PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

REPORT ON THE AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2015 (HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

APRIL 15TH-17TH 2015

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Following Fiji's General Elections on September 17<sup>th,</sup> 2014, fifty (50) Members of Parliament were sworn in on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Out of this number, only six (6) had previously been Members of Parliament.

After a lapse of eight years, it was important for Members of Parliament even those who had been members previously to learn Parliamentary procedures. More importantly specific Parliamentary Committees needed to learn what their roles were in Parliament.

For this purpose, UNDP sponsored the Chair and two Members and the Fijian Parliament sponsored the Deputy Chair, one Member and the Secretary of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to attend the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees ("ACPAC") Biennial Conference hosted this year by the South Australian Parliament in Adelaide South Australia from the 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

### INTRODUCTION

ACPAC was formed in 1989 with the intention of facilitating the exchange of information and opinions relating to PACs and discussion matters of mutual concern.

ACPAC comprises Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees from the Australian States and Territories as well as the Commonwealth (Federal) Parliament, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees are defined in the ACPAC constitution to include the Committee most resembling a Public Accounts Committee, in function and power, for those jurisdictions which lack a Public Accounts Committee e.g the FAC is Queensland's representative Committee on ACPAC, New Zealand has a Finance and Expenditure Committee and so on.

ACPAC meets at least biennially in the form of a conference open to member Committees, associate member Committees, staff of such Committees and other persons who may be invited by the host Committee following a rotating schedule. A smaller group also meets

annually. Its first meeting was held on 23 June 2011 and such forums provides a platform to discuss issues specifically pertaining to Australasian committees.

In accordance with the ACPAC Constitution, the aims of ACPAC are:

- to facilitate the exchange of information and opinion relating to PACs and to discuss matters of mutual concern;
- to improve the quality and performance of PACs in Australasia;
- to liaise with Auditors-General so as to improve the effectiveness of both the Auditors and the PACs;
- to communicate with individuals and organisations about matters of concern to public accountability; and
- to provide an educational service for the elected members of Parliament, the media and the general public as to the purpose and activities of PACs.

This kind of exposure was necessary for the Fiji Parliament, as it allowed members of the delegation to see first-hand how their counterparts operated in the region and internationally and equally important to compare their systems and processes with those adopted in Fiji. In addition, it was important for the Fiji Parliament to develop new networks and re-engage as well as strengthen old ties with former Parliamentary partners.

The delegation was led by the Chairperson, the Hon Dr Biman Prasad and comprised the Deputy Chair Hon Balmindar Singh and members Hon Semi Koroilavesau, Hon Sanjit Patel and Hon Aseri Radrodro and accompanied by the Director Legislature and Secretary to PAC, Mr. Joeli Ditoka.

The participation of the Fiji delegation was made possible through co-funding by the Fijian Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP") Parliament project [part of assistance to the Fiji Parliament by the project donors (EU, New Zealand, Australia and Japan) since January 2014].

### **ACPAC 2015 VENUE & PARTICIPANTS**

The Conference this year began with a formal reception on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 held at the old Chamber in the old Parliament of South Australia, adjacent and connected to the current Parliamentary building. As is common with Westminster-style Parliaments, the South Australian Parliament is made up of the Legislative Assembly akin to the Commons and the Legislative Council as the upper house akin to the House of Lords. The Finance and Economic Committee in the lower House performs the function of a PAC although it has a sister committee in the upper House.

The Conference proper was held over the following two days on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April at the recently refurbished Adelaide Oval, a short walk away from the Parliamentary precinct. [Refer **Annexure 1 Conference Program**]



Hon Dr Prasad on a tour of the Conference venue with Mr David Bennet MP (Chair of the Finance and Expenditure Committee of New Zealand)

This year's conference had over 90 participants from India, Indonesia, South Africa, Samoa, Niue, New Zealand, all the Australian States and Territories as well as their Federal Parliament and of course Fiji. [Refer Annexure 2 Conference Participants]

### **CONFERENCE TOPICS**

The speakers spoke on multitude of topics from varying perspectives. This varied from the international perspective as shared by the Honourable Chair of PAC of the Parliament of India explaining about its 22 members and 5 subcommittees and the Independent Audit Board members from Indonesia who were not a Parliamentary body.



Hon Singh, Hon Radrodro and Hon Patel listening to Hon Prof Thomas, PAC Chair from the Parliament of India

Interesting to hear was the perspective shared by the delegation from South Africa and Fiji also contributed to the discussions as our model of Opposition Chair with Government majority was the composition in the traditional Westminster PAC and the same as in India. What is also noteworthy, however, is that the majority of Australian PACs and that of New Zealand also had Government Chairs and Government majority in the committee.

Apart from the inevitable comparisons in terms of composition, scope of work, functions and powers, there were also academics and local government level administrators who shared their experiences as well as Auditors-General and former Auditors-General who also contributed to their experience of working with PACs.

Another interesting topic was the discussion surrounding how one would go about measuring the effectiveness or lack thereof of a PAC. The ACPAC Chair shared his unfortunate experience of criticism in the media of his committee based solely on the reduction of the number of meetings. There was general consensus that the number of meetings was an extremely poor way of attempting to ascertain effectiveness. The number of recommendations adopted by the Government was mooted as one and this also had its disadvantages as Governments reject good recommendations at times for purely political reasons.

[Refer Annexure 3 Conference Speaker's Synopses and Annexure 4 Speaker Biographies]



Hon Patel, Hon Dr Prasad and Hon Koroilavesau hard at work

### **ACPAC COUNCIL MEETING**

The Council held its meeting at the Premiership Suite of the Adelaide Oval on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 4.45pm and was represented by all member committees with the exception of Queensland, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Fiji was welcomed back into the Council by the ACPAC Chair and the Chair of Fiji PAC thanked the Council for the warm welcome and conveyed Fiji's gratitude for the invitation as well as the wealth of experience gained by all the members of Fiji's PAC as well as its Secretary from the exchange of knowledge in that forum. Discussions ensued as per the Agenda [Refer to Annexure 5 ACPAC Council-Related Documents].

