Celebrating Democracy Week, 18 – 24 October 2006

Every Voice Counts! Student Forum 2006

Years 10 and 11 students from across Australia are invited to apply for the Every Voice Counts! Student Forum which has been arranged as a special Celebrating Democracy Week 2006 opportunity for students. Thirty two students, four from each State and Territory will be chosen to participate. Students will take part in a forum “Living harmoniously in our democracy. How young people can influence the future of our democracy.”

The goals of this Forum are to provide students with a behind-the-scenes tour of democracy in action in the national parliament and with the opportunity to represent their peers in a discussion with the Australian Government Minister for Education, Science or Training (or her representative) about civics and citizenship education issues.

Students will learn about some of the ways that citizens have a say, express ideas, opinions, attitudes and preferences to government in our democracy. Students will have the opportunity to meet and talk to politicians, members of lobby groups, the print media and radio. They will gain a unique behind the scenes view of Federal Parliament and many of the processes in the Australian political system.

The forum will represent all States and Territories and school sectors. Forum participants will have all airfares, accommodation and meals paid for. The forum will take place in Canberra on the Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th October 2006 as a key event in Celebrating Democracy Week 2006.

How to enter
Students are asked to complete this application form, obtain the necessary approval signatures from principals and parents or guardians and return it by Friday 8 September, 2006 to Every Voice Counts! Student Forum, c/- Kurt Ambrose, Curriculum Corporation, PO Box 177, Carlton South, Victoria, 3053 or fax 1300 780 545. Electronic copies of the form are available at: http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au. Further enquiries: Kurt Ambrose, telephone: (03) 9207 9600, email: kurt.ambrose@curriculum.edu.au

Applications will be judged according to the need to provide a range of opinions from the range of school settings in Australia and the insightful qualities of points of view expressed in applications.
Every Voice Counts! Student Forum 2006 – Student Application Form

Student’s Name: ..................................................... Year level: ............................. DOB: .......

School: ..........................................................................................................................................

School address: ................................................................................................................................

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Telephone: ............................................................... Fax: ..................................................

Principal’s name / signature: ...........................................................................................................

Home address: ..............................................................................................................................

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Telephone contact: .......................................................................................................................  

Parent/guardian consent
On my/our own behalf, I/we understand and agree that should be successful as a winner of this national competition, he/she will travel to Canberra for a behind-the-scenes look at how our democracy operates from Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 October 2006. I accept that once I have agreed to accept a position for my child, I will not withdraw he/she unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Name/ signature of parent/guardian: ................................................................. Date: 2006

Application Form: Every Voice Counts! Student Forum 2006
In 150 – 200 words respond to the following: “A harmonious democracy- what it means to me”

Student Response:
Teacher/Principal reference
Please comment on the suitability of the student to participate in this kind of activity. Give reasons why this student is being supported to represent your school.

Name: ................................................................. Position: .............................................................

Signature:.......................................................... Date: 2006