

# YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

South Australia

## 2026 Program Overview

*AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF EMPOWERED YOUNG SOUTH  
AUSTRALIANS TO ADVOCATE AND INITIATE CHANGE*

Debate important issues important to South  
Australians Develop leadership skills  
Create change in your community



**Government of South Australia**  
Department of Human Services

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM



YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program providing a platform for young people aged 15-25 to voice their views on important issues, build leadership skills, parliamentary understanding, and learn about democracy.

Youth Parliament focuses on personal development, empowering young people to be advocates for their community and to seek change by connecting youth voices and opinions with politicians and decision makers.

The role of a Youth Parliamentarian is a privilege – you will use your voice to represent young people across the state. Use it wisely.

As a Youth Parliamentarian, you will learn all about parliamentary process, how to write a bill - and how to debate it in Parliament House. You will also have the opportunity to build essential skills in public speaking and working in teams.

Best of all, you will join other young South Australians who want to learn more about Government and how laws are made, developing their knowledge to create positive change in their community.

We hope to have a diverse group of young South Australians to participate in the 2026 YMCA SA Youth Parliament and we can't wait to see the range of issues you choose to debate in Parliament House in July.

This booklet outlines the Youth Parliament journey for participants in 2026. We hope you're excited!

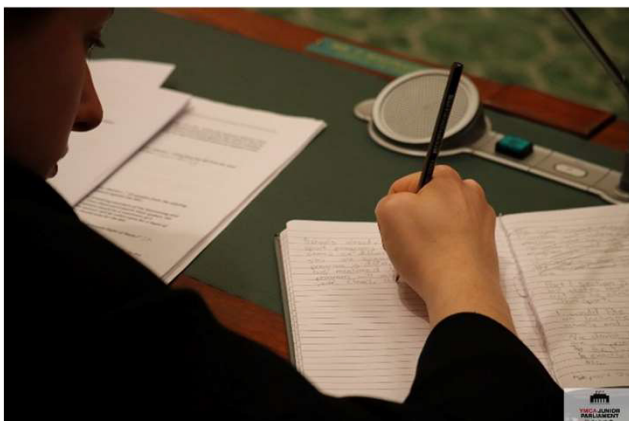
# WHAT HAPPENS AT YOUTH PARLIAMENT?



Youth Parliamentarians are allocated into *one of eight Ministry's*. Each Ministry meets regularly throughout the program to develop a Youth Bill aiming to address an issue important to South Australians. Together they also learn essentials about Parliament and democracy, and set personal and team goals to work towards.

At Youth Parliament, you will learn all about parliament, democracy and bill writing. You will develop your public speaking and debate skills and build your confidence.

Youth Parliament is a platform for young South Australians like yourself to *Make Your Mark* on issues and topics that matter to you. The program brings together young leaders from all across the state. You are part of a passionate group of people and by collaborating and working together, you can make a big difference in the South Australian community.



Youth Parliament is an opportunity to engage with the wider South Australian public. At Youth Parliament 2026, you will have the opportunity and support to advocate for your Youth Bill topic in the community.

# WHAT IS A YOUTH BILL?

Youth Parliamentarians work together to write a Youth Bill on a topic of importance. These Youth Bills are debated in Parliament House and final copies are presented to the Minister for Youth for the Government's consideration.

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## What can you write a bill or motion about?

In South Australia, the Government is responsible for making laws in relation to and delivering services in the following areas;

- Health
- State Roads
- Public Transport
- Public Works
- Primary and Secondary Education
- State Courts
- Public Service
- State Taxation
- Emergency Services
- Police and Correctional Services
- River Murray
- Environment and Conservation
- Arts
- Volunteers
- Mineral Resources
- Agriculture
- Food and Fisheries
- Consumer and Business Affairs
- Multicultural Affairs
- Youth
- Housing
- Social Justice
- Tourism
- Trade
- Science and IT
- Employment and Training
- Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
- Gambling and Racing
- Recreation and Sport
- Higher Education - TAFE

# PROGRAM TIMELINE

31<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
Signed consent forms due

March 2026  
Your Youth Parliament  
journey begins

April to July 2026

Participants work in their teams, with the support of their team mentor, to write Youth Bills, learn about parliament and democracy, develop their leadership skills and learn how to create change in their community through completing Training workshops online.

