

Engaging students in remote communities

I am very pleased to be part of the “Hear Me!” Program at Parliament House.

The “Hear Me!” program is an educational program developed and delivered by the Parliamentary Education Office to reach out to our students living in remote communities.

The “Hear Me!” program has been developed specifically for the students in our 77 remote community schools. It develops the idea that Parliament, although based in Perth, is a place where distant voices can be heard. This is an important issue I feel strongly about. As a member for regional WA, I am keen to improve connections between Parliament and our people living in rural and remote Western Australia.

A series of interactive activities have helped students develop an understanding of representative democracy - having a say and being heard. Students are encouraged to express what it is they value in their community, what concerns them and what they would like to see changed, improved, or left the same.

Students recorded, either through words or drawings, their ideas onto a calico scroll. The scrolls were presented to myself and to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Grant Woodhams. We have displayed the scrolls outside the Premier's Office in Parliament House for all members of the Parliament of Western Australia.

Schools who have participated to date include La Grange Remote Community School (Bidyadanga), Djarindjin-Lombadina Remote Community School, Sacred Heart School (Beagle Bay), Luurnpa Remote Community School (Balgo Hills), One Arm Point Remote Community School, Derby District High School, John Pujajangka-Piyirn Remote Community School (Mulan), Kururrungku Catholic School (Billiluna), Kalumburu Remote Community School, Oombulgurri Primary School, Birlirr Ngawiyiwu Catholic School (Ringer Soak), Wanalirri Catholic School (Gibb River), Wananami Remote Community School (Mt Barnett), and Dawul Remote Community School (Doon Doon).



Picture: These calico scrolls feature some drawings and contributions from the students from La Grange Remote Community School (Bidyadanga), Djarindjin-Lombadina Remote Community School, Sacred Heart School (Beagle Bay), and Luurnpa Remote Community School (Balgo Hills).