A group of students in school uniforms are sitting on a ledge outdoors, reading books. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the ledge. The students are wearing dark blue sweaters and grey skirts or trousers. They are holding various colored books, including blue, green, and red. The background shows green foliage.

TEACHING
& promoting
THE RULE OF LAW

Australia's Magna Carta Institute

2018
annual review

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Rule of Law

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Students?

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Our Team

In 2017-18



BOARD

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Education Manager
Education Officer
Law Day Out Facilitator

Sally Layson
Jackie Charles
Fiona Leahy
Christine Lloyd

Our vision is for an Australian society which values the principles which uphold the rule of law in the tradition of the Magna Carta.

Promoting The Rule Of Law

A country that adheres to the rule of law and the traditions of the Magna Carta ensures that:



All persons and organisations including the government are subject to and accountable to the law

The law is clear, known and enforced



The Court system is independent and resolves disputes in a fair and public manner

All persons are presumed innocent until proven otherwise by a Court



No person shall be arbitrarily arrested, imprisoned, or deprived of their property

Punishment must be determined by a Court and be proportionate to the offence



The Magna Carta was the practical forerunner of many of these basic rights and liberties that we consider as fundamental to the rule of law. It is our role to be alert when the rule of law is under threat.



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How?

05

WEBSITE

The ruleoflaw.org.au website received **372,777 page views** during the year.

Resources and case notes keep students and teachers up to date with legal changes and provide material that clearly explain difficult rule of law concepts.

LAW DAY OUTS

3,925 students in NSW attended our Law Day Out program to the Law Courts during the year. The program is at capacity at the CBD Sydney Courts with 40 Law Days Out and **1,000 students per term.**

The program is now running at Parramatta Courts and has been piloted in the Newcastle Courts with a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

TEACHER TRAINING

Explaining the law, in easy to understand terms can be difficult.

We supported **157** teachers by providing professional development workshops, **promoting and explaining** the rule of law.

Our education programs are carried out in conjunction with the Rule of Law Institute Australia and address the lack of community understanding of the Magna Carta and the rule of law principles that underpin the Australian legal system.

Why high school students?

06

We help high school teachers understand and teach basic rule of law principles and then bring those principles to life when they join us on an experiential excursion to the courts.

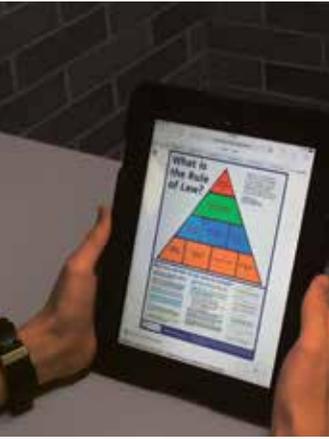
Our online resources and

handouts enable teachers to confidently explain and promote the principles of the Magna Carta and the rule of law in their classrooms. We help teachers stay abreast with changes in the law and provide interesting and relevant cases for students to engage with during their studies.

Our Law Day Out Program engages students who visit the Courts as part of the curriculum requirements. Rather than aimlessly wondering around the Courts, our program provides a positive personal experience that radically improves their perception and understanding of the rule of law.

In our experience there is nothing more powerful than seeing an accused in the dock, seeing him charged and then the hearing, the trial and found guilty or innocent, led away or set free. This dispels any

*Photos of Students
using material
prepared by
Australia's Magna
Carta Institute*



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myths that students might have from television, their family or country of origin and the reality of our criminal justice system is brought home. When they meet judicial officers and see how the criminal system treats the accused, they start to appreciate the fairness and reasonableness of our criminal system and the principles established in the Magna Carta. In turn, this triggers a favourable emotional response to our legal system and enhances trust and deeper understanding.

This positive real experience with the criminal justice system is then quickly passed onto other family

members through their “cultural mediation” far more effectively than advertisements, community lectures, leaflets or viewing Parliament house or empty courts. Thereby increasing community understanding and strengthening a culture of compliance with the law and respect for civic institutions which in turn supports a strong rule of law.





For outstanding achievement in a particular project, area of operations, governance, activity or initiative

ASSOCIATION AWARDS™ 2018

Rule of Law Institute Australia: 'Law Day Out' Program

The Rule of Law Institute Australia (together with Australia's Magna Carta Institute) has been operating since 2009 through private donations. It is committed to creating a better understanding of Australia's legal system and the rule of law through education programs provided to high school students studying commerce and legal studies.

In 2016, the Institute launched the "Law Day Out" Program based on a belief that the best way to teach common values about the rule of law, parliamentary democracy and obeying the law is to provide an immersive, personal and memorable experience of the law courts.

The program involves workshops and court visits so that by experiencing the court for themselves, students realise there are real people in the system.

Over 8,700 Year 11 and 12 legal studies and commerce students have participated in Law Day Outs in the CBD of Sydney.

Over 75% of students who attend the programs come from the Western Suburbs of Sydney and lack understanding and engagement with the criminal justice system.

The Institute has found that 81% of students have greater confidence that the courts can be trusted to deliver just outcomes after attending one of the "Law Day Outs".

Associations Forum congratulates the other finalists:

- **Consult Australia** for their thought leadership policy report *Models: Infrastructure Governance in Australia*
- **Master Builders Queensland** for their lobbying campaign against Project Bank Accounts
- **Science & Technology Australia** for their *Superstars of STEM* program

Board goes to Destination Gold Coast Business Events for sponsoring this Award.



The Law Day Out program received the Association Achievement of the Year Award.

Success of the Program

Our programs have received support from teachers and the judiciary.

40% of the judiciary from NSW and Federal jurisdictions have volunteered to speak to students at our Law Day's Out.

“ It’s such important work you do. In a way it’s obvious, but someone has to see how important it is, then take it up and put a lot of work into co-ordinating it. It is building a good foundation for future attitudes to and understanding of lawyers, judges and the legal system. Well done. ”

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His Honour Judge Richmond Cogswell AC

President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal



“

Thank you for a fantastic experience for the students today. The students were discussing the Law Courts all afternoon. Your staff are an amazing source of information and thank you so much for your preparation and hard work

”

HSIE Legal Studies Teacher

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Financials

PROFIT AND LOSS

For year ended 30 June 2018

Donations	\$402,100
Grants	\$31,525
Total Income	\$433,625

Education Programs	\$10,145
Employment Costs	\$287,935
Administration	\$11,723
Total Expenses	\$309,821
Net Profit	\$123,904



Our Supporters

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On behalf of our Committee, our team, our volunteers and schools, thank you for so generously helping us promote the rule of law and the Magna Carta.

01

The Lowy
Foundation

02

Foundation for Rural and
Regional Renewal NSW, Premier's
Grant, Sydney Motorways

03

Speed and
Stracey Lawyers

Donations made to Australia's Magna Carta Institute are tax deductible.
Please email info@ruleoflaw.org.au for more information.



Australia's Magna Carta Institute

Rule of Law Institute of Australia
Level 4, 131 Macquarie Street,
Sydney 2000 NSW
info@ruleoflaw.org.au
ruleoflaw.org.au
magnacarta.org.au



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