



Constitution Education Fund  
Australia

**2014**  
**Celebrating**  
**Our Tenth Anniversary**

**of**

**Projects in Schools**

Educating for Democracy



Constitution Education Fund  
Australia



Major General the Hon Michael Jeffery  
AC AO(Mil) CVO MC(Rtd)  
Chairman

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The Hon Barrie Unsworth retired June 2014 having served from 2006.  
The former Chair the Hon Barry O'Keefe AM QC passed away in May 2014  
having served in the position since 2006.

## Patron-in-Chief



**His Excellency**

**General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove  
AK MC (Retd)  
Governor-General  
of the  
Commonwealth Of Australia**

His Excellency General  
the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)  
in a letter dated 12 May 2014  
accepted the role to be Patron-in-Chief.  
“He sees the work of the Fund as complementary  
to his responsibilities as Governor-General  
and to themes of personal interest to him.”



### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

This special event marks the 10th anniversary of CEFA's work as an independent apolitical organisation educating and engaging all Australians, young and old, about our parliamentary democracy, our heritage and history, our values, the rule of law and its evolution, our rights and responsibilities and our system of government.

The basis of Australia's nationhood resides in the Australian Constitution. It is uniquely Australian, and embraces the democratic values and principles, which still unite us today after more than 100 years of successful Federation.

Today, our nation flourishes as a democracy, supported by the wisdom and integrity of the Australian Parliament, the Executive Government, the High Court and other distinguished federal Courts, the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Public Service.

Each of these has served us well in one form or another for over one hundred years, and they continue to adapt to addressing the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing society and a dynamic, if sometimes uncertain, global environment.

Yet research tells us that many Australians know little of our Constitution, are not informed about its history or operation and are cynical and sceptical of our political processes, governments and bureaucracies, and the checks and balances contained therein.

Through its ongoing educational programs and the prestigious Governor General's Prize, CEFA has raised public awareness about the Constitution and its relevance to good governance through promoting informed debate throughout the country.

It is vitally important that all Australians, especially our younger people, know what it means to be an Australian citizen and that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to participate productively in our society.

CEFA has planned a number of exciting new initiatives for 2015 in celebration of the 800th birthday of Magna Carta; we would welcome your involvement.

*Michael Jeffery*

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery  
AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

I congratulate all our wonderful CEFA supporters, partners and benefactors as we celebrate ten years of schools' activities, projects and programs "Educating for Democracy". Together we can continue to make a difference as proud Australians. We are promoting the history, heritage and workings of what I proudly consider to be the best democracy in today's world.

CEFA has, November 28, 2014, finalised for the Australian Government a proposal to establish an educational digital interactive Australian Constitution Centre (ACC). Our report research shows that despite many millions of dollars spent annually for over 20 years on excellent resources, museum displays, events and activities, just 60% of Australians say democracy is preferable to any other kind of government and only 39% recognise this who are aged 18-29.

It is now a national imperative to improve our knowledge of, and engagement with, the history and operation of our Australian Constitution. We hope our shared values, such as our freedoms that are balanced by our rights and responsibilities under our Rule of Law, will be better understood in the next 10 years. This will then translate to measurable changes and improvements in attitudes towards our system of government.

Through a coming together, we will galvanise Australians including students, teachers and the general public who are currently cynical, apathetic and disengaged. The ACC will collaborate with outstanding Australian institutions including the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD/OPH) and National Archives of Australia (NAA). The proposed referendum on constitutional recognition of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples will give us the opportunity for public conversations on a major contemporary constitutional issue. This discourse should occur in the spirit of a fair go that has permeated our peaceful federation since 1901.

Together we can make a difference, educating and engaging on and with our system of government and governance, telling the story of its history and heritage and exploring the contemporary relevance of the Australian Constitution.

Let's face this challenge together through educating for democracy.

Mrs Kerry Jones  
Executive Director

His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery and Her Excellency Mrs Marlena Jeffery with the 2005 Governor-General's primary prize finalists from across Australia at morning tea at Government House as part of "Democracy in Schools Day", 6 December 2005



Pittwater House team at Government House Canberra, December 2005.



Launching Primary School Program at Parliament House Sydney, October 2005.

Students and Noel Hadjimichael CEFA Schools Director debating at Old Parliament House December 2005.





Principal Elena Keating (far right) of Nerimbera State School located north of Rockhampton, Queensland with her school of 19 students and two education assistants.



The Parliamentary Club  
at St Leonard's College Victoria



The Parliamentary Club at conferences and expos around Australia

CEFA's Parliamentary Club has become a high demand inclusion into conferences around the nation, with many teacher associations requesting workshops to illustrate this unique and dynamic civics education/student leadership initiative. This project is being widely recognised as having the capacity to educate on a massive scale utilising cutting edge pedagogy and successfully engaging young Australians in the electoral process.





Al-Zahra College Parliamentary Club students with (back row from left - Principal Ahmad Mokachar, The Hon Barrie Unsworth, His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AC, Administrator of the Northern Territories, Mrs Pauling and CEFA Parliamentary Club Director, Mr Don Perna.

The Compass story entitled 'A Muslim Education' screened nationally ABC1 on Sunday evening September 7, 2008. CEFA was delighted that the CEFA Parliamentary Club was featured at Al-Zahra College Primary School.



CEFA sponsored NSW Premier's Debating Competition, Caringbah High School and Hornsby Girls' High School

CEFA was represented at the debate by Executive Director, Mrs Kerry Jones. At the conclusion of the debate Mrs Jones presented the participating students with their medals and trophy. She congratulated the students on their sterling performances and reiterated CEFA's desire to continue its ongoing support of debating civics issues across NSW.



2008 New South Wales Awards Ceremony at New South Wales Government House. Back middle: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. Front middle: CEFA's first Islamic Prime Minister, Mustafa Al Kahi, from Al Zahra College, Arncliffe. Far left: CEFA Executive Director Mrs Kerry Jones holding a Parliamentary Mace. Far right: CEFA Ambassador Miss Katie Richardson, Miss World Australia 2008.

2008 Victorian Awards Ceremony at Victoria Government House. Back middle: Professor David De Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria and Mrs Jan De Kretser. Centre-left: CEFA Executive Director, Mrs Kerry Jones.



2008 Western Australia Awards Ceremony at Western Australia Government House. Middle: His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of WA. Left: CEFA Executive Director, Mrs Kerry Jones presents the CEFA Parliamentary Mace provided by mentors to their school of choice.



Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO presents a CEFA School Parliamentarian from Rozelle Public School with an award for 'Outstanding Effort in Civics Education in 2009'



CEFA representative Mr Don Perna (right) presents the Mace to St Edmund's Prime Minister (left) and the Leader of the Opposition (centre)

In 2009, CEFA delivered CEFA School Parliaments (CSPs) professional development training workshops for Australian primary and high school teachers in the public and private school sectors. Training was convened in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, with guidance provided on how to implement a CEFA School Parliament, creating a new generation of active and informed citizens.

Professional Development group of teachers in Queensland





#### Leadership for Democracy Patron-in-Chief

I am delighted to accept the role of Patron-in-Chief of The Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEFA).

What a splendid concept, to empower young Australians to become active, engaged and responsible citizens. Through providing a variety of projects and awards aimed at students between the ages of 8 to 25, you are helping to educate and inspire our country's future leaders.

We are a young country, but a strong one; a multicultural nation brought together by our democratic values and Constitution.

In our fast-paced and globalised world, it is vital that all young Australians understand our governance systems, to enable them to participate effectively in current and future political discussions.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

I congratulate The Constitution Education Fund Australia on their many initiatives and wish you all the best for the future.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce  
AC, CVO  
Governor-General of the  
Commonwealth of Australia  
Patron-in-Chief of the Constitution  
Education Fund Australia



The launch of CEFA's major 2010 national civics education project, AusCivics Film Festivals, at Government House, Yarralumla, Canberra. Riders for Civics Education visited schools and communities across the nation.

