

## **President meets with Scottish Parliament Delegation**

I was pleased to host a Scottish Parliament delegation visited to the Parliament of Western Australia in October.

The visit was especially significant because these were the first Members of the Scottish Parliament to visit Australia since the Scottish Parliament was established in 1999. The cross-party delegation, which was led by Conservative politician Ted Brocklebank, included Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary for Health, Ross Finnie; Labour Member for Highlands and Islands, Rhoda Grant; and Sandra White, from the Scottish National Party.

One of the main focuses for the delegation was to learn more about minority governments and coalitions from the Western Australian experience.

The visit also provided the opportunity for the members of the Legislative Council Environment and Public Affairs Committee (which considers petitions) to hear first hand of the experience of the Scottish Parliament with “E-Petitioning”. E-Petitions are under consideration by the Legislative Council, so the timing of the visit proved very useful as three Members of the delegation had recently served on the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee.

The Clerk Assistant (Committees), Mr Paul Grant briefed the delegation on the Legislative Council committee system. The delegation was also able to observe an Estimate and Financial Operations Committee hearing.

The delegation Provided a presentation about the Scottish Parliament’s *Festival of Politics* for Members, which has gained international interest. The delegations reflections on the progress made in the first 10 years of the new Scottish Parliament, including its innovative public engagement programs was particularly interesting.



Picture: (from left) *Margaret Neal (CPA Secretary, Scotland Branch), Clerk of the Legislative Council, Mr Malcolm Peacock, Ross Finnie MSP, the President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Barry House, Rhoda Grant MSP, Ted Brocklebank MSP (delegation leader), and Sandra White MSP.*