



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Application Pack 2020



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





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!

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.

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!

WHAT DOES YOUTH PARLIAMENT INVOLVE

Choose an issue

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 18 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 Saturday 4 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 12—Friday 17 July 2020.



WHY YOU SHOULD DO YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Youth Parliament 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 has given me the confidence to enact change in my community. I've met so many incredible young people who have given me hope for Australia's future."

"It is a worthwhile experience to broaden your mind to the world around you, whilst also being able to develop your ideas and skills, and articulate them in a way that can help you advocate for change!"

"YP is an incredible and unique experience that gives young people the opportunity to ignite their passions, and discover the strength to make change hidden within them."

"It is a fun, challenging and incredible program that allows you to develop your public speaking skills, meet inspiring young people that all bring a huge range of views and experiences with them and a forum to discuss issues that matter. And you will make friends for life!"

"YP was an incredible experience that allowed us as young people to have our say and show our society that we care far more than they realise. It allowed me to make lifelong friends as well as connections for making real, tangible change in my community."

WHO RUNS YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Youth Parliament is run by the YMCA WA. YMCAs run Youth Parliament for multiples 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

In 2020, each participant will be required to pay a fee of **\$478.00 (including \$47.80 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

The application link will be posted via our Facebook page. This year, they open on Monday 3 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 2020?
- What do you want to achieve through your participation in Youth Parliament 2020?

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

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!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUTH PARLIAMENT

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 2020 Taskforce—keep an eye out for our weekly Taskforce profiles. Search “[Western Australian YMCA Youth Parliament](#)”

To hear from our 2019 participants about what YP was to them, you can check out the YMCA WA Facebook page.

You can also email our Program Coordinator at Joshua.Rozells@ymcawa.org.au. Alternatively, he is available on 9328 3221.

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



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