



Commonwealth of Australia Branch Report, October 2021

The Commonwealth of Australia Branch currently has 115 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate are the joint Presidents of the Branch with the President of the Senate taking the lead on CPA matters and serving as one of the three CPA Regional Representatives for the Australia Region.

Senator the Hon Slade Brockman was elected President of the Senate on Monday 18 October 2021 and will be taking over the Branch and Regional Representative responsibilities previously held by Sen the Hon Scott Ryan.

Commonwealth Branch representatives have been active participants in recent CPA activities including the Youth Parliament, Westminster Seminar and Climate Change conferences. The Commonwealth Parliament has also assisted with research requests from CPA HQ and the broader CPA network, and our Procedure Offices undertook a detailed review of the new Parliamentary Academy curriculum materials before the Academy was launched earlier in the year.

A parliament-to-parliament virtual meeting was conducted with CPA UK counterparts late last year, and we are currently exploring further virtual meetings to share insights between Committees on trade, social policy and other matters.

The Commonwealth Parliament continues to provide regional secretariat support for both the CPA Australia Region and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) including managing the Pacific Parliamentary Partnership Fund on behalf of all Australian branches as well as facilitating the annual funding application process offered to Pacific parliaments. In September 2021, bids from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were approved by the Australia Region Management Committee and procurement of these items is well underway. The Regional Management Committee also approved amendments to the Australia Region Rules, including updating the CWP Rules, to reflect recent practice.