



**YMCA YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**
South Australia

PROGRAM REPORT





CONTENTS

SUMMARY **03**

KEY STAKEHOLDERS **04**

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP **05**

PROGRAM TIMELINE **07**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW **08**

PARTICIPANTS **14**

OUTCOMES **15**





SUMMARY

74

Young people completed the Youth Parliament 2018 program.

16

Young leaders volunteered their time and expertise as part of the Taskforce.

12

Youth Bills were developed and debated in Parliament House.

YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program providing a platform for young people aged 15 - 25 to have their say on important issues, and build their skills and parliamentary understanding.

YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament celebrated its 23rd year in 2018. Supported by the Office for Youth, the Law Foundation of South Australia and the Electoral Commission of South Australia, the program provided an intense personal and professional development experience for young people from across South Australia.

Participants were provided with training and educational opportunities covering the SA Parliamentary system, voting procedures, parliamentary etiquette, public speaking and bill writing in a professional and challenging environment.

Youth Parliament provided a forum for young South Australians to express their views on matters which concern them in a safe and supported environment.



STAKEHOLDERS

YMCA South Australia is hugely grateful for the support of our sponsors and stakeholders.

The financial assistance and in-kind support of our stakeholders and supporters is integral to the Youth Parliament program.

A huge thank you to YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament funders:

- Office for Youth (Key Funder)
- Law Foundation of South Australia (Funder)
- Electoral Commission of South Australia (Funder)

The support of the Parliament of South Australia is essential to the success of the program. YMCA South Australia is incredibly grateful for the use of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council, the access to Hansard recording and the support of the Parliament House staff during the week.

YMCA South Australia extends a big thank you to University of South Australia Student Engagement Unit for providing a venue for Training Weekend.

The majority of Youth Parliament participants received full or partial funding support from a sponsor to pay their program fees. Without their support, many young people would not have had the opportunity to participate in the program.



Supported by
Government of South Australia
Office for Youth



The
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The Law Foundation of SA Inc
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Electoral Commission SA



PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

YMCA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Youth Parliament is YMCA South Australia's flagship youth development program and a key focus of the YMCA South Australia Community Strengthening team.

The 2018 program was managed by Alana James (Youth Empowerment Manager) and Melanie Munday (Youth Empowerment Officer), who also worked closely with the Taskforce to provide support and guidance.

Marion Modra (Community Strengthening Manager) provided high-level support to the Youth Parliament program.



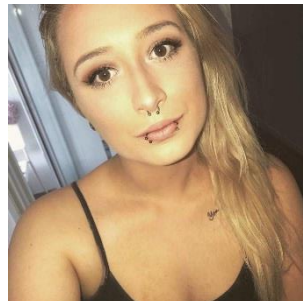
L - R: Marion Modra, Melanie Munday, Alana James

“ This program has made me feel so much
more confident in both myself and my ideas ”

VOLUNTEER TASKFORCE

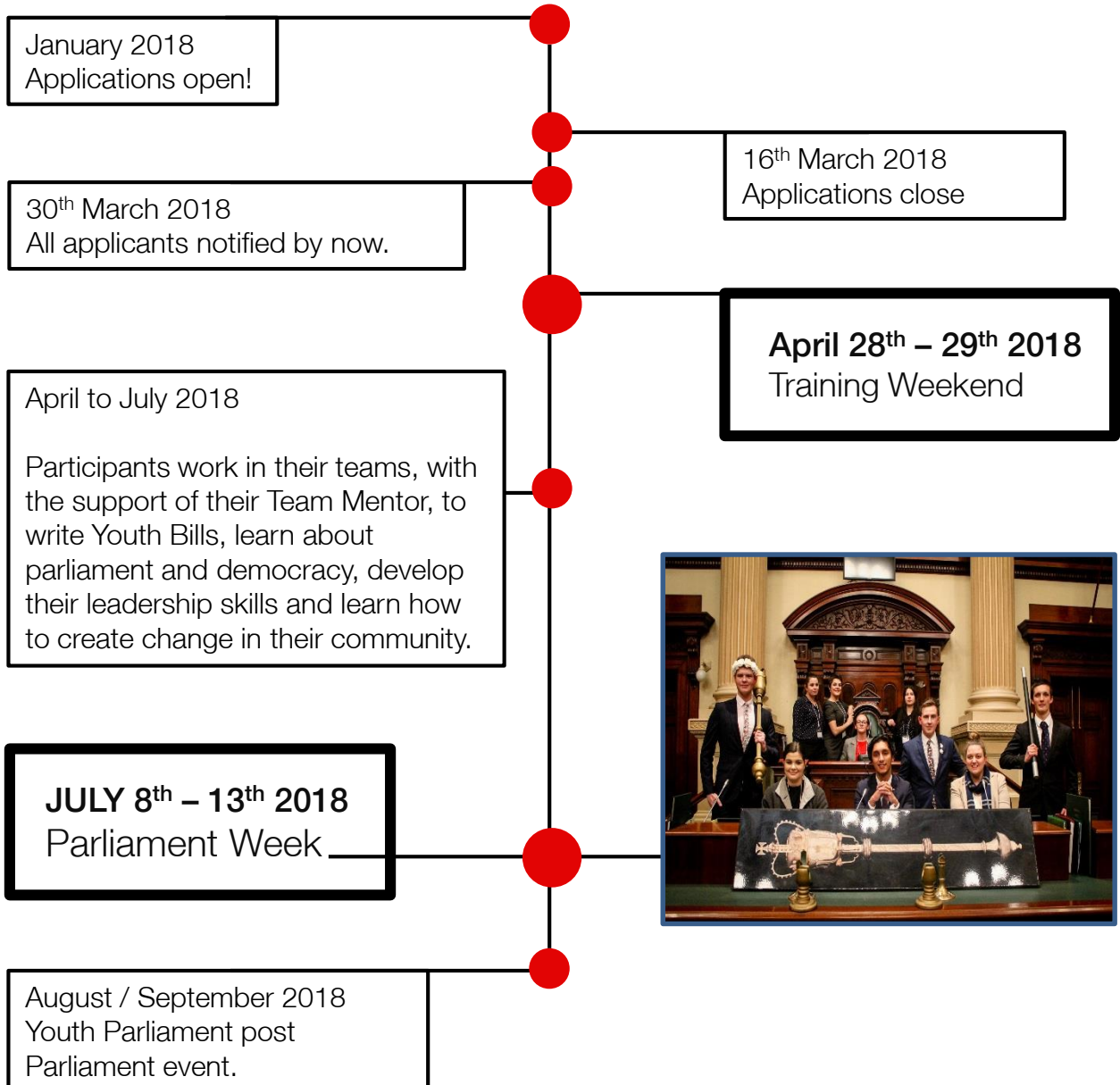
YMCA SA Youth Parliament is run by young people, for young people through the work of a volunteer Taskforce. Sixteen young leaders each volunteered more than 200 hours of their time to bring the program to life. The Taskforce was split into four portfolios (Media & Communications, Wellbeing & Recreation, Training and Operations), each responsible for different parts of the Youth Parliament program. In addition to their Portfolio roles, members of Taskforce also mentored a team of participants.

