



The Constitution Education Fund Australia

The Parliamentary Club (PC)

Portfolios Committees

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Following the election of a school parliament, the Prime Minister is able to select a cabinet of ministers. The Leader of the Opposition can also select a shadow ministry. Each minister can then be given a portfolio and set up their own portfolio Parliamentary Committee. The PC portfolio committee can enhance and complement any existing clubs, societies and interest groups within the school. The PM can confer with the school executive and the PC coordinating teacher to ascertain the issues that specifically pertain to their school and allocate portfolios accordingly. The portfolio committees can include non-elected members or other interested students who are not directly members of the PC. The chair of the committee should report directly to the Minister. Below is a list of some of the portfolios and committees that have been set up by our implementing PC schools. The list below is by no means exhaustive as each school is unique in structure and geographic location. Portfolio committees can be a useful tool as a part of implementing a school parliament.

Minister for the Environment

Oversees the Environmental Parliamentary Committee

- Energy reduction initiatives
- Litter reduction
- Beautification processes and prizes
- Energy reduction initiatives
- Local environment appreciation
- Raising the awareness of environmental issues to the student population
- Local/National/Global (see sample parliamentary inquiry into Nuclear Energy)

Minister for Social Justice

Oversees The Social Justice Parliamentary Committee

- Fundraising for local charities e.g. St Vincent de Paul, Youth off the Streets etc
- Mentoring program for students at risk
- Active citizenship encouragement (see sample social justice event)
- Raising awareness of those in the community less fortunate

Special community projects e.g. homeless people, children with special needs

Minister for Student Welfare

Oversees the Student Welfare Committee

- Anti-Bullying and Harassment campaigns
- P-plate drivers safe driving campaign
- Education program – Risky behaviours “Don’t die laughing” campaign
- Binge drinking “I drink therefore I am... an idiot” campaign
- Drug education programs

Minister for Indigenous Youth (remote schools)

Oversees the Indigenous Youth Parliamentary Committee

- Increasing student attendance at school campaign
- ‘Breaking the cycle’ – building self esteem and resilience
- The Indigenous role model project – Guest speaker tour of remote communities
- Creation of Indigenous language parliaments
- Living in harmony initiative – celebrating cultural diversity
- ‘Bridging the gap’ – life expectancy from the ground up

Educating for Democracy

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Minister for School Spirit

Oversees The School Spirit Parliamentary Committee

- Campaigns to ensure maximum attendance and participation in school carnivals
- Oversee novelty events to ensure participation of all students regardless of ability
- Create cheerleading competitions
- Ensure proper reporting of individual/team achievements

Minister for Arts and Culture

Oversees The Arts and Culture Parliamentary Committee

- Development and promotion of student Art Prize (see sample student portrait prize)
- Seek out community support and sponsorship
- Organise annual exhibition and judging
- Create annual prize for performing arts
- Music Society. Rock Eisteddfod
- Drama/Dance Club
- Book/literature/poetry/language club

Minister for Civics and Citizenship

Oversees the Civics and Citizenship Parliamentary Committee

- “Enrol to vote” initiative in collaboration with the Australian Electoral Commission “Rock ‘n’ roll to vote” campaign
- Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) team
- YMCA Youth Parliament participation
- National and State Constitution Convention delegates
- Implement school based civics activities e.g. mock referendum, elections, parliamentary debates and exhibitions

Treasurer and/or Funding Minister

Oversees The Treasury Fundraising Committee

- Devise income strategies for student government to provide resources/events to improve school
- Fundraisers:
- Walkathons
- Mufti days
- Intra-school sports competitions
- Local business sponsorship
- Local Community support
- Raise and provide funds for other portfolio

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Oversees the Department of Foreign Affairs

- Student exchange program
- Languages and culture promotion
- Interschool relations

Minister for Sport

Oversees the committee for Sport/Health and Fitness

- Encourage more students to join internal sporting teams
- Create and strengthen links to local community sports programs
- Expand and promote sports already on offer e.g. lunchtime sports competitions
- Improve sports facilities within the school
- Increase awareness and promotion of healthy living