Motorcycle riders received Her Excellency's commission urging mayors, principals, teachers and local communities to get involved in the festivals, particularly school groups. Government House lit up as the riders convoyed through the gates, flying bright blue AusCivics flags and riding for our democracy through the rain and the sleet. The Governor-General read aloud her commission before presenting it to eight riders representing the eight states and territories of Australia. "This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate to all Australians your sense of citizenship, your active and valuable participation in the advancement of a healthy and peaceful Australian society," she read.





Enthusiastic audience before the screening at the Broken Hill Premiere of AusCivics Local Councils around Australia hosted and encouraged over 5,000 students to engage. The program was entirely sponsored by Audience Alliance Motion Pictures Studio (AAMPS) under the leadership of Peter Rancie.

**BROKEN HILL PREMIERE EVENT**  
**11 September 2010**

The inaugural AusCivics Film Festival will be launched at Broken Hill on Saturday 11 September. They will move across the nation with school day sessions, premiere charity gala evenings and special sessions opened to the public.





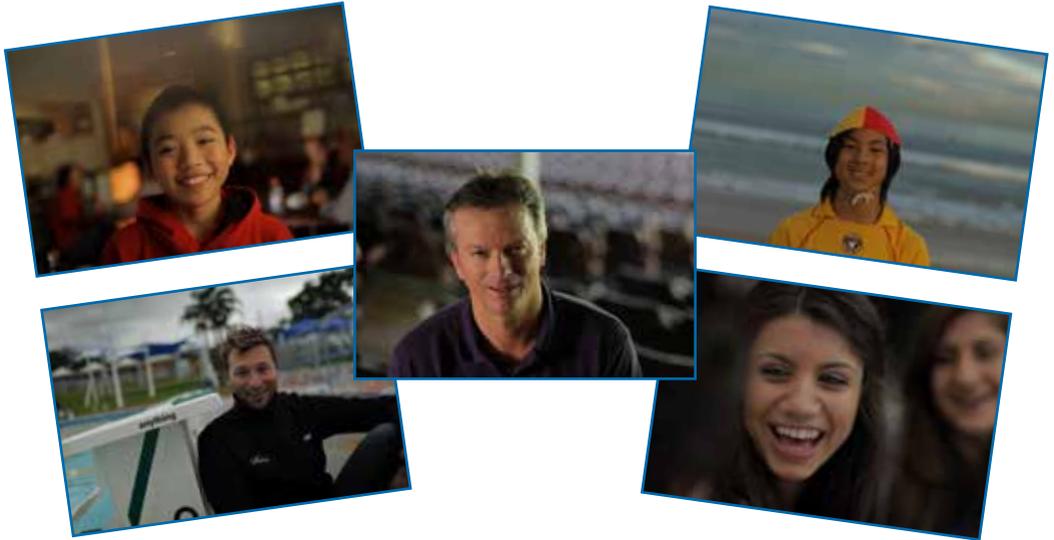
CEFA recognizes that each school is unique and requires a tailored process for their own school or class parliament. Mr Eaton stated “Melville Primary School [Perth, WA] decided to allow the year 6 and 7 students to elect their Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers together with Deputy Ministers”. He added “this process involved electioneering activities such as speeches, posters and preferential voting and those elected are responsible for carrying out various functions around the school in the various ministries formed”. He also advised that they have the Sport, Health, Justice, Finance, Education, Environment, and Communication ministries each with a Minister, Deputy Minister and 7 advisers.

Students from Balmain Public School opened their CEFA School Parliament with their first sitting on Monday September 6, 2010. Teacher and librarian, Ms Margaret Stone, was the speaker for the session which saw members discussing issues ranging from using more recycled paper in the school to budget management and new uses of technology at the school with individual flair and style.





# The Australian Way



We are a very old country.  
We are a very young country.  
This is a place where people seek freedom

This is a place where people find refuge  
This is a place where, in normal schools...  
In normal streets...  
In ordinary towns...  
And in suburbs...  
you can seek extraordinary things...

