

Objective 4: Improving Awareness of the Parliament

To safeguard, promote and strengthen the important institution of Parliament.

Overview

To achieve this objective, Parliamentary Service resources have been allocated to the following activities:

- » delivering education and awareness programs about the Parliament
- » raising youth awareness of the importance of the institution of Parliament by linking parliamentary education programs with the national curriculum for civics education
- » maintaining and improving the regional outreach awareness programs over the term of each Parliament and continuing to refine and improve their effectiveness
- » improving the monitoring of the Parliament's online presence and website content with a view to increasing electronic access to parliamentary information.

These resources and services are primarily delivered through the following Service Areas:

- » Chamber and Education Services
- » Committee Office
- » Communication and Marketing Services
- » Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service (Hansard)
- » Information Technology Services.

The key performance indicators for Objective 4 relate to the extent to which the quantity, quality, timeliness and cost of specified services provided by each of the relevant service areas meet the agreed standards and targets. The methods of measurement include client surveys, benchmarking, internal self-assessment through information management systems and external assessment through audit reports.

Key performance indicators for Objective 4 are set out in the Appendix.



1,055 Youth Parliament participants across Queensland

5,574

participants in education and liaison programs

123

educational programs conducted



974 public service employees attended training seminars

Education activities

Throughout the year, the Parliament provides free educational training programs aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the processes of Parliament and Government in Queensland.

The Parliamentary Education team delivered over 120 different programs across the state in 2023–24.

These programs included:

- school group activities
- public service training seminars
- virtual teacher professional development sessions
- virtual programs for students in civics
- Youth Parliaments.

The Youth Parliament programs are particularly engaging events for students. The programs incorporate many real-life functions of Parliament to teach students about Queensland's democratic system. Students deliver speeches as Youth MPs, or act as parliamentary staff such as the Clerk of Parliament and Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly attends and local Members of Parliament are also invited to act as deputy Speakers. In 2023–24, a total of 1,055 young people participated in these Youth Parliaments, nine of which were held across the state, including:

- Gladstone Youth Parliament (July 2023)
- Gold Coast Youth Parliament (August 2023)
- Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament (Sept 2023)
- Brisbane East Youth Parliament (October 2023)
- Toowoomba Youth Parliament (October 2023)
- Mount Isa Youth Parliament (March 2024)
- 2 x Legal Studies Youth Parliaments (Brisbane April 2024 and Cairns May 2024)
- Brisbane Central Youth Parliament (June 2024).

During regional visits, 22 schools were visited in 2023–24 where an interactive education program was delivered to 885 students.

Separate programs are offered for:

- years 10 to 12 school students studying Legal Studies
- tertiary students studying parliament-related subjects.

In 2023–24 the following number of students attended these programs:

- 654 high school students and teachers as part of 24 school group activities
- 83 tertiary students and lecturers as part of three group activities.

Regional educational program

In 2023–24, regional education activities were held in Gladstone, Toowoomba, Mount Isa and Cairns. The Parliament delivered a combination of the following activities:

- Youth Parliaments
- classroom sessions
- public service seminars
- Teacher Professional Development.

In 2023–24 the following number of students attended these regional programs:

- 507 students, teachers and guests from 28 schools as part of the Youth Parliaments
- 885 school students and teachers as part of 22 classroom sessions
- 27 public servants attended Parliamentary Education Seminars.
- 14 teachers attended professional development in Toowoomba and Gladstone.

Virtual activities

The Queensland Parliament Build Your Parliament in Minecraft competition ran from March to May 2024, inviting students from Years 4 to 12 to take part in this exciting and unique initiative organised by Queensland Parliamentary Education. This innovative digital learning opportunity fostered skills in teamwork, creativity and critical thinking. Teams of Queensland students were tasked with building a Minecraft model of the state's Parliament, creating a valuable resource to help all Queenslanders to learn about democracy. The competition aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

Students competed to create the best replica of the Legislative Assembly Chamber in a Minecraft Education file, which is now available to view on our website. Future teachers and students can use this model as a resource to explore the civics curriculum, supplemented by lesson plans created by Parliamentary Education.

Media packs were distributed to Members to aid in promotion and many visited local schools to support students.

A total of 258 teams of 5 students registered for the competition. This reached 1,290 students from 55 schools across 36 electorates, increasing engagement by 34% from what it would otherwise have been in 2023–24.

Teacher professional development training

During 2023–24, two virtual teacher professional development training sessions were held with 37 teachers participating from across Queensland.

