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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. |
| **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** |