

Goal 3 - Raise community awareness and understanding

To promote the institution of Parliament and raise community awareness and understanding of its important role and functions.

In pursuit of this goal, Parliamentary Service resources have been allocated to actively promote, educate and raise awareness among Queenslanders about their Parliament, its processes and activities. Key actions that support the achievement of this goal include communicating information on the Parliament's Internet site and by direct outreach, providing educational and training activities throughout the year and by being involved in various community activities.

Key performance indicators for Goal 3 are set out in the table on page 26.

Public consultation by parliamentary committees

Following reforms to the parliamentary committee system that were implemented in August 2011, a number of strategies have been implemented to promote Queensland's committee inquiry

process. These strategies aim to explain how inquiries operate and to raise awareness of how Queenslanders can get involved with committee inquiries and influence decision making. Parliamentary committees actively promote awareness of their inquiries by undertaking the following activities:

- publishing details of all inquiries on the Parliament's Internet site
- generating stakeholder lists of persons and groups who will likely be interested in each particular inquiry and directly contacting those persons with information about the inquiry and how they can participate
- sending information about each inquiry to all persons who have joined committee subscriber alert lists
- placing newspaper advertisements for committee inquiries that are deemed to have wider community interest. Where an inquiry may have a focus in a particular regional area, advertisements may be placed in relevant local community newspapers
- placing advertisements and articles in particular trade journals and publications relevant to a committee inquiry topic

- advising stakeholders and subscribers when committee hearings will occur. Many committee hearings are broadcast live on the Parliament's website and can then also be watched on replay following the hearing. This allows persons across Queensland with an interest in particular inquiries to follow hearings and events as they occur
- working with the Parliament's Indigenous Liaison Officer to assist in raising awareness of inquiries and providing assistance to those who may wish to participate, particularly where an inquiry may have an impact on Queensland's Indigenous communities.

In addition, reports on recent committee activities, ongoing inquiry details and information on how Queenslanders can participate in committee inquiries are prepared by the Parliament each quarter for Members of Parliament to distribute to their constituents.

Parliamentary committee training seminars

The Parliamentary Service provides training to promote understanding and awareness of Queensland's parliamentary committee system and encourage participation with committee inquiries. In 2015-16, two 'Committees@Work' seminars

were held at Parliament House. These were attended by 48 public servants, who as part of their roles would be likely to interact with parliamentary committees.

Parliamentary staff also provided committee training sessions to Indigenous organisations based on North Stradbroke Island and Thursday Island in 2015-16.

Education activities

Throughout the year, the Parliamentary Service provides free educational training programs aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the processes of Parliament and Government in Queensland. Three separate programs are offered for the following groups:

- years 10 to 12 school students
- TAFE and English as a Second Language (ESL) students and
- tertiary students.

In 2015-16 the following number of students attended these programs:

- 746 Year 10 to 12 students and teachers as part of 35 school group activities
- 118 TAFE and ESL students and their teachers as part of six group activities
- 1,017 tertiary students and lecturers as part of 26 group activities.

Public Service training seminars

Training is offered to public sector employees to explain the role played by the Queensland Parliament, the functions it performs and its relationship with the Executive branch of government. A total of 12 seminars were held during 2015-16 with 432 public servants attending. This included a seminar held in Ipswich.

Teacher professional development training

Free training is offered to teachers to enhance their knowledge of Queensland's democratic systems and the processes of the Queensland Parliament. These sessions also provide practical education resources and demonstrate how to conduct a parliamentary committee role play and voting activities in their classrooms. During 2015-16, teacher professional development training sessions were held in Ipswich and Mt Isa with 25 teachers participating.

Regional educational program

The Parliamentary Service commenced a regional education program in 2013-14 which saw parliamentary staff delivering a combination of the following activities in a regional Queensland location:

- a youth parliament
- a teachers' professional development session

- a public sector training conference for locally based public servants and
- presentations delivered to local service and community groups and Indigenous organisations about the Parliament and its committee system.

This program of activities is planned to be held in six regional Queensland centres between July 2015 and June 2018.

Youth parliaments

This year saw the continuation of the youth parliament program. Five youth parliament events were facilitated during 2015-16, three at Parliament House and regional events held in Ipswich and Mt Isa. In all, a total of 414 students participated in these youth parliaments with each of these events and the dates that they occurred listed below:

- the Ipswich Youth Parliament was held on 2 September 2015
- the YMCA Youth Parliament was held at Parliament House from 29 September to 2 October 2015
- a Legal Studies Youth Parliament was held at Parliament House on 6 May 2016 for Brisbane-based year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students
- the Mt Isa Youth Parliament was held on 1 June 2016
- the annual Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament was held at Parliament House on 23 June 2016.

Constitutional conventions

In addition to the youth parliaments, the Parliamentary Service partnered with the Department of Education and Training to conduct school constitutional conventions, including two for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. These conventions were held in Cairns, Townsville and in Brisbane with a total of 213 students participating.

Queensland Parliamentary Internship Program

During 2015-16, 31 tertiary students participated in the Queensland Parliament Research Internship. This annual program has been in operation since 1995.

School tours

School groups have visited Parliament House over many decades, with these groups generally comprising grade five students.

The program of each visit includes:

- a standardised educational presentation aligned to the National Curriculum which provides an overview of the Queensland Parliament, its roles and processes
- a tour of Parliament House
- a parliamentary debate role-play activity while seated in either the Legislative Assembly Chamber or

the Legislative Council Chamber (depending on sitting days), and

- a workbook activity aimed at reinforcing the learnings of the visit.

During 2015-16, the workbook activity was changed from being a published booklet to an interactive electronic exercise contained on tablet devices that are available for each student to work on at the end of their tour.

In total, 380 school tours were conducted during 2015-2016, comprising 9,602 students and 911 accompanying teachers, parents and guardians.

Education resources

The Parliament has produced an extensive collection of educational resources that promote the institution of Parliament and raise community awareness and understanding of its important role and functions. These resources include factsheets, information books, classroom activities, brochures and an iBook.

All of these resources are available to access for free on the Parliament's Internet site, with the iBook also able to be downloaded for free from the Apple iTunes online store. Each school group that visits Parliament House receives an Everyone's Parliament educational resource kit which includes factsheets, brochures and posters for the classroom. These resources

are also given to seminar attendees and distributed at community events.

High Teas

Members of the public can also attend High Teas in the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House on the first Friday of each month, plus on other special occasions throughout the year. Following High Tea, guests are provided with a guided tour of Parliament House including the O'Donovan Library. A total of 18 High Teas were held during 2015-16, with 1,163 people attending.

Key projects	Overview	Status
Regional educational program	The Parliamentary Service continued its three-year regional educational program.	On-going
Parliamentary committee training seminars	The Parliamentary Service continued its program of training seminars that are offered to assist Queenslanders who wish to participate in committee inquiries.	On-going

Key Performance Indicators

Measures	2015-16 Target	2015-16 Actual
Education and Communications Services		
Number of educational activities held	90	93
Attendees at educational activities	4,000	3,705
Percentage of Members satisfied with services provided to Goal 3 (satisfied/very satisfied)	95%	100%

Major initiatives

Looking ahead

Initiatives in 2015-16 include:

- continue to implement the three-year regional education program. Upcoming activities will be held in Bundaberg and Roma.