



# Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

## Parliament and national security: Challenges and opportunities

→ Dr Anthony Bergin

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Friday 30 June 2017, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Main Committee Room, Parliament House

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Dr Anthony Bergin

While not new, in recent years the debate about the role of the Parliament in matters of national security has become increasingly lively.

Many parliamentarians are demonstrating greater enthusiasm for extending Parliament's influence in the realm of foreign affairs, intelligence, defence and national security.

Some now argue that a decision by the Prime Minister to go to war should be subject to a veto by a majority vote of both houses of federal Parliament.

When we face unprecedented national security challenges, it's critical the public have confidence in the capacity of our politicians to effectively meet those challenges.

It's timely, therefore, to consider how Parliament should best play a vigorous role in providing the robust checks and balances in national security policy necessary for the health of our democracy.

Dr Bergin's lecture will address differing perspectives within this debate, consider the role of parliamentary committees and examine the possible exercise of war powers by Parliament.

The lecture will outline recommendations for enhancing Parliament's role in national security to reinforce executive accountability, expand public access to national security policy process, improve the quality of the national security public debate and strengthen our democratic foundations.

**Dr Anthony Bergin** is a senior research fellow at the Australian National University's National Security College and a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, where he had previously served as the deputy director. He has published widely on Australian national security policy and provided expert advice to parliamentary inquiries into defence, homeland security and international policy issues.

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**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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