

## Justicecountry - Student reflections

### Social Justice:

- I used to believe that Australia was one of the best places to live, the lucky country, but the facts challenge this perspective; we are not as equal as a society as we think we are
- I found it hard to be really critical of the secure, comfortable, privileged life style when it's your own
- There is much greed in Australian society resulting in inequality and many citizens living in poverty
- The 'system' is corrupt and favours the rich; some people earn more money than they will ever need
- Ethics are being ignored by members of parliament – some even want the poor to stay poor in order that they can stay rich; greed seems to be the seed of all evil
- There is a massive gap between the rich and the poor and it continues to grow
- I am in favour of democratic process but I am disappointed in the results
- Party power brokers do not always act for the good of the country
- In order for a country to run smoothly a sense of justice needs to be in place

### Simulations:

- It is so much fun learning through simulations; they are a very practical way of learning; I wish we did more of them
- The simulation brought us closer to people we don't normally associate with by forcing us to work as a team – which was fun
- They are a better way of learning because you see others' ideas come out and because we participate and make decisions
- Simulations involve us physically and this is far better than being told or lectured
- It's fine to learn some things through text books but simulations are ten times more effective
- Simulations fully expose us to the workings of the world and to the feelings in the situation
- They force you to use your knowledge to make practical decisions
- We all participated immensely – it was very educational, intense and exciting
- They are a fantastic way of learning – I did not get distracted like I do in normal classes – I loved it

### Decisions for Action:

- The *Justicecountry* Parliament ended on a bitter sweet note, with the income distribution fairer, but still showing signs of a highly inequitable system
- As Prime Minister I feel sad at the end of the day. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we achieved a great deal and that Justicecountry is now a better country than it was when we started this morning. I am saddened, however by the number of compromises that we made with our principles. This was only an exercise. What sort of citizens will we be?
- I realized that I am very privileged but uninformed and that I need to be better informed; find others who share my views and work together to make change
- I have taken too much for granted and I now need to think about others and the disadvantaged – I now want different things from I had previously wanted
- I need to become a person who stands up for what I believe and help those unable to help themselves
- I think that as private school students we were naturally keen to keep the current policies in place but most of us, at heart, want to improve society and many are surprisingly generous
- I want to change how I think, speak and live – I want to become the change that I want to see in society
- Should we be celebrating the success of the day or anguishing over the state of the nation? Some at least, now aspire to careers rooted in social justice.