



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Electoral Matters Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Recommendations presented on improving civics participation

The Victorian Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee has made 36 recommendations for improving civics and electoral participation in Victoria.

The recommendations are made in the Committee's latest report and follow consultations with a number of key agencies and representative bodies.

"In the state of Victoria, there is a role for both the education system and for the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in the teaching and awareness of civics," said Committee Chair, the Hon Louise Asher MP.

"Whilst the Committee believes that civics and public understanding of the way our democracy works is a significant issue, unfortunately there is not wide public awareness of how our political system actually works."

Most of the recommendations in the Committee's report are targeted to the VEC, but there are also a number of recommendations for the Government and the Parliament of Victoria to consider.

"The Committee believes that, whilst the VEC's Passport to Democracy program has its strengths, there are significant opportunities to expand its use, for example by integrating a student vote project into the program and by fostering greater use of the program," Ms Asher said.

"The VEC could also undertake more extensive work with the Department of Education and Training to support students participating in School Council elections, for example by providing collateral similar to state election material."

The Committee has also suggested further reporting to Parliament on enrolment rates of young Victorians aged 18 to 24 years and on informal voting.

"The Committee has offered what we hope are some helpful suggestions on recruiting younger people to work for the VEC to assist in the conduct of elections and has also suggested some ways in which older people could be recruited to the positions they have traditionally held in the administration of elections," Ms Asher said.

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

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