

The Y WA Youth Parliament



2023 Application Pack



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**

What is Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is a program that empowers young people to have a voice in Parliament and in your community.

We are an apolitical program

Regardless of who you are and what you believe in, Youth Parliament caters for all. We are not affiliated to any political parties or movements and work hard to ensure that the program remains as apolitical as possible - so everyone can participate!



We'll teach you the skills

During Youth Parliament, you will have the opportunity to learn about parliamentary processes, writing legislation, public speaking and leadership. You don't need to have any prior knowledge to participate - just come ready to learn!

You get the opportunity to speak in Parliament

During our weeklong camp in July, all Youth Members gather in the WA Parliament House to debate bills and discuss the issues that matter to you. You will be a Member of Parliament for the week - sitting in the member's chair and giving speeches!



You have the opportunity to meet your local MP

Once you know the electorate that you are representing, we encourage you to reach out your Member of Parliament and organise a time to meet with them. This gives you the chance to discuss local issues and get their input on your YP speeches!

Your bill will be presented to the government

After camp, all bills will be presented to the Premier and Members of Parliament as a representation of the issues that young people in WA are passionate about and want to see addressed. Who knows, maybe your bill will go on to become actual legislation too!



How does it all work?



You are chosen as a representative of an electorate

E.g. The Youth Member for the Pilbara

This is the electorate that you will represent throughout Youth Parliament and the title you will hold during sessions. In addition to this, you will also be a member of either the government or opposition.



You are selected as a member of a committee

E.g. A member of the Sport and Recreation committee

This is decided based on how you preference your top three areas of interest in the application form. Committees have between 5-9 people in them and together you will write a bill on your chosen topic.



You attend three training days

Training days are in Perth with online options for regional members

The training days are an opportunity to come together and learn all of the important skills that you need to participate in the program. The training will cover bill writing, parliamentary procedures, public speaking and other important information about the program.



Your committee meets weekly (online) to draft your bill

E.g. A bill to introduce a state wide school lunch program

Your committee will be led by an advisor who is there to help you put together your bill. As a group, you will decide on a topic, research existing legislation and start to form a bill that addresses an issue in the community. Once the bill is completed, it will be debated by all Youth Members and eventually voted on during Youth Parliament.



You attend camp and participate in parliamentary sessions

You will have the opportunity to speak on each of the eight bills!

You will attend 3 days of parliamentary sittings at Parliament House. During this time, each committee will present their bill and have it debated and voted on by all members. You will also present speeches on your electorate, and other issues that are important to you.

Who can apply?

You are eligible to apply if you are:



A young person aged between 15 and 25

To participate in Youth Parliament, you must be aged between 15 and 25 on the 1st July 2023.



Living in Western Australia

Every state has a Youth Parliament so check that you are applying for one that matches where you live.

In the application form, we will ask which electorate you live in. To find this out, click here:

<https://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au/electorates/find-your-electorate>



Passionate about local issues and representing your community

Regardless of who you are and what you believe in, if you're passionate



When is it?



Applications Open
Monday 20th February



Applications Close
Sunday 26th March



Applicants Notified
Monday 3rd April



Training Day 1
West Perth
Saturday 22nd April



Weekly Committee Meetings
Online
April to June



Training Day 2
West Perth
Saturday 27th May



Training Day 3
West Perth
Saturday 24th June



Residential Camp
Perth
Sunday 9th - Friday 14th July

How much does it cost?

The cost to participate in Youth Parliament of the program is **\$480.00** (including \$48.00 GST).

This covers all accommodation, meals, transport, activities and materials during the program.



We know this is a huge amount of money which is why we will support you throughout the program to seek sponsorship and other opportunities to cover this cost.

Some of these opportunities include:



Click the video to hear what one of our former participants had to say about seeking sponsorship

Sponsorship from your local Member of Parliament



Support from your school or place of education



Still not convinced?

Contact our **Sponsorship Officer Hannah** to have a chat about your individual circumstances the support that we can provide.



Applying for local government or community grants



Hannah.Inwood@ymcawa.org.au

Who runs it?

Youth Parliament is run by the Y WA. Ys run Youth Parliament for multiples states across Australia and have done so for more than 30 years—so you are in safe hands!



