

# Jurisdiction Report

Parliament of South Australia

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. 2016/2017 Community Education Office Role Restructure

The management of the Community Education Officer role at the Parliament of South Australia (**Parliament**) was restructured in late 2016. Originally, the Community Education Officer was a teacher employed by the Department for Education and Child Development (**DECD**) and seconded to Parliament as part of DECD's Outreach Education program. The Outreach Education program placed teachers in different South Australian cultural institutions to develop internal and external learning resources for DECD schools. In 2016 DECD restructured the Outreach Education program so that DECD no longer seconded teachers to different cultural institutions. Instead, DECD began providing funding directly to the institutions for the purpose of employing in-house education officers. Consequently, the Community Education Officer is now a direct employee of Parliament. As a result of the restructure the Community Education Officer role was vacant for a large part of 2017 to allow Parliament to determine the new scope of the role and go through recruitment processes. Mrs Natalie Young was appointed as the Community Education Officer in September 2017.

### 1.2. Education Office

The Community Education Officer is administratively part of the office of the Serjeant-at-Arms within the House of Assembly, but reports to both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council (via the Usher of the Black Rod). The community education programs made available by Parliament are managed by the Community Education Officer with support from House Services Officers.

Under the original Outreach Education model, Parliament's community education focus was predominately DECD school students and teachers. As the position is now managed directly by Parliament, the scope of Parliament's education programs is set to expand to cover all community engagement and education spaces. Moving forwards, the Education Office will focus on the following areas:

- education programs and special events for visiting schools;
- resources for classroom use;
- professional development for teachers;
- education programs for adult learners (including tertiary students, members of the public service, EAL/D learners);
- wider community engagement for the general public and visiting organisations; and
- education services for Members and electorate staff.

## 2. EXISTING PROGRAMS

### 2.1. Background

The Community Education Officer role was vacant for a large part of 2017. Routine education programs operated as usual but special events were placed on hold in the lead up to the appointment of a new Community Education Officer. Most recurring events will be reinstated in 2018. The education strategies used over 2017 are set out below.

## **2.2. School Tours**

School tours are booked through electorate offices and are hosted by Members of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council, or their staff. This is an established practice. It is an excellent opportunity for students to connect with their local Member and understand the concept of elected representatives. Over 300 school groups have visited Parliament with a Member between January and November 2017. Members of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council have access to comprehensive notes and to support their school and constituent tours. Debate scripts and PowerPoint presentations are also available for their use.

## **2.3. School Debates**

Parliamentary debates in the House of Assembly chamber are available for schools upon request and are either conducted after a tour by a Member or by the Community Education Officer. Copies of the debating scripts and facilitator instructions are available on the "Parliament of South Australia for Schools" website for classroom use.

## **2.4. Public Tours**

Public tours are held on non-sitting days at 10am and 2pm. Public tours are hosted by House Services Officers and Messengers and are adapted to suit the queries and interests of the group on the day.

## **2.5. Constitutional Convention**

The annual SA Secondary Schools State Constitutional Convention was held on 26 October 2017. 64 year 11 students from schools across the state attended. Applications for the National Schools Constitutional Convention in 2018 are currently being assessed.

## **2.6. Education Website**

The "Parliament of South Australia for Schools" website contains a range of online resources for students and teachers, including units of work, debate scripts, maps and historical information about Parliament. The materials are linked to the Australian Curriculum.

# **3. DEVELOPMENTS**

## **3.1. YouTube Project**

Parliament has started updating its online video footage to include commentary and images of the current Speaker, Clerk and Members. A number of the updated videos have been uploaded to YouTube, although some edits are still in progress.

## **3.2. Live Broadcasting**

Live broadcasting of the proceedings of both Houses commenced on 26 September 2017. This presents exciting educational opportunities, including:

- the option to observe Question Time outside of the public gallery in a larger room with an educator providing commentary - dealing with both capacity and silence issues in the public gallery;
- promoting online viewings to remote and regional schools; and
- the option to extract footage to upload to social media for educational purposes.

Parliament will continue to explore opportunities in this space.

## **4. PLANS**

### **4.1. Background**

The SA state election will be held on 17 March 2018. In light of an upcoming election (with a number of Members retiring) and a new Community Education Officer, all current education resources for schools and for use by Members are being reviewed and evaluated. The following plans are in early stages of development. The list is not exhaustive.

### **4.2. Education Website Upgrade**

A primary aim for the Education Office is to revise the structure of the “Parliament of South Australia for Schools” website to move from a schools focus to a complete community education focus. Ideally, the website will:

- encompass community education for all levels (schools, tertiary, adult learning, EAL/D, general public);
- streamline tours and bookings information for all interested parties;
- include a calendar of events;
- rearrange content for ease of access to information, including breaking down content by year levels/adult learners;
- include online courses for interested members of the public;
- facilitate an online professional learning system for new civics & citizenship and legal studies teachers outlining the functions of the legislature and current teaching strategies (promoted to regional/remote teachers); and
- support a dynamic feed of other online content (Tweets, Facebook posts, YouTube updates).

### **4.3. Social Media**

The Education Office is developing a strategy to establish a social media presence for event promotion and interactive online engagement.

### **4.4. Digital Resource**

Parliament has committed to working with DECD to produce digital resources for publication on the Outreach Education website (similar to the existing Suffragettes Inquiry Table digital resource). Prior to the role restructure, Penny Cavanagh and Peter Cavouras had prepared notes for a potential resource on South Australia’s history in respect of Indigenous peoples and voting rights. Parliament will work with DECD to develop these notes into a digital resource to be made available on the Outreach Education and Parliament websites.

### **4.5. Resources and Strategies for Regional/Remote Schools**

The Legislative Council has indicated that it would like the Education Office to work with the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee to develop a program to bring students from remote communities to visit Parliament and other SA cultural institutions. The planning is in its early stages with a view to have a program in place in late 2018.

### **4.6. Professional Development Opportunities**

A calendar of teacher professional development sessions will be reinstated for 2018. This will include opportunities for new and experienced teachers, as well as primary/middle/senior secondary streams.

#### **4.7. Calendar of Events**

The following events will be reinstated or considered for development over the course of 2018/2019:

- careers information sessions for secondary students;
- careers information sessions for adult learners;
- Youth Parliament facilitated by Parliament House;
- a fortnight period where classes can specifically book debates at Parliament;
- a fortnight period for visiting remote/regional schools to host debates in classrooms;
- the SA Secondary Schools State Constitutional Convention;
- public events for History Month, Law Week and NAIDOC Week;
- lunchtime Q&A sessions for the general public; and
- combined events with Committees.

#### **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Thank you to the organisers of the Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference for their efforts in arranging the event.

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