Where your destiny is not governed by class,  
Where there is room for all hopes  
And all ambitions

The “Celebrating the Australian Way” campaign was designed to inform and engage Australians of all ages in our great democracy and our Australian Constitution.

Its primary aim was to inspire and empower Australians of all ages to have conversations about our democracy using the film ‘The Australian Way’ scripted by famed author and CEFA director, Mr Thomas Keneally AO.

In 2012, many Australians and CEFA supporters watched the film and shared their views on what they consider as the most important issues and values affecting the Australian democracy today.

## Civics and Citizenship Online Education Resource Project



Appointed our current CEFA Schools Director Mrs Janet Doyle seen below demonstrating Yaba in the classroom.



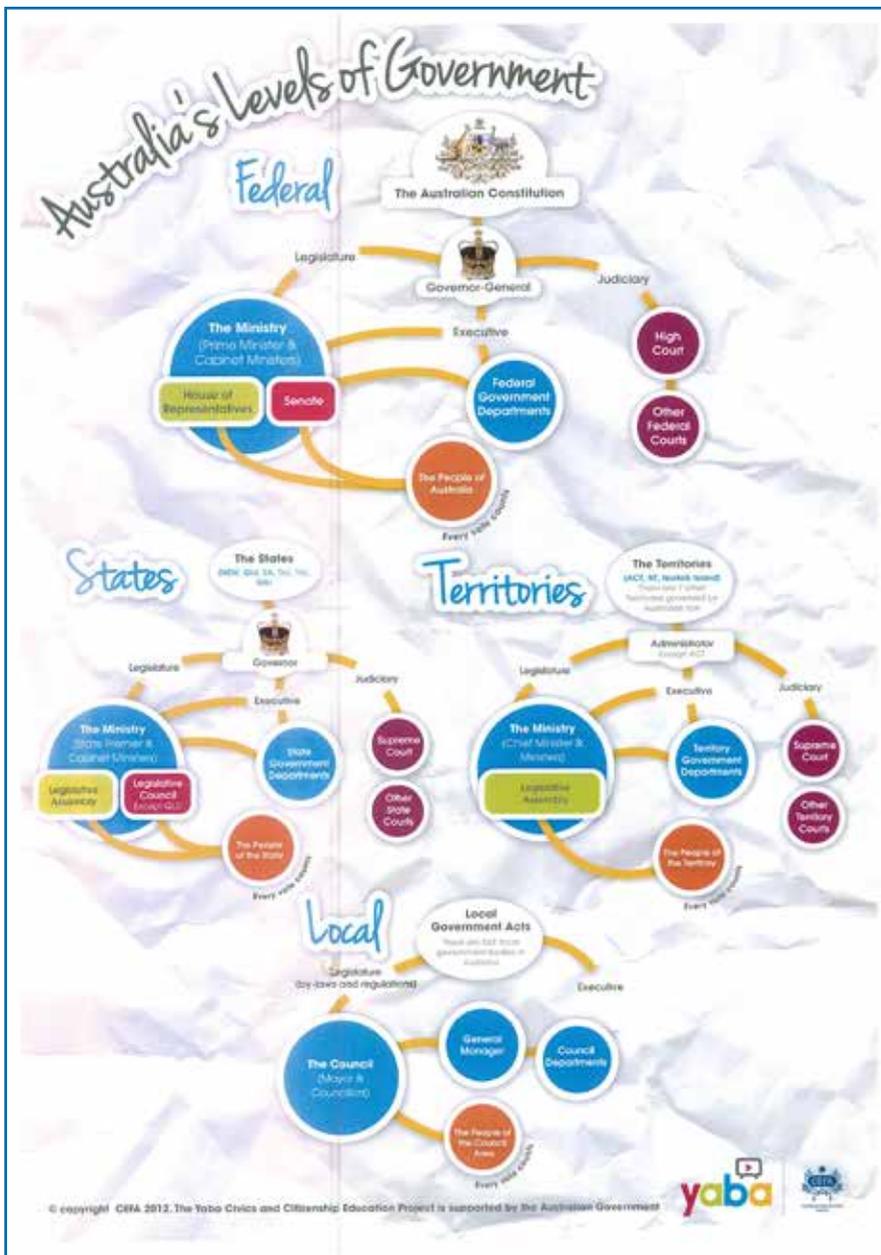
Students from West Pymble Public School implement Yaba: Teaching and learning civics and citizenship topic – “the role of a Premier.” Interacting and chatting with students in schools across Australia through film, video and social media. Yaba was funded by the Australian Government in 2011.

