



United
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of Australia
WA Division

MEDIA RELEASE

LEADING OUR FUTURE GLOBAL CITIZENS

Forty-seven students from ten Perth schools will become trainee 'members' of the Legislative Assembly for a day on Monday 31 July. Their task – apply lessons on effective leadership to plan global citizen projects for their school.

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 range from year 5 to year 12 and are identified by their schools as potential leaders. According to School Programs Coordinator Rees Barrett, "the mix of schools and student ages has proven to be a real strength in the past. Regardless of age, the students find the opportunity positive and empowering". [See list of schools attached.](#)

Preparation for the conference involves each student researching the MLA whose seat they will share, qualities of effective leaders and realistic school projects that will contribute towards at least one of the 17 UN *Sustainable Development Goals* for 2030. This year students are also asked to think about ways of making the United Nations stronger for the future. "Many of today's challenges are global in nature and therefore require global solutions," says Rees Barrett.

Students will have the opportunity to tour Parliament House under the guidance of education staff. "They reflect on the links between being a responsible citizen - locally and globally. Passion, engagement and participation are the keys - whatever the level," says conference host Anne Barrett.

Four speakers, representing three generations of UNAA members, will provide insights on leadership qualities and being active global citizens. *Kay Hallahan* (AO) will share her learning from experiences as a member of both the WA Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and as a Minister in several portfolios. *David Hollands*, National Education Lead for HP South Pacific, will talk about his passion for education and technology transforming lives. *Fadzi Whande*, recently awarded the International Racial Equity Leadership Award in Texas, will provide insights from her work as a global diversity and inclusion strategist. *Cormac Power*, UWA student and past Education Director for UN Youth in WA, will share his experiences in building and maintaining productive relationships in different parts of the world.

After working 'in committee' to plan their school projects, students will report to the 'assembly' on their plan to contribute to the *Sustainable Development Goals*. Each will demonstrate the motto *Acting Locally and Thinking Globally*. The conference reinforces for students that, regardless of their background or age, each responsible action in the local community can have a positive global impact.

The Student Leadership Program is one of several offered by UNAAWA for members of its Global Citizenship Schools network. All of the programs contribute to *global competence*, which will be included along with reading, mathematics and science literacy in the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). All are based on the UNESCO model for global citizenship education. "Teaching our youngsters to think globally in an ethical, culturally sensitive, critical and creative way is the best preparation we can give them for thriving in a complex world," argues Rees Barrett. "Our programs complement the WA Curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12. They add value by promoting action learning through sustainability projects and challenges. This year for the first time, we'll be recognising the exciting things happening in global citizenship education through our World Teachers' Day Awards (closing 11 August), Yolande Frank Art Awards (closing 25 August) and Schools Sustainability Challenge (closing 20 September)." If members of the community want to encourage students, teachers or schools to join our programs or nominate for the awards they can find out more by emailing Rees at gcs@unaa-wa.org.au

Contact for further inquiries:

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TOMORROW'S CITIZEN LEADERS – LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Monday 31 July 2017, Parliament House, West Perth

Students and teachers from the following schools will be attending:

Applecross Senior High School

Cecil Andrews College

Coolbinia Primary School

Karrinyup Primary School

Mundaring Primary School

North Beach Primary School

John Wollaston Anglican Community School

Sevenoaks Senior College

St Mark's Anglican Community School

Wesley College