



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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D15/8401

26 February 2015

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

When appearing before the Committee on Monday at Additional Estimates I was asked about my department's plans to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the 1215 Magna Carta. In response I detailed a range of activities that have been completed or are being planned, including refreshing the exhibit displaying the Parliament's 1297 Inspeximus Magna Carta and a Senate Occasional Lecture by the British High Commissioner.

In addition to the commemorative activities I mentioned at Additional Estimates, the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO), which is jointly funded by the Department of the House of Representatives, is taking appropriate steps to ensure that the anniversary of the Magna Carta is brought to the attention of students and teachers. In particular, the PEO's popular website will soon feature a banner advertisement on the Magna Carta anniversary which encourages students and teachers to explore relevant PEO resources, such as the Closer Look paper, *A Short History of Parliament*. A dedicated Magna Carta fact sheet has also been developed and will soon be placed on the PEO website and linked to the banner advertisement.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)