The Graduate Program in Public Policy of the Australian National University conducted the course from Monday, 3 November – Friday, 21 November 2003. The three-week program was organised and conducted by John Nethercote, Adjunct Professor, School of Politics and Public Policy, Griffith University, as the Program Director.

As in 2002, the Program was commissioned and funded by Centre for Democratic Institutions, which has funding from AusAID. Participants were selected by CDI, which also made all arrangements for travel, accommodation and allowances.

There were eleven participants – four from Indonesia, two each from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, and one from Vietnam:

**Cambodia**
Mr Yan Vandeluxe, General Secretariat of the Senate  
Mr Sok Hy, General Secretariat of the Senate

**Laos**
Mr Amphay Chitmanonh, Division of International Relations, National Assembly  
Mr Khampasong Ratsachack, Complaints Division, National Assembly

**Indonesia**
Ms. Mitra Anindyarina, DPR Secretariat  
Mr. Partogi Poltak Nainggolan, DPR Secretariat  
Ms. Endah TD Retnoastuti, DPR Secretariat  
Mr. Mr Chairil Patria, DPR Secretariat

**Thailand**
Miss Sirikamon Chandrapanya, King Prajadhipok Institute  
Mr Nawat Sripathar, King Prajadhipok Institute

**Vietnam**
Mr Hoang Hieu Minh, Office of the National Assembly

All had a reasonable proficiency in English and the entire program was conducted without interpreters.

The structure of the 2003 program was broadly similar to that for 2002. In the 2003 program, sessions on public expenditure concentrated on the parliamentary dimension. Sessions on interest groups were dropped. New subjects covered were parliament’s role in promotion of human rights, and in the fight against corruption.
In the 2003 program, participant assignments were based upon readings from some of the classical texts about parliament and democracy. These texts also formed the basis of group discussions.

**The program has several objectives, including:**

- Providing participants with an informed understanding of the constitutional and parliamentary framework for representative government on a democratic and elective basis;
- Assisting them thereby better to understand the workings of representative and responsible government under modern conditions;
- Promoting their understanding of the practical contributions which parliamentary staff can make to the effective operations of a democratically elected parliament; and
- Enhancing their knowledge of a parliament’s relationship with other institutions essential to a fully democratic polity, in particular the courts and the media.

**Key components of the program were:**

- Australia’s constitutional and parliamentary arrangements, including the federal character of the nation’s government;
- The Parliament, including the roles of the Governor-General; the presiding officers; the clerks; and the Library/Research Service; and the place of Opposition;
- Media coverage of parliament;
- The enactment of legislation, including regulations, etc.;
- Scrutiny and management of public expenditure;
- Roles, activities and servicing of parliamentary committees;
- Parliamentary activities relating to human rights and the fight against corruption;
- Relations with courts and tribunals; administrative review;
- Parliamentary administration, including the Parliamentary Service Act; and the Joint House Department; and
- Codes of Conduct and ethics.

Special features of the program were visits to Parliament House to see Question Time in the House of Representatives; estimates hearings in the Senate; visits to key locations such as the Leader of the Opposition’s suite and the Cabinet Suite.

The participants also had the opportunity of meeting His Excellency the Governor-General and Mrs Jeffery. In a tour of the public parts of the residence, they viewed the room where the Federal Executive Council meets, and also the study used by the Governor-General at the time of the dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

Visits to Goulburn City Council and the ACT Legislative Assembly demonstrated that basic principles of representative and responsible governance can be found at local and territory levels as well as the national.

During the three weeks, the Program was addressed in total by 32 major speakers in addition to sessions led by John Nethercote.
Apart from His Excellency the Governor-General, the background of the session leaders was:

- Academics (7);
- Parliamentarians; ex-parliamentarians (5);
- Parliamentary, ex-parliamentary staff (9);
- Public servants, ex-public servants (8); and
- Journalists (2).

Participants were required to do two brief assignments, both based on readings used in discussion groups. Readings for the first assignment were drawn from Edmund Burke, the Federalist papers, J.S. Mill, Abraham Lincoln and Walter Bagehot. The themes were the position of members of Parliament, bicameralism, the concept of democracy, and the contrast between parliamentary and presidential government.

