



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK
MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by **MR CAIN** on 10 March 2021:

Ref: OLA Annual Report 2019-20, ACT Legislative Assembly Education Office

In relation to:

1. What education programs are offered by the Education Office?
2. Are any delivered in schools or workplaces other than the Legislative Assembly?
3. How are such programs promoted?
4. What subject matters are covered?
5. What assessment is done on the value of these courses?

MADAM SPEAKER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Assembly's education and engagement program aims to promote an understanding and appreciation of the role and significance of the Legislative Assembly to ACT citizens and visitors. Programs are offered to all ACT citizens, community groups, school, vocational education and university students, public servants, and parliamentary and governmental delegations. Specific programs are also conducted annually for ACT students, teachers, public servants, and the community. All programs, except for public sector seminars, are free-of-charge.
 - a) Public tours are offered at 1pm every Wednesday. Anyone can attend, though large groups need to book. The tour concludes in the chamber on sitting days so visitors can stay to view question time if they wish.
 - b) General programs—groups can select from a range of program options from the following to develop a visit program that suits the requirements of the group:
 - i. Chamber role play—passage of legislation, school parliament, or matter of public importance;
 - ii. Committee role play—explores the Assembly's committee inquiry;
 - iii. Mock Hare-Clark election (run by Elections ACT) as part of a broader program being conducted at the Assembly;
 - iv. Member Q&A—member panels to answer questions from visiting groups;
 - v. Question time—visit on a sitting day to view question time and learn more about how the parliament operates; and
 - vi. Other programs, for example art tours, are conducted by request.

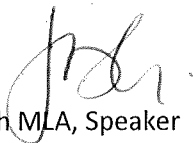
- c) Event-based programs—run annually with specific target audiences:
- i. Interschool Parliamentary Debates—For school students from years 7-12, five days are run each year;
 - ii. ACT Schools Constitutional Convention—a two-day program for year 11 students;
 - iii. ACT Democracy Head On—ACT Teacher Quality Institute-accredited professional development program for local teachers, run four times each year.
 - iv. Know your Assembly—a full day introductory community seminar for ACT citizens, held on sitting days twice each year; and
 - v. Public Sector Seminars—Seminar series for public sector, OLA, and parliamentary staff. Split over two sessions: Introduction to the Assembly and Work of the Assembly. Both are run twice each year.

We also exhibit at community events, including the ACT Seniors Week Expo, SouthFest, and the National Multicultural Festival, as part of our wider outreach efforts. These aim to promote the Assembly and its work to parts of the community who might not normally interact with the parliament.

2. Yes, outreach programs can be delivered offsite by request. Usually these will be requested by schools and community groups who are unable to attend a program onsite. Outreach programs are dependent on the selected program, staffing commitments, and available resources. Not all programs are available to be delivered for offsite visits.
3. All program information, contact details, and booking forms are available through the Assembly website. At the start of each calendar year, we send a letter from the Speaker accompanied by our education program brochure inviting schools to visit the Assembly to every principal, HASS and Legal Studies co-ordinator in both public and private ACT schools. Social media is used to promote specific programs, such as the *Know Your Assembly* community seminar and *ACT Democracy Head On* teacher development workshop. We maintain a teacher contact list, which we use to promote specific school programs such as the Interschool Parliamentary Debates and the ACT Schools' Constitutional Convention. The Speaker has also, on occasion, been invited for interviews about our programs on local radio (ABC).
4. Subject matters covered is broad and entirely dependent on the visiting group and the program they have chosen to undertake. General information on the role and function of the Assembly and its members is always covered. All school programs are aligned with the Australian and ACT Board of Senior Studies curriculum for the particular year group that is visiting.
5. Program participants are always invited to provide feedback at the conclusion of programs through an evaluation form. We actively use this feedback to improve our programs for future visits.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



By Joy Burch, MLA, Speaker

Date:

