

# AUSTRALASIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP CONFERENCE

Parliament House, Hobart  
17—19 September 2009

## THE CHANGING FACE OF PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION - INDEPENDENTS, PARTIES AND HOUSES

**Thursday, 17 September 2009**

*From*  
**4.30 pm**                    **Early Registration – Parliament House Foyer**

**6.00 pm**                    **Reception at Government House**  
(buses depart Parliament House at 5.30 pm)

**Friday, 18 September 2009**

**8.30 am**                    **Registration – Parliament House Foyer**

**9.00 am**                    **Opening** – Richard Herr to introduce the President of the  
Legislative Council, Hon Sue Smith/MLC

**9.30 am**                    **Keynote Address** – Hon Richard Torbay – *“Independent  
Members in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales –  
Periods of Change”*

**10.30 am**                    **Morning Tea**

**11.00 am**                    **Session 1 – Parliamentary Opposition and Overview**

- Ken Coghill, Peter Holland and Colleen Lewis, Monash University – *“Attracting and retaining Talent: Exploring the Dilemma of Parliamentary Opposition”*
- Roger Scott and Peter Spearitt, University of Queensland – *“Queensland Speaks: Interviewing Politicians and Public Servants”*
- Robyn Smith, Northern Territory Parliament – *“How Independent the Arbiter?”*

**12.30 pm**                    **Lunch – Parliament House Dining Room**

**2.00 pm**                    **Session 2 – Formal v Informal Oppositions**

- John McCulloch, University of Queensland – *“Does the Gender Composition of an Opposition Influence its Role on Women’s Issues?”*

- Dr Parameswary Rasiah, University of Western Australia – *“How Effective is the Opposition in ensuring government accountability during Question Time?”*
- Suman Ojha, University of Queensland – *“An Analysis of Parliamentary Questions raised by Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh (India) State Legislative Assembly”*

3.15 pm

**Afternoon Tea**

3.45 pm

**Session 3 – Independents and Cross Benches**

- Dr Mark Rodrigues and Dr Scott Brenton – *“The Representation of Independents in Australian Parliaments, trends and issues”*
- Hon Christine Milne MP, Greens Senator for Tasmania – *“Vigorous Democracy”*
- William Bowe – *“Minority Government, Coalition Formation and the Rise of the Greens”*

5.00 pm

**Day 1 Sessions end**

**Executive Meeting – Government Party Room**

6.30 pm for

7.00 pm

**Conference Dinner – Reception Room, Parliament House**  
**Guest Speaker – Mr Damian Bugg AM QC, Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, former Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and former Tasmanian Director of Public Prosecutions**

**Saturday, 19 September 2009**

9.30 am

**Session 4 – Resources for Oppositions**

- Professor Scott Prasser, Australian Catholic University, Canberra – *“Oppositions one day, Government the next: Can Oppositions make policy and be ready for office?”*
- Judy Hopwood MP, New South Wales – *“Working collaboratively from Opposition (Independents, Parties and Houses) to improve services for social disadvantage”*
- Clem Macintyre, University of Adelaide – *“What’s in it for us?: why governments need well resourced parliaments”*

10.45 am

**Morning Tea**

11.15 am

**Session 5 – Houses and Opposition**

- Hon Judy Maddigan MP, Victoria – *“The Real Opposition in Victoria”*

- Russell Grove, Clerk, New South Wales Legislative Assembly – “*Opportunities Lost – Being in Opposition*”
- Ben Wyatt MP, Western Australia – “*Increasing demise of the legislature as a vehicle for holding the executive to account*”
- New Zealand – Speaker to be advised

**12.30 pm**

**Lunch** – (Light lunch and a possible stroll through Salamanca Market)  
**(Continuation of Executive Meeting if required)**

**2.00 pm**

**Plenum – Richard Herr**

**3.00 pm**

**Annual General Meeting**

**3.30 pm**

**Conference Close**

**Draft**