



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JURISDICTIONAL REPORT 2019

Overview

The parliamentary education section of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT aims to promote an understanding and appreciation of the role and significance of the Legislative Assembly to the citizens of the ACT and its visitors. In the 2018-19 year, we received 2840 visitors and had a 98% satisfaction rating.

Visitors to the Assembly

Visitors by group	Number of participants 2016-2017	Number of participants 2017-2018	Number of participants 2018-2019
Community groups	327	697	353
Delegations	32	87	76
Speakers citizenship evening	183	122	109
Public service Seminar/Tour, includes teacher professional development	275	246	205
Seminars and conventions	0	38	31
Work experience/internship	12	23	27
School students (from individual school visits)	805	1,009	1,092
School students (school debates)	527	341	364
School students (constitutional convention)	66	82	67
Tours	64	96	104
Open day	0	0	287
Ceremonial sitting/possum skin cloak launch	0	0	125
Total	2,291	2,741	2,840

(Source: Office of the Legislative Assembly annual report 2018-19)

The Assembly's education office provides a range of services including:

- educational activities for primary and secondary students and community groups;
- public tours every Wednesday 1.00-2.00pm;
- programs for secondary students such as parliamentary debates and the ACT Schools' Constitutional Convention;
- programs for the ACT public service;
- work experience and internships for secondary and tertiary students;
- the provision of information, educational and promotional publications on the Assembly in print and electronic formats;
- the organisation of an open day once every four years with the creation of a new Assembly;
- the organisation of Members photographs at the beginning of each Assembly and assistance in the new Members induction program;
- responsibility for education section of the website; and
- administration of the Assembly's official gift and art collections.

Staffing

The Education and Engagement Officer is responsible to the Speaker through the Director, Office of the Clerk. The office is staffed by a full-time Manager, Education and Engagement and a part-time Education and Engagement Officer. The success of the program also relies on assistance from Members and Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) personnel as follows:

- the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Assistant Speakers to chair parliamentary debates and provide welcomes at other scheduled education programs;
- Members addressing visiting groups;
- the Public Affairs Officer;
- OLA staff presenting seminars in their area of expertise (Clerks, committee and chamber support staff);
- ACT Public Sector Directorate staff; and
- attendants providing support by arranging rooms and furniture for visits and major functions.

The office has also recently established a casual register of Education and Engagement Officers who are able to assist in periods of peak demand, or if permanent staff are on leave. There are currently three staff on this register.

Education

The office has been working on new resources including posters, lesson plans and videos to supplement the existing information factsheets and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the ACT Legislative Assembly—its past and formation, how the Assembly works, including its practices and procedures, as well as some information on the electoral process for the general public. This material aims to educate the public about the roles, responsibilities and history of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT. The new resources are designed to support teachers in the classroom deliver content from the Civics and Citizenship stand of the Australian curriculum. All resources are available through the explore your assembly menu on our website www.parliament.act.gov.au

Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Education Programs

Include the following:

- Australian National University internship program and work experience students from ACT schools (yr 10-12);
- ACT Schools Constitutional Convention (Yr 11);
- Inter-School Parliamentary Debates—2 each for Yr 7/8 & Yr 9/10 and 1 for Yr 11/12;
- Teachers' professional learning (TQI accredited); and
- Customised programs for individual school visits which can include mock elections, role plays in the chamber or committees and meet a Member Q& A sessions.

Community education programs

- Community/Organisation seminars eg. Probus Club, Goodwin Men's Shed and U3A; and
- Customised programs for groups as required.

Public Service Seminars

Public Service Seminars are held over 1 day involving members of the ACT Public Service or staff from the Legislative Assembly. They are a repeat seminar run four times a year and cover the following subjects: (participation costs \$100 + GST).

- an introduction to the ACT Legislative Assembly;
- the role and operation of Assembly committees, including the Scrutiny of Bills Committee;
- the legislative process including the ACT Legislation Register; and
- the public sector and the Assembly.

Speaker's Citizenship Evenings

Citizenship ceremonies are organised by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre. Three times a year the Speaker invites the new citizens to an informal evening to meet some members, learn about the Assembly and take a tour.

Open Day

Once every four years the ACT Legislative Assembly holds an Open Day to welcome, entertain and inform the ACT public about the Assembly's operation. The open day was held on 11 May 2019 to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the self-government. The Office of the Clerk staff was responsible for the organisation and running of the day.

The office also assisted with the ceremonial organisation for the unveiling of the Ngunnawal Possum Skin cloak. The cloak was a gift from the Ngunnawal people to the Legislative Assembly as represents a significant act of reconciliation. The unveiling took place at the conclusion of the 30th anniversary ceremonial sitting and was attended by Ngunnawal elders and people, current and former members and a number of invited dignitaries.

Public tours

Public tours are conducted on demand every Wednesday from 1.00-2.00pm. On sitting weeks any visitors on the tours who are interested are able to stay for question time at the conclusion of the tour as it commences at 2.00pm.

Art

The Legislative Assembly Art Advisory Committee [LAAAC] was established to oversee the purchase and management of the Assembly's official art collection. The committee includes representation from the art community, a member from the government, opposition and crossbench, an OLA staff representative and is presided over by the Speaker. The Education Officer is responsible for managing the Assembly's art collection.

For the first time in 2018 our curatorial advisor organised an exhibition of works by the winners of the Legislative Assembly Emerging Artists Support Scheme (EASS) awards. These are annual prizes, selected by the Speaker and awarded to two artists completing their final year at the ANU school of Art.

Gifts

The Education Office manages the gifts received by the Assembly, as well as providing a store of items to be presented on behalf of the Assembly.

Future Priorities for the Assembly

Continue to update and refine programs and undertake further creation of educational videos, lesson plans and resources for teachers. The office is also commencing a community outreach program by hosting stalls at various Canberra festivals in 2018-19.

Joanne Cullen and Jayden Evett

Education and Engagement Officers

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

T (02) 620 53016 and (02) 620 53025

E joanne.cullen@parliament.act.gov.au and Jayden.evett@parliament.act.gov.au