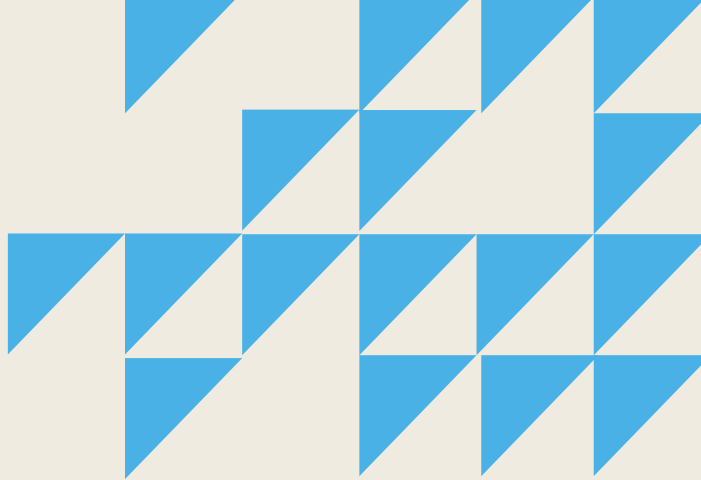


YMCA
South Australia

**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT
2017**



PROGRAM REPORT

Be a leader. Develop new skills.
Have your say in Parliament House.
Create change in your community.



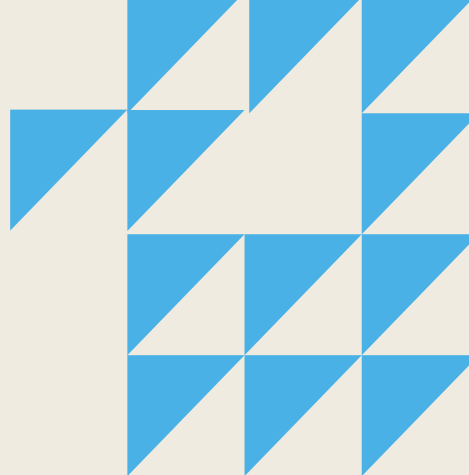


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SUMMARY



81

Young people completed the Youth Parliament 2017 program.

19

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

12

Youth Bills were developed and debated in Parliament House.

YMCA SA Youth Parliament is an apolitical program that empowers young people to be advocates for their community.

YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament celebrated its 22nd year in 2017. 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.

KEY 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
LAW FOUNDATION
of SA Incorporated

The Law Foundation of SA Inc
is proudly supported by



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 2017 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



