



*Parliament House,
Hobart*

Office of Education Registrar
Level 2, 45 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

February 2020

Dear Home Education Families,

The House of Assembly would like to invite you to visit Parliament House in Hobart. The Parliament of Tasmania offers students a range of learning opportunities to support their Civics and Citizenship Education across different age groups, particularly Years 5 to 10. **All excursions to Parliament House are free of charge but bookings are essential.**

There are four options for education groups when visiting Parliament House:

OPTION 1: See Parliament in Action

Available only when Parliament is sitting

On sitting days, education groups can watch the House of Assembly from the Public Gallery. This allows students to see the Members at work in the Chamber. The House of Assembly sits from 10am. This would be the recommended time for groups to visit as the session begins with the Speaker's Procession, Prayers and Question Time. Generally, Bills are debated later in the morning and into the afternoon and/or evening. Whilst the duration of Question Time is approximately one hour, the length of stay is at the discretion of the supervising parents. As a guide, about 30 minutes is a suitable stay for primary students and between 30 minutes to one hour for secondary students.

OPTION 2: Take a Guided Tour

Available only when Parliament is not sitting

Education groups can take a guided tour of Parliament House. The tour encompasses some of the history of the building and parliamentary practices. Tours are available on non-sitting days only and commence at 10am and 2pm. Please allow 90 minutes for a tour.

OPTION 3: Engage in a role-play in the House of Assembly Chamber

Available only when Parliament is not sitting

Education groups may participate in a role-play in the House of Assembly Chamber. During this hands-on programme, the students are cast either as a Member of Parliament or as an Officer of the Parliament (e.g. Speaker, Premier, Leader of the Opposition and Clerk) to debate and vote on a fictional Bill, replicating the passage of a Bill through the House of Assembly. Please allow 75 minutes for a role-play.

OPTION 4: Take a Guided Tour and participate in a role-play in the House of Assembly Chamber.

Available only when Parliament is not sitting

Education groups can take a guided tour of Parliament House and participate in a House of Assembly role-play. The tour encompasses some of the history of the building and parliamentary practices. The scripted role-play introduces the students to the process of passing Bills through the House of Assembly. Please allow two hours for a tour and role-play. This option is available on non-sitting days at 10am or 2pm.

Families may visit Parliament House as single entities or opt to make a group booking for the role-play programmes. As many home education families have to travel long distances to arrive at Parliament House, there is some flexibility around start times for tours and role-plays.

It is also important to note that visits for education groups are configured around the Parliament's sitting days. Therefore, it is advisable for parents to check the sitting schedule prior to booking. The sitting schedule is available on the Parliament of Tasmania's website (www.parliament.tas.gov.au) and a link titled 'Sitting Schedules: Combined House and Council' on the main page opens the 2020 sitting schedule or by phoning Parliament House on 6212 2200.

If you require any further information about age appropriate experiences or would like to book a visit to Parliament House, please contact the House of Assembly Education Officer via email at tours@parliament.tas.gov.au or phone 6212 2200.

Yours Sincerely,



Kimbra McCormack
Principal Parliamentary Educator
House of Assembly Education Office
Parliament of Tasmania