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**Program**

**Victorian Students’ Parliamentary Program**

**Primary Schools’ Parliamentary Convention**

Tuesday 24 June 2025

Parliament of Victoria

***Should voting be compulsory in Australia?***

**The Victorian Students’ Parliamentary Program
is supported by the Victorian Government**

 **Program**

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| **8:40am – 9:30am**(45 minutes) | Clear Security and Registration |
| **9:30am-9:40am**(10 minutes)*Legislative Assembly Chamber*  | **Welcome by Facilitator (Acting as the Speaker)** – Sandra Venneri**Welcome to Country** – Wurundjeri Elder **TBC** |
| **9:40am-9:45am**(5 minutes)*Legislative Assembly Chamber*  | **Official Opening** – Ms Nina Taylor MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Education |
| **9:45am-10:55am**(1 hour 15 minutes)*Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Introduction on Standing Orders**- Rules & procedures of Parliament- Explanation of what parts of the VSPP Convention will model after Parliamentary processes**Introduces the bill for the first reading**- Students to do pre-vote on the topic - Done via ‘On the voices’ – all those in favour “aye”; all those against “no”**Opening Statements (Second reading debates)***Each school will provide an opening statement for under 2 minutes****Order of School Representatives*****TBC****Explanation of Committee Process** |
| **10:55am-11:25am**(30 minutes)Queen’s Hall | Morning Tea (provided) |
| **11:25am-12:10pm**(45 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **KEYNOTE 1** Ms Dana Fleming, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Victorian Electoral Commission |
| **12:10pm-12:15pm**(5 minutes) | **Brain Break** |
| **12:15pm-1:00pm**(45 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **KEYNOTE 2**Dr Zareh Ghazarian, Senior Lecturer, Politics & International Relations, Monash University |
| **1:00pm-1:40pm**(40 minutes)Queen’s Hall | Lunch (provided) |
| **1:40pm-2:10pm**(30 minutes)Queen’s Hall | **Student Discussion Groups** (**Committee deliberation) – Total of 10 Groups***Instructions provided in Queen’s Hall* |
| **2:10pm-2:40pm**(30 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **Report Back Session – Total of 10 Groups***Groups report back with 2-3 minutes per discussion group* |
| **2:40pm-3:10pm**(30 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **Soapbox (Continuation of second reading debate)**Rule:- Only stand up when called upon / signalled by the Speaker- No need to touch the microphone – Just stand up and speak into the microphone- Each student called will have 2 minutes to speak. The Speaker may stop the student speaking if it goes over time. |
| **3:10pm-3:20pm**(10 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **Explanation of voting procedure and how it models Parliament (Third reading)****The Vote**: *Should voting be compulsory in Australia?** Division done by “In your place” method – The Speaker conducts the division by asking all members of parliament voting in the affirmative “Ayes” – to stand up when called, and vice versa. This allows the vote to be counted accurately and the names of those voting to be recorded.
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| **3:20pm-3:30pm**(10 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **Official Closing** address by Ms Jess Wilson MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Growth |
| **3:30pm-3:40pm**(10 minutes)Legislative Assembly Chamber | **Thank you** and **Evaluation** |