



AUSTRALASIAN
PARLIAMENTARY
EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE ADELAIDE 2024

AP EC

**10 - 12
DECEMBER
2024** | **CHALLENGE ACCEPTED:
OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO
DELIVERING CIVICS EDUCATION**

HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NORTH TCE, ADELAIDE, KAURNA COUNTRY

APEC 2024

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO DELIVERING CIVICS EDUCATION

Welcome

The Parliament of South Australia welcomes you to Adelaide for the annual Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference 2024.

Over the three days you have the chance to unpack and discuss the different barriers parliamentary, electoral and related educators face when planning, delivering and promoting programs – with workshops and activities to consider possible solutions.

The conference is also an opportunity for you to network with the guest speakers, other delegates and personnel in the Parliament of South Australia to inform your practice.

We trust that you enjoy your time at the Parliament, your stay in Adelaide, and the experiences you will have at the conference.



Hon. Terry Stephens MLC

President of the Legislative Council



Hon. Leon Bignell MP

Speaker of the House of Assembly

DAY ONE

**TUESDAY
10 DECEMBER**

8.30am - 9.00am	Registration & Networking Tea/Coffee	Old Chamber
9.00am - 9.30am	Welcome to Country Naomi Hicks & Maureen Humes, Spirit in Unity	Old Chamber
9.30am - 10.30am	Keynote Address Dr Keith Heggart – Barriers to Civics Education	Balcony Room
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea	Old Chamber
11.00am - 12.00pm	Tour House of Assembly Speaker welcome - Hon. Leon Bignell MP Legislative Council President welcome - Hon. Terry Stephens MLC	HA & LC Chambers
12.00pm - 12.30pm	Lara & Jay's Excellent Guide To Understanding Democracy Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly	Balcony Room
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Deaf Youth Parliament in Queensland Queensland Parliament	Balcony Room
1.00pm - 1.15pm	Conference Photo	Parliament Steps
1.15pm - 1.45pm	Lunch	Old Chamber
1.45pm - 2.45pm	Civics Education: A Conversation with Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia The Honourable Frances Adamson AC	Government House
2.45pm - 3.15pm	Jurisdiction Update Bougainville House of Representatives	Balcony Room
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	Old Chamber
3.30pm - 4.00pm	"We can't go in there, it's not for us" Overcoming Barriers to Civics Education through Community & Family Engagement Parliament of NSW	Balcony Room
4.00pm - 4.30pm	Our Parliament, Bringing Parliament to You Legislative Assembly of Tonga	Balcony Room
4.30pm - 5.00pm	The Long Road to Parliament Parliament of Western Australia	Balcony Room

DAY TWO

**WEDNESDAY
11 DECEMBER**

8.30am - 9.00am	Arrival & Networking Tea/Coffee	Balcony Room
9.00am - 10.00am	MP / MLC Panel Hon. Blair Boyer MP (Labor) <i>Minister for Education Training & Skills</i> Hon. David Pisoni MP (Liberal) <i>Representative for the Shadow Minister for Education, Opposition Whip</i> Hon. Robert Simms MLC (Greens) <i>Greens Spokesperson for Education Training & Skills</i>	Balcony Room
10.00am - 10.15am	Morning Tea	Old Chamber
10.15am - 10.45am	Bridging the Gap: Youth-Led Engagement in Civics Education New Zealand Parliament	Balcony Room
10.45am - 11.15am	Myths and Misconceptions Parliament of Victoria	Balcony Room
11.15am - 12.15pm	Mission Control Part 1 Mars Space Mission Bill 2024	HA & LC Chambers
12.15pm - 12.45pm	Lunch	Old Chamber
12.45pm - 1.00pm	Transition to Australian Space Discovery Centre Lot Fourteen, McEwin Building, North Tce	
1.00pm - 2.15pm	Mission Control Part 2 Design Challenges	Australian Space Discovery Centre
2.15pm - 2.30pm	Transition back to Parliament House	
2.30pm - 3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	Old Chamber
3.00pm - 4.30pm	Activity Block ECSA, Parliament of SA	Balcony Room
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6.30pm	Conference Dinner Tiger Sanctuary, Entry via Plane Tree Drive	Adelaide Zoo