The aim of our professional development program is to:

- increase teachers' awareness of the Queensland Parliament, its functions, and processes
- increase use of the Education and Learning pages on the Queensland Parliamentary website
- provide an opportunity to broaden teachers' professional networks.

To connect with teachers across Queensland, we run a free webinar series, *Democracy in Action*. This series is run in collaboration with the Parliamentary Education Office (Canberra) and Supreme Court Library Queensland (Brisbane). Webinar sessions include:

- *Making and Applying the Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld), 19 July 2023: 34 teachers registered, with 19 attending.
- *Comparing Bicameral and Unicameral Legislatures*, 28 February 2024: 26 teachers registered, with 18 attending.

Youth Parliaments

This year saw the continuation of the Parliament's Youth Parliament program. Nine Youth Parliament events were facilitated during 2023–24, with five held at Parliament House and four in regional Queensland.

A total of 1,055 young people participated.

Constitutional conventions

In addition to the Youth Parliaments, the Parliamentary Service partnered with the Department of Education and Training to conduct school constitutional conventions in Townsville.

Education resources

The Parliament has produced an extensive collection of educational resources that promote the institution of Parliament and raise community awareness and understanding of its important role and functions.

Parliamentary Education created the following free learning resources in 2023–24.

- A guided lesson sequence that allows students to explore the concept of scrutiny using the case study of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023.
- A colouring-in worksheet of the artwork from our Reconciliation Action Plan and shared information about the artist, Casey Coolwell, a Quandamooka, Nunukul woman for NAIDOC Week.
- A fun and engaging scavenger hunt to keep children entertained during Brisbane Open House.
- A scavenger hunt and crossword for our regional Youth Parliament to deepen students' knowledge and

understanding of the critical concepts of Queensland Parliament and its history.

- Six posters on Queensland Parliament are for use in a variety of contexts, including regional outreach, events at Parliament House, and material provided to teachers.

Existing resources include factsheets, information books, classroom activities, brochures, explainer videos, worksheets and lesson plans for teachers. All these resources are available for free on the Parliament website.

Queensland Parliament Research Internship Program

During 2023–24, 16 tertiary students participated in the Queensland Parliament Research Internship. This annual program has been in operation since 1995.

School tours

School groups have visited Parliament House over many decades, with these groups generally comprising year five and six students. The program of each visit includes:

- a standardised educational presentation aligned to the National Curriculum which provides an overview of the Queensland Parliament, its roles and processes
- a tour of Parliament House
- a parliamentary debate role-play activity while seated in either the Legislative Assembly Chamber or the Legislative Council Chamber (depending on sitting days).

In total, 582 school tours were conducted during 2023–24, comprising 15,172 students and accompanying teachers, parents and guardians.

Public Service training seminars

Training is offered to public sector employees on:

- How Parliament works
- Interacting with Parliament, Practice and Procedure
- Queensland's parliamentary committee system and participation with committee inquiries (Committees@Work, a program for public sector workers who may engage with parliamentary committees or who have a general interest in how committees work).

There were 22 of these training seminars held during 2023–24 with 974 public servants attending, including one seminar held in regional Queensland (Toowoomba).

Access to parliamentary proceedings information

The Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and Information Technology Services also contribute to Objective 4 by providing accessibility to information about parliamentary proceedings through the provision of the Internet broadcast of proceedings in Parliament, parliamentary committees and parliamentary special events.

Parliamentary Library and Research Services

Parliamentary Online Heritage Collections

In 2023, the Parliamentary Library oversaw the implementation of a new collection management system for the Parliament's heritage collections. Following implementation, the focus turned to establishing the Parliamentary Online Heritage Collections. The ability to publish curated heritage collections to the Parliament's website, and the capacity to link images, sound files and videos to records in the system will enhance the discoverability of the Parliament's living heritage. It is anticipated the new Online Heritage Collection will be launched in the second half of 2024.

Conservation of Heritage Items

During the year, a number of items were prioritised for conservation and restoration. The Heritage Management Group coordinated the selection and priority of these items. The selection consisted of various artworks, documents and furniture, which all required restoration. Items included:

- unique furniture that is located throughout Parliament House
- significant pieces of artwork
- the Convocation document (1859)
- items from the O'Donovan Collection including monographs, documents and the addition of Solander boxes for establishment ephemera
- "Queen Victoria casket" gifted by Queen Victoria in 1865. Manufactured "*for the purpose of holding the volume of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort's speeches, recently presented to the Parliamentary Library of Queensland by her Majesty the Queen.*" The casket was manufactured locally by Sinel and Bryer and was included in the Brisbane Exhibition of 1866.

