

Tour for Stage Two Legal Studies students

Location	Tour talking points	Link to Legal Studies 2020 outline
Mosaic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT Floral emblem the petals represent 6 states and 1 territory (NT) • In Australia there are 6 states and 10 territories, including Norfolk and Christmas Island • In Australia there are 6 state, 2 territory and 1 federal parliament • Federal system in Australia means that between state and federal parliaments, no parliament is more powerful over the other • Section 121 of Constitution allows the Commonwealth to establish new states, so any territory (other than ACT) can become a state. • Section 122 of Constitution means Commonwealth can legislate for territories, including granting Self-Government (and taking it away, like Norfolk Island) • <i>Questions: What can state and federal parliaments legislate on? What was Federation? What is the Constitution?</i> 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System <i>Basis of Government in Australia</i></p> <p>Topic 2: Constitutional Government <i>Reasons for Federation</i> <i>Division of legislative power between the Commonwealth and states/territories</i> <i>Admission of new states</i> <i>The shifting balance of power between the Commonwealth and the states/territories</i></p>
Northern Territory Flag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical description of flag • Compare to state flags which were designed by British in colonial times. NT was never a British colony. The NT was surrendered by SA to the Commonwealth in 1911 under S122 of Constitution • Brief description of Legislative Council from 1948 • NT self-government 1 July 1978 <p><i>Questions: Is Self-Government close enough to statehood? What are the differences between being a territory and a state? Should NT become a state?</i></p>	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System <i>Basis of Government in Australia</i></p> <p>Topic 2: Constitutional Government <i>Division of legislative power between the Commonwealth and states/territories</i> <i>Admission of new states</i></p>
Remonstrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1962 Remonstrance arguing for more democracy and legislative powers in NT • 1996 Remonstrance arguing against the introduction of the Federal Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996 in House of Representatives (The bill was ultimately passed anyway and the Rights of the Terminally III Act was no longer valid). • 2018 Remonstrance presented to the Parliament of Australia requests that the House of Representatives as soon as practicable consider and pass legislation to repeal section 50A of the Northern Territory (Self Government) Act 1978, to enable the NT Parliament to legislate on Euthanasia. 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System: <i>Federal nature of the Commonwealth</i> <i>Representative government Effectiveness of parliamentary democracy</i></p> <p>Topic 2: Constitutional Government <i>The shifting balance of power between the Commonwealth and the states/territories</i></p>

Legislative Assembly Member Portraits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elicit from students definitions of: government, opposition, independents, examples of minor parties, coalition, hung parliament, balance of power 25 Members of Parliament in NT. Each member represents about 5000 voters. (Compare to NSW, each Member represents about 50,000 voters) Diversity of the Assembly: Look at ratios of Women and Indigenous Members in NT Questions: <i>Are we over-governed in NT? (Consider NT has similar number of government departments and parliamentary committees to administer as the states)</i> <i>What are Ministers? What are Backbenchers?</i> 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System: <i>Responsible government</i> <i>Effectiveness of executive government</i> <i>Basis of Government in Australia</i> <i>Effectiveness of parliamentary democracy</i></p> <p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Methods of supervising legislation</i></p>
Looking at Chamber from ceremonial doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NT is unicameral, but Parliament House designed to accommodate second chamber, should it be required. Most other Australian parliaments are bi-cameral Much easier for NT government to pass its bills, much quicker to legislate Point out no resolution of deadlocks - is this a good or bad thing? Ask students: <i>is this a responsible way of making laws? Upper house is part of the "checks and balances" inherent in the Westminster system. Are there enough checks and balances in NT?</i> 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System: <i>Responsible government</i> <i>Effectiveness of executive government</i> <i>Basis of Government in Australia</i> <i>Effectiveness of parliamentary democracy</i></p> <p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Methods of supervising legislation</i></p>
Speaker's Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point out 5 levels of Parliament House. Level 5 houses offices for every NT member, but most of the floor is for the executive branch: i.e. Cabinet (Ministerial suites) Separation of powers is usually physical too, it is not common for minister to have their suites in a Parliament House. (Originally an atrium but designers later changed it to house the executive to make the building more useable, and therefore justify such a grand and expensive building) Viewing Government House Questions: What is this building? Who lives there? What is their role? 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System <i>Separation of Powers Constitutional monarchy</i></p> <p>Topic 2: Constitutional Government <i>British Monarch as head of state in a Constitutional monarchy</i></p>
Level 3 Mezzanine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngarra Law painting – Yolngu elder and artist, James Gaykamangu produced two paintings (Parliament and the Supreme Court) telling the story of honey-bee dreaming, which describes their system of customary law. The artist wanted all to be reminded that customary law has existed for thousands of years, and is still present in the NT 	<p>Topic 1: Australian legal System: <i>Understanding there is a legal heritage that includes.....customary law</i></p>

Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Committee's area and talk with Committees Secretary about the work of Parliamentary committees and delegated legislation in the NT. • Show and explain recent examples of topics looked at by Committees 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System: <i>Responsible government</i></p> <p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Methods of supervising legislation</i></p>
Portrait Gallery: Chief Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing Chief Minister's portraits on mezzanine • <i>Questions: Who is current Chief Minister? What role does the Chief Minister serve?</i> 	<p>Topic 3: Law-making</p>
Parliamentary Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary counsel drafts (very detailed and precise) government bills • The bill will be checked against current legislation (NT and Commonwealth) for inconsistencies and how this bill will impact other bills 	<p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Types of bills</i> <i>Law-making process</i></p>
Portrait Gallery: Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what the Standing Orders are • Describe the functions of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk • <i>Question: What is the role of the Speaker</i> 	<p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Law-making process</i></p>
Public Galleries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe Parliament in session (Question time if possible, 2pm – 3pm) • Explain question Time is part of responsible government • Q&A with the students after, to determine what they learned and to encourage conscious participation in the legislative process • Describe layout of the Chamber and Westminster conventions • Explain history of the Mace and Dispatch boxes • Explain some of the parliament procedure: Hansard, timing of speeches 	<p>Topic 1: Australian Legal System: <i>Responsible government</i></p> <p>Topic 3: Law-making <i>Students.....participate in the law-making process to develop civic literacy</i></p>