

## Management of exhibitions and programmes at the Constitutional Centre

The Constitutional Centre is unique in Australia. Its role includes educating the community on the Commonwealth and Western Australian Constitutions and also the Federal system of Government.

The Constitutional Centre provides:

- » school education programmes — metropolitan and regional; and
- » public/legal profession lectures, seminars and forums.

### School education programmes

In addition to the programmes conducted in the metropolitan area, the Centre took programmes to regional areas of the State with education officers visiting areas not covered by current regional staffing.

Programmes are targeted at primary and secondary students and include free civics education and teacher resources. Since opening in 1997 in excess of 530,000 students have participated in these programmes.

In 2014–15 education officers visited the Kalgoorlie and Geraldton regions with 1,800 students participating in programmes. Materials and programmes for remote and regional schools continued to be distributed on a loan basis throughout the state. 575 students and their teachers accessed programmes in this format.

Two one-day Schools Constitutional Conventions were held attended by 190 students. Fifteen of these students were then selected to be Western Australia's representatives at the National Schools Constitutional Convention held in Canberra in March 2015.

A joint programme held in conjunction with Government House has seen the Governor's residence be used by the Centre's education

officers as the venue for a week of sessions per term for upper primary students. This programme investigates the change in the role of the Governor from Governor Stirling to now.

From March 2015 a puppet programme, 'Rules are Cool', specifically written and produced by Centre education staff for our remote and regional early years students went to air via the Westlink satellite TV channel for the first time. Schools and Community Resource Centres can tune in to watch how a set of rules can improve life in our imaginary town. Teacher notes and follow up activities can be accessed via our website. Rules are Cool will continue to be broadcast on a semi regular basis, alongside other similar programmes on Westlink.



### Public programmes

During the year, the Centre hosted a number of public forums and seminars, which included:

- » The Sir John Forrest State of the Federation Address, by Professor Greg Craven Vice Chancellor of Australian Catholic University Sydney
- » The DisUnited Kingdom: The Scottish Independence Referendum and the Future of the UK by Professor Matthew Flinders, University of Sheffield
- » Can Judges have legal opinions? Recusal and pre-judicial legal advice by Dr Gabrielle Appleby University of Adelaide

## Agency Performance - Service 1

- » The First Homefront Western Australia's War 1914–1918 by Professor Deborah Gare University of Adelaide
- » Dividing the GST Pie: Western Australia's slice?
- » Recent High Court cases: CPCF and Tajorur
- » Inside Magna Carta
- » Bieke Laws: Constitutional questions and political consequences

### Constitutional Centre Advisory Board

The Constitutional Centre Advisory Board is comprised of eleven members appointed for a three year term.

The three year term for nine members expired on 31 October 2014. Chairperson Hon Bill Hassell resigned after 18 years. Mr Hassell was a founding member of the Board and was the Chairperson since 2011.

### Community programmes

A number of civics and citizenship partnership forums were held focussing on promoting participation in a diverse democracy. These events were conducted at the Constitutional Centre in conjunction with the WA Electoral Commission, Office of Multicultural Interests and the Department of Local Government and Communities. The focus of the partnership was targeting culturally and linguistically diverse community leaders. This project was very well received and is planned to continue and widen in its scope.



*Constitutional Centre of Western Australia*