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New resource helps students understand democracy

by The Educator 24 Aug 2018

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High school teachers can now access free online educational resources exploring Australia's democratic freedoms.

The Story of Our Rights and Freedoms curriculum unit was created through a unique partnership between education not-for-profit Cool Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

The 18-lesson unit for Year 7-10 will broaden students' understanding of democracy and its function throughout history with captivating curriculum for history and civics and citizenship classes.

All lessons include videos and activities about human rights with a focus on relevant legislation and particular issues that affect individuals and groups both locally and internationally.

Cool Australia's founder and managing director, Jason Kimberley, said Cool Australia was thrilled to collaborate with the AHRC to provide teachers with an engaging and interactive set of learning tools that are linked to the Australian Curriculum.

"The Story of Our Rights and Freedoms will inform young people about their rights and freedoms as well as build 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, team work, communication and creative thinking," Kimberley said.

AHRC president emeritus professor, Rosalind Croucher AO, said education had the power to bring about positive change in communities across Australia.

"One of the core functions of the Australian Human Rights Commission is to promote an understanding and public discussion in Australia about rights and responsibilities in relation to human rights," Professor Croucher said.

"Our newest series of resources, developed in partnership with the curriculum experts at Cool Australia, will support Australian teachers and students to deepen their understanding of the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and some of the other core elements that underpin the protection of our rights and freedoms in Australia today."

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