

MEDIA RELEASE



The National Capital Educational Tourism Project (NCETP) is delighted by the news today that the Australian Government has significantly increased the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) that supports all Australian schools visiting Canberra for Civics and Citizenship Education.

While COVID-19 greatly reduced the number of students who visited Canberra in 2020, this initiative is an indication of the support the Australian Government has for the Canberra Experience and the vital education it provides young Australians in understanding Australia's democracy and what it means to be an Australian citizen.

'In 2019, over 170,000 students participated in this crucial education and we want to get back to that while successfully managing risks' says Garry Watson, Project Leader of NCETP.

'Canberra has always been considered a safe destination for schools, and the school excursion industry has worked really hard over the past 6 months to put in place COVID-safe protocols that protect visiting students, as well as the ACT community' adds Mr Watson. 'These strategies are long-term, taking into account the current environment to ensure we continue to deal with excursions safely'.

This important announcement from the Australian Government recognises many families are facing financial challenges at present, and supports students embarking on crucial experiences like a visit to Australia's National Capital.

Educational tourism injects over \$150 million into the ACT economy. School excursions are well planned, considered, and can be monitored closely, providing an extremely sustainable market during this difficult time. This announcement will bring a great deal of confidence to the industry.

The NCETP, a Joint Venture of the ACT Government and the National Capital Attractions Association, welcomes this announcement and thanks for their support of this initiative: the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth; the Hon Andrew Gee MP, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education; and Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Senator for Australia Capital Territory.

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