

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
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Re- Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Education

Focus Points

- the school age at which electoral education should begin

In Year 9 of Middle Schooling in Western Australia many students study aspects of government and law for a 10 week period. In the area of Government aspects of levels of government and the electoral process have a high priority. This will continue to occur in the future. Some students have no idea of the process, yet others are very aware of the processes. I know that many primary school teachers stress these points in Year 6 and 7 (students aged 11 and 12)

Perhaps aspects of the electoral system could be taught in all primary years. Students in Senior School (Years 11 and 12) if they are studying the specific subject of Politics and Law will study the electoral system in detail. If they do not study this course- they only have what they were taught in the Middle School.

- The access to and adequacy of funding for, school visits to the Federal Parliament

The funding given to Western Australian students visiting our national capital is inadequate. The high cost of air travel is a large component of the cost. It has been easy to access the funding via the Sergeant at Arms office at Parliament House. The students have always enjoyed the activities presented by the PEO at Parliament House, Canberra. The conditions on receiving the funding eg a tour of both houses and a PEO activity are not strenuous and the students have always enjoyed these activities. I hope that these conditions are not changed and that the present conditions are continued

Norman Paini
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