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Department of Parliamentary Services

Seminar: Australia and Democracy in the Pacific Islands

Wednesday 11 September 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (AEST)

Parliament House Theatre, Parliament House and live streamed

Presenter: Dr Kerry Baker, political scientist and Fellow in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University

The Pacific is a strongly democratic region. Most Pacific countries have unbroken track records of scheduled elections and peaceful power transfers. Despite this, there are challenges to democratic resilience in the region, including the protection of political rights and civil liberties, issues of electoral integrity, and under-representation of women and marginalised groups.

Australia has asserted the importance of promoting shared democratic values in its foreign policy and invested significantly in democracy in the Pacific. In the Pacific region's complex and competitive geostrategic environment, democratic norms and practices may increasingly come under pressure.

This seminar will examine how democracy manifests in the region and explore the challenges and opportunities of democracy support.

Presenter

Dr Kerry Baker is a political scientist and Fellow in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. Kerry's publications include issues on political participation, elections and electoral reform, and women's political representation. She is the author of *Pacific Women in Politics: Gender Quota Campaigns in the Pacific Islands* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2019), and the winner of the Carole Pateman Gender and Politics Book Prize, 2021.



Booking

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A recording of the lecture will be made available on the Parliament of Australia website.

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