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VINCENTIA STUDENTS DISCOVER **DEMOCRACY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF NSW**

Students from Vincentia High School completed an almost 400km round trip to experience Australia's first parliament: The Parliament of NSW.

Year 10 Commerce students from Vincentia High School visited NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street to take a deep dive into democracy.

The students immersed themselves in the real-world applications of their studies exploring the Parliamentary chambers where key debates and decisions occur and learnt about the complexities of lawmaking and the legal system.

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, said it was inspiring to see the next generation engaging directly with the workings of the parliament and seeing it first-hand.

"It was truly inspiring to hear about the Vincentia students' curiosity about how the Parliament works.

"Their enthusiasm highlights the importance of nurturing a deep understanding of democracy from an early age," Mr Franklin said.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, highlighted the inclusivity of the education programs offered by the parliament that give all students the opportunity, regardless of their location, to get involved in civics education.

"We are committed to making sure that students from every part of NSW can connect with their state Parliament.

"We want young people and future leaders across NSW to learn about laws are made in our parliament and how it differs from the Federal Parliament in Canberra," Mr Piper said.

Vincentia High School Head Teacher of HSIE and LOTE and Deputy Principal, Micheal Matuschka shared the students had a wonderful time on their visit.

"Our Year 10 Commerce students had a fantastic time exploring NSW Parliament House, enhancing their understanding of citizenship and democracy. The visit was both educational and enjoyable, providing them with valuable insights into the workings of the Parliament in NSW," Mr Matuschka said.

Interactive programs and learning resources are available online for students in regional areas across NSW in addition to the many programs and events held 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.