The single reading for the second assignment came from Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, on the theme of majority rule and minority rights.

**Reading material**

To facilitate the program, all participants were provided with a range of reading materials about the various topics covered. This was mainly drawn from information sheets prepared by the two houses of the Parliament and similar documentation from other sources. It was brief and generally in plain English. Many session presenters supplied notes, including copies of power-point presentations. A range of more substantial reading was also distributed during the course of the Program, mainly at the request of participants.

**Assessment**

The program provided a comprehensive coverage of the field. Formal sessions were concentrated in the first half of the program. This arrangement helped to retain participant interest until the very end of the program.

Participants generally took the initiative in relating the themes of the various sessions to the situation in their own countries. Professor Ian Marsh’s sessions particularly stimulated these connections.

The readings/discussion groups/written assignments worked well, not least because participants again sought to link the various themes to parliamentary arrangements in their own countries.

**Conclusion**

The program participants were well chosen: they had the intellectual calibre to benefit; were sufficiently proficient in English; and, as in 2002, they were highly motivated and committed.

The syllabus and conduct of the Program owed a great deal to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Ian Harris. His knowledge of the qualities of a good parliamentary officer and his counsel about session presenters was invaluable in design and construction of the program. The subsequent practical and personal support at Parliament House gave the
The enthusiastic support of the Presiding Officers, parliamentarians and former parliamentarians, and senior staff from all parliamentary departments was a major contribution to the conduct of the program and was deeply and expressly appreciated by all participants.

Finally, in the smooth day-to-day operation of the program, the Program Administrators at GPPP and CDI, played a vital role.

Program

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2003

900-1015 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
   John Nethercote, Program Director

1015-1045 Morning tea

1045-1200 THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT
   John Nethercote

1200-1315 Lunch

1315 PARLIAMENT HOUSE

1400 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – QUESTION TIME

1445 SENATE COMMITTEE – ESTIMATES HEARINGS

1600 THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
   Hon Neil Andrew, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
   Senator John Hogg, Deputy President, The Senate

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TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2003

0900-1015 CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND FEDERALISM
   David Adams, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, ANU

1015-1045 Morning tea

1045-1200 REPRESENTATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT
   David Lovell, Senior Lecturer, Political Science, Australian Defence Force Academy

1200 Lunch
1330 ORDER IN THE HOUSE

1500 Afternoon tea

1600 PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE
    Bernie Wright, Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives

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WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2003

0900 THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:
    John Nethercote

1015 Morning tea

1045 ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL
    Vince Robinson, First Assistant Parliamentary Counsel

1200 Lunch

1330 LEGISLATION: THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
    John Nethercote

1415 Afternoon tea

1445 LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE
    John Nethercote

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THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2003

0845 LEGISLATION: PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OF
    REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES, ETC
    John Nethercote

1000 Morning tea

1030 FINANCIAL LEGISLATION: THE BUDGET PROCESS
    Stephen Bartos

1200 BUDGET DOCUMENTATION

1230 Lunch

13.30 PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE
    Stephen Bartos
1430 THE AUDITOR-GENERAL: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO PARLIAMENT  
*Pat Barrett, AO, Auditor-General of Australia*

1545 Afternoon tea

1615 THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT  
*Bob Charles, MP, Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit*

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FRIDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2003

0845 THE OPPOSITION  
*The Hon Bob McMullan, Shadow Minister for Finance*

0945 Morning tea

1015 DEMOCRACY IN ASIA  
*Professor Ian Marsh, Political Science Program, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU*

1145 DISCUSSION GROUP

1245 Lunch

1400 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES  
*John Nethercote*

1500 Afternoon tea

1530 VISIT TO THE HIGH COURT

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MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2003

0845 GOVERNMENT AND THE CITIZEN: INTRODUCTION  
*John Nethercote*

0915 PARLIAMENT, COURTS AND TRIBUNALS  
*Professor Robin Creyke, Faculty of Law, Australian National University*

1015 Morning tea

1045 AUSTRALIA’S SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
*Professor Robin Creyke, Faculty of Law, Australian National University*

