# OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE 

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# 13 July 2015 

Ms Rebecca Gordon
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Dear Ms Gordon

## Inquiry into the delivery of electoral education

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 June 2015 inviting me to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the delivery of electoral education.

I propose to make some brief remarks on the contribution that the Serjeant-at-Arms' Office makes to electoral education, which includes facilitating the involvement of Members, here at Parliament House.

All school visits to Parliament House are co-ordinated by the Serjeant-at-Arms' Office, on behalf of, and in partnership with, the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) and Visitor Services (Department of Parliamentary Services). The Serjeant's Office administers all booking requests from schools, or their agents, for one or more of the following tour components:

- A guided tour of Parliament House, which might include visiting a chamber gallery;
- A lesson with the Parliamentary Education Office; and
- Schools Hospitality (where students receive light refreshment and may have the chance to meet with their local Member, schedules permitting). The Department receives administered funding to deliver this particular component.

Co-ordination of bookings involves liaison with parliamentary colleagues in the PEO and Visitor Services, the school (or their agent) to confirm arrangements, as well as correspondence with the relevant local Member to advise of booking times. Senators are also able to attend the schools hospitality if desired. The co-ordination of the booking service was consolidated in the Serjeant-at-Arms' Office in 1998 following concerns expressed by schools and their agents about the lack of a single contact point for bookings.

Attachment A contains a summary of the number of PEO lessons, Visitor Services tours, and Hospitality meetings that were conducted from 2012-15. (You might receive statistics from other sources, but I thought including these summaries provides the Committee with a sense of the volume of bookings supported by the Serjeant's Office.)

The Committee will note that in 2014-15, 90,132 students from around Australia completed a lesson with the PEO (compared with 87,657 students in 2013-14) and 120,216 students went on a tour with Visitor Services (up from 113,497 in 2013-14). 100,254 hospitality meetings were also conducted in 2014-15, compared with 96,341 in 2013-14. The Committee may be interested to know that the cumulative total of students who have participated in the programmes since the Parliament House building opened on 9 May 1988 is more than 1.89 million. This is a good example of the parliamentary departments working collaboratively to deliver electoral education services to the community, and schools in particular, and to support the role of parliamentarians in interacting with students, an opportunity which is highly valued by Members and Senators.

More broadly, the Department also represents Parliament House, on behalf of the PEO and Visitor Services, at the biannual PACER meetings. PACER is the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme, which provides a rebate for students from schools that are at least 150 kilometres from Canberra (with more remote schools receiving a larger rebate) to enable students from those schools to visit Canberra to learn more about civics and citizenship.

Schools may visit Parliament House, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, the National Electoral Education Centre and the Australian War Memorial, as well as other sites of cultural and historical interest. The parliamentary administration is an important stakeholder, and the Department has worked collaboratively with PACER partners over many years to enhance and strengthen the programme. Outside of the regular meeting times, the Department corresponds with the PACER group to assist with administration and related activities.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

DAVID ELDER
Clerk of the House

## Parliamentary Education Office Lessons

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

| Month | Schools | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 152 | 253 | 175 |
| August | 203 | 325 | 11,181 |
| September | 211 | 310 | 10,072 |
| October | 185 | 291 | 9,487 |
| November | 197 | 302 | 9,467 |
| December | 45 | 76 | 2,448 |
| Total | 993 | $\mathbf{1 , 5 5 7}$ | $\mathbf{5 0 , 8 3 0}$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February | 61 | 115 | 3,988 |
| March | 150 | 279 | 10,001 |
| April | 91 | 153 | 5,045 |
| May | 142 | 265 | 9,425 |
| June | 174 | 296 | 10,843 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 1 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 9 , 3 0 2}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 , 6 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 6 6 5}$ | $\mathbf{9 0 , 1 3 2}$ |

