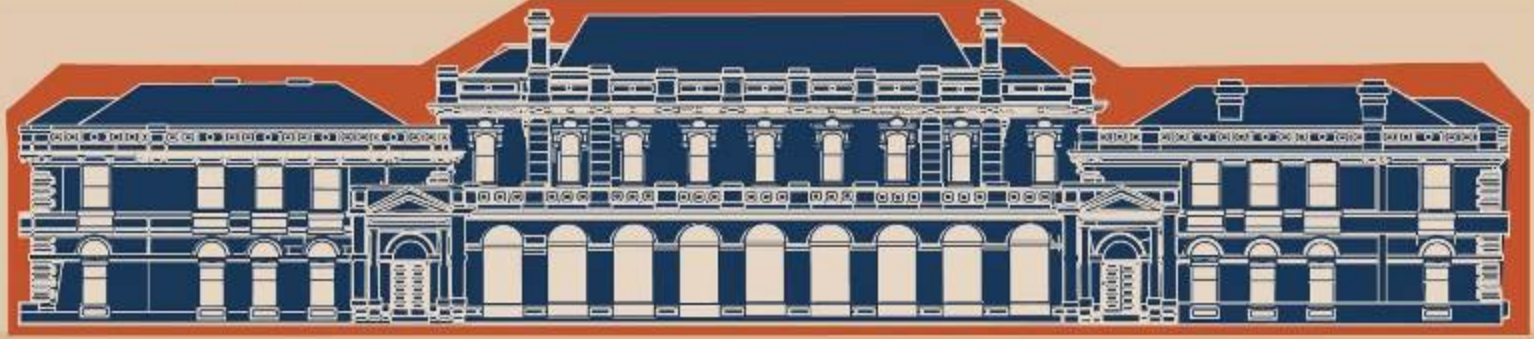




# Western Australian Jurisdictional Report

**Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference 2019.**





## Learning and Teaching Resources

---

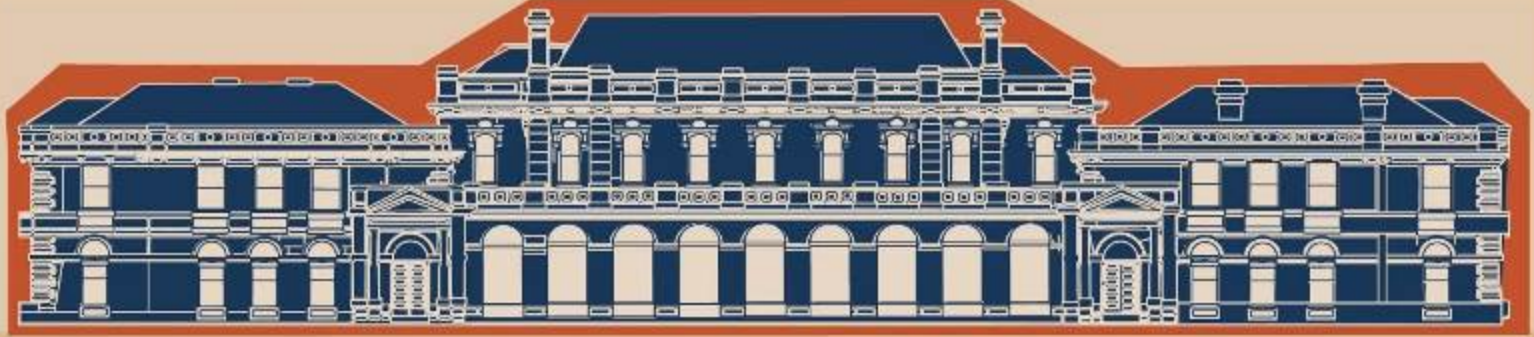
In 2019, the Parliament of Western Australia launched its new website and has recently entered into the world of social media with a Facebook page established in July.

The Parliamentary Education Office continues the process of enhancing its primary and secondary resources with a focus upon contemporising content and making the learning of Civics and Citizenship explicitly relevant, fun and engaging to the different primary and secondary school cohorts.

Our recent workbook 'the POWA of Poetry' provides additional content for English teachers to incorporate HaSS content to student learning practices. This workbook has been included in the abundance of resources offered on our website which are linked specifically to the individual units of the Western Australian Civics and Citizenship curricula. These resources continue to be embraced by teachers and have resulted in the streamlining of term programming and individual lesson planning.

The PEO has also collaborated with North Metropolitan TAFE students for a second time to develop an animation entitled, 'You, Me and Democracy'. The resource serves as a visually engaging way to teach active citizenship and is appropriate for all age learning. Our two Parliamentary mascots, Rodney, (representing the Black Rod) and Macey, (representing the Mace) are also in the process of being animated to further contemporise our learning resources.

