

**Princeton University** 

University Center for Human Values  
Louis Marx Hall  
Princeton, New Jersey 08544  
USA  
*url* <http://www.princeton.edu/~uchv>

PHILIP PETTIT, *FAAAS*  
L.S. ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF POLITICS  
AND HUMAN VALUES,  
*office* +1-609-258-4759  
*email* [ppetit@princeton.edu](mailto:ppetit@princeton.edu)  
*url* <http://www.princeton.edu/~ppetit>

24 January 2012

Secretary,  
Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure,  
ACT Legislative Assembly,  
Canberra

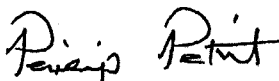
Dear Secretary,

Thank you very much for the invitation to make a submission to the review of the self-government act of 1988. I greatly appreciate the invitation, which I take as a token of recognition for the report on self-government by the committee I chaired in 1998. I have good memories of working on that committee and it would be nice to think that our report remains relevant to the debates of the Standing Committee.

I continue to spend a period of each year in Canberra, and hope to return for longer and longer periods over the coming years, so obviously retain a great interest in how the system operates. I have had more than a fair input to discussions on the character of ACT self-government and do not wish to make any novel suggestions. But perhaps I could just draw attention to the recommendation in my committee's report that the ACT legislature or government might make use of citizens' assemblies for advice on particularly divisive matters. The proposal we made resembles closely the British Columbia Citizens' Assembly that was formed in 2004 to make a recommendation on reform of the voting system there. If your committee is interested in looking again at this idea, you might find it useful to consult the following book on the B.C. assembly: Warren, M. E. and H. Pearse, Eds. (2008). Designing Deliberative Democracy. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

I hope that the work of the Committee on this issue goes smoothly and successfully.

With best wishes,



Philip Pettit