DAY THREE

**THURSDAY
12 DECEMBER**

8.30am - 8.45am	Arrival & Networking Tea/Coffee	Old Chamber
8.45am - 11.00am	Education Precinct Amazing Race	North Tce
11.00am - 11.20am	Morning Tea	Old Chamber
11.20am - 11.50am	Fiji Women's Practice Parliament Parliament of the Republic of Fiji	Balcony Room
11:50am - 12.20pm	Challenges as Opportunities: Inter-Departmental Collaboration Federal Parliament	Balcony Room
12:20pm - 1:00pm	yChange Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People	Balcony Room
1:00pm - 2.00pm	Formal lunch	Parliament Dining Room
2.00pm - 2.45pm	Conference Wrap Up Planning for 2025	Balcony Room

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Keith Heggart

University of Technology Sydney, Keynote speaker, Barriers to Civics Education

Dr Keith Heggart is an early career researcher with a focus on learning and instructional design, educational technology and civics and citizenship education. He is currently exploring the way that online learning platforms can assist in the formation of active citizenship amongst Australian youth.



Keith is a former high school teacher, having worked as a school leader in Australia and overseas, in government and non-government sectors. In addition, he has worked as an Organiser for the Independent Education Union of Australia, and as an independent Learning Designer for a range of organisations.

Keith has been successful in attaining grants from the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and also Penrith City Council.

PhD Title - Justice Pedagogy: The Possibilities and Challenges for 'Thick' Citizenship Education amongst Australian School Students.

Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Helen Connolly is South Australia's inaugural Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) appointed to the role in April 2017. The CCYP was established under the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016. The CCYP is the state's most senior advocate for children's rights, interests and wellbeing.



"I am required to look closely at the systems and services being planned and delivered to children and young people across South Australia and assess whether or not they're working. I do this with a special focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable and at-risk children and young people across our communities who often struggle to have their voices heard.

I explain to children and young people that my job is to see how well adults keep their promises to do the right thing by them, and to make sure they have all they need to develop and thrive. I am mandated to engage with and listen to children and young people across the state and represent their point of view. In fact, children and young people tell me this is the most important part of my role. They want to know someone is listening to them and working on the things that matter to them most."

GUEST SPEAKERS

Hon. Blair Boyer MP

Minister for Education, Training & Skills

Blair lives in the North Eastern suburbs of Adelaide with his wife and three daughters. He grew up on the family farm in rural South West Victoria, not far from Mount Gambier. He was elected to represent the State electorate of Wright in 2018 and was appointed Minister for Education Training and Skills in March 2022. Blair is passionate about education and believes that a strong, affordable and accessible public education system is the key to equality.



Hon. David Pisoni MP

Opposition Whip in the House of Assembly

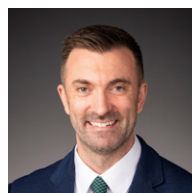
Hon. David Pisoni MP was elected to the South Australian Parliament as the Member for Unley in 2006. Currently he is the Opposition Whip. He served as the Minister for Innovation and Skills in the Marshall Government from March 2018 until March 2022. During that time he reformed and expanded skills training across the state leading the nation in the growth of apprenticeship and trainee commencements and completions. Prior to being sworn in as Minister, David served as a Shadow Minister across various portfolios including Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Education, Training and Child Protection.



Hon. Robert Simms MLC

Greens spokesperson for Education, Training & Skills

Robert Simms is a Member of the Legislative Council in the Parliament of South Australia and Co-Leader of the South Australian Greens. Prior to entering state parliament Robert served as a Senator for South Australia and a City of Adelaide area councilor. Robert is the Greens' spokesperson for Education and Democracy in the State Parliament.



