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# HERITAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS DISCOVER DEMOCRACY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF NSW

## Students from Heritage College complete an almost 300km round trip to experience Australia's first parliament: The Parliament of NSW.

Legal Studies students from Heritage College in Lake Macquarie visited NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street last week.

The students immersed themselves in the real-world applications of their studies from *Part 1: The Legal System* and *Part II: The individual and the law* of the Legal Studies Syllabus. They explored the chambers where key debates and decisions occur and learnt about the complexities of lawmaking and the legal system.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, was thrilled to welcome the students who hail from his Lake Macquarie Electorate and highlighted the inclusivity of the Parliament's education programs, offering all students the opportunity to get involved in civics education regardless of their location.

"It was exciting that the students from Heritage College had the opportunity to visit parliament and be absorbed in the process of democracy," Mr Piper said.

"It's important that students from all electorates in NSW have the chance to experience our democratic processes firsthand."

"By engaging with Parliament, they gain a deeper understanding of how their young voices can shape our society and the vital role they play in our democracy."

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, expressed his admiration for the active engagement of young people with the workings of parliament, as they watched on during question time, experiencing the working chambers. The students are now able to apply their experience at parliament directly to their legal studies.

"The insightful and probing questions raised by the students served as a powerful reminder of why it is essential to cultivate a deep and lasting understanding of democracy from an early age," Mr Franklin said.

"These students represent the future leadership of New South Wales, and it is their curiosity, critical thinking and passion that will shape the state's future."

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 are offering travel subsidies to help schools from regional, remote and rural areas.

The unique programs available to schools in 2025 at the Parliament of NSW include:

- Guided tours
- Legal studies workshops
- Interactive online programs
- A short film competition – Parli – Flicks; and
- Leadership events including a Secondary Student Leadership Program, Young Women's Seminar and the Constitutional Convention
- Coming soon – Aboriginal Studies and High School History programs.

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