Historic maps

In 2022, a specialist conservation firm restored ten historically significant maps. This conservation effort has created opportunities to display these maps and share them with the people of Queensland. In 2023, with the assistance of the Marketing and Communications team, the Library produced a documentary video to inform the community about the importance of preserving and safeguarding historic maps. Planning is underway in 2024–25 to digitise these large-scale maps and include the digital surrogates in the Parliamentary Heritage Collections Online portal.

Digitisation of collections

In late 2022, a project to digitise the Parliamentary Library's collection of newspaper clippings (from 1953 to 1993) and Ministerial Media Statements (from the 1970s and 1980s) was initiated. Stored in 680 boxes and

previously only discoverable via a printed subject guide, the digitisation of these archival records will enable the material to be fully searchable with full-text functionality. The Ministerial Media Statements is a unique collection and not available anywhere else. The processing is currently underway, and the items are being progressively added to the Library's online catalogue to promote access.

In 2024, a project was initiated to digitise the historical material relating to the Parliamentary Library, beginning with the Minutes of the Joint Library Committee from 1860 onwards, and the Library's correspondence from 1859. These archives tell the story of Queensland's first publicly funded library and help us to understand the history leading to the establishment of the Parliament in 1860. Once made publicly accessible, this project will be a valuable resource to historians and researchers within the parliamentary sphere and the wider community.

UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register Submission

In 1992, UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Program to preserve global documentary heritage, as well as promote universal access and increase awareness of its importance. In 2024, Parliament celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the tenure of Denis O'Donovan, the fourth and most historically influential Queensland Parliamentary Librarian. To celebrate this event the Library nominated '*The O'Donovan Catalogue Origins Collection*' for consideration to be included on the register.

'The O'Donovan Catalogue Origins Collection' is comprised of two volumes of the handwritten acquisition suggestions of Members of Queensland Parliament between 1860 and 1924, Denis O'Donovan's world-renowned 1883 catalogue of the Queensland Parliamentary Library, and his hand-annotated working copy of its 1874 predecessor. Together, they constitute the origins of a work of international excellence in librarianship and bibliography, out of an infant colony's parliament. The 'Dewey Decimal' system of its day, Denis O'Donovan's analytical and classified catalogue of the Library of the Parliament of Queensland, known as the 'O'Donovan Catalogue', is significant to the world's memory of Australia and to Australia's memory of the world.

This collection offers insight into the emergence and progress of political ideas and movements in Australian public life, social mobility and self-education in early Australian society, early European multicultural communities, policymaking influences, and intercolonial relations and exchange. It is a fine exemplar of a library catalogue as a type of documentary heritage, and an example of a type of catalogue that has now disappeared. All volumes contain the handwriting of O'Donovan and other historic politicians and public servants. Should the nomination of the collection in the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register be accepted, it will amplify advocacy for its full digitisation and transcription.

Key initiatives for Objective 4

Marketing and Communications

Delivery of communications strategies

In the past year, the Marketing and Communications team has reinforced its commitment to supporting the organisation in delivering effective communication strategies and meaningful initiatives. Offering a comprehensive suite of services, the team has enhanced the reputation of Queensland Parliament and its engagement with stakeholders.

The team serves as a critical conduit between the organisation and its stakeholders, consistently working towards strengthening relationships, promoting transparency, and driving impactful messaging through various communication channels.

Embracing the evolving digital landscape, the team has leveraged social media, media outlets, and the Parliament's websites to engage stakeholders and disseminate information. A significant project this year involved procuring high-quality photography and video equipment and services to promote parliamentary activities and showcase workplace culture. Additionally, the team reviewed the Social Media Guidelines to ensure best practices and stay current with the latest trends.

Comprehensive Support Across Divisions

The Communications and Marketing team provided extensive support across various divisions throughout the year, focusing on strategic planning, graphic design, media relations, photography, video production, and social media management.

Educational initiatives such as Youth Parliaments, the Minecraft Competition, regional activities, and public service seminars received strong support. The team developed digital resources and executed social media activities for Committees, with a particular focus on enhancing regional engagement.

The team contributed to Parliament's Reconciliation Action Plan by promoting activities in collaboration with the First Peoples Liaison Officer. The newly developed Learning Management System received support with website design and digital resources. Additionally, the team collaborated with People and Culture on recruitment campaigns and supported the Graduate Program. For catering, photography and video support were provided, promoted content through social media, and launched a dedicated Instagram account. Furthermore, they developed resources for Members transitioning back to the refurbished Annexe and updated signage across the precinct.