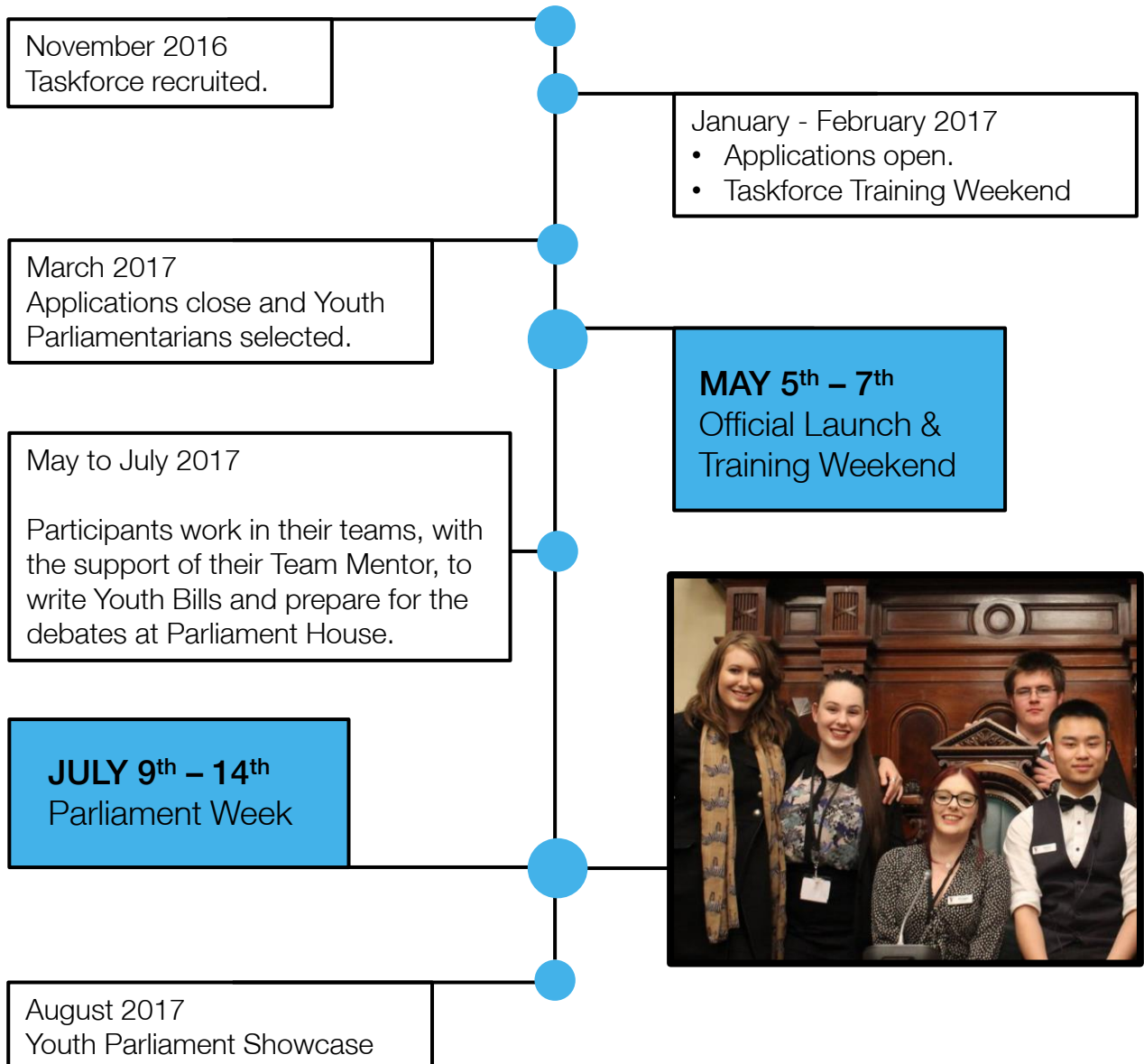
VOLUNTEER TASKFORCE

YMCA SA Youth Parliament is run by young people, for young people through the work of a volunteer Taskforce. Nineteen young leaders each volunteered more than 200 hours of their time to bring the program to life. The Taskforce was split into five 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.

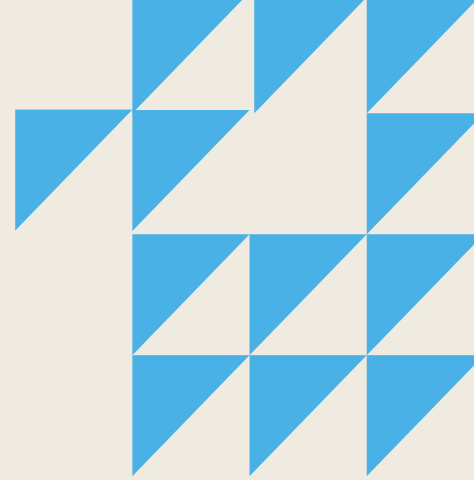
Personal and professional development for Taskforce members was a key focus of the 2017 program. Training workshops focused on personality types, working styles, effective goal setting, communication, facilitation and conflict resolution. One-to-one support was given to help Taskforce members set and 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

