



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (WA branch) Jurisdiction Report – November 2021

Western Australia went to a General Election for both Houses of Parliament on 13 March 2021 and the 41st Parliament was opened on 29 April 2021. Administrative responsibility for the WA branch transferred to the Legislative Council for the current Parliament. As a result of the election and in accordance with the branch rules the Executive Committee was reconstituted. Of the 95 Members of the Parliament of Western Australia, 77 are members of the branch. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council are the joint Presidents of the Branch with the Speaker being the current Chair of the Executive Committee which rotates on an annual basis.

WA branch representatives have been actively involved in recent CPA activities including the CPA Women's Roadshow, the Climate Change conference and the 39th Australia and Pacific Regional Conference hosted by the WA branch from 1-4 November 2021. Seven members of the branch presented papers at the conference; Hon Sandra Carr MLC; Hon Ayor Makur Chuot MLC; Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC; Hon Colin De Grussa MLC; Hon Pierre Yang MLC; Hon Lorna Harper MLC; and Mr Simon Millman MLA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulties with both international and interstate travel, the conference was a hybrid type with delegates, observers and advisers able to participate both in-person and on-line. This was a first for a regional conference and presented several challenges, both technical and procedural. The WA branch extends its appreciation for the support provided by the Australia Region Secretariat in preparing and delivering the conference in this hybrid setting.

The WA branch, as the most recent host of a regional conference, is participating in the Australian Region Management Committee working group established to review arrangements for the conferences. The branch has an active Commonwealth Women's Parliamentarian group which has been bolstered by the large number of new female members of parliament elected at the 2021 poll. The branch continues to provide support to its twinned Pacific Parliament, The Cook Islands, including assisting with the recruitment process for the Clerk and continuing its discussions for a gift of a Table of the House for the refurbished parliamentary building in Rarotonga. Drawings of the proposed table, which is modelled on the tables in the Parliament of Western Australia, have been sent to The Cook Islands for their consideration.