

# Student Voice & Agency in a Democracy

Best practice teaching in parliamentary education

APEC Conference  
November 2019



Old  
Parliament  
House

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@moadlearning



Museum of  
Australian Democracy  
Old Parliament House

Student quote: “ I can form groups with other citizens who share the same values or political views as me. We could meet and discuss current affairs, hold protests when we disagree with something, or send emails to local parliament members.”



# MoAD

*MoAD vision:* To celebrate the spirit and stories of Australian democracy and the power of your voice within it.

*Learning vision:* Grow the museum as a leading institution providing safe opportunities for deep engagement in the ideas and practices of democracy and civic participation. We achieve this by providing unique and transformative learning experiences that explore what it means to be an informed and engaged citizen.



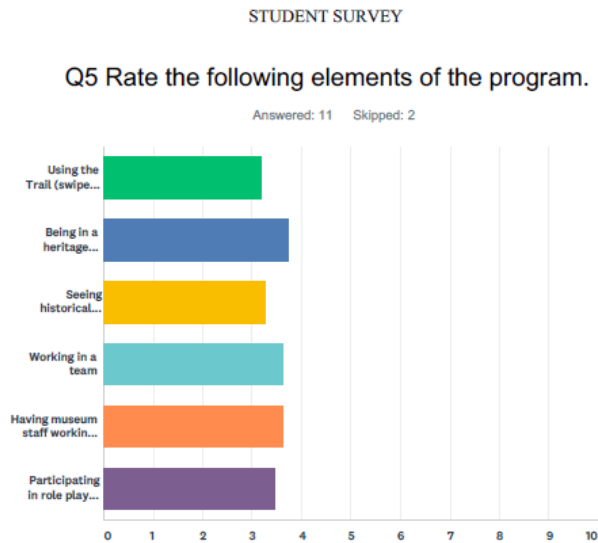


# Some definitions...

**What is student voice:** is not simply about giving students the opportunity to communicate ideas and opinions; it's about students having the power to influence change. Authentic student voice provides opportunities for students to collaborate and make decisions with adults around what and how they learn and how their learning is assessed.

**What is student agency:** refers to the level of autonomy and power that a student experiences in the learning environment. Student voice and agency are intrinsically linked. Agency gives students the power to direct and take responsibility for their learning, creating independent and self-regulating learners.

*Definitions courtesy of Victorian Department of Education*



	NOT PART OF THE PROGRAM	NOT SO GOOD	OK	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Using the Trail (swipe cards) technology to learn	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	11	3.18
Being in a heritage building and chamber	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	11	3.73



Old Parliament House

# Having a voice...

Let's hear what students have to say ...





