

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for Mental Health



Thursday, 7 October 2021

PRESERVING THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY FOR YOUNG VICTORIANS

Students with a keen interest in civics and citizenship can apply for the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and critical thinking through an immersive onshore study tour, thanks to the Victorian Government.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced applications are now open for the 2021-22 *Premier's Spirit of Democracy*, with successful students to gain a glimpse into how ancient Greece helped shape modern Australian democracy through a five-day study tour in Melbourne and Canberra.

The Premier's Spirit of Democracy program gives students a deeper understanding of democracy through immersive learning experiences, where they can learn from the works of classical thinkers like Plato and Aristotle as well as modern expressions of civic engagement.

The study tour will take place from 10-14 April 2022, and is open to all secondary students currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 from government, Catholic and independent schools – with 22 students and four teacher chaperones to be selected.

Students will be encouraged to form their own perspectives on contemporary democratic systems and what they mean for young Australians, collaborate with like-minded peers, and gain the skills and understanding needed to use their voices and help shape the future.

The Premier's Spirit of Democracy program maintains strong links to learning outcomes from the Victorian Foundation to Level 10 and senior secondary curriculums.

To enter, students must submit an application in the form of an essay, short story, audio or video presentation, musical composition or artwork, as well as a statement of intent with any non-essay entries.

Applications close on Sunday 7 November 2021. To enter, visit go.vic.gov.au/36jjQZ.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"The Premier's Spirit of Democracy is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an understanding of how history has shaped our democratic system and values."

"We want students to be challenged to think creatively and critically, and to develop the skills they need to become leaders to bring positive change to their communities, both now and into the future."

"I encourage all students with an interest in civics and citizenship, history, philosophy or legal studies – as well as anyone who wants to build up their leadership skills – to apply for this exciting tour."