

Convention Program

26TH NATIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Should the Constitution have a new preamble that would recognise our history, our aspirations and the many peoples and groups that make up our nation?

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

Wednesday 24 March 2021

11:00am – 11:20am	Welcome – Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, Australian National University (ANU) Welcome to Country – Tina Brown, Ngunnawal Elder Official opening - Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth Welcome to MoAD – Daryl Karp, AM, Director of Museum of Australian Democracy
11:20am – 12 Noon	Opening keynote – inclusive of 10 minutes questions What is a preamble? Context and background – Dr Andrew Banfield, School of Politics & International Relations, Australian National University
12 Noon – 12:30pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK – LUNCH
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Consideration of selected preambles from other countries and discussion of ideas that might be suitable for inclusion in a new Australian Preamble Working Group 1
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Approaches to writing a preamble to the Australian Constitution Dr Benjamin Jones, Lecturer – History, Central Queensland University
1:30pm – 2:15pm	How can a new preamble recognise our history, our aspirations and the many peoples and groups that make up our nation? Eddie Synot, University of New South Wales Dr Kirk Zwangobani, Chair and Community Member, Australian Capital Territory Multicultural Advisory Council Questions for presenters.
2:15pm – 2:45pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK – AFTERNOON TEA
2:45pm – 3:30pm	Assessment of the issues for possible inclusion in a preamble and group preamble suggestion Working Group 2
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Report back from Working Group 2 on group preamble
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Soapbox
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Address from Governor General His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley
5:00pm	CLOSE

11:00am – 12:15pm	Development of a possible preamble for the Australian Constitution Facilitated by – Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, ANU Dr Benjamin Jones, Lecturer - History, Central Queensland University
12:15pm – 12:45pm	Soapbox session – a chance for those to express views on the topic which they feel have been given enough consideration.
12:45pm – 1:15pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK – LUNCH
1:15pm – 1:45pm	Finalising the draft proposal for a preamble for the Australian Constitution Facilitated by – Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, ANU
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Introducing referenda – Sally Cornish, Electoral Educator, Australian Electoral Commission
2:15pm – 2:30pm	Voting
2:30pm – 3:15pm	REFRESHMENT BREAK – AFTERNOON TEA
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Reporting the vote and finalising the Communiqué Facilitated by – Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, ANU
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Presentation of Communiqué to President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Victoria
4:00pm	CLOSE

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The views expressed at the 2021 National Schools Constitutional Convention do not necessarily represent the view of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.