### CONCLUSION

- ACPAC is a worthwhile group for the Fijian Parliament to associate with and such
  Conferences like the ACPAC Bienniel meetings and twinning arrangements and
  exchange programmes with other Parliaments for the purposes of peer learning and
  exposure to best practice in parliamentary procedures are to be encouraged; and
- It should be worth considering that Fiji re-establish links with such international bodies as ACPAC and the IPU and CPA;
- It is recommended that in light of Parliamentary best practice, research could be undertaken to examine the roles, functions and powers of what exactly constitutes an effective PAC for Fiji; and
- 4. It is recommended that the Parliamentary Secretariat develop resources to continue to improve services available to all Parliamentary Committees and where necessary investing in more human resources. It was noted that effective secretarial support was crucial for quality performance of parliamentary committees.

Hon Dr Biman Prasad

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

# **Annexure 1**

# ACPAC CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# Adelaide, 15-17 April 2015

	Wednesday 15 April 2015 - W	Velcome Recepti	on	
Venue:	Old Chamber, Old Parliament Hous	se, North Terrace	e, Adelaide	
5pm	Welcome Reception – drinks and canapés			
	(Registration desk opens)			
5:30pm	Welcome: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Presid	ding Member Econom	nic and Finance	
	Committee, Chair of ACPAC			
5:35-	Speaker: Mr Rick Crump, Clerk, House of	Assembly, Parliament	of South Australia	
5.45pm				
6:30pm	Close			
	Thursday 16 April 2015 C			
	Thursday 16 April 2015 – Co			
	William Magarey Rooms, Adelaide	Ovai, war Memo		
8:30am	Registration Desk opens		William Magarey	
0.45	Wal-		Room North	
9:15am	Welcome and Introduction		William Magarey	
9:30am	Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACPAC  Keynote Speaker: Mr Simon O'Neill, forme	or Auditor Conses	Room East William Magarey	
9.50am	South Australia (retired March 2015)	er Auditor-General,	Room East	
10am	William Magarey Room East	William Magarey		
100111	Changing engagement in public	William Magarey Room West  Avoiding Community Apathy, Outrage		
	accountability: Making what	AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	gh Good Communit	
	governments do more relevant –	Engagement		
	wellbeing: measuring beyond GDP	Speaker: Ms Carla	Leversedge.	
	Speaker: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, Chair,	Immediate Past President, IAP2,		
	Australian Capital Territory Standing	Community Develo		
	Committee on Public Accounts	PARTICIPATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O	ger, City of Tea Tree	
	Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair,	Gully		
	ACPAC	Chair: Hon Gerry K	andelaars MLC,	
		Presiding Member,	South Australian	
		Statutory Authoriti	es Review	
		Committee		
11am	Morning tea		William Magarey	
11.15	Panal Sassian: Dublic Assaultability savas	ICACa Audibara	Room North	
11:15am	Panel Session: Public Accountability across	icacs, Auditors-	William Magarey Room East	
	General and Public Accounts Committees Panellists:		ROUTH East	
	Hon Bruce Lander QC, South Australian Inc	lenendent		
	Commissioner Against Corruption	rependent	The state of	
	Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Chair, Common	wealth Joint		
	Committee of Public Accounts and Audit			
	Mr John Doyle, Victorian Auditor-General			
	Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACP	AC		
12:15pm	Guest Speaker: Mr Ian McPhee, Australian		William Magarey	
	Chair: Mr Chris Picton MP, Member, South		Room East	
	Economic and Finance Committee			

12:45pm	Lunch		Lindsay Head Terrace Bar	
1:45pm	William Magarey Room East	William Magarey	Room West	
	International Perspectives in the PAC arena – Kiribati case study Speakers: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, Australian Capital Territory Standing Committee on Public Accounts Dr Andrea Cullen, Secretary, Australian Capital Territory Standing Committee on Public Accounts Chair: Hon Paul Caica MP, Member, South Australian Economic and Finance Committee	Australian Nationa	unities for e future ew Pope, Group Performance Audit al Audit Office peirs MP, Member, conomic and	
2:45pm	Guest Speaker: Dr Julien Barbara, Director Democratic Institutions, Australian Nationa Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACP	al University	William Magarey Room East	
3:15pm	Afternoon tea		William Magarey Room North	
3:30pm	William Magarey Room East	William Magarey I		
	Speaker: Mr Rick Crump, Clerk, House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia Chair: Mr Chris Picton MP, Member, South Australian Economic and Finance Committee	Speaker: Prof. K. V Chairperson, Public Committee, Parliar		
4:00pm	Official Conference Photo		Old scoreboard	
4:15pm	ADELAIDE OVAL TOUR – optional 30 minute guided tour of the venue			
4:45pm – 5:45pm	ACPAC Council Meeting (ACPAC Members only) Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACPA	AC .	Premiership Suite	
6:30pm 7:00pm 8:30pm 10:30pm	Conference Dinner: Stamford Plaza Adelai Pre-dinner drinks and canapés Dinner Entertainer – Mr Bryan Dawe as Sir Murray Dinner close		pp. Parl House)	
	Friday 17 April 2015 – Con Venue: William Magarey Room		Oval	
9:15am	Panel Session: Public Accounts Committee of Politicians vs Parliamentarians does it main rigorous scrutiny?  Panellists: Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, Member, Tasmania Committee	Members – tter in ensuring	William Magarey Room East	