Old  
Parliament  
House



Old  
Parliament  
House

QUESTION

ideas

Civics

CONSTITUTION

Separation of powers

Stories

Values

FAIRNESS

Engage

rights & responsibilities

Be involved & have a say

# DEMOCRACY

my voice counts

FREEDOM



Global Citizenship

Diversity



DEMOS KRATOS = PEOPLE POWER

PROTEST

Active citizenship



people



Voting

YES

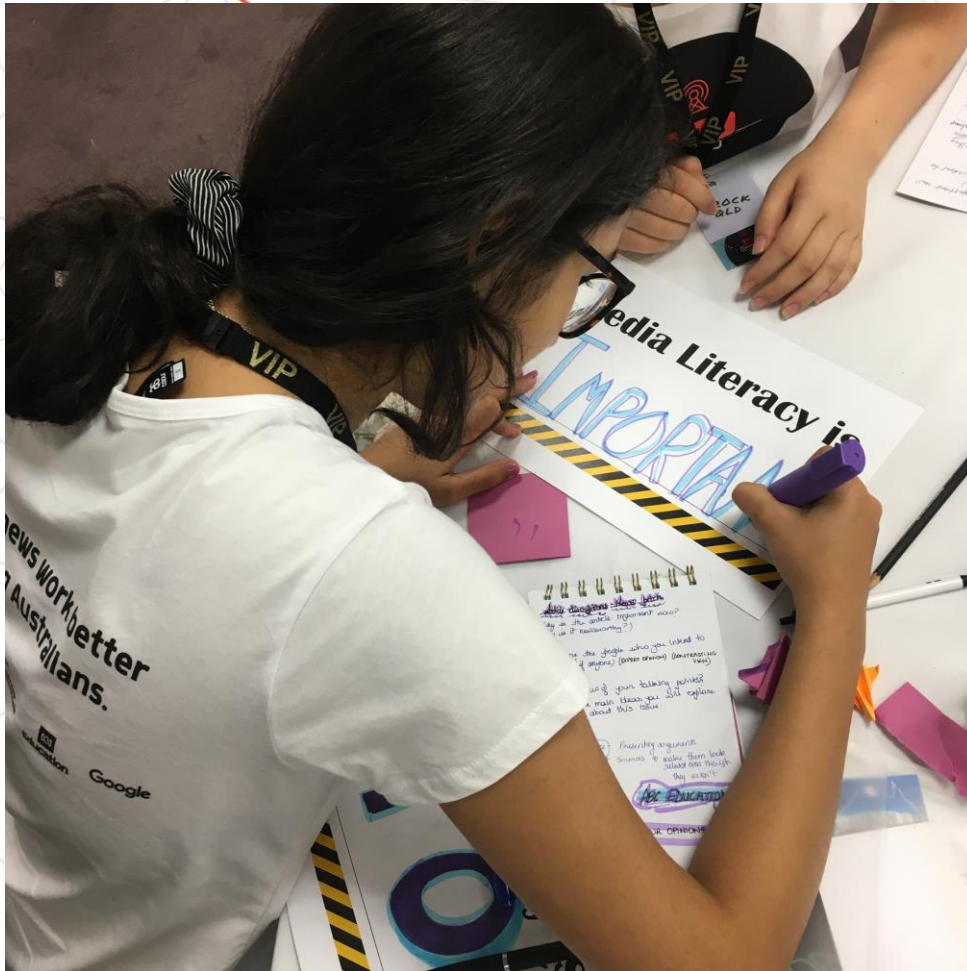


Justice



# Special youth programs

- ACT Students Constitutional Convention
- National Students Constitutional Convention
- Girls Takeover Parliament
- News Media Literacy Champions
- *What Matters?* Competition
- *Call to Action* competition







Old  
Parliament  
House

# Learn from others

**Connect**  
supporting student participation

Number 235  
February 2019  
ABN: 98 174 663 341  
ISSN 2202-4980



**How are we listening to students?**

• Student Voice research ...  
in a Rio de Janeiro Public School

Recursos:

VicSRC Victorian Student Representative Council

About Us Student Opportunities Projects Events and Training Action! Resources



**STUDENT VOICE HUB**

Student Voice Hub - Has Launched!  
An evolving online platform for all things student voice!

eNews Subscribe

Subscribe to our eNewsletter by adding your details here:

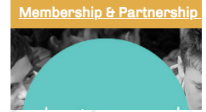
Name

Email

School / Organisation

-- Please Select --

Send!



## What is Student Voice?

The first set of responses focused around the literal meaning of students speaking up and expressing ideas. Within the setting of this school, it was important to recognise that 'voice' can be non-verbal for some students:

- Students' opinion and thought
- Providing a forum for students to express their opinions.

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of 'vo  
cont

Resource: An audit of practices

## An Audit of School Practices around: Student Voice, Agency and Participation

- What does 'student voice, agency and participation' mean in practice?
- What are you already doing in these areas?
- What should be your priorities for your next steps?