Personal and professional development for Taskforce members was a key focus of the 2018 program. Training workshops focused on personality types, working styles, effective goal setting, communication, facilitation and conflict resolution. One-to-one support was given to help Taskforce members set and achieve personal goals. Taskforce demonstrated a high level of professionalism and initiative throughout the program, particularly at Training Weekend and Parliament Week. When presented with challenges, they worked collaboratively, asked questions and provided assistance to each other and worked together to find solutions.





PROGRAM TIMELINE





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Planning for Youth Parliament 2018 began shortly after the completion of the 2017 program. The Taskforce was recruited in October 2017. In December 2017, they set the strategic vision for the program and in February 2018 came together for a Training Weekend.

Applications for 2018 Youth Parliament opened in January 2018 and were open to all young people aged 15-25 years of age. There was significant interest in the program and YMCA received 131 applications.

Team nominations were again open to councils and community groups who were able to sponsor a full team.

Recruiting regional participants was a key focus again in 2018. The allocated funding from Office for Youth to support regional participation was a huge help to overcoming many of the barriers that young people in regional areas face.



LAUNCH

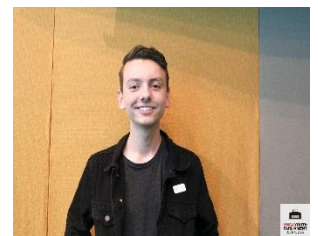
YMCA South Australia held an event as part of Training Weekend to officially launch the program. Key community stakeholders were invited to meet the Youth Parliamentarians, and this was the first time that all the Youth Parliamentarians met each other.



TRAINING WEEKEND

Participants came together for the Training Weekend held at the University of South Australia's City West campus on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April 2018.

The weekend featured training workshops on parliamentary etiquette, parliamentary process, bill development, public speaking and debating, time in teams to work on their Youth Bills, recreation activities, team-building games and social time.



PARLIAMENT WEEK

Youth Parliamentarians took part in an exciting and intense six day program (8th – 13th July 2018) which included four days at Parliament House and five nights' accommodation at Woodhouse Activity Centre. Participants wrote and delivered speeches, debated Youth Bills in Parliament House, worked in teams, and participated in a range of recreational and team building activities.

The 23rd sitting of YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament was officially opened by The Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, Minister for Human Services; Haydn Robins, CEO YMCA South Australia; and Charlie Stivahtaris, Youth Governor. An Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by Pamela Spek. Several MPs, community stakeholders, family members and supporters of the Youth Parliamentarians attended.

Throughout the week twelve Youth Bills and two Motions of Public Importance were debated. The Adjournment debates again were very emotive with participants speaking about issues of significant importance to their lives.

The YMCA South Australia Board Director Tim Looker closed the 23rd sitting of Youth Parliament and the final bills were presented to Awards were presented to the Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, Minister for Human Services at the Closing Ceremony. The 2018 Youth Governor Charlie Stivahtaris gave a speech and announced Rebecca Lightowler as the new Youth Governor.