PRESENTATIONS

■ Lara & Jay's Excellent Guide To Understanding Democracy

Presented by Lara Ghaly (Manager, Education and Engagement) & Jay Evett (Senior Education and Engagement Officer), ACT Legislative Assembly

Synopsis: The ACT Legislative Assembly education team have been working hard on a few resources and programs for participants from linguistically diverse backgrounds. Join us as we chat through some of the important features regarding content development and accessibility, all while playing a fun little game along the way!

Presenter Biographies: Lara Ghaly in 2011, accidentally fell into an education career dressed up as Cleopatra, auditioning for a science performer role with Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre. Since then she has worked as a science teacher, delivered STEM programs around the country, and worked at Parliament House developing and delivering programs for students and teachers. She now manages a small and quirky team of educators at the ACT Legislative Assembly that deliver programs on the ACT Parliament to schools, teachers, staff, public sector staff and the general public.

Outside of work she spends her time roller-skating (very badly), dog sitting, and spending her big girl money on unnecessary coats and shoes.

Jayden Evett's education, and education career, have developed simultaneously, with celestial beginnings as a planetarium and telescope operator at a space museum during his undergraduate studies. He joined the parliamentary sector between degrees in 2017 and hasn't looked back since. A self-described 'unicameral snob', Jay has specialised in connecting people with their parliaments in two jurisdictions: Aotearoa New Zealand and, since 2019, the Australian Capital Territory.

Having just submitted his PhD in November, Jay is slowly rediscovering what free time outside of work is.

PRESENTATIONS

■ Deaf Youth Parliament in Queensland

Presented by Rebecca Quinnell (Leader - Education & Liaison), Queensland Parliament

Synopsis: In what we think is a first in the Commonwealth, Queensland Parliament this year hosted a Youth Parliament entirely in Auslan. Rebecca explains the project, the challenges, the triumphs and the outcomes.

Presenter Biography: Rebecca has worked at Queensland Parliament for 5 years and leads a dynamic team of educators. She has over 20 years experience in Learning and Development.

■ Bougainville Jurisdiction Update

Presented by Justin Puso

Synopsis: Updates from the Bougainville House of Representatives.

■ “We can’t go in there, it’s not for us” Overcoming Barriers to Civics Education through Community & Family Engagement

Presented by Dan Waterworth (Senior Education Officer) & Cameron Craig (Senior Education Officer), Parliament of New South Wales

Synopsis: This presentation addresses the barriers that often prevent communities and families from engaging with civics education and participating in democratic institutions like the NSW Parliament. Despite the openness of civic spaces, many people feel they do not “belong” in them or find them intimidating due to historical, cultural, or socio-economic factors. The session explores strategies to foster a more inclusive atmosphere, through family-centred activities that make Parliament feel accessible and relevant to everyone.

Presenter Biography: Dan and Cam are recent additions to the Education and Engagement Team at NSW Parliament. They are part of a dynamic and growing team of educators at NSW Parliament.

PRESENTATIONS

■ Our Parliament, Bringing Parliament to You

Presented by Tensie Ngalu (Executive Officer), Veronica Heimuli (HR) & Veisinia Latu (Office Secretary), Legislative Assembly of Tonga

Synopsis: Challenges the Education Unit faces

Presenter Biography: Hailing from the beautiful shores of Tonga, these Tongans are proof that you don't need to be an education officer to do outreach for Parliament, just a lot of experience surviving it. With endless supply of Tongan metaphors, they now bring insights and a touch of island humor to the Parliament floor, championing education reform. When not navigating education outreach, they're battling the Wi-Fi to join a Zoom meeting or explaining to their family why TikTok is not part of the school curriculum.

■ The Long Road to Parliament

Presented by Jordy Leavesley (Senior Parliamentary Education Officer), Parliament of Western Australia

Synopsis: New virtual program and finding ways to extend our reach / connect with younger audiences.