	Hon John Rau MP, Deputy Premier of South Australia Mr Sean L'Estrange MLA, Chair, Western Australian Public Accounts Committee Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACPAC	
10:15am	Morning tea	William Magarey Room North
10:30am	Roles and responsibilities of Public Accounts Committee Members do guidelines assist in dealing with witnesses and in providing procedural fairness?  Speakers: Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Chair, Commonwealth Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit	William Magarey Room East
	Mr David Bennett MP, Chair, New Zealand Finance and Expenditure Committee Chair: Mr David Speirs MP, Member, South Australian Economic and Finance Committee	
11:30am	Panel Session: Do Public Accounts Committees make a difference? Measuring the performance of Public Accounts Committees Panellists: Hon Adriana Taylor MLC, Tasmanian Public Accounts	William Magarey Room East
	Committee Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, South Australian Economic and Finance Committee, Chair of ACPAC Professor Kerry Jacobs, Professor of Accounting, University of NSW Canberra.	
	Chair: Mr Chris Picton MP, Member, South Australian Economic and Finance Committee	
12:30pm	Lunch	William Magarey Room North
1:30pm	Guest Speaker: Hon Roger Gyles QC, Chairman, Transparency International (Australia) – Measuring and maintaining public accountability Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACPAC	William Magarey Room East
2:30pm	Afternoon tea	William Magarey Room North
2:45pm – 4:30pm	Panel Session: Jurisdiction Reports Chair: Mr Lee Odenwalder MP, Chair, ACPAC Facilitator: Mr Tom Richardson, Political Reporter, InDaily Panellists: Hon Gerry Kandelaars MLC, Chair, South Australian Statutory Authorities Review Committee Hon Kenneth Travers MP, Chair, Western Australian Estimates and Financial Operations Committee Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, Chair, Australian Capital Territory Standing Committee on Public Accounts	William Magarey Room East
Close		

# **Annexure 2**

# **CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS\***

\* As at 10.04.2015

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA	Chair
Ms Mary Porter MLA	Deputy Chair
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA	Member
Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA	Member
Dr Andrea Cullen	Secretary
Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Audi	t Office
Dr Maxine Cooper	ACT Auditor-General
Australian National Audit Office	
Mr Ian McPhee	Auditor-General
Dr Andrew Pope	Group Executive Director
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and	d Audit, Parliament of Australia
Dr Andrew Southcott MP	Committee Chair
Dr Kate Sullivan	Inquiry Secretary
Ms Susan Cardell	Acting Committee Secretary
Mr Andrew Gaczol	Senior Research Officer
Fiji Public Standing Committee on Publi	c Accounts
Hon Biman Prasad	Committee Chairman
Hon Balmindar Singh	Committee Deputy Chairman
Hon Semi Koroilavesau	Committee Member
lon Sanjit Patel	Committee Member
don Aseri Radrodro	Committee Member
Ar Joeli Ditoka	

Hon Prof Kuruppasseril Varkey Thomas	Honourable Chairners
The North Residence of	Honourable Chairperson
Mr A.K. Singh	Joint Secretary
The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia	a
Mr Harry Azhar Azis	Chairman
Professor Dr Bahrullah Akbar	Board Member
Mr Johanes Widodo Hario Mumpuni	Adviser on the Central Government Finance
Arman Syifa	Head of BPK Representative Office (Bali)
Mr Wahyudi	Head of International Cooperation Division
Mr Robert J. Holbert	Government Partnerships Fund Senior Adviser
New South Wales (NSW) Audit Office	
Mr Grant Hehir	NSW Auditor-General
New South Wales (NSW) Public Accounts Con	nmittee
Dr Abi Groves	Inquiry Manager
New Zealand (NZ) Audit Office	
Ms Phillippa Smith	NZ Deputy Auditor-General
New Zealand, Finance and Expenditure Comm	nittee
Mr David Bennett MP	Chair
Mr David Bennett MP  Hon Clayton Cosgrove MP	Committee Member
Hon Clayton Cosgrove MP	Committee Member
Hon Clayton Cosgrove MP  As Jo Elworthy	Committee Member
Hon Clayton Cosgrove MP  As Jo Elworthy  No Public Accounts Committee	Committee Member  Clerk  Chairman

Mr Gerry Wood MLA	Member
Mr Russel Keith	First Clerk Assistant
Northern Territory (NT) Audit Office	ce
Ms Julie Crisp	NT Auditor-General
Queensland (QLD) Audit Office	
Mr Andrew Greaves	QLD Auditor-General
Samoa Audit Office	
Mr Camillo Afele	Controller and Auditor-General
South Africa Audit Office	
Ms Thandeka Zondi	Corporate Executive
Portfolio Committee on Public Acco Africa	ounts and Finance, Free State Province, Republic of South
Hon CJ Van Rooyen	Chairperson
Hon D Kotzee	Member
Hon W Wessels	Member
Ms E Morake	Coordinator
iouth Australian (SA) Auditor-Gene	ral's Department

Mr Lee Odenwalder MP	Presiding Member	
Mr Chris Picton MP	Committee Member	
Hon Paul Caica MP	Committee Member	
Mr David Speirs MP	Committee Member	
Ms Susie Barber	Executive Officer	
Mrs Lisa Baxter	Executive Officer	
Ms Janine Roberts	Administrative Officer	
South Australian (SA) Parliament Stat	utory Authorities Review Committee	
Hon Gerry Kandelaars MLC	Presiding Member	
Mr Peter Dimopoulos	Secretary	
Ms Emma Moulds	Research Officer	
outh Australian (SA) Parliament Hous	se of Assembly	
Ar Rick Crump	Clerk, House of Assembly	
∕Ir Ryan Piekarski	Administrative Officer	
asmanian Public Accounts Committee		
on Ruth Forrest MLC	Member	
on Adriana Taylor MLC	Member	
1s Joan Rylah MP	Member	
ls Sarah Courtney MP	Member	
Is Gabrielle Woods	Secretary	

