



MEDIA RELEASE

## FUTURE LEADERS GO GLOBAL

Forty-one students from ten Perth schools took over the Legislative Assembly for a day last Thursday (3 November). Their task – apply lessons on great leadership to plan global citizen projects for their school in 2017.

The seven Education Department and three independent schools are all founding members of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Global Citizenship Schools network. The students, identified by their schools as potential leaders, ranged from year 5 to year 11. According to conference organiser Rees Barrett, "the mix of schools and student ages was unique for this kind of event and proved to be a real strength. The primary students, for example, described the support received from their older colleagues as empowering".

[See list of schools attached.](#)

Preparation for the conference involved the students researching the MLA whose seat they occupied, qualities of effective leaders and realistic school projects that will contribute towards one of the 17 UN *Sustainable Development Goals* for 2030.

Students appreciated the opportunity to tour Parliament House under the guidance of education staff. "They reflected on the links between being a responsible citizen - locally and globally. Engagement and participation are the keys - whatever the level," said conference host Anne Barrett.

Five speakers, all UNAA members across three generations, talked with the students about leadership qualities and being active global citizens. *Kay Hallahan* (AO) shared her experiences as a member of both the WA Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and as a Minister in several portfolios. *David Hollands*, member of the HP global education team and National Education Lead for HP South Pacific, talked about his passion for education and technology transforming lives. *Fadzi Whande*, recently awarded the International Racial Equity Leadership Award in Texas, provided insights from her work as a global diversity and inclusion strategist. *Cormac Power*, UWA student and Education Director for UN Youth in WA, highlighted the importance of building and maintaining productive relationships. Fellow UWA student *Sasha Johnson* summarised ten features of effective leaders gleaned from her social justice work and experience as Youth Ambassador.

The program concluded with representatives from each school outlining the project planned for 2017. Teachers and organisers alike commented on the impressive presentation and range of projects. All contributed to the *Sustainable Development Goals* and demonstrated the slogan of *Acting Local/Thinking Global*.

"Particularly heartening was the way in which students used their networking opportunities – even inviting each other to visit next year and observe their projects in action," said Mr Barrett. "Students of today know that technology has made us more interdependent than ever before. They understand the way technology has compressed time and space. They know we have to hone the skills and attitudes that enable us to live together peacefully. The conference reinforces for students that, regardless of their background or age, each responsible action in the local community can have a global impact. Positive feedback from students, teachers and Parliament House staff, has convinced us to make this an annual event."

**Contact for further inquiries:**

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## **TOMORROW'S CITIZEN LEADERS – LOCAL TO GLOBAL**

**Thursday 3 November 2016, Parliament House Harvest Terrace, West Perth**

Students from the following schools attended:

Coolbinia Primary School (4)

Karrinyup Primary School (4)

North Beach Primary School (4)

John Wollaston Anglican Community School (4)

Kingsway Christian College (4)

Wesley College (3)

Cecil Andrews Senior High School (4)

Applecross Senior High School (4)

Rossmoyne Senior High School (5)

Sevenoaks Senior College (5)



**Tomorrow's Citizen Leaders - Local to Global Conference Participants (3 November 2016, WA Parliament House)**





**Wesley College student, Josh Troy, delivering his school's report in the Legislative Assembly**



**Kingsway Christian College student, Trishna Dodhia delivers her school's report in the Legislative Assembly**





**Cecil Andrews Senior High School student, Kaine Burgess, delivers his school's report in the Legislative Assembly**



**North Beach Primary School student, Mikaela Innocent, delivers her school's report in the Legislative Assembly**