Harvey	PhD Candidate, University of Queensland
Ray Stevens MP	Member for Mermaid Beach, Queensland Parliament
Dr Amanda Ward	Committee Secretary, Queensland Parliament

## South Australia

Maureen Afleck	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Matt Balfour	Committee Secretary, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Anthony Beasley	Parliamentary Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Mary-Ann Bloomfield	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Megan Bradman	Executive Officer, Joint Parliamentary Services, Parliament of SA
Dr Meredith Brown	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Dr Anne Carter	Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Adelaide
Will Coad	Parliamentary Assistant, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Andrew Cole	Chief Officer, Parliamentary Reporting Division, Parliament of SA
Ben Cranwell	Executive/Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA

## DELEGATE LIST

Dr Joshua Forkert	Clerk Assistant, Procedure, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Leslie Guy	Clerk Assistant, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Shane Hilton	Parliamentary Officer, Committees, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Dr Michael Hooper	Research Assistant, University of South Australia
Emma Johnston	Parliamentary Officer, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Alison Meeks	Parliamentary Officer, Procedure, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Kate O'Donnell	Secretary to the Clerk's Office, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Robyn Schutte	Committee Secretary, Legislative Council, Parliament of SA
Dr Evan Smith	Research Officer, Committees, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Megan Souglaris	Publishing and Projects Officer, Parliamentary Reporting Division, Parliament of SA
Paige Timms	Research Officer, SA Parliament Research Library, Parliament of SA
Damian Watkins	Senior House Services Officer, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
Lauren Williams	Serjeant-at-Arms/Clerk Assistant, House of Assembly, Parliament of SA
<b>Tasmania</b>	
Mark Groom	Parliamentary Assistant, Parliament of Tasmania
Fiona Murphy	Second Clerk-Assistant, House of Assembly, Parliament of Tasmania
Craig Muir	Clerk Assistant/Usher of the Black Rod, Legislative Council, Parliament of Tasmania
<b>Victoria</b>	
Caitlin Connally	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria
Dr Chiara De Lazzari	Research Officer, Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria
Vaughn Koops	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria
Charlotte Lever	Lead Analyst, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, Parliament of Victoria

## DELEGATE LIST

Associate Professor Amy Nethery	Associate Professor of Politics and Policy, Deakin University
Dr Zim Nwokora	Associate Professor of Politics and Policy, Deakin University
<b>Western Australia</b>	
Dr Parwinder Kaur MLC	Member of the Legislative Council, Parliament of WA
Isla Macphail	Clerk Assistant, Committees, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of WA