

# Youth Voice models in the AMLR

## Alberton Primary School

The Alberton Primary School Children's Parliament is based on the Children's Parliament Model from India. It has been very successful in allowing students to effectively engage in authentic decision-making processes at school. Prior Student Governing Council programs were very much elitist and involved only a small group of students who ran events like fundraisers and discos. The Children's Parliament has a constitution and is similar in structure to the Australian Federal Parliamentary System. Students nominate to be a part of a Ministry of interest and are elected through a polling system. There is a Prime Minister, Deputy and Treasurer who are all students. There are approximately six students per ministry who apply through written application process with assistance from a teacher. There are approximately 55 students representing the whole student body of 250, which means one in five students has a leadership and decision-making role. Each Ministry has an advisor (teacher) to support students – this is just an advisory role as students are ultimately the decision-makers. The advisor must also apply for the position. The Parliament has a budget and Ministries must apply to the Treasurer to access funds. If some Ministries are struggling, the Prime Minister and Deputy offer assistance.

## Allenby Gardens Primary School

In this school, the student voice group is comprised of several students in Years 4 to 6, and began in 2017 with a focus on waste and nude food, as they had been identified as a priority for the school. NRM Education staff visited the school to run a half day workshop with students around leading waste reduction activities at the school. They were quick to inform school leadership, meeting initially with the principal to explain their ideas and then presenting at a whole of staff meeting. As a result, the teacher and parent sustainability group became key supporters of the initiative. The group of students, parents and teachers met regularly throughout the rest of the year in preparation to launch their whole school nude food day in Term 4, which was a resounding success and ensured the whole school community became more aware of the issues around waste.



Students at West Beach Primary School at a WOW meeting

## Brighton Secondary School

At Brighton, all Year 9 students do a Community Citizenship Project which spans the entire year. Students are responsible for working with their class or in smaller groups to plan and carry out all aspects of a community project, which have included developing a vegetable patch at a local nursing home, revegetating garden beds behind the school with local native species and improving the recycling system established with Minda Incorporated. They then present their achievements at a special assembly.

## Immaculate Heart of Mary

At this school, a group of students (with the support of teachers and parents) has been responsible for the planning and creation of a sensory garden on site. Eleven Year 5/6 students met for the first time in late 2016 to devise a vision for the space and develop a plan, allocating jobs for each member of the group. Over the following 12 months the students researched and selected native plants, and were responsible for the design and layout of the space, as well as creating interpretive materials for the local community to raise their awareness of the project and its aims. This resulted in deeper engagement with the local community, and led to the idea of including a 'connecting with communities' circle in the garden design. Once the garden was completed the group celebrated this milestone with an official opening ceremony.



## Southern Montessori School

Southern Montessori has a dedicated group of around a dozen students who make up their Environmental Committee. Every year students apply to be involved and attend the NRM Education Southern Youth Environmental Leaders Program (YELP) with students from other schools in the area. They identify an area for improvement, which in previous years have been focused around improving biodiversity outcomes and reducing waste. A [case study](#) was written to detail the achievements made by the 2016 group. The school also recently won an NRM Schools Action Grant to install a hothouse and shadehouse for propagating edible and native plants. Many of the students from the Environment Committee are also involved in this project.



**Students at Southern Montessori present to their peers**

## St Joseph's School Hectorville

Students at St Joseph's are given many opportunities to be student leaders from an early age including leadership roles in the classroom, representing their class at forums, in the Student Representative Council or as Mission Representatives. The Student Representative Council (SRC), Mission Representatives and Sports Monitors are made up of two elected members from all classes from Year 1 to Year 7. These three groups of student leaders meet throughout each term at specified times during class time. The school aims for all children to be given the chance to be a student leader during their years at St Joseph's School. Every Year 7 takes part in a leadership program at school. The Year 7 teachers work as a team to build a team of leaders. The theme of "Leadership" permeates the Year 7 curriculum, and as senior leaders, they undertake many roles in the school. All students with a leadership role in the school community are presented with a Student Leader Badge.

## West Beach Primary School

West Beach Primary School students join the WOW group (Wipe Out Waste) by writing an application or being interviewed by a teacher. These students then work with two staff mentors to develop and progress projects around the school that minimize waste and address other areas of sustainability. The WOW group is allocated a budget and has dedicated class time to attend meetings. Each class also elects a WOW representative, who is responsible for collecting ideas and feedback from their fellow students, to feed up to the WOW Group. You can see a video showcasing their group's work [here](#).

For more examples of successful youth voice from around the AMLR region, visit our [case studies](#) webpage.