Your team mentor is your go-to person if you have any questions about Youth Parliament. They are here to support you throughout the program and to support your Parliamentary education.

Training weekend  
25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Parliament Week

12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
(Sunday-Friday)

August 2026  
Celebrate a fantastic year!

# WHAT WILL I HAVE TO ATTEND?

## TEAM MEETINGS

### COMPULSORY (MUST ATTEND)

Successful applicants will be required to work with a team of young people from across the State in a Committee reflecting a specific policy area. These Ministry's work together to develop a Youth Bill on an issue that's important to them. As such, Youth Parliamentarians are required to meet frequently with their mentors (a member of Taskforce) and the rest of their Committee to develop ideas, discuss debate tactics, and write their Bill during team meetings. It is also a great opportunity to meet everyone before Training Weekend and learn more about the program.

## TRAINING WEEKEND 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April

### COMPULSORY (MUST ATTEND)

At the end of April, all Youth Parliamentarians come together over the weekend for two jam-packed days of training to learn all about parliament, democracy, bill writing, public speaking and more! In addition to equipping you with the technical skills and know-how, the Training Weekend also focuses on soft skills, personal development and team building.

Do we stay overnight? No, the Training Weekend is 9am – 5pm both days (Saturday and Sunday). For regional participants there is accommodation provided.

## PARLIAMENT WEEK 12<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> July

### COMPULSORY (MUST ATTEND)

This is it. The program culminates in a weeklong residential camp, which includes a formal opening and closing ceremony, debating issues of importance in the House of Assembly and Legislative Council chambers of Parliament, and the election of the new Youth Governor. Participants also take part in an amazing and often challenging recreation program at camp.

Do we stay overnight? Yes, Parliament Week is a residential camp - Sunday to Friday.

**Please note: Both the Training Activities and Parliament Week are compulsory to attend.**

# ESSENTIAL DATES & INFORMATION

## Who can apply to be a part of Youth Parliament?

South Australian residents aged 15-25 years.

## Where does the YMCA SA Youth Parliament take place?

Both Training Weekend and Parliament Week take place in Adelaide, South Australia. Accommodation is provided for Parliament Week but is not for Training Weekend (except for regional participants).

## Is there a participation fee for Youth Parliament?

Yes. There is a \$550 participant fee which covers meals, accommodation and transport during Parliament Week.

## Can I get assistance with paying the participant fee?

Yes! We do not want the participant fee to be a barrier to participation. If your application is successful, the dedicated Taskforce which runs the program can help you seek external sponsorship.

## I'm from a regional area, can I participate?

Of course! We also have rural and regional travel scholarships available to assist in commuting to and from Adelaide.

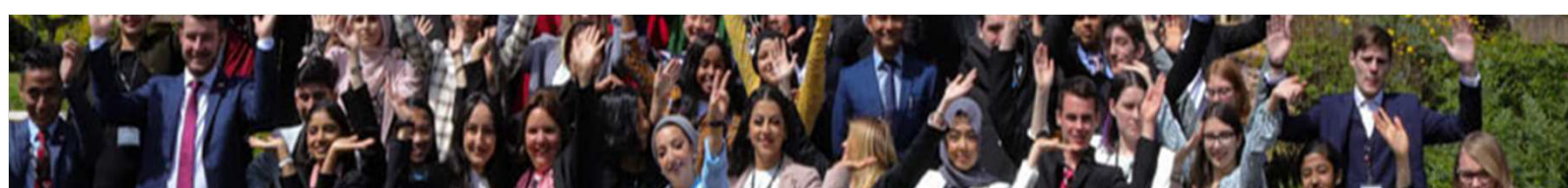
## When do applications close?

Applications are set to close on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

## What are the key dates for the program?

Training Weekend: 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Saturday-Sunday)

Parliament Week: 12<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (Sunday-Friday)





Don't forget to follow us on our **socials!**



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@ymcaypsa

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Resources available on the website:

<https://www.sa.ymca.org.au/what-we-do/youth-empowerment/youth-parliament>

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If you have any questions, please  
contact Youth Empowerment at:

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