The leadership team for Youth Parliament is comprised of three staff members and a group of Taskforce volunteers. Taskforce members are there to help you with all aspects of the program, from writing your bill, to seeking sponsorship to delivering your speeches in Parliament. Many of them have done the program before as a participant so they know exactly what you are about to experience!



Youth Parliament is a program to learn new skills, and Taskforce is there to guide you through the process.



The Taskforce is made up of 18 to 25 year old volunteers as part of our mission to keep Youth Parliament as a youth-led event—run by young people, for young people.

All Taskforce members have a Working with Children check and receiving training in areas which include:

- First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid
- LGBTQ+ inclusivity
- Safeguarding children
- Parliamentary processes

How do I apply?

1 Scan the QR code or click the link below

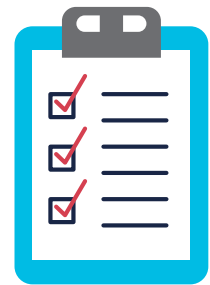
https://ymcawa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVhCDvmGP2WUUce



2 Fill out the application form and answer all questions

These will include:

- Personal information
- Demographic information
- Application questions
- Final Questions



3 Choose a format to answer the selection questions



If you choose a **written application**, fill out the boxes in the form with your answers.



If you choose a **video application**, follow the steps on the next page.

The selection questions for this year are:

- 1 Why do you think you should be selected to participate in Youth Parliament?
- 2 What significant issue facing young people are you most passionate about and why?
- 3 What do you want to achieve through your participation in Youth Parliament?

How do I submit a video application?

1

Make your video

- Answer selection questions (see page above for the three questions)
- Make sure the video is 2 minutes or less
- Name your video file as 'YP_Application Video_Firstname Lastname'.

2

Submit Your Video

Choose the format to submit your video.



Google Drive (max size 5T)

- Sign up or log in to Google Drive
- Click 'New' and select 'File Upload'
- Select your video
- Once loaded, click the three dots and select 'Share'
- Add Emma.Winton@ymcawa.org.au as a 'Viewer' and click send



DropBox (max size 50GB)

- Sign up or log in to Dropbox
- Click 'Upload Files' and select your video
- Once loaded, hover over the file and click 'Share'
- Share with Emma.Winton@ymcawa.org.au



Email (max size 10MB)

- Sign up or log in to email
- Compose an email and attach your video
- Add the subject line 'YP_Application_Firstname Lastname'.
- Email to Emma.Winton@ymcawa.org.au



WeTransfer

- Click the three dots and choose send email transfer or get transfer link
- If send email transfer is selected, fill in the prompts including email to as Emma.Winton@ymcawa.org.au and click transfer
- If get transfer link is selected, click get a link and paste into the application form or send via email to Emma.Winton@ymcawa.org.au

3

Finish Your Application

- Indicate in the application that you have submitted your video.
- Make sure all questions are answered
- Submit your application

What will I get out of it?



Learning to work in teams with a wide range of people

Developing lifelong friendships with likeminded young people



Learning new skills and developing your knowledge of politics

practicing your public speaking and oral advocacy skills



Learning how to write your own piece of legislation

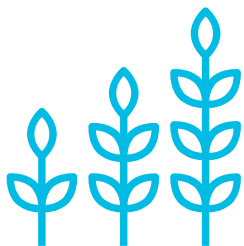
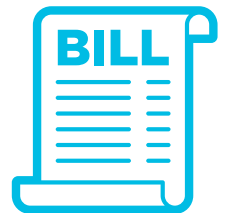


Staying on camp with new friends

The opportunity to speak in front of the media and advocate on behalf of young people in WA



Visiting parliament house and learning about WA's political history



Growing as a person

The opportunity to take on leadership roles and learn about leadership



Great meals at Parliament House and on camp



Joining a strong alumni network and community of Youth Parliamentarians

Learning how to negotiate and understand other people's perspectives



Having lots of fun!

Want to know more?

You can follow us on social media to keep updated with the Youth Parliament program and applications



@YouthParlWA



@YouthParlWA

You can also get in touch with our Program Coordinator Emma Winton by phone or email



Emma.Winton@ymcwa.org.au



0400 383 813



Good luck with your application!



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