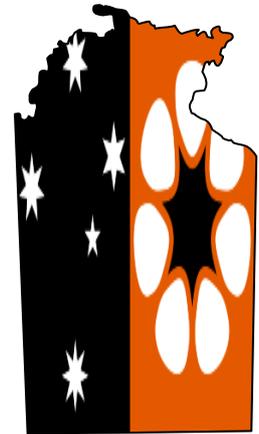




Parliamentary Education Services
Department of the Legislative Assembly, Northern Territory



Delegate Report - Northern Territory Australasian Parliamentary Educators' Conference November 2011

Unit Overview

Parliamentary Education Services (PES) is responsible for promoting community awareness of the constitutional role and significance of the Northern Territory Parliament.

The Unit provides a variety of educational programs for students, community organisations, the general public, visiting delegations, Members and public servants. This includes free guided tours of Parliament House, provision of education and information resources, promotional activities, and participation in seminars or forums. The Unit is also responsible for the management of artworks and historical projects associated with the Parliament.

The Unit is located within the Department of the Legislative Assembly and is staffed with three permanent positions of Director, Community Engagement Co-ordinator, and Education Promotions Officer. Three casual tour guides conduct free tours for the public.

Highlights Of the Last Year

- A record number of school students participating in tours of Parliament House and education sessions with the NT Electoral Commission.
- Conducted role plays in schools (role plays combined with tours reached 73% of Darwin/Palmerston schools).
- Successful introduction of the *Democracy at Work* program for new Australian citizens conducted in conjunction with the NT Electoral Commission and education staff from the NT Supreme Court.
- Successful introduction of the new program *Step Up Be Heard* for senior school students, as a revised form of youth parliament.
- An increase in the number of school students participating in activities for Commonwealth Week.
- An increase in the number of Centralian school students participating in education sessions during the Regional Sittings of the Legislative Assembly at Alice Springs.
- Delivery of role play sessions at schools in the Tennant Creek region, Alice Springs, Nhulunbuy, Minjilang, Galiwin'ku and Katherine Region through the Outreach program.
- Development and implementation of a new Remote Schools Program.
- Coordination of Open Day at Parliament House as part of State Square Open Days in conjunction with Government House and the NT Supreme Court.

Future Priorities

- Develop and implement on-line interactive resource materials for schools.
- Install touchscreen information kiosks for visitors to Parliament House.
- Co-ordinate a Parliament Awareness Program at Alice Springs in 2012.
- Finalise and implement the Department's Artworks Policy.
- Develop displays for the 70th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin (Darwin Post Office where ten people died was on the site of Parliament House).

Statistics

Programs	2009 / 2010		2010 / 2011	
	sessions	attendees	sessions	attendees
Public tours	122	2862	122	2210
School tours	115	2880	128	3088
School programs (1)	30	794	28	653
Outreach	22	526	30	721
Alice Springs sitting (students)	25	570	23	602
Special Events for Schools	11 (2)	464	25 (3)	631
Democracy at Work	n/a	n/a	2	50
Know Your Parliament	5	131	1	19
Parliament Promotions	1 (4)	831	1 (5)	496
Other tours (6)	21	92	28	271
TOTAL	352	9150	388	8741
Notes (1) Includes role plays and the Step Up Be Heard program. (2) Special Events were Commonwealth Week (10 sessions) and Careers Forum (1 session). (3) Commonwealth Week (25 sessions). Other events were planned but cancelled due to competing work commitments. (4) Open Day 2009. (5) Open Day 2010. (6) Other tours include VIP tours, staff tours, general tours, and seminars for staff.				

School Programs



Students vote for their favourite food at a session conducted by the NT Electoral Commission.



The Clerk reads out the bill in a role play at a school.



Step Up Be Heard parliamentary session in the Chamber.



Completing a jigsaw of the Chamber at an Outreach Program.

Tours of Parliament House, our most popular program, where numbers have increased since the NT Electoral Commission provided a financial contribution towards cost of transport. Members often host a morning tea for students. Most schools visit during sittings to view Parliament in action. This means there can be up to 800 students over the six sitting days so this is our busiest time for tours. Most classes also attend a session on voting and elections by the NT Electoral Commission at Parliament House. This interactive session includes a vote for favourite foods, using ballot papers and ballot screens.

Role Plays are conducted in classrooms using parliamentary costumes and props. Students decide their own bill and write their own speeches. Time-span of the role play is negotiated with the teacher - between two and four hours. Feedback from teachers is very positive as they remark the role play is the best way to learn about parliamentary processes.

Step Up, Be Heard is a new initiative for senior students and was conducted as a pilot with one school. The *Step Up* phase covers an election campaign and vote for a mock parliament (overseen by the NT Electoral Commission). In *Be Heard* students debate a bill in the Chamber with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly presiding. The program is part of the students' assessment for the unit of Legal Studies.

Outreach Program for regional and remote communities. A new program was developed specifically for those schools where literacy may be a challenge. The program is highly interactive using puzzles and props.

Regional Sittings in Alice Springs. More than 600 students attended a role play, viewing of sittings, and exhibition.

