



Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

Committees of Influence: Evaluating the Role and Impact of Parliamentary Committees

→ Dr Sarah Moulds

Friday 30 April, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Theatre, Parliament House



Dr Sarah Moulds

The central place parliamentary committees hold within Australia's modern democracy is familiar to anyone who has worked within or around the Australian Parliament. The capacity of Australian parliamentary committees to provide both technical scrutiny functions and deliberative forums for engaging with experts and the community makes these bodies particularly interesting to legal scholars and political scientists. In an age of declining trust in public institutions, the need to understand and evaluate the role parliamentary committees play in our democracy is particularly acute. Drawing upon Dr Moulds' PhD research into the role parliamentary committees play in rights protection in Australia, this lecture introduces a three-tiered approach to evaluating the work of parliamentary committees and their impact on the content of legislation and the law-making process. It will focus on the role parliamentary committees play in facilitating meaningful public engagement in parliamentary law-making in Australia.

Dr Sarah Moulds is a senior lecturer in law at the University of South Australia, Justice and Society Unit and co-founder of the Rights Resource Network SA. She has teaching and research interests in the area of public law, human rights, counter-terrorism and criminal law, administrative law and anti-discrimination law. Dr Moulds' PhD research into the role parliamentary committees play in rights protection in Australia (published in book form as *Committees of Influence*, Springer 2020) was awarded the University of Adelaide's Doctoral medal in 2018. Sarah also holds a Masters of Comparative Law, Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of International Studies. She is an executive member of the International Parliamentary Engagement Network and the South Australian Chapter of the Australasian Parliamentary Studies Group. Sarah is also a member of the Expert Panel advising the Queensland Parliament on Human Rights.

Admission free, but bookings are essential. Further information, including how to book tickets and how to watch the lecture online, is available at www.aph.gov.au/Senate/Lectures. Enquiries: **02 6277 3074** or email research.sen@aph.gov.au