

# AUSTRALIANS FOR WAR POWERS REFORM

a project of the CAMPAIGN FOR AN IRAQ WAR INQUIRY

## LEGISLATING REFORM OF THE WAR POWERS

ANU Faculty of Law, Moot Court, Friday, 23 October 2015

9.00 – 4.30

Australia has never needed more urgently to change the war powers that allow troops to be committed to conflicts abroad whenever and for whatever reason a prime minister chooses. The disastrous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are bad enough; Australian forces are now re-deployed in Iraq and newly active in Syria. A growing number of parliamentarians seek legislative change. To speed the process, Australians for War Powers Reform (AWPR) will hold a seminar at ANU at which legal, defence, and international relations experts will discuss the options. The result will be a set of recommendations to members and senators to help in drafting legislation.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend, but numbers are limited. Please register in advance on the AWPR website: [www.awpr.org.au](http://www.awpr.org.au)

Inquiries:

Dr Alison Broinowski

Dr Sue Wareham

Vice President, AWPR

Secretary, AWPR

[alison.broinowski@anu.edu.au](mailto:alison.broinowski@anu.edu.au)

[warehams@ozemail.com.au](mailto:warehams@ozemail.com.au)

Provisional program: \*speakers not confirmed

*Morning*

Chair: Paul Barratt

Opening statement: Melissa Parke MP

- How Australia invaded Iraq (John Hewson)\*
- War powers vs. the power of public and expert opinion (Hilary Charlesworth)\*

Chair: Pera Wells

- The role of the Governor-General (Cameron Moore)
- Amending the Defence Act (Andrew Farran)
- Is parliamentary approval sufficient? Legal, military and intelligence aspects (Charles Sampford)

*Lunch*

*Afternoon*

Chair: Sue Wareham

- Can parliamentary conventions limit executive privilege? (Margaret Swieringa)
- Responding to an emergency: how much notice does government need to go to war? (John Sanderson)
- Avoiding the first casualty: the media's scrutiny of wars (Nick Stuart)

Chair: Ramesh Thakur

- Summary of conclusions (Tony Kevin)