Fifteen year old Australian student, Ezekiel, from Palmerston High School in the Northern Territory describes his family’s aspirations to become Australian citizens after migrating from the Philippines. He expresses the depth of his family’s appreciation for the Australian way of life and Australia’s democratic heritage.



Yaba provides the tools to help students learn skills in research, analysis and synthesis, collaborative problem-solving and decision-making and communication as they relate to issues of Australian governance. Students are challenged to think on such issues as the merits and operation of the Australian Constitution, our political institutions, our rule of law and the history and future of our inclusive parliamentary democracy through three professionally produced and three student user-generated web-based video channels.







## Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



In collaboration with Reconciliation Australia, trading as Recognise, Films and video resources and projects on the theme “towards the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.”

## Testimonials

CEFA has spent twenty years with the mission of encouraging Australians to understand and celebrate their constitutional heritage. The need for civics education in Australia has long been apparent to leaders in all sections of the community.

### **STEVE WAUGH AO**

Australian of the Year and Australian Test Cricket team captain, 1999-2004

In my travels playing cricket for Australia, I saw a number of countries without the freedoms we enjoy. These experiences brought home to me the importance of the Australian Constitution. The more Australians understand the important role played by our Constitution, the stronger we will be as a community.

### **THOMAS KENEALLY AO**

Author and member of CEFA Board of Directors

We've got something to celebrate, Australia. Our democracy, our freedom, our system... our Australian Way.  
(The Australian Way CEFA film)

### **EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAME LEONIE KRAMER AC DBE**

Chancellor of the University of Sydney, 1991-2001

CEFA's mission is to strengthen the Australian community's understanding of the history and operation of the Australian Constitution... The success of the CEFA project will demonstrate our faith in the Constitution and our commitment to passing on a solid understanding of it to our successors.

And so the calls for CEFA to develop a non-partisan approach to educating Australians about their Constitution:

### **PROFESSOR GREG CRAVEN**

Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University

Bigger than the Big Australian and more lasting than any economic boom, the Constitution is the greatest asset we have ... CEFA will work in a strongly non-partisan way to enrich the understanding of Australians of their greatest asset; their Constitution.

### **MAJOR GENERAL THE HON. MICHAEL JEFFERY AC CVO MC (RETD)**

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 2003-08

I firmly believe that all Australians, young and old, those born here and those who have come from other lands, should have a broad understanding of the system of government that has made our country one of the most successful democracies in the world. I hope that you will consider either participating in, or supporting this cause. By doing so you will be helping to give all Australians – especially our leaders of tomorrow – a greater appreciation of a system of government and a Constitution that has played a vital part in making Australia a country of which we can all be rightly proud.

## Testimonials

In 2004, CEFA launched its first major public appeal for financial support:

### **PROFESSOR GEORGE WINTERTON**

Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney, 2004–2008

The advent of CEFA [is] a propitious development.... [CEFA's] project is so important to Australia's future that governments and the public should have little difficulty in seeing its benefits. Those responsible for establishing CEFA deserve our gratitude and support for undertaking this long-overdue initiative.