Victorian Audit Office	
Mr John Doyle	Auditor-General
Dr Peter Frost	Chief Executive Officer Deputy Auditor-General
Ms Susanna Young	Manager, Engagement and Outreach
Victorian (VIC) Public Accounts and Estin	nates Committee
Mr Alejandro Navarrete Flores	Research Officer
Mr Christopher Gribbin	Research Officer
Ms Valerie Cheong	Executive Officer
Western Australian (WA) Audit Office	
Mr Colin Murphy	Auditor General
Western Australian (WA) Estimates and	Financial Operations Committee
Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC	Committee Member
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Committee Member
Hon Rick Mazza MLC	Committee Member
Mr Andrew Hawkes	Advisory Officer
Mr Michael Ryan	Advisory Officer
Ms Filomena Piffaretti	Committee Clerk
Western Australian (WA) Public Accoun	ts Committee
Mr Sean L'Estrange MLA	Committee Chairman
Mr Ben Wyatt MLA	Committee Deputy Chairman
Mr Bill Johnston MLA	Committee Member
Mrs Glenys Godfrey MLA	Committee Member
Ms Michele Chiasson	Research Officer
Mr Tim Hughes	Principal Research Officer

# **Annexure 3**

## PRESENTATION SYNOPSES

# Keynote Speaker Presenter: Mr Simon O'Neill

Auditor-General (former), South Australia

Jurisdictional governments within and outside Australia, both prior and subsequent to the global financial crisis, have confronted significant challenges and implemented varying major responses to their citizens' wants for increased/improved utility and service delivery within budget and financial sustainability constraints.

In meeting their wants, citizens expect their Parliaments, governments and public services to operate with probity, value for money and transparency and accountability, and oversight bodies to provide confirmation that these standards are being met.

In his address Simon O'Neill will highlight certain important developments and responses taken within South Australia over the years to meet new challenges of transparency and accountability of government operations, including an increased statutory examination role for the Auditor-General. Certain identified challenges going forward will also be the subject of comment.

# Changing engagement in public accountability: Making what governments do more relevant – wellbeing: measuring beyond GDP.

## Presenter: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA

measurement of national income'.

Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

On 4 January 1934—the concept of Gross Domestic Product (formerly Gross National Product) was born with the presentation of a report by the economist Simon Kuznets, *National Income*, 1929–32<sup>1</sup>, which reported on an investigation of principal economic questions as determined by a resolution of the US Senate to provide information about national income estimates during the Great Depression.

Over time—GDP has become the prominent macro-economic measurement of national income. Notwithstanding, since its inception, many prominent figures over time have commented on the inadequacy of GDP to capture the wellbeing status of a country. Robert F. Kennedy said in his speech at the University of Kansas (18 March 1968) that a country's gross domestic product (GDP) measures 'everything except that which makes life worthwhile'. Simon Kuznets (the author of the seminal report commissioned by the US Senate) commented that GDP has always been a limited way in which to assess a country's progress—'The welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a

The global financial crisis and the ongoing global economic outlook have repositioned the prominence of focusing on economic growth. Just over eighty years on since its birth—it is timely to consider the usefulness of GDP in measuring the wellbeing of a nation.

In the context of public accountability and making what governments do more relevant—this presentation will consider: (i) the shortcomings of GDP—its limitations and where this key data set

falls short; (ii) strengths of GDP as a key data set; (iii) alternatives to GDP for measuring progress and wellbeing; and (iv) whether economic activity is required for wellbeing and does economic growth mean progress? Importantly—it will explore the question—can all that is worthwhile be measured?

1 US Senate Document No. 124, 73rd Congress, 2d Session, Letter from the Acting Secretary of Commerce transmitting in response to Senate Resolution No. 220 (72d Congress) a report on National Income, 1929–32, 4 January 1934.

2 Kennedy, R. F. (1968) 'Remarks at the University of Kansas'—18 March, accessed from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum—21 January 2015.

# Avoiding Community Apathy, Outrage and Emotion through Good Community Engagement Presenter: Ms Carla Leversedge

Immediate past president IAP2, Manager, Community Development & Engagement, City of Tea Tree Gully

Carla has designed and delivered hundreds of successful community engagement strategies including strategies for contentious issues such as community land sales proposals, service reviews, a differential rating system and city-wide precinct planning where community passion, outrage and emotion often runs high.

In her interactive workshop, Carla will cover and help delegates gain a better understanding of:

- Community engagement- what it is & what it isn't
- The impacts of effective and authentic community engagement within an organisation
- How the principles of good engagement can assist you in your role as decision and public policy makers
- · Tips, tools and techniques for managing outrage and emotion from your communities

# Keynote Speaker Presenter: Mr Ian McPhee

Australian Auditor-General

Reflections from Ian McPhee on his 10 years as Auditor-General for Australia.

# Parliamentary Capacity Building – A Pacific Islands Case Study: the Kiribati Public Accounts Committee Presenters: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Member, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

### Dr Andrea Cullen

Secretary, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

...the development of parliamentary institutions is synonymous with democratisation and their sound functioning is a fundamental requirement of democracy

Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, Copenhagen, 30 June 2006 (cited in OPPD 2010, p. 10)

The first Global Parliamentary Report (2012) commented that:

...parliaments are more prevalent than ever before. 190 of 193 countries now have some form of functioning parliament, accounting for over 46,000 representatives. The existence of a parliament is not synonymous with democracy, but democracy cannot exist without a parliament.

IPU/UNDP Global Parliamentary Report, April 2012 (p. 2)

In new and developing democracies—an overarching objective is to establish sustainable democratic governance. Key targets for such work are the democratic institutions or agencies for public accountability of which the Parliament is considered a primary institution of democracy or the 'biggest show in town'<sup>2</sup>.

