



Jurisdiction Report: House of Assembly Education Office Parliament of Tasmania

Australian Parliamentary Educators' Conference 2019

Overview

The House of Assembly Education Office aims to deliver parliamentary education to Tasmanian school students and the wider Tasmanian community. The office is staffed by two Education Officers, each working four days a week. The Education Office is under the supervision of the Second Clerk-Assistant.

The majority of the Education Office work involves communicating with schools, booking school visits, conducting the programmes, reviewing and designing new resources or programmes. The Education Office conducts Parliament House tours for community groups and when required, public tours.

School Programmes

Schools have four options when visiting the Parliament of Tasmania. They are:

Option 1: See Parliament in Action

Option 2: Take a Guided Tour

Option 3: Engage in a role-play in the House of Assembly Chamber

Option 4: Take a Guided Tour and participate in a House of Assembly role-play

Depending on their availability, all four options may include a question and answer session with a Member of Parliament.

School Visit Numbers

During the 2018-2019 financial year, the Education Office hosted 3136 students at Parliament House. The most popular programme is Option 4, with over two thirds of schools opting for a tour and role-

play. In addition, another 1242 students and teachers observed Parliament from the House of Assembly Public Gallery. This is a total of 4378 school visitors.

School Outreach

In the 2018 school year, the Education Office trialled the first House of Assembly Education Office School Outreach Programme. The goal of this programme is to take the learning experiences offered within Parliament House to students in regional Tasmania.

Following the highly successful 2018 trial, the programme continued in the 2019 school year, resulting in three further trips to Wynyard (Braddon), George Town (Bass) and Deloraine (Lyons).

Over the three 2019 Outreach Programmes, 642 students and teachers from regional Tasmania had the opportunity to learn about the role of the Parliament of Tasmania.

Special Groups

The Education Office has a long-term goal of expanding the education programme to include a number of special events.

CWP Stepping Up

The *CWP Stepping Up* event aims to encourage young women to consider a career in politics. The event targets Year Nine female students. The event's activities are designed to give students some insight into the work of a female parliamentarian and include: a House of Assembly role-play, a mini role-play covering common constituent issues raised in electorate offices, observe Parliament sitting, and a panel discussion with several female Members of Parliament.

Youth Parliament

The YMCA Youth Parliament is an annual event using the facilities of Parliament House. Youth Parliament 2019 was held 15 - 19 July, during the Term 2 school holidays. Around 35 Year 10-12 students from across Tasmania attended Youth Parliament. Twelve Bills were debated by the students. The bills, written by the students themselves, included: Climate Protection, End of Life, School Support Services and Indigenous Perspective Education.

Members of the Parliament of Tasmania assisted with procedure by acting as the Presiding Officer during debates. Additional assistance during debates came from Parliamentary Officers and the Youth Parliament Taskforce.

Growth Points

There are many projects currently underway for the Education Office. However, the key objectives for 2020 are: establishing a specialised Legal Studies Programme for Year 11 and 12 students, and further completion of resources for schools.