

Parliamentary Education, Parliament of NSW:  
Jurisdictional Report 2019



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Parliamentary Education is made up of one full-time education officer, manager, administration officer and two part-time officers – one designer, one digital engagement. The unit provides support to DPS and the two House Departments producing integrated and consistent messaging and programs about the Parliament.

Education conducts a variety of programs for primary, secondary and tertiary students, and for the community with civics and citizenship focus including lectures, seminars, video-conferencing, workshops, role plays, small displays and so on.

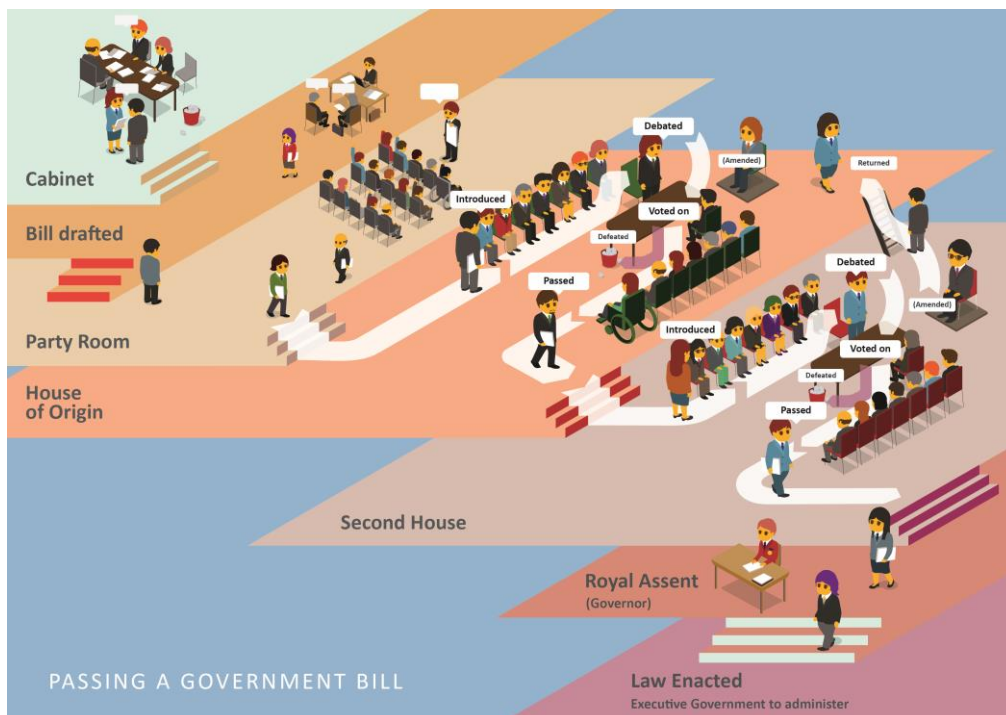
This report provides an overview of the most recent developments in programming and new and future directions for the team.

## Objectives:

- provide high quality learning opportunities in civics and citizenship for students and teachers in NSW through site visits and video-conferencing;
- provide opportunities for school audiences to access experts, educators, and members of parliament to enrich their knowledge and experience and engage them in the processes of the parliament.

## Scope:

- to reach students and teachers in all electorates in NSW either via site visits to the parliament or through a video-conferenced learning experience for regional students;
- to create unique, accessible, engaging and informative programs that provide students with the opportunity to engage with the Parliament as active and responsible citizens of NSW.



