

**Submission  
to the  
Inquiry into Civic and Electoral Education  
to the  
Joint standing Committee on Electoral Matters**

**From**  
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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That the Australian Education Office continue to be supported in its role
- That Civics education is part of a general review of the expectations of schools in the community.
- That the terms of travel assistance for school excursions to Canberra be reviewed

### **The current status of young people's knowledge of, and responsibilities under the electoral system**

- Inadequate in both content and analytical method.
- Emphasis on skills undermines the acquisition of key content
- A culture of rights dominates over a culture of responsibilities

### **The content and adequacy of electoral education and government and non-government school programs of study, as well as TAFE colleges and Universities**

- Australian Education Office is an outstanding resource that has assisted in the running of school-based elections for student representatives. The staff have been flexible, open and highly knowledgeable in their field.

### **The school age at which electoral education should begin**

- As a secondary school students are introduced to civics as the first unit in Year 7 SOSE.
- Students are arriving with little functional knowledge of the public institutions of the legal system
- With the constant media presence and the awareness of students of key political figures, this seems amiss

### **The access to, and adequacy of funding for, school visits to the federal parliament**

- In recent years the College has organised a VCE Legal Studies and Australian History excursion to Canberra. This has discontinued due to the impact on students' time at the VCE level. It was a highly successful experience and access to the key sites of Canberra was never a problem.
- The school did not qualify for travel funding because we were regarded as too close. This seemed an arbitrary decision, as it required a full day on the bus to reach Canberra from Ballarat.