

Australasian Parliamentary Educators Meeting Minutes

The meeting commenced at 10am AEDT.

In attendance

Ms Lee Katauskas (Federal), Ms Anita Donaldson (Federal), Ms Jodie Liddell (Federal) Ms Kimbra McCormack (Tas), Ms Colette Goyne (Tas), Ms Kristy Lang (Tas), Ms Lara Ghaly (ACT), Ms Nat Badcock (SA), Mr Shannon Martin (SA), Ms Jeannie Douglas (NSW), Ms Daniela Giorgi (NSW), Ms Megan Perry (NSW), Ms Jordy Leavesly (WA), Ms Narelle Wood (Vic)

Apologies

Mr Troy Murphy (NZ), Ms Lisa Belde (NT)

1. Welcome and housekeeping

Following a warm welcome and acknowledgement of country, attendees discussed the proposed format for future meetings. Attendees agreed to:

- set dates (April and July were suggested) for two virtual meetings to be held before the 2024 APEC conference in December.
- send meeting placeholders once dates have been agreed.
- set meeting topics at the beginning of the year and to circulate these with the meeting placeholders.
- hold round-table discussions on topics, rather than inviting guest presenters for each meeting to increase opportunities to learn from each other and share ideas.
- share minutes/meeting notes rather than making a recording of the meetings.
- rotate the chair and minute taking responsibilities.
- cover one main topic per meeting, with possible discussion topics canvassed including NAIDOC week, International Day of Democracy (15 September) and the International Day of Parliamentarism (30 June).

Action: Lee will circulate a voting form to identify meeting dates, topics, future chairs and minute takers. This information will then be used for meeting placeholders.

2. 2024 plans and goals around the jurisdictions

In round table format, the jurisdictions discussed their 2024 key goals.

Kimbra, Collette and Kristy (Tasmania)

- Tasmanian Legislative Assembly is increasing in size from 25 to 35 Members and this will impact the work of the team.
- A kit to assist teachers to run role-plays in their classrooms has been a big focus recently.
- Work has been progressing on an online program for Legal Studies teachers.

- Companion programs are being developed for groups viewing question time (this includes the maintenance of a log of potentially useful footage).
- Programs for home education students are being developed and there is potential to include this cohort in future outreach.
- Development of support materials for Members is underway.

Jeannie, Daniela and Kristie (NSW)

- Inspiration from the recent conference and support from APEC colleagues has resulted in development of materials for Members, plans to launch a travel subsidy, a potential teacher advisory group and development of student videos.
- Presiding Officers are encouraging regional engagement.
- The Legal Studies program is now accredited so teachers can access professional learning hours.
- Collaboration with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has resulted in the development of social stories and sensory maps.

Jordy (WA)

- The virtual tour project for schools will be a big focus this year.
- The document control project will also absorb a lot of time with the team overseeing more than 300 documents.

Narelle (Vic)

- Student leadership programs will be a big focus this year.
- The team has developed an augmented reality experience for students which will also be available online (Phoria).

Natalie and Shannon (SA)

- Looking to expand the team this year with a hope of engaging casuals.
- Hoping to collaborate with the Space Agency.
- Recently launched a new education focussed website for the SA Parliament with a women's suffrage feature.
- Developed a new electorate map feature.
- Developed resources for Members to hand out to students.
- Wrote a children's book about civics and citizenship.
- Developed a database of SA schools with an aim of focusing on schools who have not had contact with parliamentary education programs in the past.
- Hoping to develop virtual reality resources.

Lara (ACT)

- Hosting an Open Day in May.
- Rolled out Eventbrite for bookings.
- Launching VC programs this year - due to space limitations, ACT can take a maximum of 60 students at a time which is a limiting factor for some schools, so the VC program will hopefully bridge that gap.
- A website redevelopment is planned for this year.
- A new staff member (Nicole) has joined the team.

Lee and Anita (Federal)

- Focusing on developing a social media presence this year.
- Returning to Outreach this year but hoping to trial a more collaborative approach.
- Participating in Democracy Week in Darwin in March.
- Building a Learning Management System (LMS) which will include modules that teachers can use as a pre-cursor to TPL programs or in place of TPL programs if they are unable to attend.
- Collaborating with Office of Youth and the Y on programs this year.
- Expecting to support the Speaker with “Representatives Day”, a program to recognise International Day of Democracy in September.

3. 2024 APEC conference

Nat advised that the next APEC conference will be held 10 – 12 December 2024 in Adelaide.

4. Other business

The meeting adjourned at 1.55pm.