



**Annual Conference, Australasian Study of Parliament Group**

**6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Parliament House, Melbourne**

## **The Executive v the Parliament :Who Wins?**

**The Victorian Chapter is calling for abstracts for papers for the October Conference,**

**The topic this year raises a number of issues about modern Parliaments and whether the changes occurring in the ways Parliaments operate over the years have strengthened or weakened our parliamentary democracy.**

**Topics may cover questions such as the following:**

- 1. Have executive Governments concentrated power in their own hands at the expense of parliamentary democracy, or is this just the view of Oppositions?**
- 2. Has the role of Parliament changed in the last century to the theoretical view of Parliament? Is this a good thing? Is this a reflection of a changing society?**
- 3. Is the traditional role of Parliaments still valid in our Society?**
- 4. Do executive Governments dominate the way Parliaments operate rather than the Speaker/President?**
- 5. Does the agreement between the Independents and the Federal Labor Government change the way executive Government will operate in Canberra?**

**And other areas such as**

- 1. Executive dominance/independence of the presiding officers, private members bills and minor parties rights.**
- 2. The experience of New Zealand, the States and territories and other jurisdictions, including the nature, extent and durability of reforms affecting relationships between the executive and the Parliament.**
- 3. The value of Question Time in the modern Parliament.**
- 4. The effect of executive Government on parliamentary staff.**
- 5. Ways of improving parliamentary democracy.**
- 6. Other related areas.**

Abstracts (not exceeding 500 words) should be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> May to:

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Papers should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> August