The PEO attended HaSS Week on 2 August where we presented a Professional Learning session on Civics and Citizenship to teachers promoting our tours and resources with an opportunity to answer questions. Our resources were also on display on our assigned stall allowing teachers to gather further information on how to book a tour and access relevant information and resources on our website.



We are also able to maintain relevance with regards to our learning resources by holding a position upon the Curriculum Advisory Committee for Humanities and Social Sciences.

## Teacher Professional Learning

---

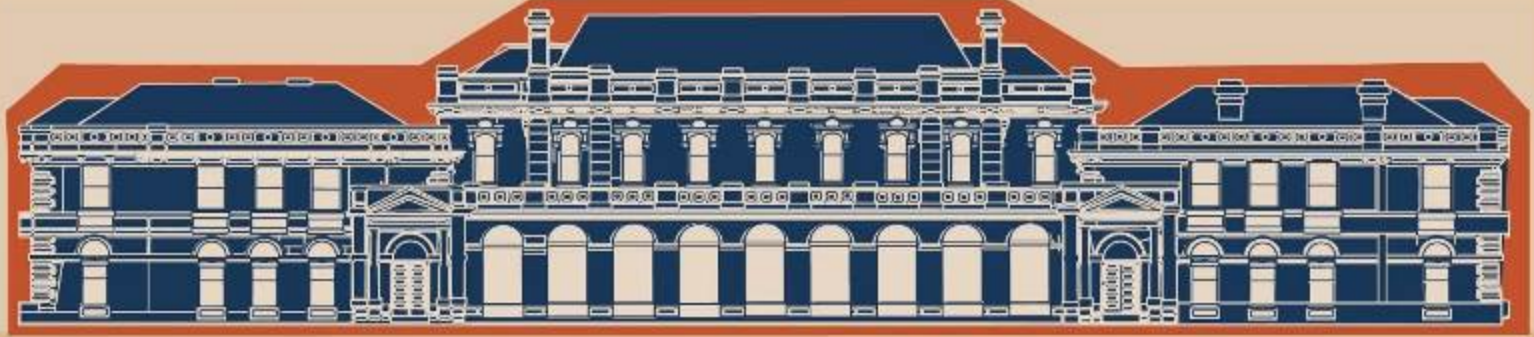
The PEO presented both regional and metropolitan Professional Learning workshops this year to primary, secondary and tertiary educators. Five workshops have been conducted; one at the state HASS Conference, one at the University of Western Australia and the remainder in regional Western Australia. Two committees' workshops were also presented to University Students with the focus upon politics and law.

These workshops focused upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills in relation to the delivery of Civics and Citizenship units and exploring ways in which students' ambivalence could be addressed in order to activate self-motivated, enquiry based and intrinsic learning.

## Student Parliaments

---

The Parliament of Western Australia has also hosted three student parliaments this year, the YMCA and two sessions for primary and secondary students from United Nations (WA) student parliaments. Both of these were tremendously successful and saw young people take their places within the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers. Members of Parliament also participated throughout this process by chairing a number of sessions. The PEO developed a vox-pop session asking participating students from the YMCA youth parliament to express their views on what democracy means to them, which can be viewed on our Facebook page.



## School and Community Visits

---

The number of schools visiting the Parliament have continued to increase significantly this year from the same period last year (February to September), with 15,727 (up from 15,316 in 2018 and 13,000 in 2017) students accessing the guided tours and parliamentary role-play program.

Apart from informing their understanding of parliamentary process, these visits also provided many students with the opportunity to meet their local member for the very first time. On these occasions, local members provide refreshments and a parliamentary pin, which commemorates the students' visits.

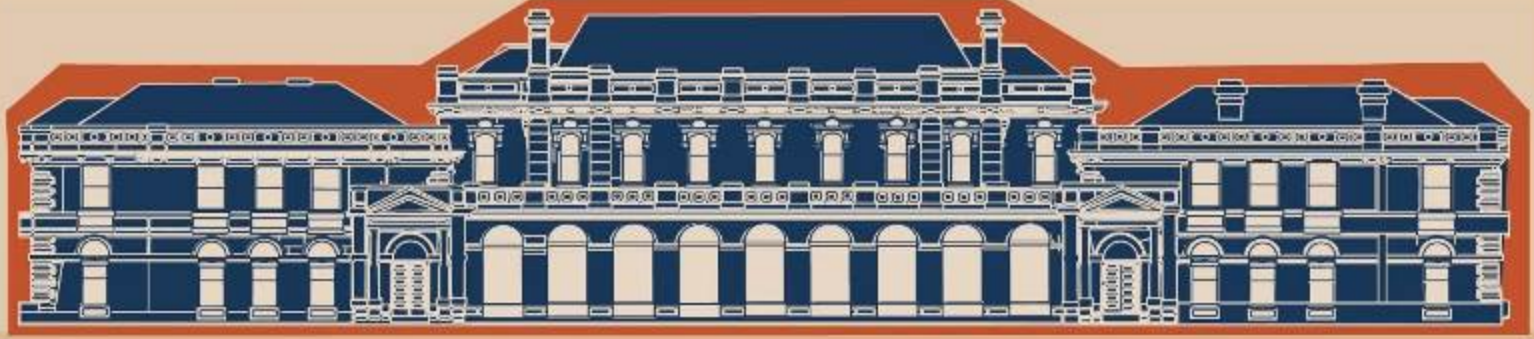
Apart from our specific school groups, the Parliament of Western Australia has also been visited by over 2000 community members on both public and group tours.