### **THE HON. JOHN HOWARD OM AC**

Prime Minister of Australia, 1996–2007

As a pioneer of democracy amongst free nations, Australia is one of the few countries to have been continuously democratic throughout the course of the twentieth century. Australia's Constitution is the foundation of our system of government. It is uniquely Australian, shaped by Australians whose vision for this country embraced the democratic values and principles which still unite us today. Educational initiatives that raise awareness and improve understanding about Australia's system of government and how it operates play a vital part in making us as a nation better informed about our constitutional heritage and better equipped to determine our future. I commend the Constitution Education Fund for encouraging Australians to learn more about the Constitution and our system of government.

CEFA has also been recognized for its record in delivering programs such as the Governor-General's Prize, which was launched by Chief Justice Gleeson at Parliament House, Sydney, in 2004. The Governor-General's Prize has been acknowledged both as an important opportunity for university students who participate in it:

### **THE HON. MURRAY GLEESON AC QC**

Chief Justice of Australia, 1998–2008

The idea of promoting awareness and interest in our Constitution, especially among undergraduate students, is excellent. The Governor-General's Prize and the conscious promotion in the community—and in particular to universities—of an interest in and understanding of the Constitution is a very worthy project. I am delighted to participate in it.

### **THE HON. ROBERT FRENCH AC**

Chief Justice of Australia

Justices of the High Court have been pleased to participate on the judging panels since the competition was established. We all recognise the importance of effective civics education in Australia and a deeper appreciation by young Australians of their Constitution in the 21st century. On the tenth anniversary of the Governor-General's Prize, I would like to congratulate CEFA for establishing the competition... The competition is well established. Long may it continue.



#### **PROFESSOR GILLIAN TRIGGS**

President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

The Governor-General's Prize provides a brilliant opportunity for undergraduate students to display their original thinking on contemporary issues. The use of the classical essay form to provide refreshing, even startling, perspectives on matters of public debate, is a perfect vehicle for expressing the ideas and energy that young Australians bring to community life.

#### **THE HON. SIR WILLIAM DEANE AC KBE QC**

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1996–2001

The Governor-General's Prize Programme is an outstanding initiative. It will make a significant contribution to Australia's awareness and understanding of our Constitution, our system of government and their history and working. By doing that, the Programme will serve the interests of the Australian people generally.

#### **CHRISTOPHER FREELAND**

National Managing Partner of Baker & McKenzie

In our fiftieth year as a global law firm in Australia, Baker & McKenzie is delighted to be the Principal Partner of the Constitution Education Fund Australia, and to join with CEFA in celebrating the tenth year of the Governor-General's Prize. This year, the Governor-General's Prize has been sponsored by Reconciliation Australia. We applaud CEFA for this initiative, and for encouraging undergraduates to learn more about their Constitution, and its significance in the context of the current movement towards recognition of Indigenous Australians. Accordingly, Baker & McKenzie is proud to support CEFA's mission to educate all Australians about their Constitution and system of government.

CEFA's record also extends to younger students, and it has been recognized for its work in schools:

#### **THE HON. PETER GARRETT AM**

Minister for School Education, 2010–13

I very much welcome the terrific national civics education that the CEFA has been providing to young Australians since 1995. In particular I am impressed by the pioneering civics education outreach projects CEFA is running for Australian schools... It is essential for the Australian democracy that citizens understand the value and freedom of our right to vote. I believe that politicians and educators have a duty to do everything possible to ensure each and every young Australian in every community is an informed and participating citizen now and in the future. CEFA in partnership with Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is providing practical experiences on the history and workings of our democracy.

#### **NOEL PEARSON**

Director Cape York Institute

The new Australian Constitution Centre will have an important role to play in educating the public about the need for Indigenous constitutional recognition. Australians should be aware of the triumphs of our constitutional heritage, as well as the injustices. Learning from this history, we can find ways to become a fairer and more inclusive nation. We stand on the cusp of bringing the three parts of our national story together: our ancient Indigenous heritage, our British inheritance and our multicultural triumph. This reconciliation will make us a more complete commonwealth.



