



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
**YMCA** Youth Parliament

# 2018 Western Australian YMCA Youth Parliament **Application Pack**



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Local Government and Communities**



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

# YMCA Youth Parliament 2018

*Your Voice, Your Parliament!*

## What is Youth Parliament?

The Western Australian YMCA Youth Parliament is an annual youth leadership forum that allows people aged 15-25 to talk about issues important to them in Parliament. Participants include people from all walks of life and from all corners of the State – anyone who has an opinion and wants to share it!

Participants become Youth Members of Parliament, charged with representing their peers from across Western Australia with some members having the opportunity to act in a leadership role as Premier, Leader of the Opposition, their Deputies as well as Ministers and Shadow Ministers. Youth Members work in Committees to write Youth Legislation, and then share that legislation with Members of the Western Australian Parliament. In essence, the Youth Parliament places young people in a forum where their opinions and concerns can be heard by the people who have the power to make change happen.

***You don't need to know anything about politics, governance or parliament to be involved in the program, you just need to be passionate about youth issues – we will teach you the rest.***

## What does Youth Parliament involve?

***Deciding on an issue:*** Youth Parliament begins with participants being placed into Committees based on their personal areas of interest. Committees then work together under the guidance of an Advisor to come up with an idea they'd like to write their Bill (piece of legislation) about. This process usually begins early in April.

***Training Day & Bill writing:*** The training day is held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. On this day, participants will learn how to write a piece of legislation, and begin the task of turning their idea into a Bill. Over the following weeks, Committees work online and/or in person to complete their Bill. This usually requires a few hours of time each week.



***Residential camp!*** Teams then present their Bill in Parliament House during the residential camp, debating it with other young people in the same way politicians do. The week also includes training sessions, recreation activities, 'caucus' meetings, functions with political figures, and lots more!

The residential camp will be held from

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**

(This is the first week of the July school holidays).

## Why participate in Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament offers a variety of opportunities to participants:



Have your say about youth issues, heard by the WA government

Learn and develop confidence in public speaking

Meet other young people with similar interests and passions

Increase your knowledge of the political process in WA

Learn more about how to lobby for change in our community

Meet some of WA's most important political figures

## Who runs Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is run by the YMCA WA. YMCAs run Youth Parliaments for multiple states across Australia and have done so for more than 30 years – so you are in safe hands! The YMCA appoints a Taskforce to handle the planning, organisation and running of Youth Parliament.

The Taskforce is made up of 17 to 25 year old volunteers who have participated in the program before and wish to ensure that Youth Parliament is a youth led event – run by young people, for young people. All Taskforce members hold a Working with Children Check and are trained to ensure they are able to carry out the task appropriately.

## What does Youth Parliament cost?

Our fee covers accommodation, meals, transport, activities, and materials during the program (excluding travel to and from the residential camp). On acceptance into the program, participants will need to pay a \$50 deposit to confirm their place, with the remainder of payment due approximately seven weeks later. The estimated cost will be roughly **\$410**.

There are a number of ways that participants can **get help with the costs** of Youth Parliament - more information on this will be provided on acceptance into the program.



## How do I apply?

Applications are made online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Youth-Parl-WA-Applications>. Follow the links on the homepage to the form where you can lodge your application. You will be asked to describe, in 200 words each:

- What you think is the most pressing issue facing youth in Western Australia today?
- Why you think you would make a good candidate for the Youth Parliament?
- What you hope to gain through participating in the Youth Parliament?
- Which three areas you are most interested in, from the list below:

**Agriculture and Fisheries**

**Child Protection and Community Services**

**Commerce**

**Culture and the Arts**

**Education and Training**

**Electoral Affairs**

**Environment**

**Health, Mental Health and Disability Services**

**Local Government and Planning**

**Multicultural and Aboriginal Affairs**

**Police and Justice**

**Regional and State Development**

**Road Safety**

**Sport and Recreation**

**Transport and Housing**

**Volunteering**

**Women's Interests**

**Youth Interests**



**You *must* lodge your application by 11:59pm WST, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

Successful applicants will be notified by mail within a week of the close of applications. Their names will also be published on the Youth Parliament website.

## Contacting Youth Parliament

If you have any questions, please get in touch!!

**Phone:** 9328 3221 / 0409 788 336

**Web**

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