



Parliamentary Education Programs and Services

The Queensland Parliament provides parliamentary education programs and services that are designed to promote an increased knowledge and understanding of the parliament. These programs and their various target audiences are outlined below.

Parliamentary education programs for students

The parliament's education staff conduct seminars and workshops for senior secondary students. The program is flexible and teachers are able to select program elements to support curriculum outcomes for their students.

Program elements can include:

- presentations on the role of parliament and government and the separation of powers
- the legislative process with students introducing and debating a mock bill
- election simulations during which Queensland's optional-preferential voting system is explained
- a parliamentary committee inquiry role play
- viewing parliament in action (if the visit corresponds with a parliamentary sitting day)
- a tour of Parliament House, and
- an address by a member of parliament (subject to availability).

Members of Parliament are informed when an educational institution from their electorate books a seminar. Accordingly, members are given an opportunity to

address the students and to answer questions about their role as a member of parliament.

Teacher professional development

To assist teachers in their instruction about the parliament and government, professional development seminars for Study of Society (SOS), Study of Society and Environment (SOSE), Legal Studies, History and Economics teachers, and trainee teachers are provided.

Queensland Parliamentary Research Internship

The Queensland Parliament has conducted an parliamentary internship program since 1995, which is called the Queensland Parliamentary Research Internship (QPRI). This annual program sees eligible university undergraduates undertake a research project for a member of parliament or senior officer of the parliament. Interns receive accreditation for the project through their university.



The Queensland Parliament conducts many activities, including Youth Parliaments, for students.



Youth parliaments

Youth parliaments simulate a parliamentary sitting with participating students able to experience democracy in action. The Parliament hosts and conducts half-day youth parliaments at Parliament House and in regional Queensland areas for school students throughout the year. The format of a youth parliament includes students introducing and debating a mock bill or motion with the bill content often reflecting a topical issue of interest to Queensland students.

Youth parliaments also include an adjournment debate where the youth members raise any matters of interest to them. The Speaker of the Parliament, assisted by other Members of Parliament, usually preside over youth parliaments.

Parliamentary education programs for public servants

Seminars for public sector officers provide an overview of Queensland's system of parliamentary democracy and a detailed understanding of the role and functions of the Queensland parliament and its relationship with the Executive in our unicameral parliamentary system.

Two fee-paying seminars are offered. The introductory half-day seminar provides public servants with an overview of the legislative and scrutiny functions and structures of the parliament. Members of parliament are invited to address public servants on the work relationship between members and the public service.

The advanced full-day seminar addresses in detail major elements of the relationship between the parliament and the Executive. Cabinet ministers are invited to address these seminars detailing their role at the parliamentary and Executive levels.

Parliamentary education resources

A large number of education resources such as fact sheets and classroom activities can be viewed and downloaded from the Queensland parliament web site's education section, which is located

under the 'Explore Your Parliament' tab on the front page. The specific online address is www.parliament.qld.gov.au/education

The parliamentary education web pages also include information on:

- public sector seminars
- seminars and tours for schools and other educational institutions
- information books
- parliamentary internships, and
- youth parliaments.

Other sections of the parliament's website provide information on:

- the history and functions of parliament
- members of parliament, and
- the parliament's 'Record of Proceedings (Hansard).'

Indigenous engagement

The Queensland Parliament's Indigenous Liaison Officer acts as the primary contact and liaison point between the parliament and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland. This officer delivers programs to facilitate more effective engagement between the parliament, its committees, members of parliament and Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Contact us

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