

***Public hearing: Hobart 31 August 2006*****Rosetta Primary School to host  
public hearing**

In a first for Federal parliament's Electoral Matters Committee, a public hearing for the current inquiry into civics and electoral education will be entirely conducted at Rosetta Primary School, Hobart on Thursday (31 August).

Committee Chairman Peter Lindsay (Herbert, Qld) said, "the school is clearly a success story in making young students aware of their responsibilities towards the school and the wider community. The Committee in turn wanted to recognise the school by taking the unusual step of holding its entire hearing at the school. We are also very interested in taking some of the lessons learnt at Rosetta to the rest of the Australian school community."

Rosetta Primary School teacher, Tony Poynter, said "our students are encouraged to explain and defend their beliefs in democratic values, such as fairness, freedom and equality, and participate effectively in the civic life of the school and wider community".

With the help of both government and private sector support, the School has successfully participated in programs aimed at connecting students with the Australian Constitution, international organisations such as the United Nations, and the Tasmanian electoral process.

The Committee will also hear from two Tasmanian non-government youth associations which have injected a sense of fun and passion into civics and electoral education. The United Nations Youth Association of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Youth Government Association are for-youth, by-youth organisations which aim to give young people practical, hands on experience of parliamentary and electoral processes.

The inquiry has received over 100 submissions from a broad range of individuals and organisations, including teachers and schools, federal, state and territory parliaments and electoral commissions, academics and governments. Copies of these submissions are available on the Committee's website.

The Committee is a Joint Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and comprises members of the Government, Opposition and the Australian Democrats.

**Public hearing in Assembly Hall, Rosetta Primary School**

- 12:30pm **United Nations Youth Association of Tasmania (Sub 44)**
- 1:00pm **Tasmanian Youth Government Association (Sub 106)**
- 1:30pm **Multicultural Council of Tasmania (Sub 33)**

**School forum, Rosetta Primary School students and teachers**

- 2:15-2:45pm **Open discussion with students**
- 2:45-3:15pm **Open discussion with teachers**

**For media comment:** Please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Peter Lindsay MP on (02) 6277 4964 (Canberra) or (07) 4725 2066 (Townsville), or by mobile on 0419 656 234.

**Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4453, by mobile on 0411 440 490, email [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/>