



**Legal, Constitutional and  
Administrative Review Committee**

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# Media Release



A parliamentary committee is convening Queensland's first 'youth jury', an innovative form of community consultation.

The Legal and Constitutional Committee of the Queensland Parliament is conducting an inquiry, *Voices and Votes*, into young people engaging in democracy.

The youth jury, which will deliberate on the issue, *How can democracy better serve young people in Queensland?*, is one of the ways in which the committee is listening to people aged 12 to 25 so as to make recommendations to facilitate young people's engagement in democracy in Queensland. The outcomes from the youth jury will be considered by the committee when it prepares a report to Parliament on the inquiry.

Dr Lesley Clark MP, the Chair of the committee, says, "A youth jury is democracy in action. The youth jury will indicate to the committee the views of young people who are fully informed about relevant issues."

Over four days, twelve young people aged 16 to 21 will:

- hear information from 'experts' who will include people of their age who have brought about change in their own communities, Members of Parliament, the recently-retired Queensland Electoral Commissioner, the Clerk of the Parliament, academics and others with expertise in democracy;
- deliberate on that information; and
- make recommendations about how democracy can better serve young people in Queensland.

**Invitation to media representatives:**

The committee invites you to attend the presentation of the youth jury's 'verdict' at 1.00pm to 1.45pm on Wednesday, 15 February 2006 in the Red Chamber, Parliament House.

The Speaker, Queensland Parliament, the Hon Tony McGrady MP, will be in attendance. The Premier, Ministers, other Members of Parliament have also been invited.

**Editor's notes:**

• The Legal and Constitutional Committee is a permanent statutory committee of the Queensland Parliament with a broad range of law reform responsibilities including administrative review reform, constitutional reform, electoral reform, and legal reform. Further information, including committee publications regarding the *Voices and Votes* inquiry, is available from: [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/LCARC](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/LCARC).

• The best times for photographs and footage of the jury in action and for interviews with jurors will be Sunday, 12 February 2006, between 11.00am and 3.30pm, and Tuesday, 14 February 2006, between 9.00am and 3.30pm. Please call (07) 3406 7307 or 0437 643 433.

• Dr Clark is available for interview. Please call (07) 4038 2800 or 0412 117 742.

• Information about Australia's first youth jury, held at Parramatta a few years ago, is available at: <http://activedemocracy.net/parrayouth/faqs.html>.