

Youth Parliament 2024

Information Pack

A Message from the Youth Voice Coordinator

Dear future Youth Parliamentarians,

Thank you for taking the time to show your interest in our amazing flagship program, Youth Parliament. Our program has been running for the past 22 years. Over those years we have seen the amazing cohorts create change in their local communities and on a state level.

Over the years, Youth Parliament has created incredible youth led Bills and Reports which have been heard through state legislation. If you love being behind-the-scenes of change or like being the center of attention, Youth Parliament is the place for you!

Being a Y NSW Youth Parliamentarian goes beyond the formalities of our Youth Sitting Week, where we get to 'take over' Parliament of NSW. You get to meet amazing volunteers who will be your mentors during the program and connect with other like-minded young people who you will learn from and become the closest of friends.

I want to see as many different young voices as possible represented in the 2024 Youth Parliament. Having representation from a range of electorates, identities and experiences will reflect how diverse NSW young people are!

I have been a participant and volunteer of this program and I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity, believe in yourself and apply today. It is an experience that is highly rewarding and one you'll never forget! This document will help you understand our program and exactly what is required of you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind Regards



Hamani Tanginoa

Youth Voice Coordinator


Y NSW Youth Parliament



Hamani Tanginoa, Youth Voice
Coordinator

What is Youth Parliament?

The Youth Parliament program is the Y NSW's flagship youth leadership and civic engagement program and has been operating for 20 years in NSW.



Youth Parliament is the Y NSW's flagship youth leadership and engagement program and has been operating for over 20 years in NSW. With a focus on leadership and advocacy, the program enables high school students in years 10-12 to build confidence, develop leadership skills, engage with civic leadership, policy development, and democratic parliamentary debate.

Youth Parliament plays an important role in public discourse as it is all about empowerment and advocacy. It provides a platform for young people to have their voices heard on issues that are important to them and their local communities.

Our program has 7 committees comprised of 8 - 10 passionate young people. Aimed at young people in years 10-12 throughout the state, the Y NSW Youth Parliament highlights the power of young people speaking on issues that are important to them and their local communities.

Each year's cohort receives training from the Youth Parliament Taskforce, previous participants and external professional bodies. In the last ten years, approximately 1,000 young people have participated in the program. Every participant's potential to lead, learn and connect is nurtured through parliamentary education, community engagement, confidence building and teamwork. They develop their skills in creating social impact and positive change in a diverse, inclusive, safe and supportive environment.

The program involves young people creating Youth Bills with recommendations on issues for change within each government portfolio. These are debated during a mock sitting week in Parliament of NSW in a chamber where many Members of Parliament chair the debates. Youth Parliament culminates in committee roundtables with youth-orientated organisations, government departments and government ministers where young people present their Youth Bill for discussion.

"The Y NSW Youth Parliament program has been nothing short of a life changing opportunity, where young people are able to advocate for the issues, they feel so passionate about for the betterment of a society they will inherit. This program has been instrumental in understanding the person I am now and developing into the person I become." - 2023 Youth Parliamentarian

Key Information

Pre-Training Camp Briefing Zoom

When: 6:30pm on Wednesday 10 April

Where: Microsoft Teams

Purpose: The Pre-Training Camp Briefing Zoom will be an opportunity for our participants to meet each other, introduce our Volunteer Taskforce and Wellbeing Taskforce, and to meet the Youth Voice Team. This briefing will also allow the Youth Voice Team to introduce the Safeguarding Manager and go through the code of conduct and other important information before Training Camp.

Training Camp

When: Monday 22 April 2024 - Wednesday 24 April 2024

Where: The Y NSW Camp Yarramundi, 316 Springwood Road Yarramundi

Check out Camp Yarramundi [here!](#)

Purpose: The Youth Parliament Training Camp allows the participants to connect and engage in a series of workshops ranging from advocacy, leadership and parliamentary education. These workshops will prepare each committee to write an incredible Youth Bill, which will be debated at Parliament of NSW.

Aside from setting participants up with all the information to be successful in the Chamber, we also focus on connecting with one another and having fun! Our Volunteer Taskforce and Wellbeing Taskforce makes it a priority to ensure recreational activities are available. These range from a Taskforce-led parliamentary fashion show, to talent shows under the stars, or even an all-in trivia night.

Across the three-days, participants will:

- Engage in skill development workshops covering leadership and advocacy
- Establish a Youth Cabinet
- Engage in practice parliamentary debates
- Engage in parliamentary training ranging from etiquette and Bill writing research
- Understand the Bill writing process
- Understand the program timeline

Please note that both camps are compulsory and participants will be required to attend the full duration of both.

Key Information

Hybrid Period

When: Wednesday 1 May 2024 - Friday 12 July 2024

Where: Online

Purpose: The Hybrid Period of Youth Parliament is where participants will work closely together via virtual meetings to write their Youth Bill. They will be supported by their Volunteer Taskforce Committee Advisor as they will guide them through the Bill writing process and keep to the schedule laid out during Training Camp. Participants will also participate in Online Caucus and other seminars created for them by our Volunteer Taskforce.

Residential Camp/Youth Sitting Week

When: Monday 15 July 2024 - Friday 19 July 2024

Purpose: Youth Parliamentarians will showcase their efforts of creating a Youth Bill and apply all that they have learned in front of their peers, members of NSW Parliament and community leaders.

