



## ROTARY ADVENTURE IN CITIZENSHIP

4 November, 2019

### **Rotary Adventure in Citizenship dates for 2020 Saturday 9th of May to Saturday 16th of May 2020**

Dear Rotary Club President,

The purpose of this letter is to invite your Rotary Club to sponsor a delegate to attend Rotary Adventure in Citizenship (RAIC) in Canberra in May 2020.

RAIC is a not-for-profit program run by the Rotary Clubs of Canberra and Woden, in partnership with the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO). Its aim is to give attendees (or delegates as we call the Year 11 students who attend) an in-depth understanding of Australia's Parliamentary democracy and what it means to be an Australian citizen - what used to be called "Civics". See the website for the brochure - [www.raic.org.au](http://www.raic.org.au)

The tenth annual Lowy Institute Poll, published in 2014 found that only 60% of Australians, and just 42% of young Australians 18-29 years of age, believe that 'democracy is preferable to any other kind of government'.

Just prior to the 2016 election, the Australian Electoral Commission estimated that around 13% of voters under the age of 25 and eligible to vote, had not bothered to enrol. This statistic has continued to slide.

These statistics suggest a worrying level of disengagement by young people from the foundations of our democracy.

RAIC is held in the Federal Parliament's Budget sitting week. The Budget session is an exciting time for RAIC delegates to be in Canberra where they will be immersed in the processes of our Federal Parliamentary system.

A large part of the week's program is held in Parliament House and involves Members of Parliament and Senators. Also, delegates get to go to places, engage in activities and meet people not normally available to visitors to Canberra.

It is much, much more than just a school visit. Delegates from previous years have described RAIC as "the best week of my life"; "an awesome program"; and similar.

The 2020 Budget session has not yet been formally announced but it is most likely to be the second week of May 2020 so RAIC will probably run from

**Saturday 9th of May to Saturday 16th of May 2020.**

We will confirm this date when we know what Parliament decides (probably in early December 2019).

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**An initiative of the Rotary Clubs of Canberra and Woden,  
supported by the Parliamentary Education Office**

**Website** [www.raic.org.au](http://www.raic.org.au) **E-mail** [raic.canberra@gmail.com](mailto:raic.canberra@gmail.com) **Address** PO Box 9001 Deakin ACT 2600



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The cost of sponsoring a delegate to attend RAIC (\$1,200) is usually borne by the sponsoring Rotary club, but you might like to consider whether costs might be shared, perhaps with another Rotary club, or with your delegate's family making some contribution. The cost covers travel to and from Canberra (mostly by air from a capital city/major regional airport), all accommodation, all entrance fees and meals.

We invite you to include the sponsorship of a delegate to RAIC 2020 in your planning for this Rotary year. It would also be useful to talk very soon to your local schools before they adjourn for the Christmas break with a view to identifying students who will be in Year 11 in 2018 and would benefit from attending RAIC. Please note that while we will accept more than one delegate from one Rotary club, we prefer not to take more than one delegate from the same school. We like to give the delegates new experiences and the opportunity to meet new people so they get the maximum benefit from their RAIC participation.

This is an initial letter to introduce your Club to the RAIC program and to encourage you and your local school(s) to seek out suitable delegates from the students who will be in Year 11 in 2020. We will be sending your club a formal application letter very soon, so please be on the lookout for it.

For more information and a brief outline of the program, visit the RAIC website:

[www.raic.org.au](http://www.raic.org.au) or email us on [raic.canberra@gmail.com](mailto:raic.canberra@gmail.com)

We believe you will find RAIC is good value for money. It gives young people who will be voters in only a year or so valuable insights into what it means to be an Australian citizen and how their votes translate into laws we all have to abide by. In the past, it has also changed some delegate's ideas of what they want to pursue as a career. Please contact your local school soon to identify potential delegates before school ends for this year so in 2020 all systems are "go".

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Vandepuer".

Natalie Vandepuer  
Chair RAIC 2020  
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