

# Major highlights





# Ceremonial Opening of the 57th Parliament

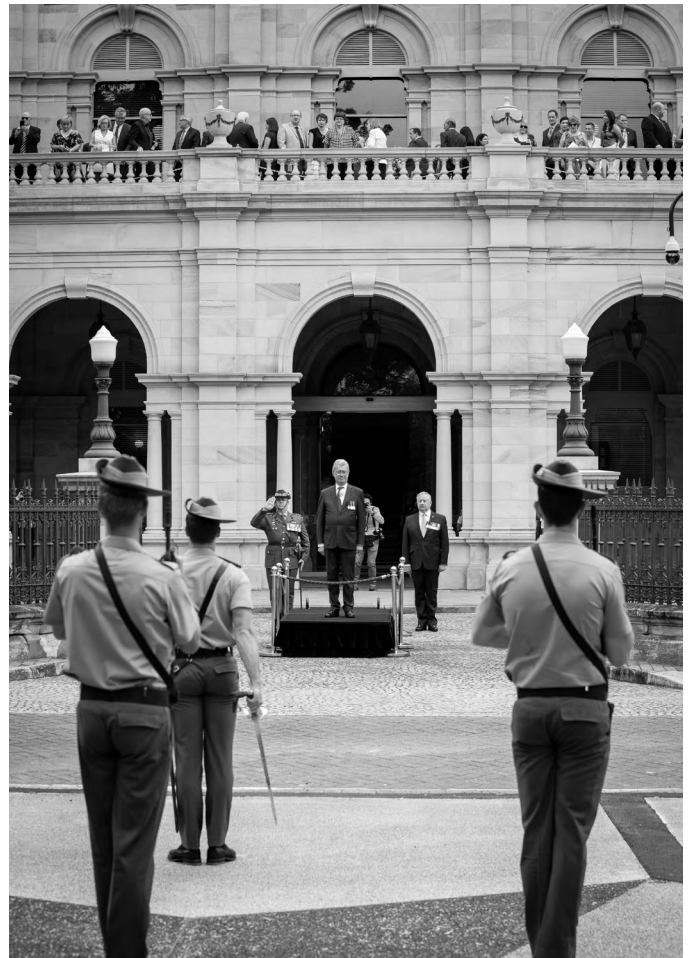
Queensland's 57th Parliament was formally opened by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, on Wednesday 25 November 2020. The Governor is a central figure in the opening ceremony as the state's representative of the Crown.

The ceremony began with a salute from the Tri-Service Honour Guard, followed by the Governor's arrival. The Governor was escorted by a mounted police guard and a 19-gun salute was fired at Kangaroo Point upon his arrival at Parliament House. The Governor inspected the Tri-Service Honour Guard before moving the proceedings inside Parliament House.

The official opening ceremony was held in the Legislative Council Chamber with the Governor's opening speech, which outlined the government's agenda and legislative goals for the term ahead. Uncle Joe Kirk, Turrbal Elder, also addressed the new Parliament.

The ceremony was followed by a garden party on the Speaker's Green, which included a traditional Smoking Ceremony and two performances from Tribal Experiences and Zom Kolbe Kolbe.

Over 400 guests attended the opening which was conducted in accordance with the Parliament's Covid-safe plan.



*(Above) Governor, Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, completing the inspection of the Tri-Service Honour Guard*



*(Above) Tribal Experiences performing during the garden party.*





(Above) Official group photo of new Members of the 57th Parliament.

## New Members' Induction

Following the Opening of the 57th Parliament, the Parliamentary Service conducted the New Members' Induction program.

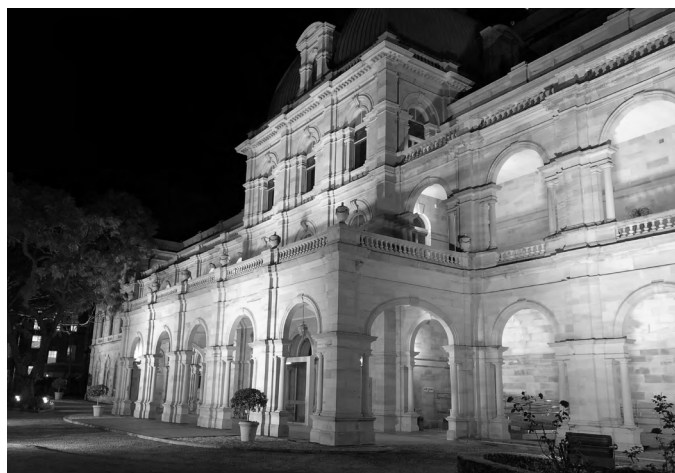
Ten new Members took part in the program, which was held over five days. The program commenced on 16 November 2020 to ensure new Members were prepared for the first sitting week, which occurred on 24 November 2020.

The program included:

- information sessions with all services areas within the organisation
- a one-stop-shop session with external providers and staff
- an official photography session, and
- subject matter sessions with experts such as a social media presentation from Professor Axel Bruns, QUT and policy and legislation drafting with Mr Tony Keyes, Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

The final day of the program occurred on 26 February 2021 and provided information about statutory office holders.

Overall, the New Members' Induction program was well-received and feedback showed that a high number of members found the program to be comprehensive.



## Façade Lighting Project

In April 2021, Parliament House completed the facade lighting project. The project involved the installation of decorative lighting fixtures along with a DMX lighting control interface for the entire Parliament House façade.

The lighting fixtures were selected for their energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as well as, the ability for public engagement with the structure.

The new lighting system highlights the building's classical architecture, whilst also providing opportunities to respond to the many social and cultural events held throughout the year.



# Parliamentary Education Program

In 2020-21, the Parliamentary Education team delivered over 40 different programs across the state - despite Covid disruptions. These programs included:

- school group activities
- public service training seminars
- virtual teacher professional development sessions, and
- youth parliaments.

The Youth Parliament programs are particularly engaging events for students. The programs incorporate many real life functions of Parliament to teach students about Queensland's democratic system. Students deliver speeches as Youth MPs, or act as parliamentary staff such as the Clerk of Parliament and Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly attends and local Members of Parliament are also invited to act as deputy Speakers.

In 2020-21, a total of 221 young people participated in these youth parliaments, which were held across the state, including:

- Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament – Cairns, 3 September
- YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament - Online, 28-30 September
- Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament - Parliament House, 17 December
- Gold Coast Youth Parliament, 3 June.



*(Above) Youth Member giving speech at the Cairns Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament*



*(Above) Youth Clerk of Parliament providing advice to the deputy Speaker at the Gold Coast Youth Parliament*



*(Above) Official photo of the 2020 Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament*