

# 31<sup>st</sup> National Schools Constitutional Convention

Tuesday 24 - Thursday 26 March 2026

## The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD)

### Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT

**Topic: Should Section 53 of the Constitution be amended to prevent the Senate from blocking supply (rejecting money bills)?**



*This project is supported by funding from the Commonwealth Department of Education. National Curriculum Services Pty Ltd organises & manages the event on behalf of the Australian Government. The views expressed at the 2026 National Schools Constitutional Convention do not necessarily represent the view of the Commonwealth Department of Education.*

As of 29-Mar-26

# 31st National Schools Constitutional Convention

## Program – SITTING WEEK

DAY 0 - Monday 23 March 2026	
Afternoon	Arrival of NCS Staff
Evening	Arrival of QLD, WA and NT delegates
8:00pm – 9:00pm (1hr)	DINNER at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room)
From 9:30pm	Accommodation at Pavilion Northbourne Hotel
DAY 1 - Tuesday 24 March 2026	
From 6:30am	BREAKFAST at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room) QLD, WA and NT delegates
From 8:45am	Delegates arrive Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel in batches
9:30am	Bus departs for National Archives of Australia (NT, QLD, SA & WA)
9:45am – 11:15am (1.5hr)	<b>Visit and Tour at National Archives of Australia</b> (Tour starts 10:15am)
11:20am	Bus departs for Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (NAA group)
From 10:30am	LUNCH - Collect & eat boxed lunch from Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room or take on coach)
11:35am	Bus departs for Parliament House
11:50am – 3:15pm (3hrs25mins)	<b>Parliament House Visit &amp; Tour</b>  <b>Welcome and Address</b> by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Hon Milton Dick MP  <b>Attend House of Representatives Question Time</b>
4:15pm – 5:30pm (1 hr30mins) <i>Main Committee Room, Parliament House</i>	<b>Prime Minister’s Welcome Reception</b> hosted by The Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education - <i>Official opening of NSCC 2026 &amp; Presentation of Certificates to student representatives</i>  <b>Meet Your Politician Session</b> (include refreshments)
5:30pm – 6:00pm (30mins)	Bus departs for Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel via Consulate Route
6:00pm – 6:30pm (15mins)	Check-in, drop bags in rooms
6:30pm – 7:30pm (1hr)	DINNER served at <i>Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room)
7:30pm – 8:00pm (30mins)	Ice Breaking Activities Briefing of Students and Supervisors   Introduction to Working Groups
8:00pm	Accommodation at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel <i>[Supervisors Briefing Session]</i>

**DAY 2 – Wednesday 25 March 2026**

6:30am – 7:30am (1 hr)	BREAKFAST at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (Conference Room)
7:45am	<i>Bus departs for Old Parliament House</i>
8:00am – 8:30am (30 mins)	Photography session at Front Steps of Old Parliament House
8:30am – 8:45am (15 mins)	<i>Moving time, bag drop</i>
9:00am – 9:15am (15 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Facilitator Introduction</b> – Geoffrey O’Neill <b>NSCC Welcome</b> – Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide <b>Welcome to Country</b> – Richie Allan, Ngunnawal and Kamilaroi Custodian and Cultural Director of Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC)
9:15am – 9:30am (15 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Heritage Message</b> by Georgie Bryant, Museum of Australian Democracy
9:30am – 9:35am (5 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Address from Attorney-General of Australia (Video)</b> The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
9:35am – 9:40am (5 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Setting the Scene – Topic introduction, referendum question, rules of engagement</b> – Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
9:40am – 10:25am (45 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Keynote 1 - Federation, Democracy and Tradition: The Fraught Compromise of Section 53 of the Constitution</b> Professor Gabrielle Appleby, University of New South Wales
10:25am – 10:35am (10 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<i>Move to Member’s Dining Room</i>
10:35am – 11:20am (45 mins)	MORNING TEA
11:20am – 12:05pm (45 mins) <i>Members Dining Room MoAD</i>	<b>Keynote 2 - Blocking Supply: The Whitlam Dismissal Revisited</b> Professor Emerita Anne Twomey, University of Sydney
12:05pm – 12:10pm (5 mins)	<i>Move to breakout rooms</i>
12:10pm – 12:50pm (40 mins) <i>Breakout rooms, MoAD</i>	<b>Working Groups Session 1</b> <i>[Supervisors Session with National Capital Educational Tourism Project (NCETP)]</i>
12:50pm – 12:55pm (5 mins)	<i>Move back to Member’s Dining Room</i>
12:55pm – 1:30pm (35 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Working Groups Session 1 - Report Back</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
1:30pm – 2:30pm (60 mins)	LUNCH
2:30pm – 3:15pm (45 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Keynote 3 - Political Perspectives on the Use of Section 53</b> Former Senator Nick Minchin AO, Former Minister for Finance and Administration & Former Director of the Liberal Party of Australia (SA) Former Senator John Faulkner, Former Minister for Defence & Former President of the Australian Labor Party
3:15pm – 3:20pm (5 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<i>Short Break</i>
3:20pm – 4:05pm (45 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Soapbox Session 1</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
4:05pm – 4:20pm (15 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Recap &amp; Wrap-Up Day 1</b>
4:20pm – 4:30pm (10 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	Pack up & short break
4:30pm	<i>Bus departs for Government House</i>
5:00pm – 6:15pm (1 hr 15 mins)	<b>Official Reception at Government House</b> Hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia
6:15pm	<i>Bus departs for National Press Club</i>