## Testimonials

### **THE HON. DAME QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO**

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 2008-14

What a splendid concept, to empower young Australians to become active, engaged and responsible citizens. Through providing a variety of projects and awards aimed at students between the ages of 8 to 25, [CEFA is] helping to educate and inspire our country's future leaders. We are a young country, but a strong one; a multicultural nation brought together by our democratic values and Constitution. In our fast-paced and globalised world, it is vital that all young Australians understand our governance systems, to enable them to participate effectively in current and future political discussions. In the words of Nelson Mandela: Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

### **JOE De BRUYN**

National President, Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association

I strongly agree with the proposal to build an Australian Constitution Centre.

It is vital that all Australians, especially our young citizens, understand the Australian Constitution and appreciate how it underpins our freedoms and our democracy. Respect for government and the judicial process can only be built on knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of our nation.

### **PROFESSOR GEORGE WILLIAMS AO**

Anthony Mason Professor, Scientia Professor, ARC Laureate Fellow, Foundation Director, Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law

Australian democracy is healthy in many respects, but one problem is the lack of knowledge Australians have about their Constitution. The proposal to establish a digital, educational Australian Constitution Centre with an exhibit in the Museum of Australian Democracy is an exciting initiative that could remedy this. I give it my strong support, and am delighted that it is being proposed by the Constitution Education Fund Australia, which has a long-standing track record of effective education about these issues.

### **JOY CHAMBERS-GRUNDY**

Businesswoman, author, actor, poet and member of CEFA Board of Trustees

I am proud to have been involved with, and a supporter of, the Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEFA) for over a decade. CEFA's current proposal: "to establish a digital, educational Australian Constitution Centre (ACC) with an exhibit in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoADOPH) and a digital online site that will include a virtual library with supporting resources", has enormous value to encourage, enrich and improve, the nation's general comprehension of how our current government evolved from the first brave, steps towards the freedom of the individual and the growth of democracy (Magna Carta, Bill of Rights etc) into that of the Constitutional Monarchy under which we live freely, today. Children especially need to be aware of what freedom means; what civics and citizenship means; how and why we are governed as we are; how and why we respect the rule of law, the English language, the rights of all Australians whatever our ancestry, and indeed, one another. Citizens can only make informed judgements when they understand what the Westminster System of Government provides for us. I believe it is not a coincidence that Australia has endured as a free, democratic nation. However there appears to be a current need for explanation and CEFA is competent, professional, ready and able to render this service to our country.



### Testimonials

#### THE HON BARRIE UNSWORTH

Former NSW Premier

As a former director of CEFA (2006-2014), I am delighted the longstanding proposal to establish an ACC looks close to implementation. In many CEFA Board meeting, I emphasised how lucky we are as Australians to live in a peaceful and stable democracy compared to the political upheavals in so many countries overseas. I am appalled that Australians do not value our Constitution and our system of government and that support for it continues to go down. The proposed ACC should go a long way to reverse such dangerous trends.



## Partners, Benefactors and Significant Sponsors

### Acknowledgements

The Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEFA) takes pleasure in thanking the generosity of hundreds of CEFA supporters, partners, sponsors, benefactors and donors who have made a significant contribution in support of CEFA's practical national civics education projects over many years. We are particularly grateful for the support of the following individuals and organisations -

|   |   |  |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <br>Baker & McKenzie                                   | <br>Australian Government | <br>Reconciliation Australia   | <br>Mrs Joy Chambers-Grundy | <br>Australian Electoral Commission                          | <br>SOS Print + Media |
| <br>Faber-Castell                                     | <br>note.com.au          | <br>Aussie Farmers Direct     | <br>Audio Network         | <br>Audience Alliance Motion Picture Studios               | <br>Lady Potter AC  |
| <br>Base Group Developments and the Battaglia Family | <br>Mr & Mrs Ted Sent    | <br>The Ian Potter Foundation | <br>Lady Mary Fairfax AC  | <br>Endorsing teacher training for CEFA school parliaments |   |





Constitution Education Fund  
Australia

Improving Australians' knowledge and understanding of attitudes towards, an engagement with the history and operation of our Australian Constitution, and the system of government that operates under it and our civic heritage more generally.

Educating for Democracy