Achievement of sustainable democratic governance is one of the major goals of parliamentary capacity building programs. Activities under these programs are designed to strengthen and build capacity for parliaments to carry out their essential democratic functions of representation, law making and oversight/scrutiny.

The established *Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program*<sup>3</sup> twinning arrangement is a valuable Australasian parliamentary capacity building program. It provides an important framework for engagement and capacity building between Australian State and Territory jurisdictions and Pacific parliaments. The ACT Legislative Assembly has been twinned with the Kiribati Parliament since 2007 under the *Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program*.

A key target of parliamentary capacity building programs is the Public Accounts Committee on the basis of its important role in the cycle of accountability for public funds. Using a case study approach this presentation will consider initiatives and activities undertaken to strengthen the Kiribati Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

Consideration of these various initiatives will be framed across the three core capacity building approaches—individual, institutional and network—and importantly, within the context of country specific parameters such as culture and local practices, economic position, historic considerations and parliamentary framework. The discussion will also touch on the success or otherwise of these initiatives (and why) and lessons learned.

After the case study presentation—workshop participants will be invited to consider and discuss their experiences, lessons learned, benefits and practical implications arising from parliamentary capacity building initiatives and programs.

1 Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD) (2010) Strengthening Parliaments Worldwide—The European Parliament and the promotion of democracy, European Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> Rozzoli, K. (2012) 'Assisting parliamentarians to develop their capacities: Experiences from working in Indonesia and South Pacific', *Parliamentary Affairs*, **65**, 3, pp. 628–639, January.

3 http://www.pacificparliaments.net/

<sup>4</sup> This cross-institutional relationship program was formed initially at a meeting of the Australian Region Management Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in July 2007. At that meeting the Region Management Committee of the CPA agreed that Australian Branches would give in principle support to a twinning arrangement proposal which had been approved by the CPA Executive Committee.

# ANAO's international engagement approach; opportunities for collaboration in the future

Presenter: Dr Andrew Pope, Group Executive Director Performance Audit, Australian National Audit Office

An overview of the Australian National Audit Office's international engagement activities including an opportunity for open discussion regarding the benefits, challenges and opportunities for future engagement.

# Parliamentary strengthening in the region Presenter: Dr Julien Barbara, Convenor, Centre for Democratic Institutions, Australian National University

Dr Barbara will present on the challenges and opportunities of providing effective development political governance support, with a focus on parliamentary strengthening activities. He will review lessons learned from the development community in supporting political governance institutions in challenging development environments such as the Pacific over the last decade, and consider opportunities for improving the effectiveness of such assistance.

Dr Barbara will discuss CDI's 'function' over 'form' approach to parliamentary strengthening and how it is important to see institutions in the region as products of local politics rather than ideal types.

# The roles and responsibilities of public accounts committee Members – do guidelines assist in dealing with witnesses and in providing procedural fairness Presenters: Dr Andrew Southcott MP & Mr David Bennett MP

**Dr Andrew Southcott MP**, Chair Joint Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA), Australian Parliament

Committee witnesses must have confidence that their contributions to committee inquiries, be it through written submissions or an appearance at a public hearing, will be treated in a fair and respectful manner. There are extensive legal protections for witnesses when contributing to committee inquiries to act as a balance to the wide-ranging powers of a committee such as the JCPAA.

#### This presentation outlines:

- · the JCPAA's powers under its establishing Act and Senate Standing Orders;
- formal guidelines and procedures to be observed by the committees for the protection of witnesses;
- and the general practices and procedures which the committee and secretariat follow on a day-to-day basis to assist in dealing with witnesses.

## Mr David Bennett MP, Chair, Finance and Expenditure Committee, New Zealand

A number of the Standing Orders of the New Zealand Parliament provide guidelines that assist select committees to deal with witnesses in a way which is fair and recognises the principles of natural justice. The presentation describes these rules and guidelines, and gives some examples of their use in dealing with issues arising in finance and expenditure-related contexts.

# Measuring Public Accountability Presenter: Hon Roger Gyles AO QC, Chair, Transparency International, Australia

This presentation will outline the way in which continual improvement in the measurement and maintenance of accountability can be pursued through methods such as Transparency International's National Integrity System(NIS) approach and through TI's current Anti- Corruption Agency Strengthening Initiative.

# **Annexure 4**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Mr Lee Odenwalder MP

Presiding Member, Economic and Finance Committee, South Australian Parliament & current Chair of ACPAC

Lee was born in London and migrated to Australia with his parents in 1981.

Lee studied at the University of South Australia and University of Waikato (NZ) before completing his honours degree in History at the University of Adelaide. After university, Lee served as a Police Officer, based at Elizabeth Patrols and Elizabeth CIB.

Lee was elected to the South Australian Parliament in 2010.

Lee has served on a number of parliamentary standing committees, including the Public Works Committee, the Crime and Public Integrity

Policy Committee, the Environment, Resources and Development Committee and the Legislative Review Committee. He also chaired a select committee investigating the possibility of solar thermal power generation in Port Augusta.

As well as his work on parliamentary committees, and his involvement in his local community, Lee has a particular interest in urban planning and the development of liveable urban environments; policing operations and criminal law reform; and the legislative, systemic and operational responses to domestic and family violence.

In May 2014, Lee became the Presiding Member of the Economic and Finance Committee.



Mr Simon O'Neill
Auditor-General (former), South Australia

Simon O'Neill was Auditor-General for South Australia for over seven years. He resigned from the office at the end of March 2015.

Simon has over 40 years of experience in public sector audit. As Auditor-General, he and the Auditor-General's Department have been responsible for the conduct and reporting on audits and examinations of over 150 state public sector agencies, and recently under extended statutory remit examinations of local government entities and activities.

Over the years, Simon has been involved in the conduct and reporting of significant investigations to Parliament, including the financial; failure of the State Bank of South Australia.

Simon is an FCPA and was past chair of the financial reporting and audit committee of the Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG).

