

MEDIA RELEASE DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 | [DOWNLOAD THE HIGH-DEF IMAGE PACK](#)

CORRIMAL STUDENTS DISCOVER DEMOCRACY AT PARLIAMENT OF NSW

Students from St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School travelled into the Sydney CBD last week to experience Australia's First Parliament: The Parliament of NSW.

Young minds from St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School in Corrimal explored the heart of Australian democracy at NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street.

The Year 5 students had their Stage 3 'Australia as a Nation' curriculum topic brought to life through this dynamic learning experience. They explored the chambers and participated in a role play, sitting in the very seats used by members of Parliament during debates and decision-making.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, welcomed the students and shared his excitement about their visit.

"The students' curiosity highlights the importance of teaching democracy from an early age.

"It was inspiring to see these young students interacting with our parliament and experiencing democracy in action," Mr. Piper said.

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, stressed the inclusivity of the Parliament's education programs, which ensure that students from all locations can participate in civics education.

"We are committed to helping students from every corner of NSW understand and engage with our parliament.

"We aim for young people and future leaders across NSW to learn how our parliament operates and how it differs from the Federal Parliament in Canberra," Mr. Franklin said.

Maria Disibio, Acting Principal at St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School, expressed her excitement for the students to learn about civic engagement in their home state.

"The chance to visit NSW Parliament House offers our students a unique and invaluable perspective on the workings of the Legislature and the significance of active community participation in our democracy," Ms. Disibio said.

Interactive programs and learning resources are available online for students in regional areas across NSW in addition to the many programs and events at NSW Parliament House in Sydney. In 2025, we're offering travel subsidies to help schools from regional, remote and rural areas.

The unique programs available to schools include:

- Guided tours
- Legal studies workshops
- Interactive online programs
- A short film competition; and
- Leadership events including a Secondary Student Leadership Program, Young Women's Seminar and the Constitutional Convention.

Visit the [Parliament of NSW Education website](#) to find out more.

