

The Y WA Youth Parliament 2026 Application Pack



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



the

**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 a nonpartisan 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 encourage diverse opinions and thoughts in the program!



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 6th July 2025.



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 then you should apply.



Can I apply if I don't live in Perth?

YES!

Part of what makes Youth Parliament great is having young people from all over Western Australia in the program. If you live regionally, we can help you by:



Organising payment support for your travel costs to attend the camp in Perth.



Helping you secure sponsorship and funding from politicians and organisations to reduce the costs of participating.



Offering accessible online options to participate remotely in the training days and bill writing sessions.



When is it?



Applications Open
Monday 19 January



Applications Close
Thursday 19 February



Applicants Notified
Friday 27 March



Training Day 1

Perth Area

Saturday 18th April

Regional Online Option - 19th April



Weekly Committee Meetings

Online

April to June



Training Day 2

Perth Area

Saturday 30th May

Regional Online Option - 31st May



Training Day 3

Perth Area

Saturday 27th June

Regional Online Option - 28th June



Residential Camp

Perth Area

Sunday 12th - Friday 17th July

How much does it cost?

The cost to participate in Youth Parliament of the program is **\$510. 00** (including \$51.00 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:



Sponsorship from your local Member of Parliament



Support from your school or place of education



Applying for local government or community grants



Still concerned about the cost?

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



emer.obrien@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 receive training in the following areas:

- First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid
- Cultural sensitivity
- LGBTQIA+ inclusivity
- Safeguarding children
- Parliamentary processes

How do I apply?

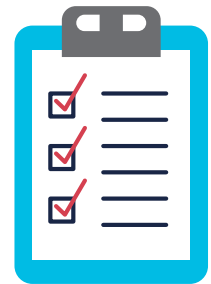
- 1 Scan the QR code or click the link below
<https://forms.office.com/r/dAJfqSizYF>



- 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 an online **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.



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

The selection questions for this year are:

- 1 What significant issue facing young people are you most passionate about and why? (200 word maximum)
- 2 What do you hope to achieve through your potential participation in Youth Parliament 2026? (For example skills development, enacting change, to create job opportunities etc). (200 word maximum)
- 3 FOR QUESTION 3 PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (200 word maximum)
If you were the dictator of WA for a day what would you do? OR
Tell us about something you feel absolute joy doing.

There are resources available if you would like examples of the selection questions. If you would like to access these, please email our Access & Inclusion Officer Aimee, aimee.oliver@ymcawa.org.au

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 youth.parliament@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 youth.parliament@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 youth.parliament@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 youth.parliament@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 youth.parliament@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

How do I submit a postal application?

1

Print a copy of the application

For a copy of the blank application forms, you may either:



Email the program coordinator for a blank copy to print

- Sign up or log in to email
- Compose an email regarding your interest in a postal application
- Email youth.parliament@ymcawa.org.au
- Print the provided application forms

OR



Visit your closest Y WA and collect a copy of the application forms

- You can locate the closest Y WA community centre on the Y WA website at <https://www.ymcawa.org.au/find-your-y>
- Or visit <https://www.ymcawa.org.au/what-we-do/youth-services/western-australian-youth-parliament> to download a blank copy of the application

2

Complete your application

- Complete the application as directed on the “How to Apply” page by filling in the boxes of the form with your answers
- Ensure all answers provided are legible and easy to read

3

Post your application

- Your application should be addressed to:
Alexandra Bell
201 Star Street
WELSHPOOL, WA 6106
- Post your application to the provided postal address **no later than Monday 16th February**. If an application is posted later than this date, it may not be eligible for consideration.

There are resources available if you are struggling to complete your postal application. If you would like to access this support, please don't hesitate to email our Program Coordinator Alex, at alexandra.bell@ymcawa.org.au

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



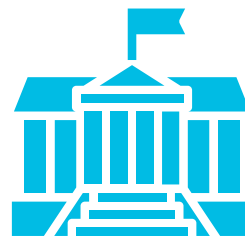
Learning new skills and developing your knowledge of politics

Practicing your public speaking and oral advocacy skills



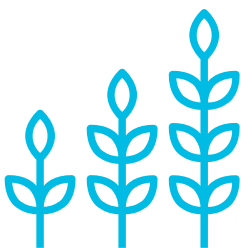
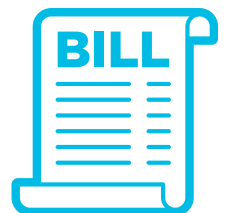
Staying on camp with new friends

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

Learning how to write your own piece of legislation



Personal and professional development

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

If you have any questions about program accessibility, you can get in touch with our Senior Coordinator of Operations, Aimee Oliver by email



aimee.oliver@ymcawa.org.au

If you have any questions about program cost or sponsorship, you can get in touch with our Senior Coordinator of Media, Communications & Sponsorship, Emer OBrien by email



emer.obrien@ymcawa.org.au

You can also get in touch with our Program Coordinator, Alexandra Bell by phone or email



alexandra.bell@ymcawa.org.au



0400 383 813

Good luck with your application!



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