## Newsletters

---

'POWA House', the PEO's quarterly education newsletter continues to be an effective vehicle to promote the services the office provides. With the assistance of the Department of Education WA, we have been able to utilise their internal communication platform to reach every government HaSS teacher within the state. Independent and Catholic school platforms are also utilised to optimise reach across the entire primary and secondary education sector. Hot buttons directing readers to our website are embedded within the newsletter, which increases interactivity, whilst providing user-friendly links to all of the resources we have available and includes a link to our new Facebook page, Twitter and You Tube channel.

We have also commenced distributing a community newsletter, which is garnering much interest from a variety of community groups.



## Regional Outreach

---

The PEO continues to take the parliament to the people in the regions of Western Australia running workshops in schools, community centres and Professional Learning workshops for school teachers. This year, we have taken the parliament to the people of Geraldton, South West, and the Pilbara Regions of Western Australia. Over two thousand students, teachers and community members were engaged during these three trips and staff are looking forward to expanding our outreach to other regions in 2020.

## Seniors Week

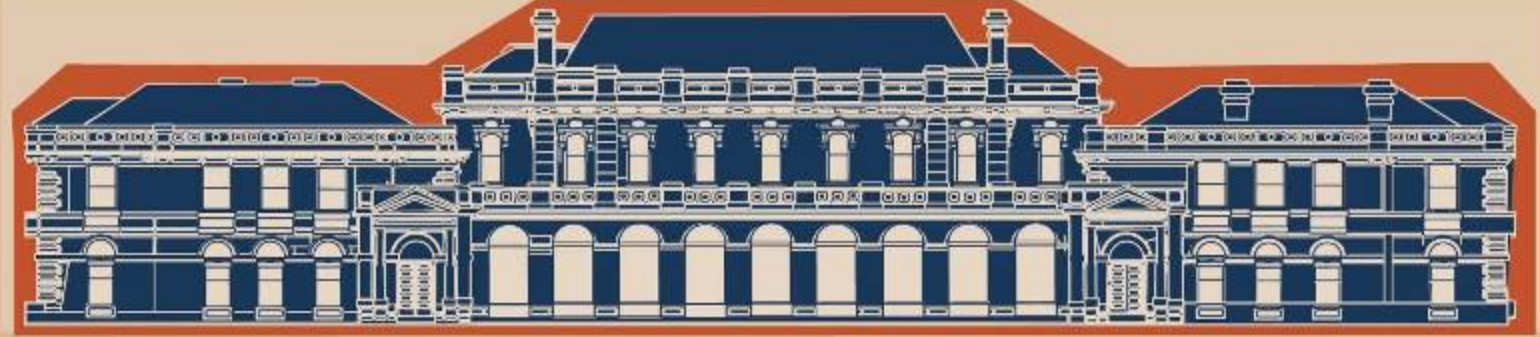
---

The PEO hosted six special Talk and Tour sessions for Senior's Week on the Quirky Tales and True stories of the Parliament of Western Australia. The sessions commence with a 30 minute talk while visitors enjoy some light refreshments followed by a 1 hour tour of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly chambers. The PEO also attended the 'Have a Go' opening exhibition which was held at the Burswood Peninsula where a display was set up promoting democracy, active citizenship and our tours of Parliament House. This event was attended by over 14,000 people.

## The Parliamentary Research Program

---

The PEO also coordinated the 2019 Parliamentary Research Program, which saw 31 university students representing all of the Western Australian universities, undertake research on topics nominated by members. This year saw 7 Members of the Legislative Council and 10 Members of the Legislative Assembly nominate topics across a diverse range of issues.



## Country School Travel Rebate

---

2019 saw the continuation of the Country School Travel Rebate, which provides financial travel assistance to schools located 150 kilometres from Perth. The catchment area has been defined to account for schools that do not traditionally visit parliament.

22 eligible schools have applied for the subsidy since July 2018 and many did so after PEO staff visited their school during the outreach program, which demonstrates how the travel rebate reinforces the work we do in the regions.

**Peter Dooley / Sarah Smith**  
**Parliamentary Education Office**  
Parliament of Western Australia