



YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

South Australia

2023 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 2023 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 2023. We hope you're excited!

WHAT HAPPENS AT YOUTH PARLIAMENT?



Youth Parliamentarians are allocated into **one of ten Committees**. Each Committee 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 2023, you will have the opportunity and support to advocate for your Youth Bill topic in the community

WHAT COMMITTEES OPTIONS ARE THERE?

If you are successful in your application, you will be required to work with a team of young people from across the state in a Committee relating to a specific area of policy. Most of the work will take place outside of the Parliament Week through frequent team meetings, emails or the Facebook page created for the program. Below are Committee areas and issues they may cover:

*** Please note not all Committees will be available. First preferences given where possible.**

Committee Area	Topic Ideas
Climate, Environment & Energy	Water & heritage, climate action, affordable energy, energy supply and management, biodiversity, waste management, air.
Community Support & Human Services	Social housing, homelessness, volunteers, cost of living & concessions, food & clothing assistance, migrant support.
Democracy, Governance & Rights	Civics awareness, improve election turnouts, reformation of the South Australia electoral system, regulation on campaigning.
Education, Training & Trades	Improving access to educational opportunities, support for all students, funding, curriculum design, educational pathways.
Employment, Economy & Business	Employee rights, workplace flexibility, training, wage theft, work health & safety guidelines, automatization, penalty rates.
Gender & Sexual Diversity	Inclusive & accessible services, equal rights, data & policies, supporting safety, wellbeing & security of women, inclusion.
Health & Wellbeing	Blood, organ & tissue donation, abortion access, alcohol/drug law, environmental contaminants, food safety, aged care.
Housing, Infrastructure & Transport	Land use & zoning laws, building projects, urban design, housing accessibility, roads, traffic law, railways, licencing & registration.
Indigenous Affairs & Reconciliation	Revitalisation of Indigenous heritage & culture, closing the gap in social & physical health, welfare accessibility, homelessness.
Crime, Justice & Corrections	Crime prevention, sentencing, South Australia's correction/prison system, legal support, civil rights & freedoms.
Regional Development & Affairs	Regional businesses, agribusiness, improving town planning, biosecurity & sustainable use, primary industries, tourism.
Science & Technology	Advancement in STEM, digital commerce & consumerism, automation, introduction of augmented or virtual reality.
Recreation, Arts & Culture	Enhance tourism, programs for recreational & cultural accessibility, encouraging diversity, heritage & identity.

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.

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

March 2023
Your Youth Parliament
journey begins

Monday 14th April 2023
Signed consent forms due

April to July 2023

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
22nd and 23rd April



Parliament Week

16th- 21st July 2023
(Sunday-Friday)

August 2023
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 Committees 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

22nd – 23rd April 2023

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

16th - 21st July 2023

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 \$500 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 Monday, **13th March 2023**.

What are the key dates for the program?

Training Weekend: **22nd - 23rd April 2023 Saturday – Sunday)**

Parliament Week: **15th - 21st July 2023 (Sunday-Friday)**

What Covid precautions have been taken?

The program will continue to be tailored to coincide with the current SA Health and SA Government regulations and restrictions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.





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



[Facebook](#)

[#youthparliament](#)



[Instagram](#)

[#YP2023](#)



[Twitter](#)

[#makeyourmark](#)

Resources available on the website:

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

If you have any questions, please send an contact
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