*“Passing of a government bill” diagram  
- an example of a school audience specific graphic  
produced by the Graphic Designer.*

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## Significant Achievements 2019:

- **Family Fun Day on Friday 11 October, 2019 - “Member for a day”:** Children’s activities included an ‘Inaugural speech’ activity, a word search puzzle, ‘Chatter box’ activity, guessing competition to identify a mystery object, colouring in and crafts and children’s trail.
- **Videoconferencing program for regional primary schools - “Visit Us at Our House”:** This engaging and fun interactive program continues to be popular with year 5 & 6 Students, explaining the role of the legislature through the ‘Serjeant-at-Arms’ and the ‘Usher of the Black Rod’ characters.
- **New secondary role play:** Developed to extend the role play to the Legislative Council with additional material about committees. This has received very positive feedback from teachers.
- **Community Engagement events:** Keynote Speakers at our events this year have included Professor Anne Twomey, speaking about the Australian Constitution, Members of Parliament speaking about their legislative and representative roles, and Hansards Editor of Debates speaking at an event commemorating 140 years of Hansard in the NSW Parliament.
- **Social Media:** The Parliament’s Facebook Page has approximately 13,000 friends. The page promotes events and exhibitions held at the Parliament and aims to educate about the role, history and daily activities of the NSW Legislature. Members check in liking and share posts. The Parliament’s Instagram Page showcases information and events through beautifully curated images.
- **Education Centre:** completed in 2018, this high quality presentation facility’s design reflects the architecture of the Parliamentary chambers. It includes an annex for assembly, cloakroom and toileting. The centre now makes sitting day visits and extended programs possible and increases visit capacity.
- **Delivery of Secondary “Legal Studies and the Legislature” program** for Year 11 Legal Studies/Commerce students. Students examine statute law, the law-making process, the legislature, and Parliamentary Committees as mechanisms for Law Reform. The program is a unique collaboration with LA/LC Committee staff who present a case study.
- **Making connections – the Cultural Kilometre:** Parliamentary Education is engaged in knowledge sharing and cross promoting cultural institutions within the precinct. Formed in 2017. It brings together the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney Living Museums, Australian Museum, Art Gallery of NSW, The Reserve Bank, The Botanic Gardens, Jewish Museum and the State Library of NSW. So far the Reserve Bank has produced an interactive map and The Art Gallery of NSW organised *ArtLab* for Primary School teachers that included a workshop and visits to the Parliament.
- **Sydney University 2019 Industry Project Unit:** in collaboration with Sydney University Parliamentary Education engaged a group of multidisciplinary students across faculties in a problem solving project. Parliamentary Education provided students with a brief around which they developed an industry solution and response.

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*Photographed is the NSW Constitutional Convention 2018.  
Over 100 students attend each year with 30 attendees democratically selected by their peers to attend the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra the following year.*

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## Designing the future:

- **Continue teacher collaborations:** to gain feedback on programing, future planning, program delivery, teacher and student needs
- **Fund female students in NSW regional schools:** to attend Regional Young Women's Leadership seminars to encourage women into public life, meet female members of parliament, community leaders and potential mentors.
- **Continue to develop community engagement programs** on specific topics that relate to the Parliament that feature keynote speakers and presentations
- **Continue collaborations with SLNSW and Cultural Kilometre:** specifically where programing and historic artefacts from collections can form part of the program at the Parliament – e.g. draft constitution was on display for the *A Little Night Sitting* program on 6 August.
- **Expand Outreach Programing to the NSW electorates** working with Members of Parliament and Committee staff, possibly travel to electorates or use of innovative technology to cut costs.
- **Create a dedicated Education website:** offering students and teachers a one stop site for civics and citizenship with redesigned students and teacher resources
- **Initiate an Artist in Residence program:** to apply a visual dimension to the Parliament interpreting a dynamic and working Legislature, aspects of its history and to key anniversaries and events broadening the Parliament's audience and public profile.
- **Collaborate with Department of Education** to participate in annual HSIE conference accessing state curriculum advisors, Professional Teachers' Association delegates, as well as participants from Australian Independent Schools, the Catholic Education Commission, NESAs and tertiary institutions personnel.
- **Collaborate with the Legal Studies Association** to access teachers and students in all NSW regions



*Parliamentary Education produces its own images for social media and program promotion. This image was used to promote an evening lecture on 22 October celebrating 140 years of Hansard at the NSW Parliament.*