# Mr Brendan Smyth MLA

Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

Brendan is the Opposition Whip, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Business and Economic Development, the Arts and Tourism, Higher Education, Industrial Relations, Emergency Services, and Gaming and Racing in the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly. In addition to his portfolio responsibilities, Brendan is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and is a member of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedures. He has also served on the Select Committee on Estimates and Select Committee on Regional Development.



Committed to local issues and the future of Canberra, Brendan was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly in 1998, and has been an active representative for Brindabella residents ever since. At present, Brendan is the longest serving Liberal Member in the ACT Assembly.

Brendan's political career in the Assembly includes having been Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister for Planning, Urban Services, Business, the Arts and Tourism, and Police and Emergency Services. He was a Federal Parliamentarian in 1995 as the Member for Canberra.

When away from public life, Brendan is an active member of the Guises Creek Bushfire Brigade, and enjoys bushwalking, cycling, reading, and whisky tasting. Most of all, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Robyn, son, David, and daughters, Amy and Lorena.



# Ms Carla Leversedge

Immediate Past President IAP2, Manager, Community Development & Engagement, City of Tea Tree Gully

Carla Leversedge has over 18 years experience in the community-Government arena. Prior to joining the City of Tea Tree Gully, South Australia as Manager for Community Development & Engagement in 2010, Carla worked for Mission Australia in a national strategy, practices and development role designing and finding funding for innovative community development programs. Facilitating relationships between decision-makers and community stakeholders has been a strong feature of Carla's career which started when she began working as a political staffer for various Members of Parliament in the mid-nineties. Carla has served on many community

and not for profit boards and committees over the last 15 years and is the immediate past President of International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia and Secretary of IAP2 International Federation.

Carla has designed and delivered hundreds of successful community engagement strategies including strategies for contentious issues such as community land sales proposals, service reviews, a differential rating system and city-wide precinct planning where community passion, outrage and emotion often runs high.



The Hon Bruce Lander QC
Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, South
Australia

On 19 February 2013, it was announced that the Honourable Justice Lander would be South Australia's first Independent Commissioner Against Corruption. Commissioner Lander was admitted as a Barrister and

Solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia in March 1969.

He practised as a solicitor until 1981 when he signed the Bar Roll. In 1986 he was appointed Queen's Counsel. In November 1994 he was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia. He remained a Judge of that Court until he was appointed a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia on 14 July 2003.

In January 2004 he was appointed an additional Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. In December 2008 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. In November 2005 he was appointed a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a term of five years and was reappointed in 2010 for a further term.

In April 2013 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by Flinders University for his contribution to the law and the university. Bruce Lander resigned all his judicial appointments to take up his current appointment on 2 September 2013. His tenure as Commissioner is for a period of seven years.



Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, Australian
Parliament

Dr Andrew Southcott was first elected to represent the South Australian electorate of Boothby in March 1996 and re-elected in all subsequent federal elections including September 2013.

Dr Southcott has lived and worked in Adelaide's inner southern suburbs for most of his life and studied Medicine at the University of Adelaide from 1985 to 1990.

In November 1994 Dr Southcott was endorsed as the Liberal candidate for Boothby. In late 2003, Dr Southcott was appointed as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, moving from his role as Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Ageing.

In addition, Dr Southcott has served on a number of other Parliamentary committees, including: Economics, Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee; Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; Secretary, Treasury, Finance, Public Administration, Government Policy Committee; and Trade and Foreign Affairs Government Policy Committee.

From 2007 to 2013 he held several Shadow portfolios including Vocational Education and Training, Employment Services, Sport and Primary Healthcare. Following the election of the Coalition Government in September 2013, Dr Southcott was elected Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

## Mr John Doyle

Victorian Auditor-General

John Doyle commenced his term as Victoria's 26<sup>th</sup> Auditor General on 1 July 2013.

Prior to his appointment John was the Auditor General of British Columbia. Under his leadership, the Office built on it existing success in the Canadian and international audit communities, and also expanded the range of both the types of work conducted and the products created for the legislators and the people of British Columbia.

On 27 February 2013, John was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond

Jubilee Medal—which was created to mark Her Majesty's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary—for his dedicated service to his peers, his community and to Canada.

Previously John was the Deputy Auditor General responsible for all assurance operations within the Office of the Auditor General of Western Australia. This included the conduct of the attest audit of 210 agencies, special investigations and performance audits across the WA public sector.

John was an Associate Professor and Head of the School of Accounting & Finance at the University of Notre Dame in Western Australia. He has also held other academic positions, lecturing in finance, accounting, auditing, and software engineering/computer science. In 2007 he was appointed an Adjunct Professor. While at Notre Dame, John was also Director, Corporate Governance at the Department of Health. This role included internal audits, special reviews, investigations and performance examinations across the entire public health sector. John has also held the position of Chief Financial Officer in a number of major organisations in Western Australia (Lotteries Commission, Edith Cowan University and East Metropolitan Health Services).

John is a Chartered Accountant (CA) and holds designations from Australia (FCPA, CA, CIA, FIIA), the United Kingdom (FCCA) and Canada (FCA). He also holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Accounting.



Mr Ian McPhee, AO, PSM Australian Auditor-General

lan McPhee was appointed as Auditor-General for Australia on 11 March 2005 and his non-renewable 10-year term concluded on 10 March 2015. Ian has been appointed by the Prime Minister on an acting basis from 11 March 2015 for a period of three months or until a substantive appointment is made for the position of Auditor-General, whichever is the sooner.

His previous position was as Deputy Secretary, Financial Management Group, Department of Finance and Administration (2003-2005), where his

responsibilities included managing and providing policy advice to the Finance Minister on the budget and financial management framework; budget and financial reporting, and analysis for whole of government purposes; public sector superannuation; and the Office of Evaluation and Audit.