<http://research.acer.edu.au/connect/vol2019/iss236/>

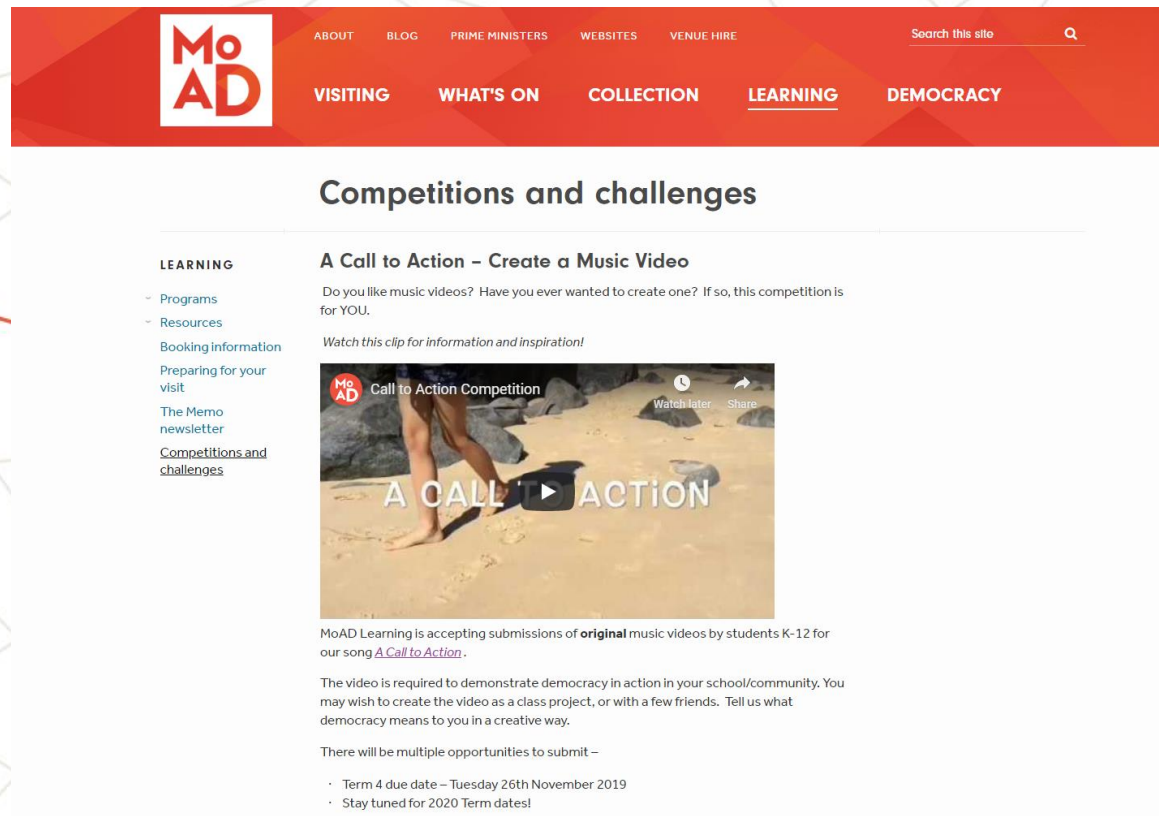
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# Ideas to encourage student voice and agency

## Make a film clip about democracy!



The screenshot shows the MoAD website's navigation bar with the MoAD logo and links for ABOUT, BLOG, PRIME MINISTERS, WEBSITES, VENUE HIRE, VISITING, WHAT'S ON, COLLECTION, LEARNING, and DEMOCRACY. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled "Competitions and challenges" and features a section for "A Call to Action - Create a Music Video".

**MoAD** ABOUT BLOG PRIME MINISTERS WEBSITES VENUE HIRE Search this site

VISITING WHAT'S ON COLLECTION LEARNING DEMOCRACY

### Competitions and challenges


**LEARNING**

- Programs
- Resources
- Booking information
- Preparing for your visit
- The Memo newsletter
- Competitions and challenges

#### A Call to Action - Create a Music Video

Do you like music videos? Have you ever wanted to create one? If so, this competition is for YOU.

Watch this clip for information and inspiration!



MoAD Learning is accepting submissions of **original** music videos by students K-12 for our song *A Call to Action*.

The video is required to demonstrate democracy in action in your school/community. You may wish to create the video as a class project, or with a few friends. Tell us what democracy means to you in a creative way.

There will be multiple opportunities to submit –

- Term 4 due date – Tuesday 26th November 2019
- Stay tuned for 2020 Term dates!

# Thank you & Questions?



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