



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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29 April 2016

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – 5 MAY 2016
DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE

In response to the Committee's interest in the Senate Occasional Lecture Series, I attach information on the planned lectures for the 2016 calendar year and an update on the costs associated with the honorarium and travel for presenters for the 2015-16 financial year.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)

Senate Occasional Lecture Series

Each year the department holds a number of lectures which are open to the public.

Ten lectures were held in the 2014-15 financial year.

2014	Lecturer	Topic
11 July	Professor Megan Davis	Competing notions of constitutional recognition
8 August	Professor Linda Trimble	"Abolition difficult, reform impossible, status quo unacceptable": Can Canada fix its Senate?
12 September	Dr Brendan Nelson	The role of the Australian Parliament when going to war
24 October	Professor Helen Irving	Pulling the trigger: the 1914 double dissolution election and its legacy
28 November	Mr Colin Neave	An exploration of the role of the Ombudsman in relation to Parliament
5 December	Professor Ross Garnaut	Global development: the long term context of Australian development
2015	Lecturer	Topic
20 February	Mr Simon Longstaff	Democracy, Trust and Legitimacy
March	No lecture	
10 April	Mr Aaron Pegram	Politicians at war: the experiences of Senators and Members in the First World War
29 May	Dr Andrew Moore	Fitzpatrick and Browne Affair
19 June	British High Commissioner	Magna Carta

Eight lectures were scheduled for the 2015-16 financial year as outlined below but Professor Trood's April lecture has been postponed due to illness.

2015	Lecturer	Topic
July	No lecture	
14 August	Ms Jane Halton	PGPA Act and public sector reform

18 September	Mr Phil Bowen	The role of the Parliamentary Budget Office
October	No lecture	<i>(Magna Carta Symposium held on 30 October)</i>
13 November	Dr Chris Sarra	Leadership and Australia's first peoples
December	No lecture	
2016	Lecturer	Topic
5 February	Professor Graeme Orr	Ritual and rhythm in electoral systems
11 March	Professor Cheryl Saunders and Mr Stephen Argument	Delegated legislation
29 April	Professor Russell Trood	Postponed due to illness
13 May	Professor Simon Torney	Challenges for representative democracy
24 June	Dr Bede Harris	Constitutional reform
22 July	Ms Leah Armstrong	Reconciliation Action Plans in business and government
26 August	Professor Paul Strangio	The Prime Ministership since Federation
30 September	Professor Anika Gauja	Political parties and reform
28 October	Professor Tom Frame	Conscription, conscientious objection and parliament
November (TBC)	Professor Russell Trood	Parliament and national security

The department pays an honorarium (except where it is declined or would be inappropriate, such as for Commonwealth officers) and travel costs for the presenters.

The below table sets out expenses incurred in previous financial years and the current total so far for the 2015-16 financial year after 5 lectures:

Financial year	Honorarium	Travel and associated costs
2011-12	\$3,500	\$2,571
2012-13	\$3,500	\$4,287
2013-14 ^	\$4,954	\$4,414
2014-15	\$3,000	\$2,725
2015-16*	\$1500	\$2,999

^ 2013-14 featured two panels with a total of five participants hence the increase in honoraria.

** Total to 31 March 2016*