

ROLES OF THE CROWN AND HOUSES OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT IN LAW-MAKING

LESSON PLAN

→ Teacher Guide

Level	Learning Area	Strands	Topic
VCE	Unit 4 Legal Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AOS 1: The People and the Australian Constitution<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Outcome 1	Roles of the Crown and Houses of Parliament

Overview

The study of Australia's laws and legal system involves an understanding of institutions that make our laws. Parliament is the supreme law-making body and its main function of the parliament is to make laws for and on behalf of the community. In this lesson plan you will look at the roles of the Crown and the Houses of the Parliament of Victoria in law making.

Using the Parliament of Victoria the aim of this lesson plan is to give teachers a range of ideas and activities to engage their students in:

- Defining and using the correct legal terminology, principles and information relating to law-making
- Understanding the roles of the Crown in law-making
- Understanding the roles of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council in law-making
- Encouraging student engagement with the Parliament of Victoria.

Curriculum Links

VCE Legal Studies

Unit 4: The People and the law

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- Roles of the Crown and the Houses of Parliament in law-making

Key skills

- Define and use legal terminology
- Discuss, interpret and analyse legal principles and information

This lesson plan also illustrates how students can undertake an education program at the Parliament of Victoria.

Learning Goals

By the end of these lessons, students will be able to:

- Define and use correctly legal terminology , principles and information relating to parliamentary processes and law-making
- Understand the role of the Crown in law-making
- Understand the role of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council in law-making
- Be engaged with the Parliament of Victoria
- Apply their learning and be more active and informed citizens by experiencing an education program at parliament (optional).

Resources and Materials

This resource contains all the materials and resources needed to complete the unit. The learning activities are explained in detail. In some cases, resources and information from the Parliament of Victoria's website have been suggested and access is easy.

Included for this lesson plan are

- Teacher guide
- Student learning activities
- Information about accessing an in-house or outreach education program with the Parliament of Victoria

Additional reference material

- *Inside the Parliament of Victoria* booklet
- *Making the law* DVD
- *How a law is made in Victoria* pamphlet
- www.parliament.vic.gov.au/EducationZone/learning and teaching resources

To request hard copies of any resources, at no cost, please contact: educationinfo@parliament.vic.gov.au



Optional activity: Seeing Parliament in action

The Parliament of Victoria offers an education program where students can come into Parliament House or parliament can come out to your school. By witnessing and participating in the operation of our parliamentary system, students can experience the law-making process first hand. We supports teachers and students through customised educational programs at Parliament House, parliamentary role-plays, metropolitan and regional school visits.

In more detail, students can take part in:

- An education program where students are given a presentation and tour of Parliament House seeing both chambers, the library and Queens Hall. The program is available each day of the week but if you come during a non-sitting week, your students can have the presentation in one of legislative chambers, sitting in the actual seats of the MPs.
- VCE Role Plays in the Legislative Assembly where Legal Studies students can gain an understanding of how a law is made by following a scripted role-play, with a choice of different bills.
- Metropolitan visit program - the Legislative Assembly Tour Guides can visit schools in metropolitan Melbourne to conduct a parliament role play in your VCE classroom. The room is set up to replicate the Legislative Assembly chamber at Parliament House.
- Regional visit program, which comprises a role-play program, designed for VCE students where sessions are conducted in a local hall or facility chosen to provide easy access for the schools that are attending. Each year up to ten regions are selected and schools in the area are contacted with this information. Parliament tries to visit each regional centre every two years.

Role-plays and the visit program are only available during non-sitting weeks.

Virtual tour

Parliament also provides the opportunity for people to see inside Parliament House if they are unable to visit here. Our aim is to make parliament more accessible to people, particularly those living in regional areas. The virtual tour highlights the features of Parliament House including Queen's Hall, the Vestibule, the Library and both chambers, and provides an insight into committee hearings, showing a typical hearing room set-up and identifying the key participants.

Go to www.parliament.vic.gov.au/visit/schooltours and click your area of interest.

