



# Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

## Trust, Parties and Leaders: Findings from the 1987-2016 Australian Election Study

→ Professor Ian McAllister and Sarah Cameron

Friday 25 August 2017, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Theatre, Parliament House



Professor Ian McAllister

Political trust is a major issue in contemporary democracies and Australia is no exception. The most recent Australian Election Study found that public satisfaction with democracy and trust in politicians had reached some of the lowest levels ever recorded. The results are indicative of rising popular disaffection with the political class, as has emerged dramatically in Britain and the United States.

Drawing upon Australian Election Study surveys fielded after every election over the past thirty years, this lecture will provide an analysis of voter opinion in three areas: 1) trust in politics and attitudes towards democracy; 2) assessments of the political parties; and 3) perceptions of the political leaders. The lecture will shed light on why we are witnessing such dramatic changes in how Australians feel about the political system and will conclude with some proposals for political reform.

**Professor Ian McAllister** is Distinguished Professor of Political Science at The Australian National University. He has been director of the Australian Election Study since 1987, a large national post-election survey of political attitudes and behaviour. His recent books include *The Australian Voter* (University of New South Wales Press, 2012) and *Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

**Sarah Cameron** is a researcher in the ANU School of Politics and International Relations, and is the co-author of the *Trends in Australian Political Opinion* monograph. Her research covers political behaviour and public opinion in Australia and in cross-national comparison. She has contributed to several major projects on elections and democracy including the Australian Election Study and the Comparative Cross-National Electoral Research Project.



Sarah Cameron

**Admission free** – bookings not required. Can't make the lecture? Watch it live at [www.aph.gov.au/Senate/Lectures](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/Lectures)  
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