

Did you know?

Parliament helps students visit the national capital



Year 5 and 6 students from St Mary's Primary School, Yoogai (NSW) met with their Federal Member, Kay Hull (Member for Riverrina), during their recent visit to Parliament House. Photo: AU:PIC

With civics education on the agenda in our school system, the Federal Parliament is playing its part in encouraging students to learn about and experience our parliamentary system of government. Under the Parliament's Citizenship Visits Program, secondary and final year primary students from schools located more than 1,000 kilometres from Canberra are provided with a per capita subsidy to visit the National Parliament and to take part in a program to improve their understanding of the way Parliament works.

Subsidies range from \$40 to \$200 per student, depending on the distance students live from Canberra. In order to qualify for the subsidy students must undertake to:

- take part in organised activities provided by the Parliament, spending a minimum of two hours in Parliament House;
- visit at a time when the full range of programs is available (the program does not operate on weekends or public holidays);

- visit the public galleries of both Houses of Parliament where possible following the arrangement of a booking with the School Bookings Officer; and
- complete an educational program as arranged by the Parliamentary Education Office.

Last financial year, 13,663 students from 464 schools benefited from the Citizenship Visits Program.

For more information

Call the School Bookings Officer toll free: 1800 646 337



Hot Topix

for teachers and students

There's nothing like a good argument, or so the old saying goes. In parliamentary terms, that would translate to: there's nothing like a robust debate.

The Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) is encouraging students to debate some of the hot topics that are currently on the national

agenda - issues such as detention of asylum seekers, and the impact of globalisation on Australian financial markets.

Using recently released parliamentary reports as research tools, the PEO has developed a series of *Hot Topix* discussion papers around which class debates can be structured. The

discussion papers canvass the issues concerned and pose arguments for and against the question at hand. The *Hot Topix* papers can be accessed from the PEO web site at www.peo.gov.au or by contacting Geoff Clarke on email: Geoff.Clarke@aph.gov.au or call: (02) 6277 3676.