

# Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program

## Information for Schools

December 2017

Supported by:



## Background

The Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program aims to provide opportunities that support the civic learning and active participation in democratic processes of all Victorian students through local, state and national parliamentary programs and in school activities, and to support the professional learning of civics and citizenship education.

National Curriculum Services Pty Ltd (NCS) has been contracted by the Victorian Department of Education and Training to assist with the delivery of the Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program.

The four specific elements NCS will be involved in are as follow –

### 1. Local Constitutional Convention Program (LCCP)

- Recruit secondary schools (at least six) across all regions and sectors
- Support schools that are hosting a Convention to plan their Convention program
- Promote the Conventions to neighbouring schools
- Provide support material to host schools where required
- Administer grants to schools (\$1,000 per host school)
- Attend all Conventions to report proceedings and outcomes.

### 2. Primary Schools' Parliamentary Convention (PSPC)

- Promote the Convention to all Victorian Schools
- Administer student and teacher/parent application process
- Propose Convention topic for Steering Committee approval
- Develop Convention Program
- Develop and distribute pre-convention reading
- Coordinate the event program, speakers, catering
- Develop a teacher program for the Convention.

### 3. Secondary Schools' Parliamentary Convention (SSPC)

- Promote the Convention to all Victorian Schools
- Administer student and teacher/parent application process
- Propose Convention topic for Steering Committee approval
- Develop Convention Program
- Develop and distribute pre-convention reading
- Coordinate the event program, speakers, catering
- Develop a teacher program for the Convention.

#### 4. Victorian involvement in National Schools' Constitutional Convention (NSCC)

- Coordinate students and chaperone applications
- Notify all students and chaperones of their selection and duties
- Supervise departure from Melbourne Airport

A Steering Committee made up of Department of Education and Training, Parliament of Victoria, Independent Schools Victoria and Catholic Education Office Melbourne, will oversee all of the above work.

#### The purpose of this information

This information is designed to assist schools in developing their local Convention program and understand the other elements of the Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program. We hope you find it useful.

#### Key Dates

Local Conventions	May and June 2018
Primary School Convention	Wednesday 15 August 2018
Secondary School Convention	Wednesday 12 September 2018
National Schools Constitutional Convention	TBC

#### Local Constitutional Conventions (LCCP)

Local Constitutional Conventions provide Years 9 – 12 students with the opportunity to discuss contemporary social and legal issues, and especially those relating to the Australian Constitution.

Many issues that are discussed at the Convention will relate to the Victorian Curriculum within the Civics and Citizenship or Legal Studies Curriculum.

The Conventions are open to all senior secondary students from government and non-government schools. Local Conventions will generally have around 150 students attending.

The Conventions are hosted by schools across Victoria who invite other local schools from all sectors to attend.

#### Who can become a host school for a local Convention?

Any schools are eligible to complete an *Expression of Interest* to become a host school.

This *Expression of Interest* must indicate a proposed date, topic and the schools you will invite to the Convention.

Host schools receive a \$1,000 grant to conduct the local Conventions.

A copy of a previous program can be accessed at <http://www.ncsonline.com.au/projects/victorian-students-parliamentary-program> but generally the process for hosting a local convention is as follows:

- Topic selected
- Pre-reading developed to stimulate student thinking and enhance knowledge.
- Key speakers invited to provide presentation on the selected topic.
- Discussion groups established for students to discuss the topic, perhaps around key questions.
- Report back session from groups.
- Students vote on the issue.
- Host schools complete their evaluations and NCS compiles a report on the day's outcomes.

NCS will assist schools in developing their program and promote the Convention to neighbouring schools.

### **Primary Schools' Parliamentary Convention (PSPC)**

The Primary Schools' Parliamentary Convention will be held on Wednesday 15 August 2018. The topic is 'Should a sugar tax be introduced to improve public health?'

Schools will be able to nominate a minimum of two students and maximum of four, Years 5 and 6 students to attend.

A Principal/teacher or carer needs to attend with each student group.

The Convention is held at Parliament House Melbourne.

All transport must be arranged by the school and the school must ensure that students are present for the entire program.

Further information will be available late February 2018 and can be accessed at <http://www.ncsonline.com.au/projects/victorian-students-parliamentary-program-primary-school-convention>

### **Secondary Schools' Parliamentary Convention (SSPC)**

The Secondary Schools' Parliamentary Convention will be held on Wednesday 12 September 2018. The topic is 'Does the Constitution meet the needs of modern Australia?'

Further information relating to the SSPC will be available in July 2018 at <http://www.ncsonline.com.au/projects/victorian-students-parliamentary-program>

Students who have attended a local Convention or a Civics and Citizenship leadership program can apply to attend the state Convention.

## **National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC) 2019**

The National Convention is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Details of the 2019 Convention will be available in late 2018.

The NSCC is usually run in March of each year. Students must be in Years 10 or 11 in the year they attend the Secondary Convention.

Further information about the NSCC will be provided to all students at the State Convention.

Applications closing date is to be confirmed.

The written application will be similar to that submitted for attendance at the state Convention.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss the contents of the attached, please call NCS on 03 9415 1299 or email [christine.reid@ncsonline.com.au](mailto:christine.reid@ncsonline.com.au)