

Objective 4

Improving awareness of the Parliament

To safeguard, promote and strengthen the important institution of Parliament by improving awareness of the role of the Legislative Assembly, its committees and Members in our democratic system of government and provide accessibility to information about parliamentary proceedings and activities.

Overview

To achieve this objective, Parliamentary Service resources have been allocated to the following activities:

- » delivering education and awareness programs about the Parliament
- » raising youth awareness of the importance of the institution of Parliament by linking parliamentary education programs with the national curriculum for civics education
- » maintaining and improving the regional outreach awareness programs over the term of each Parliament and continuing to refine and improve their effectiveness, and
- » improving the monitoring of the Parliament's online presence and website content with a view to increasing electronic access to parliamentary information.

These resources and services are primarily delivered through the following Service Areas:

- » Chamber and Education Services
- » Committee Office
- » Communication and Marketing Services
- » Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service (Hansard), and
- » Information Technology Services.

The key performance indicators for Objective 4 relate to the extent to which the quantity, quality, timeliness and cost of specified services provided by each of the relevant service areas meet the agreed standards and targets. The methods of measurement include client surveys, benchmarking, internal self-assessment through information management systems and external assessment through audit reports.

Key performance indicators for Objective 4 are set out in Appendix B.

57%

increase in traffic to the Queensland Parliament website



495 Youth Parliament participants across Queensland

763

students participated in interactive education programs

Education activities

Throughout the year, the Parliament provides free educational training programs aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the processes of Parliament and Government in Queensland.

In 2021-22, the Parliamentary Education team delivered over 100 different programs across the state.

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 2021-22, a total of 495 young people participated in these youth parliaments, which were held across the state, including:

- Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament (Townsville, September 2021)
- YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament (September 2021)
- Legal Studies Youth Parliament (September 2021)
- Warwick Youth Parliament (November 2021)
- Rockhampton Youth Parliament (November 2021)
- Eric Deeral Youth Parliament (Cairns, December 2021)
- Bundaberg Youth Parliament (March 2022)
- Ipswich Primary Schools Youth Parliament (May 2022)
- Eric Deeral Youth Parliament (Brisbane, June 2022).

During regional visits, 27 schools were visited in 2021-22 where an interactive education program was delivered to 763 students.

Separate programs are offered for:

- years 10 to 12 school students studying Legal Studies, and
- tertiary students studying Parliament-related subjects.

In 2021-22 the following number of students attended these programs:

- 763 high school students and teachers as part of 16 school group activities, and
- 49 tertiary students and lecturers as part of two group activities.

Regional educational program

In 2021-22, regional education activities were held in the Gold Coast and Cairns. The Parliament delivered a combination of the following activities:

- a Youth Parliament, and
- classroom sessions.

In 2021-22 the following number of students attended these programs:

- 153 students, teachers and guests from 16 schools as part of the Youth Parliaments, and
- 342 school students and teachers as part of eight classroom sessions.

Youth Parliaments

This year saw the continuation of the Parliament's Youth Parliament program. Four Youth Parliament events were facilitated during 2021-22, two at Parliament House and two in regional Queensland.

A total of 221 young people participated.

Constitutional conventions

In addition to the Youth Parliaments, the Parliamentary Service partnered with the Department of Education and Training to conduct school constitutional conventions in Townsville and Brisbane.

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 website. The iBook can be downloaded free from the Apple iTunes store.

Access to information about parliamentary proceedings

The Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and Information Technology Services also contribute to Objective 4 by providing accessibility to information about parliamentary proceedings through the provision of the Internet broadcast of proceedings in Parliament, parliamentary committees and parliamentary special events.

Queensland Parliament Research Internship Program

During 2021-22, 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 Year Five and Six 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, and
- a parliamentary debate role-play activity while seated in either the Legislative Assembly Chamber or the Legislative Council Chamber (depending on sitting days).

In total, 425 school tours were conducted during 2021-22, comprising 11,021 students and 993 accompanying teachers, parents and guardians. There was also one TAFE group with 19 students and their teacher.

