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**Program**

**Victorian Students’ Parliamentary Program**

**Teachers’ Parliamentary Convention**

Tuesday 21 October 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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| **8:45am – 9:15am** (30 minutes) | **Attendees Registration** |
| **Opening** | |
| **9:15am – 9:30am**  (15 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Welcome by Facilitator** – Russell Ives **Welcome to Country** – Tony Garvey, Wurundjeri Elder |
| **9:30am – 9:35am**  (5 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Official Opening** – Ms Nina Taylor MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Education |
| **PART 1 – WHAT ARE WE DOING & WHY?** | |
| **9:35am – 9:50am**  (15 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **What are we doing and why?**  *By Facilitator*   1. What are the key components of a Parliamentary Convention? 2. What is the purpose of each component? 3. What does a good classroom/school convention model look like? 4. What are the real-life links to modern Australian politics, parliamentary and political processes? |
| **9:50am – 10:20am**  (30 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Links to curriculum and curriculum updates**  Dr Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Curriculum Manager, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)   1. Briefing on F-10 and relevant VCE and Australian curriculum and where the links exist to Conventions and how to draw these out and strengthen them 2. Curriculum updates |
| **10:20am – 10:45am**  (25 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Morning Tea and Networking** |
| **PART 2 – MOCK CONVENTION**  ***Topic: Should voting be compulsory in Australia?***  ***Led by Speaker: Sandra Venneri*** | |
| **10:45am – 10:50am**  (5 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Introduction of the Mock Convention**   * Key elements, what happens in Parliament |
| **10:50am – 11:00am**  (10 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Opening statements**   * Selected Opening Statements 2 mins each from 5 representatives |
| **11:00am – 11:30am**  (30 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Keynote 1 with Q&A** Michael Fiddian, Education and Youth Program Coordinator, Victorian Electoral Commission |
| **11:30am – 12:00pm**  (30 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Keynote 2 with Q&A**  Dr Zareh Ghazarian, Senior Lecturer, Politics & International Relations, Monash University |
| **12:00pm – 12:10pm**  (10 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Next Steps in a Student Parliament Convention:**   * Discussion Groups * Group Reporting Back * Soap Box * The Vote |
| **12:10pm – 12:30pm**  (20 minutes)  *Legislative Assembly Chamber* | **Running your own Convention in a School Setting**  Mr Sam Kotsopoulos, the Humanities KLA Leader - Lalor Secondary College |
| **12:30pm – 1:00pm**  (30 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Lunch and Networking** |
| **PART 3 – CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP - Pedagogy, classroom strategies and high-quality teaching and learning resources** | |
| **1:00pm – 1:30pm**  (30 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Victorian Electoral Commission - High-quality teaching and learning resources for your Civics and Citizenship classroom**  Michael Fiddian, Education and Youth Program Coordinator, Victorian Electoral Commission |
| **1:30pm – 2:00pm**  (30 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Contemporary challenges and opportunities in Civics and Citizenship education**  Dr Zareh Ghazarian, Senior Lecturer, Politics & International Relations, Monash University |
| **2:00pm – 2:50pm**  (50 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Supporting Contemporary Issues in the Civics and Citizenship classroom**  Laura Newman, Executive Officer, Social Education Victoria (SEV) |
| **2:50pm – 3:10pm**  (20 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Disciplinary knowledge and pedagogies that work**   * Open floor discussion   + Successes and Shortcomings at your school   + Challenges arising in practice   + Strategies to address these |
| **3:10pm – 3:20pm**  (10 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | **Official Closing** address by Ms Jess Wilson MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Growth |
| **3:20pm – 3:30pm**  (10 minutes)  *Queen’s Hall* | *By Facilitator*   * Recap of the day * List of resources * Evaluation * Thank you and closing |
| **3:30pm** | **Close** |

If you have any questions or comments please contact Candy Chan, National Curriculum Services on (03) 9415 1299 or [candy.chan@ncsonline.com.au](mailto:candy.chan@ncsonline.com.au).