



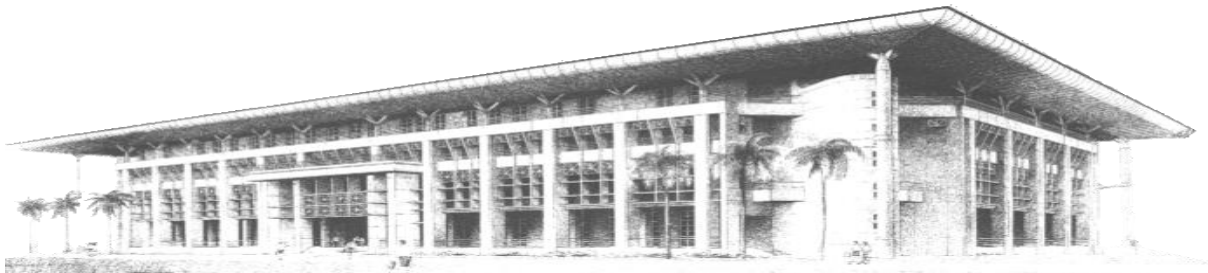
# AUSTRALASIAN PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2019

## JURISDICTION REPORT FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### UNIT OVERVIEW

Parliamentary Education Services (PES) is responsible for ensuring the provision of high quality education, engagement, public relations and information programs relating to the operations of the Northern Territory Parliament and its Committees. PES is located within the Committee and Education Division of the Department of the Legislative Assembly. Since July 2019 PES was transferred to the Procedural Support and Education Division.

PES was staffed with three permanent staff until January 2019. From 1 January 2019 the Education Programs Coordinator position within the unit remained vacant following a resignation. The Northern Territory Government Root and Branch Review required the deletion of one full time employee (FTE) within the Department of the Legislative Assembly resulting in the Education Programs Coordinator position being permanently deleted. As all PES staff deliver educational programs, there was a decrease of participants in programs from 10,119 in 2017-2018 to 7,872 in 2018-2019.



### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**SCHOOL TOURS** of Parliament House remain our most popular program, especially on Meeting days. Schools often choose to do our two hour program which includes a one hour tour, viewing the Meeting or a visit to the Chamber, and a presentation and mock election with the NT Electoral Commission (NTEC). NTEC provides funding for buses to those schools that include their session. PES also conducts school tours on non-Meeting days at flexible times. During 2018-19 PES conducted 95 tours to 2,531 students and teachers.



**STEP UP, BE HEARD** is our customised Youth Parliament program for senior students. It is designed to address the SACE Stage 1 Legal Studies curriculum and includes two assessments. *Step Up* is an election campaign and vote conducted by NTEC. *Be Heard* is a bill debate in the Chamber with Madam Speaker presiding. It is conducted over a 4-6 week period in class time both at the school and Parliament House. During 2018-19 two schools and 36 students participated in this program.

**ROLE PLAYS** are conducted at schools in the classroom often as a follow up to a school tour. After a PowerPoint presentation, students brainstorm bill ideas, vote as a class on which bill to debate, and then write a persuasive speech supporting or opposing the bill. The class then role play a bill debate and division with every student given a role. The length of the role play program is approximately ninety minutes. During 2018-19 we conducted 35 role plays for 1,040 students.

The **REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM** mirrors the role play program held in urban centres, but sometimes uses activities designed for remote indigenous students depending on the class. This program is run on request from teachers, with other schools nearby being offered a visit. PES extends an invitation to the local Member to participate in outreach programs. During 2018-19 Madam Speaker, the Clerk and the Manager of PES took the Assembly's ceremonial mace to the people on an educational tour from Darwin to Uluru, visiting schools in Katherine, Mataranka, Elliott, Tennant Creek and Yulara. PES conducted 19 sessions to 390 students and teachers.



*Tour of the Golden Mace  
from  
Darwin to Central Australia*



The **REMOTE SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAM** has been specifically designed for remote indigenous students and involves a series of hands on activities and visual resources leading up to a modified role play. The program aims to overcome challenges of lower literacy levels among ESL students while also taking into account the learning styles of remote indigenous students. This program is also run on request, with nearby schools also offered a visit. In 2018-19 we ran one session at Barunga School for 15 students.

**SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SCHOOLS** are conducted on an annual basis: *Bombing of Darwin Tours* are conducted over the month of February to commemorate the anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942, but can also be done by request outside of February. These tours are a joint program with the NT Library, which is located inside Parliament House. In 2018-19 we conducted three Bombing of Darwin Tours for 85 students.

In March we hold a week long program for *Commonwealth Day* where students learn about the different countries in the Commonwealth. The program is linked to the Australian Curriculum for History and Geography. Parliament House puts on an impressive display of all the flags of Commonwealth countries, and students also attend Government House home of the Northern Territory Administrator and the program has become very popular in recent years. In 2018-19 we ran 14 sessions with 459 students participating.

By request in Law Week, PES held an abridged version of the Careers in Law Forum - *From Cabinet to Court* due to the unavailability of staff from the Supreme Court. There were two speakers, the Clerk of the NT Legislative Assembly and a Member of the Legislative Assembly. This was attended by nine Year 12 Legal Studies students.



*Democracy Dash* is an education program coordinated by NTEC in which PES participates with several other democratic institutions in an 'amazing race' style event. Year 9-12 students travel in teams and complete an activity at each location around the city. This year NTEC ran one event with 34 participants.

## ADULT EDUCATION

**ADULT STUDENTS and COMMUNITY GROUP/ORGANISATION TOURS** are run on request for a range of adult student classes, community groups, organisations and businesses. These tours of Parliament House can have increased content about certain aspects of parliament, history and/or the building to suit its audiences. The community group/organisation tours are becoming more popular, especially with local businesses and visiting groups from interstate. During 2018-19 we delivered 47 tours for 653 participants.

**KNOW YOUR ASSEMBLY** seminars are designed to give attendees an improved understanding of the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly with a focus on the interaction between the executive government and parliament. These full day seminars are free and are conducted in the Chamber and the main Committee room. This year 6 seminars were attended by 162 adults and since inception five years ago, the seminars have been attended by 1004 people, that is more than one in every 250 Territorians. The seminars are structured to include:

- Session 1: Overview of the Legislative Assembly (presented by the Clerk Assistant Chamber)
- Session 2: Conduct of Proceedings (presented by the Clerk and Speaker)
- Session 3: The Legislative Process from Cabinet to Commencement (presented by the Deputy Clerk, Chief Parliamentary Counsel and Director of Cabinet Office)
- Session 4: Committees (presented by First Clerk Assistant and a Member)
- Session 5: Optional 'back-of-house' tour (presented by PES and Hansard staff)

## OTHER PARLIAMENT PROMOTIONS

**OPEN DAY** is an annual event, held in conjunction with Government House and the Supreme Court, all located within metres of each other. Open Day was held in September with 678 people attending. The format of Open Day has changed over the years with less emphasis on displays and more speaking events with special guests.

**NEW TEACHER EXPO** is an event held in January and July to provide new teachers with an opportunity to connect with representatives from professional associations, organisations and government agencies to learn about resources that can support them in their teaching journey. During 2018-19 PES attended two Expo events and engaged with 88 new teachers to the Northern Territory.

**PUBLIC TOURS** are conducted every Saturday at 9.00 am and 11.00 am, with an extra tour at 10:30 am on Wednesdays during the Dry Season (May – September). We have four casual public tour guides who rotate the shifts, with PES staff on hand for the Wednesday tours to help when busy. During 2018-19 we delivered 113 public tours to 1,675 visitors to the Northern Territory. From 1 July 2019 Saturday morning tours have been cancelled due to budget constraints.

There are number of **OTHER TOURS** run by PES staff on demand. These include tours and inductions for government department or ministerial staff and electorate officers. We also conduct VIP tours for visiting delegations of parliamentarians or government officials, as well as trade delegations or other guests of the Chief Minister, Ministers and Members.