From 1998 to January 2003, Ian was Deputy Auditor-General at the Australian National Audit Office, where he was responsible to the Auditor-General for the delivery of the performance and assurance audit programs of the Office. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Auditor-General, Ian held various positions at the Department of Finance, at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and at the ANAO, where he commenced his career as a Commonwealth Cadet.



Ms Nicole Lawder MLA
Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

Nicole was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly as the Member for Brindabella in June 2013. She is Shadow Minister for Environment, Family and Community Services, and Housing.

In addition to being a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Nicole is also a member of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services.

Prior to entering the Assembly, Nicole worked in a range of private, public and third sector organisations, including tax, workplace

relations, defence, Medicare, a NASA space tracking station, Deloitte Consulting and as CEO of national peak bodies in the areas of homelessness and disability. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Australian National University and a Master of Business from Swinburne University.

Previous committee and Board positions include Member of the National People with Disability and Carer Council 2008–13, Member of the ACMA Consumer Consultative Forum 2009-13, National Shelter Council 2010–13, Aussie Deaf Kids Board, 2008–10, Tuggeranong Football Club Board (2011). Her community activities include Volunteer member of the Community Fire Unit Fadden, Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Canberra.

## Dr Andrea Cullen

Secretary, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Parliament

Andrea has worked in her current role as secretary to the ACT Standing Committee on Public Accounts for over five years. Her other parliamentary experience includes the Commonwealth Parliament and, as part of a UK Hansard Scholarship, working with the recently lapsed UK House of Commons Select Committee on Public Accounts at Westminster.

Andrea has also worked in both the Australian Public Service and the ACT Public Service that includes roles with the Australian Public Service Commission, IP Australia, The Canberra Hospital and ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Andrea is a Chartered Secretary and has a number of qualifications including: a science degree from the University of Canberra, an MBA from the University of New England and a doctorate from the University of Newcastle.

## **Dr Andrew Pope**

Group Executive Director, Performance Audit Services Group, Australian National Audit Office

Andrew is a member of the ANAO Executive with specific responsibility for the ANAO's performance audit coverage of the Indigenous focussed programs delivered by Australian Government agencies as well as programs in Social Services. Andrew joined the ANAO in December 2009. He commenced his public service career in 1997 in the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) where he held a range of positions relating to the Pacific.



Andrew is also the Chair of the ANAO's International Steering Committee which oversees implementation of ANAO's capacity building initiatives in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

He moved to the Department of Finance and Deregulation in 2006 to take up the position of Assistant Secretary in the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs). He then took up the position of Director of Evaluation and Audit and head of the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs).

Andrew holds a Ph.D. and a Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences) Hons 1st Class from Curtin University as well as Executive Masters of Public Administration from the Australia New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG).

## Dr Julien Barbara

Convenor, Centre for Democratic Institutions/Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, Australian National University



Dr Julien Barbara is the Convenor of the Centre for Democratic Institutions and a Research Fellow at the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, both at the Australian National University. Prior to joining the ANU in 2013, Dr Barbara worked in various roles for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Agency for International Development.

From 2010 to 2012 Dr Barbara was the Director of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) Machinery of Government Program, in which capacity he managed a range of political governance programs including parliamentary strengthening.

Dr Barbara is an expert on political governance and development issues, having worked widely across the Pacific.



Mr Rick Crump
Clerk, House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia

Mr Crump is the current Clerk of the House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia. He was appointed Clerk late last year, having served as Deputy Clerk for the previous 7 years. Prior to this Mr Crump worked for the House of Assembly as Parliamentary Officer, and Secretary to the South Australian Economic and Finance Committee.

Mr Crump has also held various positions with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Clerks at the Table, and has had papers published in the Australasian Parliamentary Review.

Prior to Mr Crump's Parliamentary career, he achieved a law degree at Flinders University and worked for the South Australian

Sports Institute and South Australian Weightlifting Association.

As well as being an Australian weightlifting representative in his own right, he has coached a number of Australian and South Australian Weightlifting teams, including Commonwealth Games and Olympics representatives. Mr Crump is married and a father of two sons.

## Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

Member, Public Accounts Committee, Tasmanian Parliament

Ruth was first elected to the Legislative Council of Tasmania as the Independent Member for Murchison in May 2005 and was re-elected unopposed in May 2011. Ruth represents a rural and remote electorate covering North West and Western Tasmania. Ruth is currently a member of a number of Parliamentary standing and sessional committees including Public Accounts, Subordinate Legislation, Government Administration Committee A, Estimates and Government Business Scrutiny Committees and has served on a number of Select Committees. Ruth participated in the State Government Tax Review Panel during 2010/11.

Ruth has a background in health completing her General Nursing training in 1982 and Midwifery in 1984 where she worked as a nurse and midwife since 1982, primarily as a midwife. She has a Master of Midwifery degree. Ruth has been a member of the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) holding a

number of executive positions including Tasmanian Branch President and National Delegate. Ruth was awarded Fellowship of the ACM in 2001. She has also served on a number of midwifery/health related committees or councils.

Ruth is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and 2011 Tasmanian Leaders Program. She also completed a Graduate Certificate of Business at UTAS in 2013.





Hon John Rau MP
Deputy Premier, South Australia

The Hon John Rau MP is the South Australian Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Child Protection Reform.

After completing his law degree, John worked at legal firms Duncan & Hannon and later at Johnston Withers & Associates, where he was made a partner. He was an adviser to the Hawke Government from 1985-1988, and has been a Barrister since 1997.

In 2002, he was elected to the South Australian House of Assembly where he served on various Parliamentary Committees until being appointed to the Ministry in March 2010. John is a former member of the ALP National Executive. He was appointed Deputy Premier in February 2011.

