



## QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION JURISDICTIONAL REPORT 2017

### CHAMBER, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Queensland's parliamentary education team reports to the First Clerk Assistant (Procedure) and Manager, Education and Communication Services, and organisationally is part of a grouping incorporating the Table Office known as Chamber, Education and Communications Services (CHECS).

#### 1. THREE YEAR PLANNING

The Education team in the Chamber, Educations and Communications Services (CHECS) area operates according to a three-year plan in order to manage the workload at a level appropriate to the human resources available. This plan lists the maximum number of each type of activity to be conducted in any one year. The plan also sets out a regional activity program to be achieved over the three years. The current three-year plan was developed in 2015.

#### 2. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Queensland's parliamentary education activities include:

- A fee-paying seminar program for public servants
- A free seminar program for senior secondary, TAFE and university students
- Free information sessions for stakeholder and community groups
- Youth parliaments
- Free teacher professional development
- A parliamentary internship program

The CHECS team also contributes to zone constitutional conventions in partnership with Education Queensland.

##### ***Fee-paying seminar program***

Three seminar programs are currently offered, with a total of 12 seminars offered each year:

- Seminar 1, *Introduction to How Parliament Works* is a half day program aimed at public servants employed at levels AO2 - AO5 (State) or equivalent classifications, graduates, and public sector trainees.

- Seminar 2, *The Relationship between the Parliament and the Executive*, is a full-day seminar aimed at AO6 – SO1 (State) level employees or equivalent classifications.
- *Committees at Work* is a half-day fee-paying seminar program which explains the reforms to the parliamentary committee system in Queensland and the responsibilities of public sector officers.

### ***Free seminar program for senior secondary, TAFE and university students***

The content of the seminar program varies according to the level of education of the participating group and the program is developed according to the group's specific learning requirements. The seminars are targeted at senior secondary (usually Year 10-12 Legal Studies, Economics and Study of Society), TAFE (including students in the Adult Migrant English Program), and tertiary and business college students. Each includes some of the following elements:

- A tour of Parliament House
- An introduction to Parliament and Government, including an explanation of the division of power and the separation of powers
- An address by a Member of Parliament (subject to availability)
- Viewing Parliament in Action (on Parliamentary sitting days)
- DVD clips to bring the legislative process to life
- A role play of the passage of a Bill through the Legislative Assembly
- A mock election using the optional preferential voting method; and/or
- A role play of a parliamentary committee of inquiry.

School tours for primary and junior secondary students are conducted by the Parliamentary Attendants using CHECS-created resources, including a PowerPoint presentation, role plays for use in the Chamber and a consolidation activity delivered on iPads.

### ***Free Information Sessions for Service Clubs***

Understanding Parliamentary Committees information sessions are designed for community groups who wish to know more about the role of Parliament and its parliamentary committees, and to meet the needs of representatives of stakeholder and interest groups. These presentations are generally delivered by the Clerk of the Parliament to service clubs as part of the regional activities program. In addition, training relating to parliamentary committees may be delivered in Indigenous communities before the arrival of committee members in that community, to facilitate understanding of the processes and encourage participation by local people.

### ***Youth Parliaments***

CHECS conducts several Youth Parliaments annually, as well as supporting Youth Parliaments from external organisations.

- Senior Secondary Youth Parliament
  - One is conducted annually to coincide, where possible, with Law Week
  - Students drawn from Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students within reasonable driving distance from Parliament House
  - Half day activity, with one briefing held in preceding months

- Indigenous Youth Parliament
  - Age group: 18 – 25 year olds
  - Conducted in partnership with the Department of Communities and Office for Youth as part of its four-day Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.
  - The program includes a one and a half day intensive preparation program covering Parliamentary processes and speech writing, as well as the half day Youth Parliament.
  - Participants are drawn from across the State, with transport and accommodation paid for by Department of Communities. Selection of participants is by a panel of staff from the Department of Communities and the Parliament's Indigenous Liaison Officer. This program receives substantial corporate funding.
  