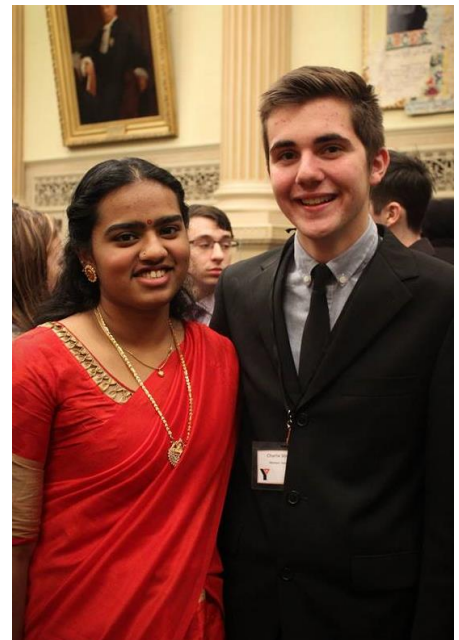


Planning for Youth Parliament 2017 began shortly after the completion of the 2016 program. The Taskforce was recruited in November 2016. In January 2017, they set the strategic vision for the program and in February 2017 came together for a Training Weekend.

Applications for 2017 Youth Parliament opened in January 2017 and were open to all young people aged 15-24 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 2017. 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.



(left)
2017 Youth Governor
Appurva Raaj

(right)
2018 Youth Governor
Charlie Stivahtaris

LAUNCH NIGHT

For the first time in 2017, YMCA South Australia held an event 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. The launch was timed to coincide with Training Weekend, so that regional participants could attend.



TRAINING WEEKEND

Participants came together for the Training Weekend held at the University of South Australia's City West campus on Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May 2017.

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 (9th to 14th July 2017) which included four days at Parliament House and five nights' accommodation at Rostrevor College. 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 22nd sitting of YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament was officially opened by The Hon Russell Wortley MLC, representing the Honourable Zoe Bettison, Minister for Youth; Haydn Robins, CEO YMCA South Australia; and Appurva Raaj, Youth Governor. A moving Welcome to Country was delivered by Jack Buckskin. Several MPs, community stakeholders, family members and supporters of the Youth Parliamentarians attended.

Throughout the week twelve Youth Bills, two Motions of Public Importance and two Private Member's Motions were passionately debated in Parliament House. The Adjournment debates again were very emotive with participants speaking about issues of significant importance to their lives.

The YMCA South Australia Board Director Robert Prime closed the 22nd sitting of Youth Parliament and the final bills were presented to Mr Chris Picton MP representing the Honourable Zoe Bettison, Minister for Youth. Awards were presented at the Closing Ceremony and the 2017 Youth Governor Appurva Raaj gave a speech and announced Charlie Stivahtaris 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 Appurva Raaj gave a formal reply. We were then invited to walk around their very beautiful home.



Students gained SACE Stage 1 and 2 points

The SACE program ran smoothly this year, with the support of the Taskforce SACE Officer and a volunteer teacher. SACE Stage 2 was offered again in 2017, with great success.

It's not all work and no play!

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

The 2017 program included a quiz night, dance party, team building games, archery, dodgeball and outdoor activities.





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



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, two Motions of Public Importance and two Private Member's Motions were debated in Parliament House. Four of the twelve Youth Bills passed both houses to become Youth Acts.

Youth Bill or Act	House	Ayes	Noes	Abstentions	Result
#Adulting Bill 2017	House of Assembly	26	13	0	Fail
	Legislative Council	18	18	0	
Antidepressant Regulations Bill 2017	House of Assembly	23	9	6	Fail
	Legislative Council	9	9	20	
Caged Egg Prohibition Bill 2017	House of Assembly	27	14	0	Pass
	Legislative Council	33	3	1	
Cessation of Non-Biodegradable Packaging Bill 2017	House of Assembly	30	10	1	Pass
	Legislative Council	28	11	0	
Correctional Services Custodial Operations Bill 2017	House of Assembly	16	21	3	Fail
	Legislative Council	9	22	4	
Criminal Law Consolidation (Provocation) Act Amendment Bill 2017	House of Assembly	39	0	0	Pass
	Legislative Council	33	1	2	
Cyclists Bill 2017	House of Assembly	11	29	0	Fail
	Legislative Council	22	17	0	
Legalisation of Cannabis Bill 2017	House of Assembly	28	11	2	Fail
	Legislative Council	17	18	3	
Nuclear Power Development Bill 2017	House of Assembly	23	17	0	Fail
	Legislative Council	17	22	0	
Reversal of Firearms Restrictions Bill 2017	House of Assembly	2	38	0	Fail
	Legislative Council	3	35	0	
Self-Development Bill 2017	House of Assembly	19	16	4	Pass
	Legislative Council	20	18	0	
Senior Drivers Bill 2017	House of Assembly	28	12	1	Fail
	Legislative Council	13	27	0	
Private Member's Motion (in the House of Assembly) Free provision of feminine sanitary products in schools and prisons.		34	7	0	Pass
Private Member's Motion (in the Legislative Council) Reduction of regulations to obtain a driver's license.		17	18	0	Fail
Youth Governor's Motion of Public Importance: South Australia reform the juvenile justice system by abolishing the incarceration of indigenous youth in South Australia and instead investing in community based, rehabilitative programs for indigenous juvenile delinquents.		22	44	11	Fail
National Motion of Public Importance: The government should take more action, through its statutory authorities such as the CSIRO, to prevent climate change on both a domestic and international level.		65	8	2	Pass

