

# POLITICIAN VERSUS PARLIAMENTARIAN

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# POLITICIAN VS PARLIAMENTARIAN

‘Holding a partisan position is not an accountability issue unless corruption is being supported or there is an abuse of power...It is not either/or; people are often both politician and parliamentarian, depending on the time, place and issue, but there are differences in perception between the two.’

-A. Murray

# POLITICIAN VS PARLIAMENTARIAN

**‘Politicians are thought to be partisan, parliamentarians are not, but being one or the other is a matter of judgement, behaviour and attitude, not of belief or party.**

**-A. Murray**

# AN ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

‘[A PAC’s] main functions are to see that public moneys are applied for the purposes prescribed by Parliament, that extravagance and waste are minimised...’

-Erskine May

# AN ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

**‘PACs should focus on governments’ financial activity and accountability rather than evaluating or assessing the content of the governments’ policies.’**

**-Stapenhurst et al**

# COMPOSITION OF PAC

**‘In two-thirds of cases PACs are chaired by an opposition...in Australia it is considered advantageous to have a government member as Chair.’**

**-D. McGee**

# COMPOSITION OF PAC

**‘In Australia (federal and state parliaments), the Committee chairs, most of whom are government members – place a great emphasis on operating in a non-partisan manner and on reaching unanimous agreement about agendas and reports.’**

**-Stapenhurst et al**

# AUDITOR GENERAL FOLLOW-UP

**The WA PAC aims to operate with a focus on administration, and by corresponding with Directors-General and other senior public servants.**

**The Committee aims to be critical where policy implementation is lacking, but also highlight cases of best practice.**



# CONCLUSIONS

**‘Holding a partisan position is not an accountability issue unless corruption is being supported or there is an abuse of power...It is not either/or; people are often both politician and parliamentarian, depending on the time, place and issue, but there are differences in perception between the two.’**

**-A. Murray**

# CONCLUSIONS

**Focusing on policy administration enables impartiality of the PAC membership.**

**Thank you**

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