Annual Conference, Australasian Study of Parliament Group

6th-8th 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.


5. Ways of improving parliamentary democracy.

6. Other related areas.

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

Judy.maddigan@hotmail.com or sarah.hyslop@parliament.vic.gov.au

Papers should be received by 30th August