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Empowering the next generation: Innovative Education Program Brings Democracy to Life for Regional and Remote Schools

A groundbreaking education program, designed to engage students in Queensland and the Northern Territory with the principles of democracy, is set to launch next year thanks to the generous support of philanthropists Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC. Designed by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD), Canberra, ***Democracy in a Box*** will provide an engaging learning experience for students and their teachers, aiming to foster civic engagement in community and enhance understanding of democratic values, building connections to support local, meaningful engagement in some of Australia's most isolated communities.



Museum of Australian Democracy
at Old Parliament House

Chair of the Board Old Parliament House, Barrie Cassidy said the substantial gift is the first major philanthropic donation for the Museum.

“We are able to deliver *Democracy in a Box* thanks to the generous support of Tim and Gina Fairfax,” said Mr Cassidy.

“With democracy so fragile in many parts of the world it’s essential that we educate the next generation. It’s so important that young people understand the fundamentals of our democracy so they will go into their adult lives embracing the freedoms that underpin it. I thank Mr and Mrs Fairfax for their support of this transformative program,” he added.

Democracy in a Box will provide students and teachers with workshops, educational resources, books, student-led games and access to MoAD staff, to build awareness of democratic processes. From helping others to making positive change locally, the program encourages active participation, critical thinking, and collaboration.

The pilot program of *Democracy in a Box* will initially be rolled out to 40 regional and remote schools across Queensland and the Northern Territory, with plans for expansion in the coming years.

The program will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face workshops and online learning tools, ensuring flexibility and access for schools in regional and remote communities.

Teachers will be provided with practical resources which are tailorable to meet their students’ needs and content aligned to the Australian Curriculum, while students will better understand how democracy works within their own communities and across the country.

Director of MoAD, Stephanie Bull said: “This program enables us to broaden our reach and inspire more young minds, fostering civic knowledge and engagement with students”.

Teachers in these regions have welcomed the initiative, noting the positive impact it will have in building awareness and confidence in students who are often underrepresented in national conversations.



Museum of Australian Democracy
at Old Parliament House

This program is a continuation of Tim and Gina Fairfax's long-standing commitment to education and regional communities and aligns with their vision of ensuring equitable opportunities for all Australians.

"Every student deserves the opportunity to learn about the democratic processes that shape our society, and this program is designed for students across the country particularly those in our regions," said Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC.

"We are delighted to support *Democracy in a Box* and equip the next generation with the tools they need to be informed and engaged citizens."

'Democracy in a Box' program

Schools will receive a physical box of educational materials created by MoAD's education experts.

Content will be flexibly designed so that it can be adapted to meet students' needs and interests, and support those with diverse abilities—ensuring accessibility across classes.

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD)

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) is a modern museum located inside a heritage-listed building that was once home to Australia's national parliament.

MoAD protects, conserves and interprets this national icon to highlight the crucial role the building and its collections have played in shaping today's Australia.

The museum strives to share the story of Australia's democracy through exhibitions, educational programs, publications and digital content to increase understanding of the nation's social and political history.

By actively exploring how Australia's democratic systems work, audiences of all ages are inspired and equipped to participate as engaged citizens in our democracy.

About Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC are passionate philanthropists dedicated to enriching the lives of Australians, particularly those living in regional and remote areas.

MOAD

Museum of Australian Democracy
at Old Parliament House

Through their charitable efforts, they have supported education, the arts, and rural communities for over two decades. Their commitment to making a lasting difference in society continues to inspire others to invest in Australia's future.

Images available [here](#).

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Image caption (L-R): Philanthropists Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC, with Stephanie Bull, Director, and Barrie Cassidy, Chair, of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House.