



Australian students take action on single use plastics

A group of inspirational young students from all over Australia came together on Monday, 2 March 2020, for the National Plastics Students Summit hosted at MoAD.

Held as part of the Australian Government's [National Plastics Summit](#) at Parliament House that brought industry together with federal, state and territory government representatives, the Students Summit gave 20 Year 5 and 6 students the opportunity to take action on single use plastics.

MoAD Director, Daryl Karp AM, said, "MoAD has been delighted to work with young people from around the country, and be part of developing a collaborative response to plastic packaging often used in lunchbox food and drink items.

"Participation in democratic processes are central to the museum's work with young people, equipping them with the skills to tackle the 21st century's increasingly complex challenges."

More than a hundred students applied to be part of the Students Summit, answering questions on why they were interested in sustainability and being part of a national approach to manage single use plastics.

Two representatives from each state and territory were chosen, including Molly Steer from *Straw No More* and student activists Scarlett Rosshandler and Alexander Spring.

Scarlett, who has attracted more than 68,000 signatures on her change.org petition to ban sushi soy sauce fish containers, said the summit at MoAD brought together students from all over the country. "It is amazing for kids to come together, because it's our future. There were so many amazing ideas from so many kids, like the [Straw No More](#) campaign and ideas to reduce dome lids on plastic cups."

Students attended the opening of the National Summit at Parliament House with major retailers, recyclers, industry groups and researchers, before entering MoAD's historic House of Representatives Chamber for a panel discussion with Ryan Lungu (Executive Director - Canberra Environment Centre), Pierre Pienaar (Education Director, Australian Institute of Packaging) and Barry Cosier (Director, Sustainability Australian Food and Grocery Council).

Each student created a handmade pledge of their personal commitment to reducing their soft plastics use and presented these to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley, and the Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environment Management, the Hon Trevor Evans.

Other activities at MoAD included learning how to make individual changes and informed decisions about consuming single-use plastics, and a visit from Their Excellencies the Governor-General, David Hurley, and Mrs Linda Hurley.

MoAD will use ideas from the day to develop a resource aligned to the Australian Curriculum, supporting teachers with classroom activities on active citizenship and how students can be involved in addressing social and environmental challenges into the future. The digital resource will be available on MoAD's website allowing access for teachers and students all around the country.

About MoAD

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates Australia's proud history as a democratic nation and actively promotes the participation of its citizens in determining its future.



Museum of
Australian Democracy
Old Parliament House

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 4 March 2019

MoAD is a museum not just of objects but of ideas. In our iconic heritage building, we tell the story of Australia's journey to becoming one of the world's most vibrant and multicultural democratic nations.

MoAD is a place where stories, conversations and narratives from myriad perspectives can be heard and discussed.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Annika Scott, annika.scott@moadoph.gov.au, (02) 6270 8120 or 0400 946 608

IMAGES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hkj7svh2etf922w/AACIQNOWNKMiTPCJuCvt3KM8a?dl=0>



Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley, speaking to participants at the National Plastics Student Summit hosted by MoAD, 2 March 2020



Students at the National Plastics Student Summit hosted by MoAD, 2 March 2020