



Committee roundtable to discuss constitutional reform

Change of venue to Committee Room 1R0

Constitutional reform is the focus of a roundtable discussion to be held by the House of Representatives' Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on Thursday 1 May at Parliament House, Canberra. Federal-State relations, a constitutional preamble and issues of citizenship will be among the topics discussed.

Committee Chair Mark Dreyfus QC said "The roundtable discussion will explore the current debates surrounding constitutional reform, and assist the Committee in identifying areas in which we can affect some change in the near future. The governance group at the 2020 summit produced some good preliminary ideas, and the Committee hopes to build on some of these ideas through the roundtable".

Issues to be discussed on the day include:

- the process for amending the constitution;
- election terms and qualifications of parliamentarians;
- federal-state relations in relation to constitutional powers; and
- the inclusion of a constitutional preamble.

As well as the Committee Members, participants will include Professor Larissa Behrendt, Mr Peter Black, Professor Tony Blackshield, Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Professor Greg Craven, Professor David Flint AM, Mr Peter Hanks QC, Professor the Hon Michael Lavarch, Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue, Professor Kim Rubenstein, Professor Cheryl Saunders, Ms Khatija Thomas, Ms Anne Twomey, Professor George Williams, and Professor Leslie Zines.

The roundtable will be held in **Committee Room 1R0, 1st floor, Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday 1 May 2008** from **9.00am - 5.00pm**.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the discussion or listen to the roundtable discussions, which will be broadcast on **FM 97.1** in Parliament House, and via webcast on the APH website: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For interview:

Please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP on (02) 6277 4305 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (03) 9769 1955.

Or Mr Dreyfus' media adviser, Tim Lisle-Williams on 0431 178 280.

For background information, including the program for the day and a list of participants with biographies, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358 or visit the roundtable website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/reformcon.htm>