- Regional Youth Parliaments
  - Two per year
  - Year 6 students
  - Two briefings are conducted in the region prior to the activity.
  
- YMCA Youth Parliament
  - Conducted annually
  - Age group: 16 – 25 year olds
  - Support provided to the YMCA by CHECS, Table Office and Hansard
  - Four-day program
  - Participants drawn from across the State, organised and financed by YMCA through grant funding from the Department of Communities

### ***Teacher Professional Development (TPD)***

Teacher professional development workshops are conducted regionally in conjunction with other off-site parliamentary education activities. The TPD program usually consists of:

- Presentations on the role of Parliament linked to classroom resources on the Parliament's website
- A demonstration of how to conduct a preferential voting activity
- An explanation of parliamentary committees and accompanying role play.

### ***Queensland Parliament Research Internship (QPRI)***

This year, 19 university students are enrolled in the internship program, a second-semester QPRI activity administered by CHECS. Students, usually in their final year, are linked with a participating Member of Parliament or parliamentary official.

Students have traditionally been drawn from law and politics faculties; however, in recent years town planning students have participated in the program and usually work as teams of interns to complete Members' reports. Students are sought from other subject areas in accordance with the topics of research provided by the Members. The interns are assessed on a paper on functions of the parliament, and on a major research paper produced for the Member of Parliament on a mutually agreed topic. If the participating Member of Parliament grants permission, the intern's report is lodged with the Parliamentary Library.

### ***Zone Constitutional Conventions***

In partnership with Education Queensland, CHECS supports Zone Constitutional Conventions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in Brisbane and Townsville. A Parliamentary Education Officer and the Indigenous Liaison Officer conduct parliamentary education activities during the conventions.

### ***Regional Activities***

CHECS conducts educational activities in major regional areas, with the aim being to visit six regional areas in a three-year parliamentary term. During each four-day visit, the CHECS team conducts a Youth Parliament (and preparatory briefing) for Year 6 students, a teacher professional development workshop, information sessions on the parliamentary committee system for service clubs, and fee-paying public service training. This model provides for efficient and effective use of resources and a maximum return on the investment. Inclusion of the fee-paying training seminar offsets the travel and accommodation costs associated with regional activities.

In the current regional education plan, the program for two regional centres was modified, as there were not enough public servants to support a seminar in those areas. The modified program was delivered over three days and included a Youth Parliament (and preparatory briefing), a teacher professional development workshop, information sessions on the parliamentary committee system for service clubs and visits to local high school to conduct parliamentary education activities.

## **3. INDIGENOUS LIAISON ACTIVITIES**

### ***Indigenous Engagement***

The Indigenous Liaison Officer has been building Indigenous relationships and partnerships since his commencement in January 2008. Partnerships have been established with Government at State and Federal levels and also with Indigenous non-Government organisations across the state.

- Indigenous protocols

The Indigenous Liaison Officer provides advice to Members and staff on Indigenous protocols and has been working with parliamentary committees to strengthen engagement between the Queensland Parliament and the Indigenous community.

Internally, the Indigenous Liaison Officer provides the members of Parliamentary Committees with briefing papers and presentations on Indigenous protocols, history, significant local issues and important community contacts prior to visits to Indigenous communities.

This year has seen the Indigenous Liaison officer travel to Mount Isa and the Northern Peninsula area with parliamentary committees for public hearings with Indigenous community groups.

- Indigenous education programs

As outlined above, CHECS, in partnership with Education Queensland, contributes to the planning and conduct of three zone constitutional conventions for Indigenous students. Two students are selected from each of these zone conventions to attend the national constitutional convention in Canberra. This initiative was a response by Education Queensland to the 2003 *Hands on Parliament Report* of a parliamentary committee inquiry into increasing Indigenous peoples' participation in Queensland's system of democracy. In partnership with the Department of Communities, CHECS conducts an Indigenous Youth Parliament run over a total of two days as part of the Department's Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.