

# SA SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

The 2020 SA Schools Constitutional Convention will provide a forum for Year 11 students from Government, Independent and Catholic schools to:

- discuss and debate key aspects of the Australian Constitution
- hear from expert speakers
- participate in a Q&A session with Members of Parliament (TBC)
- participate in a referendum
- apply to attend a National Schools Constitutional Convention held in Canberra – all expenses paid

### WHEN:

Friday 18 September, 8.30am to 3.30pm

### WHERE:

Delivered remotely

### WHAT IS THE TOPIC?

Following the different approaches across Australian Governments regarding education during the COVID-19 pandemic, the topic for 2020 is "Should the Commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for education?" In considering this question, students will debate and take part in a referendum that may seek to change the current situation. Key discussion points will be: reasons for dividing power between the States and the Commonwealth, successes and failures of historical referenda, reasons for and against changing the current structure.

### HOW WILL IT WORK IN 2020?

This year the Convention has been modified to accommodate for social distancing. The Convention activities will be spread over 3 weeks, and will be made up of independent student work, with a final online session to encourage students to collaborate with each other.

The timeline is as follows:

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>28 August:</b>    | Online teacher briefing session                                |
| <b>4 September:</b>  | Pre-learning release #1 – work to be submitted by September 10 |
| <b>11 September:</b> | Pre-learning release #2 – work to be submitted by September 17 |
| <b>18 September:</b> | Convention Day   |

### PRE-CONVENTION LEARNING:

Students participating in the Convention will need to have the knowledge and confidence to be able to fully participate in the Convention Day program. Teachers will be sent links to learning resources and suggested activities which can be used for their classes or just for the students attending.

Learning resources will include pre-recorded presentations and activities to complete over 2 weeks leading up to the convention on Friday 18 September.

### CONVENTION DAY:

On Convention Day students will participate in a major online event, consisting of group discussions, Q&A panels with academics and Members of Parliament, a debate, and a mock referendum. As there is no set site for the Convention, morning tea and lunch will need to be provided by the school or students.

### YOUR INVOLVEMENT:

Each teacher will be required to ensure the students receive the pre-event learning resources (to be sent via email). We ask teachers to distribute this information to students as soon as possible.

We ask each teacher to coordinate numbers, distribute information, act as a mentor to guide the students and arrange permission for them to participate, including collection of media consent forms and support their students during the day as required.

The day program will also include a professional learning session for teachers on Civics and Citizenship during which you will be able to ask questions and share ideas about teaching the subject and learn from other teachers.