PARTICIPANTS



81 young people completed the program

in 12 teams

22 participants came from regional areas

75% were first time participants

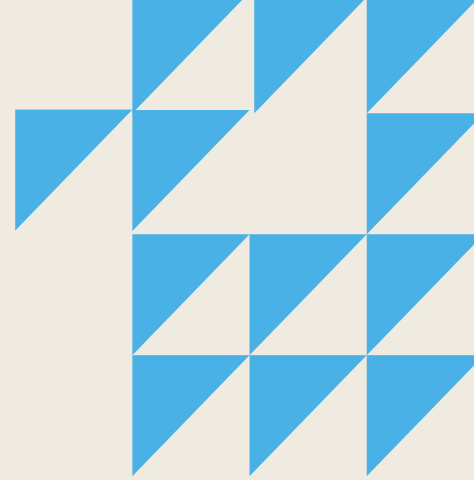
32 people identified as male

49 people identified as female.

35% identified as Culturally or Linguistically Diverse.

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 2017 was a positive, transformative experience for the young people involved.

95% felt they had a platform to be respected and heard in society.

97% improved their understanding of Parliamentary processes.

100% said their leadership and teamwork skills had improved.

98% believe the 2017 Youth Parliament program provides a forum for young people in South Australia to express their views on matters which concern them.

93% felt more confident after participating in Youth Parliament.

100% said they would recommend the program to someone else.

93% felt a sense of belonging as a result of participating in Youth Parliament.

Social Media

Social media was used exceptionally well at Youth Parliament 2017 and was extremely powerful at engaging young people. The YMCA SA Youth Parliament Facebook page reached a huge audience, reaching 41,963 people and making 97,972 impressions during Parliament Week through engaging and professional content (compared to 15,095 people and 69,430 impressions in 2016). The page now has 1,807 likes, up from 1,416 at the same time last year.

Community Engagement

A key focus of the 2017 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.

For the first time in 2017, YMCA South Australia piloted a Community Cup as part of Youth Parliament. This was a competition between teams, where points were allocated based on different community outreach and media tasks. It resulted in much more community engagement.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

It's a really awesome experience.

I loved it so much – really helped me build confidence.

AMAZING! I am so glad that I came as I learnt so much and I believe it has had a profound effect on me as a person.

Words fail to describe how much I have loved YP! I am so glad that I came as I have made so many new friends and discovered more about myself than I ever thought possible. I would absolutely recommend to youth my age as it really is a fantastic program!

Fantastic program that provides young people with an avenue to discuss things they are passionate about. There was so much support and guidance throughout the program and it was an encouraging and supportive environment.

Thank you for creating such a supportive and welcoming environment and encouraging all participants to get involved.

I loved getting to meet such a diverse, accepting and inspiring group of young people – including the amazing Taskforce! I also really appreciated getting to meet MPs and other change makers.

I feel as though Youth Parliament is great at encouraging youth to believe in themselves and know that they deserve to be heard.

I loved being in Parliament House and visiting Government House.

I found YP amazing and informative.

CONCLUSION

YMCA SA Youth Parliament 2017 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

E youthparliamentsa@ymca.org.au

P (08) 8200 2514

M 0447 047 422

W www.sa.ymca.org.au

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