Public Service training seminars

Training is offered to public sector employees on:

- how Parliament works
- the relationship between the Queensland Parliament and the Executive, and
- Queensland's parliamentary committee system and participation with committee inquiries (Committees@Work, a program for public sector workers who may engage with parliamentary committees or who have a general interest in how committees work).

There were eight of these training seminars held during 2021-22 with 232 public servants attending.

Teacher professional development training

During 2021-22, nine virtual teacher professional development training sessions were held with 129 teachers participating from across Queensland.

The training is designed to enhance 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 the classroom.

The program was conducted in conjunction with the Supreme Court Library of Queensland, the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Parliamentary Education Office (federal).

Major initiatives

Education

Four year strategic plan

In 2021-22, Parliamentary Education implemented the four-year strategic plan for precinct and regional educational activities for the 57th Parliament.

Online educational resources

Parliamentary Education has developed and launched a suite of educational videos available online via YouTube and Clickview, a platform accessible to Queensland students and teachers. These are supported by updated educational resources that are linked to the Australian Curriculum.

Students from various high schools were also invited to take part in the filming of a role play about the Parliamentary Committee system, which has been used to supplement teaching on the precinct about the Legislative Process for Grade 10-12 Legal Studies students.

High School students in Queensland were invited to build a replica of the Legislative Assembly Chamber in Minecraft. This is the first in a series of micro projects that will eventually allow students and teachers to explore the Queensland Parliament in an engaging and familiar format.

Eric Deeral Youth Parliament

In 2021-22, Parliamentary Education implemented the four-year strategic plan for precinct and regional educational activities for the 57th Parliament. The Parliamentary Education program included delivering two full-day Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliaments for a total of 53 emerging First Peoples leaders in Cairns and in Brisbane, along with a junior Indigenous Youth Parliament in Townsville for 42 participants, and four junior Youth Parliaments in Warwick, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Brisbane for 233 participants. Support was also provided to the annual YMCA Youth Parliament.

Cultural Awareness training

A new Cultural Awareness training program was piloted for staff and conducted by the First Peoples Liaison Officer and Parliamentary Education staff. This was an interactive program where staff had the opportunity to participate in cultural learning and were equipped with some practical strategies to enhance their level of cultural competency. The program will be presented to all staff across the Parliamentary service in 2022-23.

Public Service Seminars review

A review was conducted of the Public Service Seminars offered by Parliamentary education. New content has been incorporated and the programs are now open to participants from organisations outside of the Public Service.

Youth Parliament pilot

The Parliamentary Education team ran a pilot program to bring Primary Schools Students in nearby regions into the Legislative Assembly Chamber to experience a Youth Parliament. The first group of students were from Ipswich and surrounding areas. The program was popular and well received.

Marketing and Communications

First digital only publication of the *Parliamentary Record*

In 2021, for the first time, the Parliamentary Record was published in digital format only. The Marketing and Communications Team worked closely with Library researchers to deliver the *56th Parliamentary Record*, which resulted in reduced production costs and improved readability and accessibility.

Development of Committee newsletter capabilities

Following a successful trial with committee staff, the Marketing and Communications team introduced a series of MailChimp templates for public-facing newsletters from the Committee Office. These templates improved the readability and functionality of the committees' communications and ensured a consistent, professional look and feel across communications to build trust and credibility with target audiences.

Coordination of the Parliament's Darkness to Daylight live event sponsorship

In July 2022, the Marketing and Communications team helped coordinate the Queensland Parliament's sponsorship of the 'Darkness to Daylight' live event. The event raised funds to increase awareness about domestic and family violence, and was Challenge DV's largest live event to date.

Delivery of a wide variety of communications and strategic plans

Throughout the year, the team also continued to support the development and delivery of a wide variety of communications plans and strategic documents across the organisation. Projects included artwork design, social media, email marketing support for catering events, and the coordination and design of the 2021-2022 Annual Report and the 2022-2025 Workforce Strategy.