



Parliamentary Educators Conference 2011

Jurisdictional Report – Tasmania

Parliamentary Education Officer

There is still little likelihood in the foreseeable future of an appointment to a dedicated position responsible for parliamentary education in Tasmania. Activities like Youth Parliament and the oversight and organisation of tours and visits remain the responsibility of the Second Clerk-Assistant.

Youth Parliament

Once again there was a highly successful Youth Parliament during the September School holidays. Each year the organisation and training for participants is enhanced principally due to the dedication and hard work by the YMCA Youth Task Force. The standard of debate, research on the subject, knowledge of procedure and the confident positive attitude both when debating and discussing issues was outstanding.

This year, for the first time, the Youth Parliament was run in both the House of Assembly Chamber and the Legislative Council Chamber, allowing for a larger number of participants than in previous years. The choice of topics as usual reflected the interests and concerns of the youth.

A number of members of both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council participated by taking on the role of Presiding Officer for at least one session.

School Tours and Group Visits

The number of tours and visits by school groups and community organisations has continued to grow.

In the 2010/2011 financial year, the number of students attending tours at parliament house was 2067, and the number of members of the public attending tours was 396.

Unfortunately, tours still cannot be provided on sitting days due to staffing restrictions; however school groups and members of the public still frequently attend to observe question time.

Parliamentary Interns

The Internship program is run by the Clerk of the House of Assembly and the Director of the Parliamentary Research Service in partnership with the University of Tasmania. This year there were a number of students undertaking an internship by working on specific research with Members of Parliament from both Houses and from all political parties.

Education Pack

We are currently in the process of developing an education pack which will be provided to schools when they attend tours.

Laura Ross
Second Clerk-Assistant