



# Western Australian Jurisdictional Report

**Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference 2017.**





## Learning and Teaching Resources

---

2017 has seen the Parliamentary Education Office significantly overhaul its primary and secondary resources with a focus upon contemporising content and making the learning of Civics and Citizenship explicitly relevant to the different primary and secondary school cohorts.

This process has been significantly assisted through the composition of an education reference group, which has provided valuable feedback to inform the development of these new resources. Linked specifically to the individual units of the Civics and Citizenship curricula, these resources have been embraced by teachers and resulted in the streamlining of term programming and individual lesson planning.

Apart from online interactive student workbooks, the PEO has also released printable black and white versions, making them more accessible for regional and remote schools who experience connectivity issues.

This year, the PEO also collaborated with IT Design students from North Metropolitan TAFE, who were tasked with creating an animation to demonstrate in a simple and visually engaging way, the difference between parliament and government. Going forward, further partnerships with tertiary institutions are also being considered.

## Teacher Professional Learning

---

The PEO also presented both regional and metropolitan Professional Learning workshops this year to primary, secondary and tertiary educators. Most recently, over seventy teachers attended Professional learning sessions, staged over two days in the Parliament of Western Australia's Legislative Assembly. These workshops were focused upon skill and knowledge



acquisition 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, intrinsic learning.

## Student Parliaments

---

The Parliament of Western Australia has also hosted three student parliaments, including the YMCA, the United Nations South Pacific Forum and the United Nations (WA) student parliament. Each of these was tremendously successful and saw hundreds of 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.

## School Visits

---

The number of schools visiting the Parliament have increased significantly this year from the same period last year (February to September), with nearly 13000 (up from 10,000) 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.

## Quarterly Education Newsletter

---



‘POWA House’, the PEO’s quarterly newsletter has become 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 teacher within the state. Independent and Catholic school platforms are also utilised to optimise reach across the education sector. Hot buttons directing readers to our website are embedded within the newsletter, which increases the interactivity of this resource and provides user-friendly links to all of the resources we have available.

## Mementos

---

The PEO is now also distributing Parliament of Western Australia badges, which are generously funded by members, to all primary school students who undertake a school visit. These badges enhance the sense of occasion and provide an enduring memento of their visit.

## Regional Outreach

---

The PEO continues to undertake regional outreach, thus ensuring those school and community groups who do not have the capacity to travel to Perth to visit parliament, still get the opportunity to immerse themselves in the education activities we deliver. Apart from running workshops in schools, community workshops and Professional Learning workshops for teachers were also presented. This year alone, we have taken the parliament to the people of both the southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions of Western Australia. Over one thousand students, teachers and community members were engaged throughout these two trips and staff are looking forward to expanding outreach further in 2018.



## Seniors Week

---

The PEO also hosted hundreds of senior citizens, throughout Seniors Week earlier this month. The participants enjoyed a specially designed program, which incorporated a morning/afternoon tea, combined with an audio-visual presentation, a talk and a tour. Due to the significant demand for this program, the PEO extended the schedule beyond Seniors Week.

## The Key to your House

---

2017 also witnessed the production and broadcasting of the Parliament of Western Australia's very own 12 part documentary series, 'The Key to Your House'. This candid, informative and entertaining series went to air on each sitting day and received impressive reviews. The Parliamentary Education Office will be developing an accompanying teaching resource next year, to complement the series and provide further entry points for teachers committed to further engaging their students in civics and citizenship.

## Country School Travel Rebate

---

To further enhance the Parliamentary Education Office's commitment to access and equity for rural students, The Country School Travel Rebate program will be offered from 2018. This program will provide a subsidy for schools located 150 to 250 kilometres from Perth.

**Peter Dooley**

**Parliamentary Education Office**

Parliament of Western Australia