

Youth Consultation through Climate Deliberations is a fantastic way to not only educate students about the climate issues facing our state but it also provides a means for students to learn critical thinking skills, voice their opinions and share with decision makers what they believe needs to be done. I have been leading a team of young people over the past two years to create a framework for this to happen more frequently. We have run four climate deliberations with year 9 and 10's across regional WA. From this we have refined and created a process for young people to deliberate and work with decision makers to come up with and implement climate solutions.

The framework will provide educational resources so that participants can gain a comprehensive understanding of climate change. The educational resources will align with the Australian year 9 and 10 Science and Humanities curriculum. It will seek to resolve the current concern that Australian schools are not sufficiently engaged with the curriculum on climate change.

For these climate deliberations to become a sustainable, long-lasting method of including young people in the decision making process, we need an army of young leaders to be trained with the skills to run them in their own schools, communities and organisations. The framework we are creating will have clear instructions for how to run these events.

The deliberations begin with participants learning about the climate issues facing their area through a series of videos and Q&As with experts. Following this, the young people participate in a range of activities, such as a 'World Cafe' which allow individual participants to share their ideas and work with others to build upon and refine them through deliberation. Next an 'Affinity Diagramming activity' gets participants to organise and choose the ideas which are top priorities. The participants then create an action plan detailing how these solutions were going to be implemented.

By involving youth consultation and an opportunity for students to voice their opinions and ideas regarding climate change, young people will be more engaged and eager to learn the content. Through holding deliberations, such as these, schools can transform from not only being educators in their communities but also being change makers.

For more information visit <http://www.youthcitizensassembly.org.au/>