6:30pm – 9:30pm (3 hrs)	<b>OFFICIAL DINNER – National Press Club of Australia</b> Guest Speakers: Amber Brock-Fabel, Founding Director of the South Australian Youth Forum Tom McIlroy, Political Editor at Guardian Australia
9:30pm	<i>Bus departs for Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel</i>
9:45pm	Accommodation at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel

### DAY 3 – Thursday 26 March 2026

6:30am – 7:30am (1 hr)	BREAKFAST at Pavilion on Northbourne Hotel (Conference Room)
8:00am	<i>Bus departs for The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House</i>
8:30am - 8:40am (10 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Welcome back and recap</b> - Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
8:40am – 9:20am (40 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Keynote 4 - Arguments For and Against a Change: Drawing the Threads Together</b> Professor Alan Fenna, Curtin University, Western Australia
9:20am – 9:25am (5 mins)	<i>Move to breakout rooms</i>
9:25am – 10:05am (40 mins) <i>Breakout rooms, MoAD</i>	<b>Working Groups Session 2</b> <i>[Supervisors Session with Parliamentary Education Office (PEO)]</i>
10:05am – 10:10am (5 mins)	<i>Move back to Member’s Dining Room</i>
10:10am – 10:40am (30 mins)	MORNING TEA
10:40am – 11:15am (35 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Working Groups Session 2 - Report Back</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
11:15am – 11:50am (35 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Soapbox session 2</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
11:50am – 12:10pm (20 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Introduction of the referendum and the referenda process</b> Lisa Wyllie, Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
12:10pm – 12:20pm (10 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Vote</b> - Australian Electoral Commission
12:20pm – 1:10pm (50 mins)	LUNCH
1:10pm – 1:25pm (15 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Results of Referendum</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
1:25pm – 1:40pm (15 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Confirming of draft Communique with students incorporating referendum results</b> Led by Facilitator - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide
1:40pm – 1:45pm (5 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<i>Short Break</i>
1:45pm – 2:30pm (45 mins)	<b>Tour of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House</b>
2:30pm – 2:50pm (20 mins) <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i>	<b>Student Reflections &amp; NSCC Evaluations</b> <b>Students Pack Up</b>
2:50pm – 3:00pm (10 mins)	<i>Move to House of Representatives Chamber</i>
3:00pm – 3:15pm (15 mins) <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i>	<b>Parliamentary arrangements for the House of Representatives</b> - Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide

<p>3:15pm – 3:45pm (30 mins)  <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i></p>	<p><b>Acceptance of communiqué, Address delegates</b>  The Hon. Sue Lines, President of the Senate</p>
<p>3:45pm – 3:50pm (5 mins)  <i>House of Rep Chamber, MoAD</i></p>	<p><b>Convention Close, Thank you and Farewell</b>  Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre, University of Adelaide</p>
<p>3:50pm – 4:00pm (10 mins)  <i>Members Dining Room, MoAD</i></p>	<p><i>Move back to Member’s Dining Room</i>  <i>Pick up afternoon tea, Take bags, board buses</i></p>
<p>4:00pm</p>	<p>Convention Close &amp; Departure</p>