Despite the fast-paced nature of this program, our Taskforce prioritises the balance between serious nature of parliamentary sitting and making meaningful connections with your peers. We prepare for Sitting Week and focus on connecting with one another, including NAIDOC Week activities.

Across the Youth Sitting Week, participants will:

- Travel on a private bus on the 16, 17, and 18 of July to Parliament of NSW from Campsite to debate and participate in the Youth Sitting Week.
- Debate in front of NSW Members of Parliament.
- Connect with State Members of Parliament and Community Leaders.
- Meet the NSW Governor and participate in an official Youth Address-In-Reply at Government House.
- Continue to build leadership and advocacy skills while at camp.
- Unwind and connect with peers at the campsite.

Please note that both camps are compulsory and participants will be required to attend the full duration of both.



Committee Roundtables

After the conclusion of the Youth Sitting Week and debating Youth Bills, wherever possible, Youth MPs will have an opportunity to present their Bills during committee round tables. Facilitated by the Y, each committee has a chance to sit down with a relevant Member of Parliament or change-maker to discuss their bill, their ideas and have their voices heard. A roundtable refers to a meeting or discussion where everyone at the table has an equal opportunity to share their ideas and opinions. This kind of meeting gives participants the opportunity to speak about the issues that they are passionate about, as well as ask questions and learn from the Member of Parliament or other stakeholder in a more authentic and candid way. The committee roundtables are a celebration of the hard work of the participants during youth parliament and an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

Program Costs

The Youth Parliament participant fee is **\$1,400**.

What does the cost cover?

- Three-day training camp in April including:
 - Accommodation
 - Food and Beverages
 - Recreational Activities
 - Workshops on parliamentary processes and leadership skills
- Online group sessions in committees working on Youth Bills supported by the Volunteer Taskforce and mentors.
- Mentorship program with industry professionals, working closely with their committee.
- Five-day residential camp in July including:
 - Accommodation
 - Food and Beverages
 - Transport to and from NSW Parliament House
 - Personal and professional development workshops
 - Recreational activities
 - Three-days of program at NSW Parliament House, inclusive of:
 - Opening and Closing Ceremonies
 - Committee debates
 - Matters of Public Importance debates
 - Opportunities to meet Members of Parliament where possible.
- Potential networking opportunities with Members of Parliament, industry professionals, and Y staff where possible.
- Opportunity for roundtable discussions with either Members of Parliament and/or other relevant stakeholders for committees to share their Youth Bills and ideas where possible.
- Access to the Youth Voice Network newsletter
- Joining the Youth Parliament Alumni Network with members across 20+ years of YP.

What support is available to cover the costs?

All Youth Parliament Participants will receive a Fundraising Kit and online training to support them in raising money to cover the cost of the program fee. They will receive information, guidance and resources to get out into the community and connect with people who can support their path to Youth Parliament. Fundraising is an amazing opportunity to engage with their local community.

The Y welcomes people from diverse backgrounds to apply for the program. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living with a disability, individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+, and those experiencing financial hardship are eligible to apply for the YP Sponsorship Program to support them with the cost of the program.

For more information or a confidential chat with someone from the Youth Voice team about the program costs, send us an email at youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

2024 Applications

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 YOUTH PARLIAMENT WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 5:00PM ON FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

Application Details

Applicants for the 2024 Youth Parliament Program must be in **Year 10 - 12** for the duration of the two camps. All applicants must be committed to participating in all aspects of the Y NSW Youth Parliament program, including

- Meetings with committee advisors
- Training Camp
- Hybrid cohort zoom meetings
- Residential Camp

Applicants for the 2024 Youth Parliament Program will undergo an extensive assessment process to determine a shortlist that will progress to online interview stage. Due to the Youth Parliament Program being capped at 70 Youth Parliamentarians, the application process will be competitive.

All applicants will receive a response and 85 young people will be shortlisted to progress through to the interview stage. The shortlisted young people will undergo interviews with the Youth Voice Team, and will consist of active collaboration with the young people on issues that they are passionate about.

After the interviews conclude, the Youth Voice Team will select the final 70 Youth Parliamentarians, with the remaining 15 will be placed on our waiting list and a place will be offered should they become available.

All applications will be thoroughly assessed through a uniform criteria to provide a balanced and accurately representative program.

How to Apply

Please read through the information pack; especially the program timeline of key dates and complete the application form:

[Youth Parliament 2024 Application Form](#)

For any questions regarding the application process or the program, please email Hamani Tanginoa at: youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

Key Contacts

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2024 Key Dates

Applications Close	Friday 9 February 5pm
Shortlist Interviews	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
Successful Applicants Notified	Friday 23 February
Acceptance Packages Released	Friday 23 February
Signed Acceptance Offer Due Back	Wednesday 28 February
First Online Meeting & Fundraising Workshop	Wednesday 28 February
Fundraising Campaigns	Friday 1 March - Monday 15 April
Payments Due	Monday 15 April
Pre-Training Camp Online Meeting	Wednesday 10 April
Training Camp	Monday 22 April - Wednesday 24 April
Hybrid Period	Wednesday 1 May - Sunday 14 July
Residential Camp	Monday 15 July - Friday 19 July
Committee Roundtables	September - December