1200 Lunch
1400  THE OMBUDSMAN
    
    Professor John McMillan, Ombudsman

1500  Afternoon tea

1530  ELECTING THE PARLIAMENT
    
    Margaret Menaghel, Assistant Director, Australian Electoral Office
    Kathy Mitchell, Director, Funding and Disclosure, Australian Electoral
    Commission

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TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2003

0830  PARLIAMENT HOUSE

0900  THE ROLE OF THE CLERK AND DEPARTMENT OF THE
    HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
    Ian Harris, The Clerk, House of Representatives

1015  Morning tea

1045  THE ROLE OF THE CLERK AND DEPARTMENT OF THE
    SENATE
    Harry Evans, The Clerk, The Senate

1145  VISITS TO THE CHAMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF
    REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE

1230  Lunch

1345  DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY
    AND PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE
    Dr June Verrier

1500  Afternoon tea

1530  DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING
    STAFF

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WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2003

0900  REPORTING PARLIAMENT ON BUILDING FOR PARLIAMENT
    HOUSE
    Veronna Burgess, Public Service Reporter, Canberra Times
    Graeme Dobell, Foreign Affairs and Defence Correspondent, ABC
1015  Morning tea

1045  DISCUSSION GROUPS

1200  Lunch

1330  PARLIAMENT HOUSE

1345  VISIT TO THE SUITE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
       John Cook, Adviser, Leader of the Opposition

1500  PARLIAMENT HOUSE
       Andrew Smith, Joint House Department

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THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2003

1000 - 1500  GOULBURN CITY COUNCIL

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FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2003

0900  ORDER IN THE HOUSE

1030  Morning Tea and discussion with The Centre for Democratic Institutions
       Roland Rich, Director, Centre for Democratic Institutions

1145  DISCUSSION GROUPS

1200  Lunch

Afternoon – free time

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MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2003

0900  PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY
       Professor Ian Marsh, Political Science Program, Research School of
       Social Science, Australian National University

1015  Morning Tea

1045  PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES: A CHAIR'S PERSPECTIVE
       Senator Barney Cooney, Senator for Victoria, 1985-2002

1200  Lunch
1345  PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES: SECRETARY’S ROLE AND STAFF SUPPORT
   Peter Grundy, Former Secretary, Joint Standing Committee on Native Title

1500  Afternoon Tea

1530  ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
   Christine Goode, Former Commissioner for Superannuation

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TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2003

0900  PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
   Margaret Swieringa, Committee Secretary, Department of the House of Representatives

1015  Morning Tea

1045  DISCUSSION GROUPS

1200  Lunch

1345  CONDUCTING GOVERNMENT DURING ELECTIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
   Barbara Belcher, First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

1500  Afternoon Tea

1530  PARLIAMENT: ETHICAL MATTERS
   Dr Andrew Brien, Committee Secretary, Department of the House of Representatives

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WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2003

0845  PARLIAMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
   Ian Faulks, Secretary, Joint Committee on Independent Commission Against Corruption

1015  Morning Tea

1045  PARLIAMENT AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
   Professor Peter Bailey, Law Faculty, Australian National University
1245 VISIT TO ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1330 PRESENTATION ON THE ASSEMBLY
1400 MEET THE MLAs – AFTERNOON TEA
1430 QUESTION TIME IN THE CHAMBER
1500 COMMITTEE SYSTEM
1530 PAPERS AND PROCEDURES (DEPUTY CLERK)
1600 TOUR OF BUILDING

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THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2003

0900 THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND PARLIAMENT
Sir David Smith, AO, KCMG

1015 Morning Tea

1045 SECOND ASSIGNMENT

1200 Lunch

1345 SECOND ASSIGNMENT

1500 Afternoon tea

1530 THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE ACT
Andrew Podger, Parliamentary Service Commissioner

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FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2003

0930 GOVERNMENT HOUSE
His Excellency the Governor-General. Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC and Mrs Jeffrey

1200 PARLIAMENT HOUSE
The Cabinet Suite

Afternoon – free time