



# Application Pack 2019

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
**YMCA Youth Parliament**



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Local Government and Communities**



**YMCAWA**



## About YP

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The Western Australian YMCA Youth Parliament is an annual youth leadership forum allowing young people aged 15—25 to talk about issues important to them in Parliament. Participants include people from all walks of life and from all corners of the state—anyone who has an opinion and wants to share it!

As Youth Members of Parliament, participants are charged with representing their peers from WA. Youth Members work in Committees to write legislation which is

then debated in Parliament at the week-long camp. Across the week, YMPs will meet some of WA's most important political figures, learn and develop confidence in public speaking and get to know young people with similar interests. It's also a great way to learn about how to lobby for change in your community!

***You don't need to know anything about politics, governance or parliament to be involved in the program; just passionate about youth issues and we will teach you the rest!***



## What does YP involve?

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***Choose an issue:*** YMPs are placed in Committees based on their areas of interests. Under the guidance of an Advisor, these Committees then select an idea they'd like to write their bill about.

***Training Day & Bill writing:*** The first training day is held **Saturday 13 April**. Participants learn how to write legislation and begin turning their idea into a bill. Committees then work online and/or in person to complete their bill.

***Second Training Day:*** The second training day is held on **Sunday 6 July**. Participants learn how to write speeches, lead a committee effectively, and strategies to undertake during bill debate.

***Residential camp!*** Teams then present their bills in Parliament House during camp, debating it with other young people. The week also includes recreation activities, caucus meetings, functions with political figures and lots more! The camp is from **Sunday 14—Friday 19 July 2019**.



## Why should you do YP?

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YP can help you learn a range of new skills, including public speaking, leadership and growing in confidence. It's also a great chance to meet new people and learn how to lobby for change in your community. Here is what some of our past participants had to say:

**“Youth Parliament is an amazing experience. You get to know so many diverse people, learn how parliament functions and how legislation is created, and have a great time ” - Tahlia Satti, YP 2018**

**“The best part about YP was being surrounded by a group of like-minded young people who were ready to question the status quo” - Georgie Carey, YP 2014.**

**“YP is more than a leadership program. It is an authentic opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and influence debate” - Adam Kovalevs, YP 2011, 2012**



## Who runs YP?

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Youth Parliament is run by the YMCA WA. YMCAs run Youth Parliament for multiple states across Australia and have done so for more than 30 years—so you are in safe hands! The YMCA appoints a Taskforce to handle the planning, organisation and running of Youth Parliament.

The Taskforce is made up of 17 to 25 year old volunteers who have participated in the program before and wish to ensure that Youth Parliament is a youth-led event—run by young people, for young

people. All Taskforce members hold a Working with Children Check and are trained to ensure they are able to carry out the task appropriately.

Taskforce is there to help you with all aspects of the program, from writing your bill, to seeking sponsorship to delivering your speeches in Parliament. Youth Parliament is a program to learn new skills, and Taskforce is there to guide you through the process.



## What are the costs involved?

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In 2019, each participant will be required to pay a fee of **\$466.50 (including \$46.50 GST)**. The fee covers accommodation, meals, transport, activities and materials during the program. On acceptance into the program, participants will need to pay a \$50 deposit to confirm their place, with the remainder of payment due approximately seven weeks later.

There are number of ways that participants can **get help with the costs** of Youth Parliament. This includes sponsorship from schools or universities, donations from Members of Parliament and other avenues. More information on this will be provided on acceptance into the program.



## How do I apply?

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The application link will be posted via our Facebook page. This year, they open on **Monday 4 February** .

You will be asked to describe in 200 words each:

- What significant issue facing youth today are you most passionate about and why?
- Why do you think you should be selected to participate in Youth Parliament 2019?
- What do you want to achieve through your participation in Youth Parliament 2019?

We want to hear what you're most passionate about, so make sure you take some time to think about what you want to say!

You will be asked some information about which electorate you wish to represent. You can find out more information about which electorate you live in at the WA Electoral Commission website.

Finally, you will pick an issue area you are most passionate about. The choices are listed on the next page.



## Committee Areas

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You will also be asked which three areas you are most interested in, from the list below:

- Agriculture & Fisheries
- Child Protection & Community Services
- Commerce
- Culture & Arts
- Education & Training
- Electoral Affairs
- Environment
- Health, Mental Health & Disability Service
- Local Government & Planning
- Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs

- Police & Justice
- Regional & State Development
- Road Safety
- Sport & Recreation
- Transport & Housing
- Volunteering
- Women's Interests
- Youth Interests

This will influence which Committee you are placed in, so pick carefully!





## For more information

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Want to know more about YP? Our Facebook page is your number one source of information. There, you will find previous program information including bill topics, local newspaper articles and debate outcomes. You can also find out more about the 2019 Taskforce—keep an eye out for our weekly Taskforce profiles. Search “Western Australian YMCA Youth Parliament”

To hear from our 2018 participants about what YP was to them, you can check out the YMCA WA Facebook page.

You can also email our Program Coordinator at [brehany.shanahan@ymca.wa.org.au](mailto:brehany.shanahan@ymca.wa.org.au). Alternatively, she is available on 9328 3223.

Good luck with your applications and we hope to see you at camp in July!



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