

SUBMISSION NO. 113

Mr. Don Perna
The Parliamentary Club

Mr Peter Lindsay MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee
Civics and Electoral Matters

Mr. Lindsay,

Thank you for the opportunity to inform the committee on the Civics Education initiative, 'The Parliamentary Club'.

Due to the technical difficulties experienced in our allotted time I would like to submit some important additional information and reiterate on several key points.

My research and experience attained during the last two years in implementing this initiative has allowed me to draw some conclusions.

1. The Parliamentary Club will be able to fill the void in civics education, and be able to engage Australian secondary school students on the largest scale since civics education began.
2. It will change the perception surrounding civics and citizenship, that it is uninteresting and irrelevant to their lives.
3. It can be implemented without affecting the existing curricula in each of the states and territories in this country. In fact it will perfectly marry the theory based curriculum content with the highly practical nature of The Parliamentary Club.
4. The cost for each school to initiate the project is very minimal. Schools can use existing resources to successfully implement and maintain the program.
5. It is based on educationally sound concepts, which enhance the learning experience for each individual student and school group.
6. It will easily lend itself to future civics activities such as regional, state and national CHOGM style events further increasing awareness of the importance of active citizenship.

I urge the committee to strongly recommend to the federal government that The Parliamentary Club be promoted on a national scale, and that I be placed in an integral role in this implementation to maintain its integrity and ensure its success.

My 21 years as an educator, a National Award for Quality Schooling in School Leadership, and the last two years planning, collecting data and successfully instigating this initiative reflects my capacity to deliver the outcome for which the committee is searching. I am currently leading a pilot program in collaboration with the Constitution Education Fund – Australia, across four regions in NSW.

I firmly believe that The Parliamentary Club can become global best practise. If you cannot take all young Australians to parliament, let's bring parliament to all young Australians.

Yours sincerely

Don Perna

Creator Designer - The Parliamentary Club ©