



Museum of
Australian Democracy
Old Parliament House

***Digital Excursion Program - Democracy, Media and Me
- Background information for distance education setting -***

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD), Canberra. We're a museum located in the iconic Old Parliament House (OPH). Our mission is to engage Australians in our democracy and how they can have a voice in it. MoAD Learning develops and delivers programs for primary and secondary students and teachers.

Our digital excursion program *Democracy, Media and Me* closely aligns with the Australian Curriculum (Civics and Citizenship and HASS Learning areas, see below) for years 5-8.

Program content:

The program runs for approximately 45 minutes and covers the following areas (described briefly below) -

- Welcome to MoAD – and context about why we are situated in OPH, a brief history of OPH as the home of federal parliament, and the heritage nature of the building
- The role of the Senate Chamber and the House of Representatives Chamber – interpreting objects and exploring links to the Westminster System; the process of creating laws and key roles
- Role of the media in the House of Representatives Chamber and our democracy – exploring the ABC radio booth, links to rights and responsibilities in our democracy specifically freedom of speech and expression
- Our roles as active citizens in a democracy – how we can be involved and what we can do to help make changes.

In the program we:

- use snippets of sound files from the past to engage the students (eg first broadcast from the ABC radio booth in the House of Representatives Chamber; Speaker of the House – Madame Joan Childs in the House of Representatives Chamber; protests outside OPH from 1985 etc)
- show images of the building and events that have occurred here
- utilise video footage to show a walk-through of areas of the building
- have students participate in a series of true/false activities during the program, and provide the opportunity for discussion with the facilitator and their peers about the content being presented.

How do we do this?

We connect with your students using the free meeting app Zoom via their device (iPAD, computer, SmartPhone). We will send you instructions on how to set this app up for the program.

When is it offered?

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am, 11.30am and 1.30pm.

However, please do be in contact if a different day is preferable. Note – we make allowances for time zone differences too and timetabling challenges.

Cost?

Free

Pre/post activities – we have prepared a range of activities available to support this program and will send these through at the time of booking.

If this excursion is of interest to you or your colleagues, I certainly look forward to hearing from you.

Contact me at -

MoAD - Digital Excursions DigitalExcursions@moadoph.gov.au OR



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FIONA BOWEN LEARNING DIGITAL PRODUCER

02 6270 8154

18 King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

PO Box 3934, Manuka ACT 2603 moadoph.gov.au –   



Australian Curriculum Links for *Democracy, Media and Me*

Year 5 HASS:

Civics and Citizenship

The key values that underpin Australia's democracy ([ACHASSK115](#))

How people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal ([ACHASSK118](#))

Year 6 HASS:

Civics and Citizenship

The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government and how it is based on the Westminster system ([ACHASSK143](#))

The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy ([ACHASSK145](#))

The roles and responsibilities of Australia's three levels of government ([ACHASSK144](#))

The shared values of Australian citizenship and the formal rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens ([ACHASSK147](#))

Year 7 Civics and Citizenship:

The key features of government under the Australian Constitution with a focus on: the separation of powers, the roles of the Executive, the Houses of Parliament, and the division of powers ([ACHCK048](#))

Year 8 Civics and Citizenship:

The freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement ([ACHCK061](#))

How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups, and direct action ([ACHCK062](#))

How laws are made in Australia through parliaments (statutory law) and through the courts (common law) ([ACHCK063](#))