



## INTRODUCTION

The Education Officer South Australian Parliament remains a Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) position. This offers some advantages including being identified as a teacher by fellow educators and access to ongoing education department training and development that enables ongoing links with schools and their priorities.

The Education Officer SA is part of the DECD Teaching and Learning Team where our line manager is located. The team has recently increased in number and consists of Education Officers located at: Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide Magistrates Courts, Adelaide Zoo, Monarto Zoo, Art Gallery of SA, Botanic Gardens of SA, CSIRO, Migration Museum, SA Maritime Museum, SA Museum, SA Water and Windmill Theatre.

A formal external review was held in 2012 about our function as a team. We are still awaiting the formal results of the review but some of the recommendations are coming to fruition with an Outreach Web Site being one of them.

Old Parliament House is undergoing significant renovations and it is planned to be opened early 2014. This may offer significant advantages to the SA Parliamentary Education Office as specific spaces may become available for their use including the Old Chamber and display areas.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### **AUSTRALIA DECIDES – Using the Australian Curriculum**

I am presenting a session on this unit of work so I will just say here that I am very happy to receive any feedback. The link is

<http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/education/teachers/Pages/FederationandtheConstitution.aspx>

Teaching for Effective Learning documents can be found at:

<http://www.learningtolearn.sa.edu.au/tfel/>

### **CAREERS IN PARLIAMENT SEMINAR**

A change from the Leadership seminars I have held in the past. The program included an opportunity to hear how Members of Parliament, the Clerk of the House of Assembly, Leader of Hansard, Parliamentary Librarian, Chief Finance Officer, Catering Manager and a Parliamentary Committees Executive Officer have forged their careers. There was also a short tour of both Houses of Parliament chambers during the morning. This was also very well received by the Year 11 students who attended.



## **OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

The original 1857 chamber in Old Parliament House should be available for education programs from 2014. There will be historical chronological displays about the building and democracy in South Australia. The technology will include multiple screens and an apple TV so I can use my DECD iPad to share resources with the learners and if they bring a class set we can share their ideas on the big screens.

Previously I had individual power point presentations outlining the role of Parliament, a representation single page for each Member of both Houses with their individual photo and electorate map, (for MLC that is the State in SA) and some basics like how government is formed and how question time works. Members will be able to individualise these presentations as they take the students around themselves.

## **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PETITION**

At last it seems we may have the 1894 original document pages on permanent display in Old Parliament House in a protected case with climate and atmospheric controls. The page will be change every six weeks to protect the document. Previously this has been kept in the House of Assembly vault and only displayed in Canberra.

## **YOU TUBE CLIPS**

We have changed some of our 1997 video clips to Interactive White Board friendly full page U Tube clips and had some updated. The remainder will be updated after the election in March when the new Parliament returns.

## **TEACHER CHECKLIST FOR STUDENT PARLIAMENT DEBATES**

I have devised a checklist for Teachers wishing to be involved in Student Parliament Debates at Parliament House to help them streamline their preparation and enable their students to gain the most from the program. Being realistic I have outlined two options – minimum preparation time and more thorough preparation time.

## **CIVICS EDUCATION**

I am on the South Australian Civics Education Reference group. This has enabled me to share the ideas and concerns of teacher representatives throughout South Australia. This year the Annual Legal Studies Teachers Conference (Peter Cavouras is President and I am the Secretary) ran under the banner of Civics and Legal Studies Teachers Conference and we had an impressive list of presenters including: Professor Anne Twomey Professor of Constitutional Law, Sydney Law School, Hon Chris Kourakis Chief Justice on Social Media and the Law, Professor Kim Economides Dean Flinders Law School on How photography can be used to change public perceptions of law, or Professor Elizabeth Handsley Flinders Law School on representation of Children and their 'treatment' by the media, Professor Kent Anderson with comparative law on Japan and Australia and a panel session with Margaret Nyland Former Supreme Court Justice, Mark Griffin QC and Alex Ward Vice President Commonwealth Lawyers Association. The aim of the conference was to increase teacher's understanding of the principles involved in civics education with direct links to Australian Curriculum.

Another change I have noticed is the schools visiting Parliament who have spent 10 weeks – a whole term – covering civics obviously integrated with other curriculum so that timetabling is not an issue.

Another change I have noticed is the number of schools visiting Parliament who wish to bring 4 or 5 classes of Year 6 students at one time – a logistical challenge for us in small Parliaments.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMMES**

- **Visits with Members of Parliament**
- **Seminars for Electorate Office Staff and Ministerial Staff**
- **Question Time Management**
- **Votes for Women Program**
- **Student Parliament Debate Program**
- **Come to Our Houses junior primary program in conjunction with Adelaide Festival Centre**
- **Senior Secondary Law Week Youth Parliaments - one each semester**
- **South Australian State Student Constitutional Convention with young people from previous years assisting in running the event**
- **Parliamentary Reform Seminar with Universities and Parliamentary Internships Programme**
- **Professional Development Activities for Teachers**
- **Database of Educational Visits**
- **Materials Development in all mediums**

If anyone wishes to obtain more information about these ongoing programmes please do not hesitate to contact me and I will forward all the materials related to any of the above programmes. I am always happy to share resources.

### **National Australasian Parliamentary Educators' Conference**

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the organisers of the Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference for hosting our annual conference this year and their team for their wonderful hospitality and organisation as I am fully aware of how much work this conference is when it is planned with careful attention to detail and fulfils true educational outcomes. I also wish to thank all my colleagues for their ongoing support.

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