Presenter Biography: Jordy is the Senior Parliamentary Education Officer at the Parliament of Western Australia. She has a background in secondary teaching and adult training and also volunteers in a youth development organisation. Jordy is passionate about encouraging active citizenship and defending democracy.

PRESENTATIONS

■ Bridging the Gap: Youth-Led Engagement in Civics Education

Presented by Jesse Austin (Senior Education Advisor), New Zealand Parliament

Synopsis: Kantar research commissioned by the New Zealand Parliament highlighted the critical disconnect between young people and their trust in Parliament and its processes.

This session will focus on the journey of establishing the Rito o te Paremata, youth reference group: from gaining initial approval to launching the initiative. We will detail how this group empowers youth to engage with their peers, providing insights that help demystify Parliament and make it more accessible. By leveraging the perspectives of young individuals, we aim to bridge the divide between youth and Parliament, fostering authentic dialogue and building trust.

Presenter Biography: I am a passionate educator with a background in both social sciences and teaching, holding a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Teaching from Victoria University. My teaching career was spent mostly in the primary sector, within the middles syndicate. Before leaving the classroom, I led the school wide professional development program helping teachers' uptake a new literacy approach. I left the classroom to join the education team as an education advisor before progressing up into a senior position. Part of my role is leading our youth reference group, which aims to bridge the gap between youth and civic institutions, ensuring that the voices of the next generation are heard and valued.

■ Myths and Misconceptions

Presented by Narelle Wood (Senior Education Adviser), Parliament of Victoria

Synopsis: We're all probably familiar with the misconception that parliament is the same as government, or that MPs really don't do much outside of a sitting week, or even that every session of parliament is the same level of drama often seen at question time. Add in larger concepts such as civics, citizenship and democracy, and the picture gets more complex. The activities in this workshop explore ways we are thinking about addressing people's different understandings and misconceptions of parliament. Are the myths and misconceptions barriers to our work or starting points for better understanding?

Presenter Biography: Dr Narelle Wood is the Senior Education Adviser at Parliament of Victoria. She is passionate about empowering students to make decisions and take actions on contemporary issues that are important to their lives. Narelle produces educational resources and experiences that connect parliament with teachers as well as support them in delivering the Civics and Citizenship curriculum and the Legal Studies study design.

PRESENTATIONS

■ Fiji Women's Practice Parliament

Presented by Tarun Lal (Senior Parliamentary Education Officer), Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

Synopsis: As a parliamentary educator, one of our duties includes planning and executing in-house civic education programs. One of these is practice parliaments, and this year the Fijian Parliament held its second practice parliament for women. In this Parliamentary Term there are only 5 women MPs, and in order to empower and encourage more women participation in politics and leadership positions, this program was endorsed by the Speaker of the House. Therefore, in this 30-minute session, I will share my experiences on the Fiji Women's Practice Parliament held this year from 29-31 July. The major discussion will be on the challenges faced and the way forward to preparing and executing a program of such magnitude. This is where we look forward to the contributions from the fellow parliamentary educators so that we can all better deliver the conduct of practice parliaments.

Presenter Biography: I am the senior civic education officer, Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, since August 2016. I was a secondary school teacher for 7 years and a primary school teacher for 10 years. My highest qualification is a Masters in History.

PRESENTATIONS

■ Challenges as Opportunities: Inter-Departmental Collaboration

Presented by - Anita Donaldson (Acting Director, PEO), Helene Halliday (Assistant Director, PEO) & Sarah Shelford (Schools Tours Manager, DPS), Federal Parliament

Synopsis: Australian Parliament House welcomes over 100,000 school students a year. Three parliamentary departments are involved in the facilitation of a school visit- the Department of the Senate (Senate), Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) and Department of the House of Representatives (HoR). Collaboration and productive working relationships between the three parliamentary departments are essential in ensuring a successful visitor experience.

The dynamic working environment of Australian Parliament House presents both challenges and opportunities for successful civics education. Our presentation explores examples of our inter-departmental collaboration to transform challenges into opportunities of parliament.

