



Session 1 — Parliamentarians and Politicians

Session Aims:

This session aims to better equip delegates with the ability to recognise and appropriately manage the impact of partisanship on the accountability function of committees.

Context:

Parliamentary committees are comprised of members from different parties who are intended to work together in a non-partisan manner to assist parliament in its scrutiny and review functions by holding inquiries into complex issues. This can be tempered by the operation of the party system.

Questions/issues for consideration:

- What do you see as the major role of committees?
- Is there an inherent tension between Members promoting 'Party' positions and their role as independent committee members?
- How can Members overcome the partisan burden to become champions of accountability?
- What are the procedural implications for a committee beset by partisanship?
- Have partisan demands on Members increased over time; and if so, has this had an impact on the scrutiny function of committees?
- Does this potential tension impact more on either upper or lower houses?