## Mr Sean L'Estrange MLA

Chair, Public Accounts Committee, Western Australian Parliament

Mr Sean L'Estrange MLA, Member for Churchlands, is a graduate of the Australian Defence College (Canberra) and he holds a Masters Degree of Educational Leadership; Graduate Diploma of Management; Graduate Diploma of Resource Management; and Bachelors Degree of Education.

He was elected to the seat of Churchlands in 2013 and has served as a member of the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission and he is currently Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Audit, and he is a member of the Parliamentary Liberal Party's Finance, Commerce & Development Committee.

For six years prior to entering Parliament, Sean established and ran a successful management consultancy practice in Perth.

He also has extensive leadership experience through the Australian Defence Force where he served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in Afghanistan and where he continues to serve as a Colonel in the Army Reserve.

Sean has also been a Senior School Economics teacher and Head of an Academic Department. He is married to Alyson and they have two young boys.





Mr David Bennett MP
Chair, Finance and Expenditure Committee, New
Zealand Parliament

David Bennett has been the National Party MP for the electorate of Hamilton East, in New Zealand's North Island, since 2005.

He was born in Hamilton and attended St John's College in Hamilton before going on to Victoria University of Wellington, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws

with Honours and a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration.

He worked for an international accountancy firm, KPMG, in Auckland and then undertook a successful career in the dairy industry.

David Bennett has been a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee since 2008, and its chairperson since November 2014.

## Hon Adriana Taylor MLC

Member, Public Accounts Committee, Tasmanian Parliament

Adriana Taylor has a background as a teacher and has a great interest in education. She is also interested in sustainable management of forests, and in 2014 self-funded a trip to Austria to the World Sustainable Energy Day Conference, leading a delegation of Tasmanian academic and industry representatives.

Adriana's passion however is the City of Glenorchy, which is the "northern suburbs" of Hobart in Tasmania. She was first elected as a City of Glenorchy Alderman in March 1999 and in October 2005 she was elected as the city's Mayor, a position she held until 2011 when she did not contest the Aldermanic or Mayoral elections.

During her period as Mayor she started, and is currently the Chair of, Glenorchy Community Fund Ltd, a charitable organisation that distributes grants annually for worthwhile projects that benefit the City of Glenorchy.

Adriana is also chair of Bethlehem House, a 24-hour service centre for homeless men in central Hobart. Bethlehem House has been operating continuously since 1973 and is the largest centre in Tasmania for homeless men, and is the only crisis accommodation centre in Hobart.

Adriana is Patron of a large number of organisations ranging from the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association Junior Umpire Development Program to the rapidly developing Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park or GASP! as it is better known.

Adriana is currently the Member for Elwick, which includes a large part of the City of Glenorchy, in the Tasmanian Legislative Council. She was elected as an independent in May 2010



**Professor Kerry Jacobs**Professor of Accounting, UNSW Canberra

Kerry Jacobs is Professor of Accounting at UNSW Canberra Australia. Prior to taking this appointment in November 2012, Kerry spent seven years as Professor in the College of Business and Economics at the Australian National University and three years as Professor of Accounting at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Kerry has also spent eight years at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and five years at the University of Canterbury New Zealand.

He received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and he has been honoured as a fellow of the New Zealand and the two

Australian professional accounting associations. Kerry has taught a range of accounting courses but particularly specialises in the field of management accounting, public sector and qualitative research methods.

Kerry has published over 40 academic papers and contributed to 5 different books about different aspects of public sector accountability and governance. He is an associate editor for Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal and is an editorial board member for Accounting and Business Research (May 2013), Financial Accountability & Management (Jan 2003), Managerial Auditing Journal (Feb 2012), Journal of Accounting & Organisational Change (Dec 2005), Accounting Forum (March 2009) and Meditari Accountancy Research (August 2013).

In addition he is a reviewer for a number of academic and professional journals on accounting, accountability, politics and public administration and has provided international training and consulting in these areas. He is an ACT council member of the ICAA and is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee for the Victorian and the Queensland Auditors General Offices.

# Hon Roger Gyles AO QC Chair, Transparency International (Australia)

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Currently, the Hon Roger Gyles AO QC is the Chair, Transparency International Australia. He was also appointed Commonwealth Independent Monitor of Security Legislation by the Prime Minister in December 2014, and continues to be an arbitrator and mediator.

Formerly, he was a Barrister 1964-1999; a member of the Administrative Review Council 1976-1983; Royal Commissioner into NSW building industry 1990-1992; and Judge, Federal Court of Australia 1999-2008.





Hon Gerry Kandelaars MLC

Chair, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, South Australian Parliament

Gerry Kandelaars filled a Legislative Council casual vacancy in September 2011. Gerry started his working life as an apprentice Telecommunications Tradesman in 1972 and worked in the Telecommunications Industry for over 20 years before moving to the role of State Branch Secretary and then Branch President of the

Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Unions (CEPU) T&S Branch for 14 years. Before entering Parliament Gerry was employed as an Electorate Officer for Robyn Geraghty MP.

Gerry was a board member of PEER VEET, a Group Training Company and Registered Training Organisation for 15 years. From 2002 until 2011, Gerry was also a director on the Board of Telstra Super.

Gerry is currently the Presiding Member of the following Parliamentary Committees: Crime and Public Integrity Policy Committee, Legislative Review Committee, Social Development Committee, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, Statutory Officers Committee, Gerry is also a member of a number of other committees.

Gerry is married to Glenys and they have two adult children. Gerry has a keen interest in: Vocational Education and Training, Industrial Relations, Multiculturalism and Community Development.

# Mr Tom Richardson Journalist & Columnist, InDaily

Tom is a journalist and columnist for Adelaide news site InDaily. He has previously covered politics for Channel 9, The Australian and The Advertiser.

He was named Journalist of the Year at the SA Media Awards in 2011 and has won Best Columnist in the SA Press Club Awards for the past three years.