Special Events - Commonwealth Week attracted hundreds of students to an interactive 'globe-trotting' exercise at Parliament House.

Schools Newsletter is regularly sent by email to all school principals.

Resource Development

We produce many resources to support our programs. With the exception of the Bombing of Darwin leaflet, all our publications are produced in-house.

Government in the Northern Territory is distributed to schools and people attending other programs such as *Know Your Parliament*.

Parliamentary Education Pack is given to every teacher whose class visits Parliament House for a tour or participates in a role play. The Pack includes a variety of posters, information brochures, activity and quiz books, and fact sheets.

Fun Activity Book is aimed towards primary school students and contains information about Parliament in the Territory with activity quizzes.

Hop into Parliament is for senior students and contains similar information to its primary school counterpart but at a higher level. The quizzes are harder!

Fact Sheets describe different elements of our parliamentary system.

Self-Guided Tour of Parliament House assists visitors with information about the building and the Parliament. There is an accompanying leaflet showing the seating plan of the Chamber.

Website www.nt.gov.au/lant with link to Education. All our publications are online (with the exception of large posters in the Parliamentary Education Pack) along with extras such as activity sheets, role play scripts, and role descriptions. We are currently developing internet interactive quizzes and information programs (such as videos of parliamentary procedures).



Public Tours

PES is also responsible for conducting tours of Parliament House for the general public and special visitors.

Public Tours are conducted every Saturday throughout the year at 9am and 11am, and during the Dry Season (May to September) on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Visitors are mostly tourists from overseas and southern states. We employ three casual tour guides who are all very experienced public speakers and local historians. At peak times often PES staff need to act as an extra guide for public tours.

Self-Guided Tours allow visitors to follow a brochure directing them through the many historical features of Parliament House. More than 10,000 visitors each year undertake a self-guided tour.

Department Staff Tours are conducted by PES staff on demand. Such tours may be for new staff from other departments or for new Electorate Officers. There has been a steady increase in these types of tours in recent years.

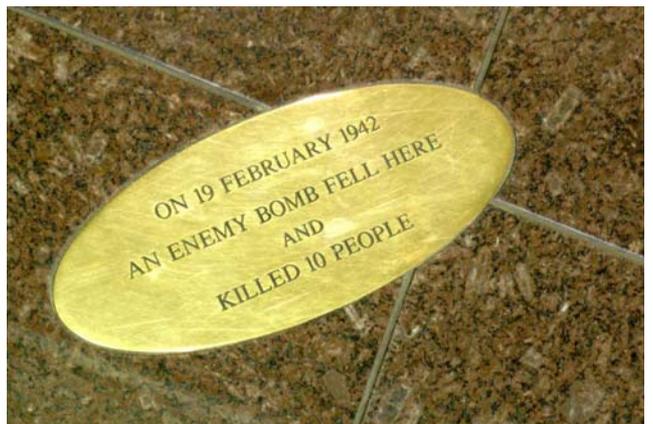
VIP Tours for visiting delegations of parliamentarians or government officials are also conducted by PES staff. Frequently there are federal and interstate parliamentarians visiting Darwin for other business who would like to tour the building.



View of Parliament House from Darwin Harbour



Chamber of the Legislative Assembly



Floor Plaque in Main Hall of Parliament House

Community Education

We also offer a range of education programs for the general public and community groups.

Adult Education-----

Democracy at Work is a new program aimed towards new Australian citizens. The day-long program involves a session with the NT Electoral Commission about voting and elections. There follows a session with PES which includes a tour and information about Parliament. Participants then visit the Supreme Court (next door to Parliament House) to view court rooms, speak with a Judge, and learn about the court system. This program will be offered once or twice a year.

Know Your Parliament is directed towards community groups and organisations. The content of sessions is negotiated with the group and is conducted at a venue of their choosing (usually a community centre or hall). Free tours of Parliament House can also be arranged for community groups.

Parliament Promotions-----

The Annual State Square Open Day was held for the third time at Parliament House in conjunction with Open Days at Government House and the Supreme Court. As well as tours and displays about Members, Electorate Offices, and parliamentary procedures, the Chamber was open with the Mace on display. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Jane Aagaard MLA, gave talks to visitors.

Alice Springs Parliament Awareness Program will have its debut in 2012. The aim is to provide Centralians with informative displays and activities about their Parliament. At the moment, Parliament sits in Alice Springs every two years so the Awareness Program is designed to encourage interest in the following year's regional sittings.

Other Promotions-----

PES staff also participate in **seminars and inductions** for new MLAs, Electorate Officers, and staff.

The **70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin** in February 2012 will be a major event on the Territory's calendar with the NT Government and the Darwin City Council hosting a range of activities and commemorations over a fortnight. PES is developing a static display about the bombing of the Darwin Post Office, which was situated where Parliament House now stands, and in which ten postal and telegraph staff died. The NT Library, located in Parliament House, will also be arranging special displays.

Artworks-----

PES is responsible for maintaining the Department's artworks which includes a considerable number of significant works by Aboriginal artists.

Historical archives-----

The **History Project** is an ongoing activity to digitally copy photographs and slides pertaining to Parliament House, former Assemblies, and former Members.