

23 MARCH 2026

## Parliament of NSW stages the Festival of Democracy this autumn school holidays

The Parliament of NSW will come alive with colour and creativity these autumn school holidays when the Festival of Democracy returns to Parliament House on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April for a day of free family fun.

Children and families are invited to step back in time with Queen Eleanor, King John and the barons in a re-enactment of the signing of the Magna Carta – a document often considered as the beginning of the democracy we see in practice in today's Parliaments. Families can also explore the chambers where laws are made, get creative in hands-on workshops and even take the floor in a mock committee role play.

The Festival of Democracy is a free, all-day Festival designed for children aged five to 12 years and their families, offering interactive and educational experiences that bring democracy to life inside Australia's oldest parliament.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Greg Piper MP, said the festival was a unique way to introduce young people to Parliament through play and participation.

“The Festival of Democracy gives children the chance to explore Parliament in a way that is engaging, accessible and fun. By taking part in activities like role play, storytelling and chamber visits, young people can see how democracy works and why their voices matter.”

Running from 9:30am to 3:00pm on Friday, 17 April, the Festival of Democracy will transform NSW Parliament House into a lively hub of discovery, with activities designed to entertain and inspire visitors of all ages.

The President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC said democracy comes alive when people can experience it for themselves.

“The Festival of Democracy gives families the opportunity to connect with the history, traditions and institutions that underpin our Parliament, helping young citizens build an early appreciation of participation, representation and shared decision-making.”

Where: NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

When: Friday, 17 April

Time: 9:30am–3:00pm

Cost: Free, ticketed. To register, visit [parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://parliament.nsw.gov.au) and select 'Get Tickets'.

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