

Christmas Eve Holiday Bill

Teacher Support Sheet

This resource provides a framework for teachers to examine the different reasons and ways that individuals and groups participate in the legislative process by engaging with parliamentary committees. Use the suggested activities to facilitate student understanding of how different ideas and perspectives impact the development of laws.

Assumed knowledge:

- *Basic understanding of the [Legislative Process in Qld](#)*
- *Ability for individuals and groups to make submissions to Parliamentary Committees*
- *Role of a minister in introducing bills to Parliament*



DURATION

1 to 2 lessons



LEVEL

Years 5 to 12

Suggested Activities

After completing the introductory activity, teachers can choose to work through one or all of the remaining activities.

Introductory Activity

Share the truncated [Explanatory Speech](#) with students, drawing students' attention to the key policy objectives. Discuss the outcomes of the Bill, should it pass.

Activity 1 - Stakeholder Perspectives

Break students into pairs or small groups and allocate them a stakeholder group/individual using the [Stakeholder Group resource](#). Alternatively, come up with your own groups/individuals using the [Stakeholder Groups template](#).

Using the [Christmas Eve Holiday Bill PPT resource \(slides 4-6\)](#), ask students to hypothesise if their group supports/opposes the Bill. Students should provide at least one reason to justify their decision.

As a class, discuss why different groups would either support or oppose to the Bill, sharing reasons why.

Activity 2 - Write a Submission

In pairs or small groups, allocate students to represent real or simulated organisations/individuals who are impacted by or interested in the Bill. Using the [Christmas Eve Holiday Bill PPT resource \(slide 7\)](#), have students craft a submission to the Committee from the perspective of their assigned stakeholder.

Use [submissions](#) from The Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 as stimulus/support. Submissions may need to be scaffolded for younger students.

Activity 3 - Run a Committee Role Play

Use the [Committee Role Play template script](#) to run a committee hearing into the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Have each stakeholder pair/group give evidence. This could be done with students summarising the points raised in [existing submissions](#) or creating their own stakeholder groups and opinions for an extended activity.

Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

The following are excerpts from the Minister's [Introductory Speech](#) on 19 September 2019.

"I present a bill for an act to amend the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005, the Holidays Act 1983 and the Industrial Relations Act 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. ...

Today I am pleased to introduce the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into the House. The bill provides for Christmas Eve, 24 December, to be observed as a part-day public holiday from 6 pm to 12 midnight. In introducing this bill, we are recognising that there is something special and unique about Christmas Eve, commensurate with it being recognised as a public holiday after 6 pm. In fact, I am not sure if anyone in the House would deny the magical nature of Christmas Eve, the night before Christmas. ...

However, there is a group of workers that does not have that luxury and has to work—in pubs, clubs and warehouses, in hospitals and aged-care facilities, on public transport, in retail outlets, and across the emergency services. ...

Dennis Scanlon, the parish priest at Queen of Apostles parish in Stafford, supports the proposal as it will benefit the community by allowing people to celebrate the family Christmas service which happens earlier on Christmas Eve, giving more families time to travel to worship with extended family and helping Christmas be a more family friendly celebration beginning on Christmas Eve. The Islamic Council of Queensland also supported the proposal. Their president, Habib Jamal, stated that the community will benefit by allowing people to participate in religious services and family activities on Christmas Eve, especially for faith groups who celebrate on Christmas Eve, and to travel long distances for family events on Christmas Day. ...

Now, through this bill, Queensland workers on Christmas Eve will get the extra legal protection and entitlements that come with a part-day public holiday, giving them the opportunity to have this special night off or to get penalty rates if they do work. I commend the bill to the House."

The [Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#) passed the Legislative Assembly 27 November 2019 and was granted Royal Assent 5 December 2019.