



# Parliament House

## Western Australian Parliament House



2017

### ***Parliament House***

- First Built 1904
- Extended 1964
- Side wing extensions built 1978 and 2002

Free public tours available every Monday and Thursday at 10:30am and Friday at 2.00pm except public holidays.

Public Tours: Phone: (08) 9222 7259 Fax: (08) 9222 7865

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### **House on the Hill**

Parliament House or "The House on the Hill" was originally planned to be built within the centre of Perth city and to a much grander scale as advocated by the 1900 Parliamentary Committee. The foundation stone was laid on 31 July 1902 and the building was opened in 1904. The Chief Architect was John H. Grainger and it was built by the Public Works Department at a cost of £35,623/3s/1d. The architectural style of the wing facing Harvest Terrace is Federation academic classical. The exterior is clad in Rottneest Island limestone, but the second story raised floor was completed in Donnybrook free stone, as Rottneest island stone



### **East Facing Facade**

Parliament House extension commenced in 1958 and opened in 1964. The 1964 architectural style is Stripped Classical with the exterior using Donnybrook free stone, total cost was £140,000. The additions covered three floors linked by a circulate structure housing the helicoidal, reinforced, post-stressed staircase, with the walls and stairs clad in imported Italian Travertine Marble. The Forrest foyer's floor is a mosaic of wandoo, jarrah and blackbutt.



### **The Chambers**

Both the **Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers** are housed in the original 1904 building. They incorporated jarrah timber walls from the South West and stained glass windows by Barnett Brothers in Murray Street, Perth. The **Legislative Assembly** dome plasterwork ceiling was from Britain and the chamber colour is blue, this breaks from Westminster tradition which dictates a green lower house.



**The Legislative Council** chamber is red the traditional colour for upper houses in the Westminster system. The chamber was renovated in 2011 with design and works by architects Oldfield Knott.

Some interesting architectural feature of the chambers is the sash windows that drop into the cavity which allowed cross flow ventilation before the building extensions.



### **Other Significant Rooms**

**The Members' Dining room** is part of the original 1904 building. Originally much narrower in size the room was extended into the arched colonnades. The room seats 120 guests and holds many functions. There is also the Centenary Room, which can be open to extend the size of the dining room. This room seats 35 people; a recent addition to dining facilities is the Mace room which seats 14.



**The Parliamentary Library** was first located in the 1904 building. The room was a variation to the plan, the exterior is clad in Donnybrook stone rather than Rottneest Island limestone. It was originally conceived as a ballroom but was never used, becoming the library and billiard and meeting room. In 1964 the library moved to the new east extension and the area was divided into three rooms to provide offices, committee and billiard rooms. The library moved back to its original location in 2004.



**The Aboriginal People's Room and Gallery** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was established when the Parliamentary Library moved back to the west side of the building providing a place within Parliament House in which the contribution to Western Australia by Aboriginal peoples and their communities is recognised. A feature of this room is the display of Aboriginal art work through paintings and slump glass design.



### **Symbols of Parliament**

**The Mace** symbolises the authority of the Speaker of the house. The Western Australian Mace was designed by the State Works Department in 1887, and was manufactured in South Australia by Mr Salis Schlank's Beaver Factory in Adelaide at a cost of £70. It is made of silver with gold gilt. It was first used in the Legislative Council in 1888, and was transferred with the Sergeant at Arms to the Legislative Assembly upon its establishment in 1890. It is the oldest Parliamentary Mace in use in Australia.



**The Black Rod** lies across the brass cradle on the table of the house, was specifically designed for Western Australia by the British Crown Jeweller in London and was presented to the Legislative Council to mark the visit of Her Majesty the Queen in 1954. The Black Rod was a gift of Hon Harry Hearn, OBE a member of the Legislative Council (1948 to 1956).