



**Australasian Study of Parliament Group
New Zealand Chapter**

**Annual Conference
28–30 September 2006**

Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand

***“Parliamentary Control of the Executive: the People and
the Money”***

The conference theme continues and develops the 2005 theme of ‘Parliament and accountability’, which focused primarily on parliamentary oversight of agencies’ roles and the development of oversight committees. In 2006 we address the issues of financial accountability and the effectiveness of parliamentary processes in holding ministers, governments and public servants to account.

Venue: All venues are within Parliament Buildings; the entrance to Parliament is from Molesworth Street, the main entrance is clearly marked and is between the Beehive and Parliament House.

PROGRAMME

Thursday 28 September

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| 4.00-6.00 | Registration – (Grand Hall, Parliament House) |
| 3.30 | ASPG Executive Meeting – (Select Committee Room 6, Parliament House) |
| 5.00 | Editorial Board Meeting– (Select Committee Room 6, Parliament House) |
| 6.00 | Reception and Welcome by the Hon Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the House of Representatives – (Grand Hall, Parliament House) |

Friday 29 September

8.15—8.45 Registration – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

8.45—9.15 Pōwhiri and formal Conference Opening by the Hon Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the House of Representatives – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

9.15—10.30 **Session I: Keynote addresses – (Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House)**

Chair The Hon Doug Kidd, Former Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives

The Hon Kevin Rozzoli, President ASPG	Presidential address
Mary Harris, Deputy Clerk of the New Zealand House of Representatives	Parliament and public servants

10.30—11.00 Morning coffee – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

11.00—12.00 **Session II: Controlling the purse strings – (Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House)**

Chair Gordon Copeland MP, Member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, New Zealand House of Representatives

Dr Rosemary Laing Deputy Clerk of the Senate Canberra	Accounting and Accountability
Professor Kerry Jacobs Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre, LaTrobe University	Public Accounts Committees in Australasia: The State of Play

12.00-1.00 Lunch – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

1.00—2.45 **Session III: Telling the full story? Parliament, government information, the media, and committee inquiries – (Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House)**

Chair Katherine Rich MP, Chairperson, Commerce Committee, New Zealand House of Representatives

Dr June Verrier, Visiting Fellow, Democratic Audit, Australian National University	Does the Quality of Parliamentary Administration affect a Parliament's Independence from the Executive and its Capacity to Hold the Executive to Account? Some Preliminary Findings from the UK, Canada, New Zealand and Australia
Nicola White, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	The operation of the New Zealand Official Information Act in a parliamentary setting
Susan Want Acting Director of Procedure, Legislative Council of New South Wales	Orders for papers: Developments and Challenges

2.45—3.15 Afternoon Tea – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

3.15—5.00 **Session IV: Institutional design, political parties and the accountability of the executive – (Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House)**

Chair Colin James, Political journalist and analyst, New Zealand

The Hon Bill English MP, New Zealand House of Representatives	The Opposition and the Accountability of the Executive in New Zealand's Multi-party Legislature
Richard Herr, Associate Professor School of Government University of Tasmania	The Opposition and Responsible Government in a Small Parliament: The Case of Tasmania
Dr Geoffrey Hawker, Department of Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University	Parliamentary Challenges in South Africa

5.00—5.45 Tour of Parliament – (assemble in the foyer, Parliament House)

7.00 for 7.30 Conference Dinner – (Foyer, Executive Wing then Grand Hall, Parliament House)
Speaker - Chief Judge Joe Williams of the Māori Land Court, Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal

Saturday 30 September

9.00—9.30 Australasian Study of Parliament Group AGM (Legislative Council Chamber)

9.30—11.00 Workshop sessions – (Legislative Council Chamber then Select Committee Meeting Rooms, Parliament House)

Professor Roger Wettenhall Centre for Research in Public Sector Management, University of Canberra	A framework for discussion: Parliaments, Executives and Integrity Agencies: reporting on an International Conference on Transparency for Better Governance
Workshops and reports back to the full conference	

11.00—11.30 Morning coffee – (Grand Hall, Parliament House)

11.30—1.00 **Session V: Holding ministers and public servants to account – Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House)**

Chair The Hon Kevin Rozzoli, President ASPG

The Hon Giz Watson MLC, Chair, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, Legislative Council of Western Australia	Financial Scrutiny of Government by a Parliamentary Committee: the Challenges facing the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee of the Legislative Council of Western Australia
The Hon Barry House MLC, Chair, Public Administration Committee, Legislative Council of Western Australia	The Public Administration Committee: Complementing and Enhancing the Scrutiny Role of Statutory Office Holders

1.15—2.15 Lunch and close of formal proceedings – (The Backbencher, Molesworth Street)

3.00—5.00 Gather at the Museum of City and Sea for talk and tour – (Queen’s Wharf, Wellington Waterfront)

Sunday 1 October

Martinborough wine tour (full day) *or* walking tours of Wellington