## Visitor Services Tours

## 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

| Month | Hospitality | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 9,361 | 342 | 11,219 |
| August | 15,149 | 540 | 18,094 |
| September | 13,796 | .486 | 15,827 |
| October | 11,768 | 429 | 13,789 |
| November | 10,161 | 388 | 11,912 |
| December | 2,469 | 94 | 3,012 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 2 , 7 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 2 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 3 , 8 5 3}$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February | 3,727 | 123 | 4,267 |
| March | 9,417 | 342 | 12,204 |
| April | $\mathbf{4 , 6 4 4}$ | 168 | 5,453 |
| May | 9,514 | 325 | 11,341 |
| June | 10,248 | 359 | 13,098 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3 7 , 5 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 3 1 7}$ | $\mathbf{4 6 , 3 6 3}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 0 0 , 2 5 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 5 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 0 , 2 1 6}$ |

## 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

| Month | Schools | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 148 | 244 | 8,194 |
| August | 231 | 368 | 12,553 |
| September | 198 | 309 | 10,131 |
| October | 189 | 298 | 10,128 |
| November | 195 | 311 | 10,149 |
| December | 29 | 44 | 1,463 |
| Total | 990 | $\mathbf{1 , 5 7 4}$ | $\mathbf{5 2 , 6 1 8}$ |
| VM |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February | 50 | 90 | 3,315 |
| March | 123 | 222 | 7,757 |
| April | 91 | 150 | 4,915 |
| May | 150 | 267 | 9,147 |
| June | 177 | 292 | 9,905 |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 9 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 5 , 0 3 9}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 , 5 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 5 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{8 7 , 6 5 7}$ |

(\# New booking system, called Venue Management System effective 1 January 2014)

## 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

| Month | Hospitality | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 8,167 | 303 | 10,269 |
| August | 14,139 | 513 | 16,912 |
| September | 13,029 | 474 | 15,318 |
| October | 10,576 | 396 | 12,926 |
| November | 11,604 | 411 | 13,240 |
| December | 2,147 | 75 | 2,362 |
| Total | 59,662 | $\mathbf{2 , 1 7 2}$ | $\mathbf{7 1 , 0 2 7}$ |
| VMS |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 |  |
| February | 3,043 | 91 | 3,371 |
| March | 7,912 | 264 | 8,884 |
| April | 4,311 | 166 | 5,394 |
| May | 10,415 | 350 | 11,932 |
| June | 10,998 | 379 | 12,889 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3 6 , 6 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 2 , 4 7 0}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{9 6 , 3 4 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 4 2 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 3 , 4 9 7}$ |

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

| Month | Schools | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 155 | 253 | 8,360 |
| August | 250 | 412 | 13,922 |
| September | 200 | 325 | 10,198 |
| October | 180 | 297 | 10,187 |
| November | 234 | 358 | 11,239 |
| December | 35 | 56 | 1,777 |
| Total | 1054 | $\mathbf{1 , 7 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{5 5 , 6 8 3}$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February | 55 | 105 | 3,640 |
| March | 144 | 218 | 7,564 |
| April | 98 | 167 | 5,443 |
| May | 175 | 316 | 11,191 |
| June | 178 | 301 | 10,494 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 1 0 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 , 3 3 2}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 , 7 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 8 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{9 4 , 0 1 5}$ |

## 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

| Month | Hospitality | Groups | Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | 9,084 | 307 | 10,183 |
| August | 16,609 | 592 | 19,305 |
| September | 12,389 | 456 | 14,422 |
| October | 12,038 | 403 | 13,106 |
| November | 11,725 | 415 | 12,815 |
| December | 1,771 | 73 | 2,174 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 3 , 6 1 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 2 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{7 2 , 0 0 5}$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| January | 0 | 0 |  |
| February | 3,373 | 108 | 3,757 |
| March | 7,336 | 247 | 8,378 |
| April | 4,935 | 176 | 5,820 |
| May | 10,957 | 362 | 12,601 |
| June | 11,440 | 398 | 13,090 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3 8 , 0 4 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 9 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 , 6 4 6}$ |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 0 1 , 6 5 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 5 3 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 5 , 6 5 1}$ |

(\# New booking system, called Venue Management System
effective 1 January 2014)