Presenter Biographies: Anita Donaldson is currently the Acting Director of the PEO and joined the PEO team late in 2023. She comes from a background of working in primary schools in the UK and Canberra as a classroom teacher, digital technology lead and Disability Education Coordinator. Anita has a keen interest in digital technology and its use as a tool for increasing the reach of the PEO and fostering student engagement. In her down time, Anita is an avid traveler.

Helene Halliday is one of the two Assistant Directors at the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO), with the primary responsibility for onsite programs. She joined the PEO in late 2023 having worked with the Visitor Engagement section within the Department of Parliamentary Services. Helene enjoys finding creative solutions to operational challenges and asking, 'how could this be done better?' - traits cultivated by her prior career as an Inquiry based teacher and school leader. At lunch time trivia, Helene is good at answering questions about art and architecture.

Sarah Shelford has been working in the museum and library sector for a number of years across various national institutions within Canberra including the Australian War Memorial and the National Capital Exhibition. She holds a Master of Museum and Heritage Studies from Australian National University. Currently, Sarah works for the Department of Parliamentary Services in the Visitor Engagement section as School Tours Manager.

DELEGATE LIST

Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly

Lara Ghaly, Manager, Education & Engagement

Jayden Evett, Senior Education & Engagement Officer

Bougainville House of Representatives

Justin Puso

Electoral Commission South Australia

Paula Hensing, Education Officer

Legislative Assembly of Tonga

Tensie Ngalu, Executive Officer

Veronica Heimuli, HR

Veisinia Latu, Office Secretary

Museum of Australian Democracy

Chloe Diggins, Manager Learning Onsite & Outreach

National Parliament of Papua New Guinea

Morgan Gwangilo, Director for Civic Education

National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Alex Seama, Chief Parliament Education Officer

Young Virivolomo, Principal Civic Education Officer

New Zealand Parliament

Jesse Austin, Senior Education Advisor, Education Team, Parliamentary Engagement

Parliament of Australia

Anita Donaldson, Acting Director, Parliamentary Education Office

Helene Halliday, Assistant Director, Parliamentary Education Office

Sarah Shelford, School Tours Manager, Department of Parliamentary Services

Parliament of New South Wales

Dan Waterworth, Senior Education Officer

Cameron Craig, Senior Education Officer

Peter Tuziak, Education Officer

Janson Hews, Director, Communication, Engagement & Education

Joe Stewart, Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer

Parliament of Queensland

Rebecca Quinnell, Leader - Education & Liaison

Kirsten Murray, Parliamentary Education Officer

DELEGATE LIST

Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

Tarun Lal, Senior Parliamentary Education Officer

Penijamini Valebuli, Civic Education Support Officer

Parliament of South Australia

Natalie Badcock, Community Education & Engagement Manager

Shannon Martin, Community Education Support Officer

Jordan Riches, Communications Adviser

Peter Evans, Manager, Parliamentary Network Support Group

Cyndy Bailey, Team Leader Client Services, Parliamentary Network Support Group

Parliament of Tasmania

Colette Goyne, Parliamentary Educator

Parliament of Vanuatu

Stephanie Mahit, Leader, Committee for the Parliament Civic Team

Evelyn Wokon, Member of the Committee for the Parliament Civic Team

Parliament of Victoria

Narelle Wood, Senior Education Adviser

Audrey Lin, Manager, Tours & Customer Service Unit

Justin Smith, Tours & Outreach Officer

Parliament of Western Australia

Jordy Leavesley, Senior Parliamentary Education Officer

Irena Sikorska, Manager Library & Education

University of Technology Sydney

Keith Heggart, Keynote Speaker

Victorian Electoral Commission

Michael Fiddian, Education and Youth Program Coordinator



APEC

Useful Information

Conference Contact:

Natalie Badcock
Ph: 8237 9386
M: 0408 084 975
E: education@parliament.sa.gov.au

Wi-Fi:

Network: APEC2024
Username: edu24
Password: civicsEdu117!