A wonderful reception at Government House

We were hosted by His Excellency, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia and Mrs Lan Le at Government House on Tuesday. His Excellency delivered an inspiring speech to the Youth Parliamentarians and the Youth Governor Charlie Stivahtaris gave a formal reply. We were then invited to walk around their very beautiful home.



It's not all work/no play!

Recreational and social activities are a key part of the Youth Parliament experience.

The 2018 program included a quiz night, dance party, team building games, archery, dodgeball and outdoor activities.





“ It was an amazing opportunity which I feel very fortunate to have been a part of ”



TEAMS & YOUTH BILLS

Youth Parliament participants were split into twelve teams. Each team worked together to write a Youth Bill which was debated in Parliament House. Twelve Youth Bills and two Motions of Public Importance were debated in Parliament House. Eight bills passed both houses.

Youth Bill or Act	House	Ayes	Noes	Result
Regional Healthcare Access Bill 2018	House of Assembly	18	15	PASS
Regional Healthcare Access Bill 2018	Legislative Council	34	1	
Sustainable Housing Accessibility Bill 2018	House of Assembly	12	22	FAIL
Sustainable Housing Accessibility Bill 2018	Legislative Council	18	17	
Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Bill 2018	House of Assembly	16	17	FAIL
Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Bill 2018	Legislative Council	16	15	
Abortion Reform Bill 2018	House of Assembly	23	5	PASS
Abortion Reform Bill 2018	Legislative Council	23	7	
Mandatory Disability Education Bill 2018	House of Assembly	20	14	PASS
Mandatory Disability Education Bill 2018	Legislative Council	31	5	
Housing Reform Bill 2018	House of Assembly	18	17	FAIL
Housing Reform Bill 2018	Legislative Council	16	20	
Affordable Electricity Bill 2018	House of Assembly	18	17	PASS
Affordable Electricity Bill 2018	Legislative Council	23	11	
Regional Transport Assistance Bill 2018	House of Assembly	17	16	PASS
Regional Transport Assistance Bill 2018	Legislative Council	23	12	
Electoral Amendment Bill 2018	House of Assembly	24	10	PASS
Electoral Amendment Bill 2018	Legislative Council	28	6	
Transparent Wages Bill 2018	House of Assembly	18	16	PASS
Transparent Wages Bill 2018	Legislative Council	21	15	
Digital Direct Democracy Bill 2018	House of Assembly	13	22	FAIL
Digital Direct Democracy Bill 2018	Legislative Council	24	11	
Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2018	House of Assembly	17	8	PASS
Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2018	Legislative Council	20	13	
Youth Governor's Motion of Public Importance		52	18	PASS
National Motion of Public Importance		31	38	FAIL

PARTICIPANTS



In addition to attending Training Weekend, Parliament Week and team meetings, participants were engaged with the program through a Facebook group, email updates and the [Youth Parliament blog](#).



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Participant feedback survey results showed that YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament 2018 was a positive, transformative experience for the young people involved.

100% felt they had a platform to be respected and heard in society.

96% improved their understanding of Parliamentary processes.

94% said their leadership and teamwork skills had improved.

100% believe the 2018 Youth Parliament program provides a forum for young people in South Australia to express their views on matters which concern them.

99% felt more confident after participating in Youth Parliament.

98% said they would recommend the program to someone else.

91% felt a sense of belonging as a result of participating in Youth Parliament.

Social Media

Social media was used exceptionally well at Youth Parliament 2018 and was extremely powerful at engaging young people. The YMCA SA Youth Parliament Facebook page reached a huge audience – 15,373 people during Parliament Week through engaging and professional content. The page now has 2,037 likes, up from 1,807 at the same time last year.

Community Engagement

A key focus of the 2018 program was the engagement with the South Australian community in order to increase the public profile of the Youth Parliament program and build connections between participants and key stakeholders.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Loved it.

Opportunity to be heard and being able to express own opinions.

Being in Parliament, speaking in Parliament and meeting MPs was amazing. The staff are amazing and the whole experience was great.

This program was an amazing opportunity that allowed me to develop my public speaking and encourage a growth of confidence.

Excellent program. Debates and speech writing was amazing - and meeting MPs and learning the structure of legislation.

YP would be one of the best youth programs available in SA. The intentions and visions of the program are great. I would definitely recommend this to any high school leavers and early tertiary students.

I felt very positive about the experience overall. Thanks for such a great week.

The program was beyond incredible.

I learnt a lot about other people from all walks of life.



CONCLUSION

YMCA SA Youth Parliament 2018 was a highly successful program. The feedback from participants and stakeholders demonstrated that the program had an impact far beyond the week spent in Parliament. It built connections, gave young people an opportunity to voice their opinions and the skills to take those opinions and create positive change in their communities.

The personal and professional development of the Taskforce and the connection between the volunteers and the YMCA continues to strengthen and have a positive impact on the program as a whole.

Youth Parliamentarians felt they had a platform to be respected and heard in society, which is the core purpose of Youth Parliament and YMCA South Australia is thrilled to have provided this opportunity to young South Australians.

FIND OUT MORE

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