



20 April 2022

FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT

Children and families are invited to join in the FREE Festival of Democracy on Friday 22 April at the Parliament of NSW.

President of the NSW Legislative Council Matthew Mason-Cox said the popular event is returning for a second year and is the perfect family-friendly school holiday activity.

“This is a fun day designed to engage young children with interactive activities held in the historic rooms of Australia’s oldest parliament,” said Mr Mason-Cox.

“Children and their parents can tour the chambers where the laws in our state are made and also participate in the time-honoured tradition of enjoying a democracy sausage.”

The first annual Festival of Democracy attracted hundreds of children into the building in 2021 and the NSW Parliament is ready to welcome them again on the last Friday of the NSW school holidays.

A roving performer playing 19th-century Premier Henry Parkes will interact with the children and an Indigenous cultural workshop will engage children in storytelling.

AUSLAN interpreters for members of the deaf community will be available at a number of activities including the storytelling workshop and tours of the Parliament.

Acting Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly Leslie Williams said that introducing democratic concepts from an early age is an important step towards inspiring children to become engaged citizens.

“The Festival of Democracy is the perfect first visit to a parliament and an excellent foundation for children to also engage with civics and citizenship studies in primary school,” Mrs Williams said.

“It will be exciting to see aspiring young leaders make their pitch for election in the Legislative Assembly in a “Vote For Me” role play.”

A mock ballot overseen by the NSW Electoral Commission with specially designed ballot papers will help young future voters understand ‘above and below the line’ voting by swapping politicians and political parties for favourite foods and colours.

Bookings for the free Festival of Democracy are essential. Click [here](#) to book.

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