



# YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

South Australia

# 2021 Program Overview

*Amplifying the voices of empowered young South Australians to advocate and initiate change*

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

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# 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 2021 YMCA SA Youth Parliament and we can't wait to see the range of issues you choose to debate in Parliament House in September/October.

This booklet outlines the Youth Parliament journey for participants in 2021. We hope you're excited!

# WHAT IS DIFFERENT FOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2021?

The dedicated volunteers that run the program (the Taskforce) has made it their mission to ensure that the program can go ahead with the health and wellbeing of participants in mind.

## ***So, what it going to be different?***

Due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the program has been tailored to coincide with the current SA Health and SA Government regulations and restrictions.

## ***Return to normal – where possible***

Now that the COVID-19 regulations are more regular, we will be returning to our regular program structure, this includes:

- In-person Training Weekend in April  
(pending COVID-19 disruptions)
- Parliament Week in July  
(pending COVID-19 disruptions)

Please note that our Taskforce want to ensure that all participants get everything they can out of the program without impacting on their health and wellbeing. As such, dates may change to coincide with COVID-19 restrictions to ensure participant safety and the program.

If changes are made once the program has begun, they will be communicated with the participants in a timely fashion.

If you have questions,  
please contact Susan Britza at  
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0458 401 661



**YMCA**  
**YOUTH**  
**PARLIAMENT**  
South Australia



# 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 2021, 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 will be given where possible.*

Committee Area	Topic Ideas
Business, Innovation & Investment	Promoting investment in SA, shop trading hours, small business support
Community & Human Services	Homelessness & social housing, migrant support programs
Democracy & Government	Civics awareness, electoral system reformations, government transparency
Education & Training	Accessibility to educational opportunities, curriculum design, gaps in curriculum offerings
Employment & Industrial Relations	Employment regulations and restrictions, employee rights
Environment & Energy	Conservation & biodiversity, water management, renewable energy
Gender & Sexual Diversity	Inclusive services, economic security, equality, support services
Health & Wellbeing	Sexual health, mental health services, public policy, aged care, vaccinations
Indigenous Affairs & Reconciliation	Support for Indigenous culture, preservation, closing the gap, representation
Law & Justice	Crime prevention laws, legal support, civil rights and freedoms
Planning, Transport & Infrastructure	Roads, housing developments, railways, zoning laws
Primary Industries & Regional Affairs	Agribusiness, tourism, processing, manufacturing, biosecurity
Sports & Recreation	Affordability, inclusion and access, sustainability
Tourism, Recreation & Culture	Preservation of culture, activity development, participation

# 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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Signed consent forms due

March 2021  
Your Youth Parliament  
journey begins

April to July 2021

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.



**Parliament Week**

11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
(Sunday-Friday)

August 2021  
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 mentor/s (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**

**17<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

### **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**

**11<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

### **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 \$460 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, **14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

## ***What are the key dates for the program?***

Training Weekend: **17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Saturday – Sunday)**

Parliament Week: **11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (Sunday-Friday)**



#YP2021

# MAKE YOUR MARK

Youth  
Parliament  
2021

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



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)

**#youthparliament**

**#YP2021**

**#makeyourmark**

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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 send an contact  
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