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NSW PARLIAMENT INCREASES TRAVEL SUBSIDY FOR REGIONAL SCHOOLS

With the school year now well underway, the Parliament of NSW has announced an increase to its Regional Travel Subsidy, lifting support to \$500 for regional, rural and remote schools.

The increased subsidy helps reduce financial barriers for those schools seeking to visit NSW Parliament and participate in syllabus-aligned education programs that support student understanding of democracy, law-making and civic participation.

President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, said the increase reflects Parliament's commitment to equitable access to civics education.

"Every student in NSW deserves the opportunity to engage directly with their parliament, regardless of where they live," Mr Franklin said.

"By increasing the travel subsidy, we're helping ensure distance and cost are not barriers to understanding how our democratic system works."

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Greg Piper MP, said visiting Parliament House provides students with valuable real-world learning experiences.

"Seeing democracy in action leaves a lasting impression on students," Mr Piper said.

"This increased subsidy makes it easier for regional and remote schools to bring learning to life and connect students with the members that represent them."

The Regional Travel Subsidy supports access to guided tours, Legal Studies workshops, civics and citizenship programs and other initiatives delivered by parliamentary educators.

Teachers who plan to access the subsidy in 2026 have said it will make a meaningful difference. Suzanne Brunswick from Vincentia High School said visiting Parliament helped students connect theory with real-world practice.

"The subsidy makes the trip possible, and the learning value for students is enormous," Ms Brunswick said.

Schools can apply for the subsidy when booking an education program at NSW Parliament House. For more information, visit <https://education.parliament.nsw.gov.au/>.

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