

The Y NSW Youth Parliament

2025 Application Pack

Youth **Voices,**
Powerful **Choices**



the

**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**

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. This program has been running in NSW since 2002. Over these years we have seen amazing cohorts create change in their local communities and on a state level.

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

Being a Y NSW Youth Parliamentarian goes beyond the formalities of our Youth Sitting Week, where we get to 'take over' Parliament of NSW. As Youth MPs, you will get to meet amazing staff and 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 2025 Youth Parliament. Having representation from a range of electorates, identities and experiences will reflect how diverse NSW young people are!

I have been both 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



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Youth Voice Coordinator

What is Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is the Y NSW's flagship leadership and civic engagement program that empowers young people to have a voice in Parliament and in their community.

We are an apolitical program

Regardless of who you are, and what you believe in, the Youth Parliament Program caters for all. We are not affiliated to any political parties and encourage diverse opinions and thoughts in the program!



We'll teach you the skills

Whilst at Youth Parliament, you will get the opportunity to learn about Parliamentary processes and writing legislation, and gain skills in public speaking and leadership. You don't need to have any prior experience to participate - just come ready to learn!

Speak in Parliament of NSW

During our Residential Camp in July, all Youth Members gather in Parliament of NSW to discuss the issues that matter to you. You will be a Youth Member of Parliament for the week, sitting in the Chamber, debating bills and giving speeches.



Meet with Members of Parliament

During Youth Sitting Week, there are opportunities to meet various Members of Parliament as they guest chair the parliamentary sessions during the week.

Have your voice heard

After Residential Camp, Youth Members will have the opportunity to share their Bills with various key stakeholders and advocate the issues that young people of NSW are passionate about and want to see addressed. Maybe your Bill could influence future legislation!



How does it all work?



You are chosen as a representative of your electorate

E.g. The Youth Member for Leppington.

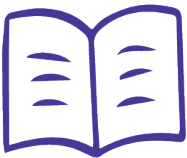
In your application, you will state the electorate that you currently reside in, which you'll be representing throughout Youth Parliament and is the title you will hold during sessions. In addition to this, you will also be a member of either the government or opposition.



You are allocated as a member of a committee

E.g. A member of the Justice Committee.

In your application form you will be able to select your top three committee preferences, for example Education, Mental Health, Justice. Committees have between 8-10 people in them and together you will write a Youth Bill on a chosen topic within that relevant portfolio.



Attend a 3 day Training Camp in April

Training Camp will be in Sydney, NSW

Training Camp is where the cohort first come together and learn all the important skills that you need to participate in the program. Training Camp will cover advocacy and leadership skills, parliamentary education, public speaking and more.



Writing a Youth Bill with your committee

E.g. A Bill to introduce an increase of school hours

As a committee, you will decide on a topic, research existing legislation, engage in community consultations and write a Youth Bill that addresses an issue in the community. We will guide you step by step on how to do this, and you will be supported by Taskforce volunteers.



Attend Residential Camp and Youth Sitting Week

Have the opportunity to speak during each session

In July, you will attend a 6-day Residential Camp which includes 4-days of parliamentary sittings at Parliament of NSW. During this time, each committee will present their Youth Bill and have it debated and voted on by all members. You will also present speeches on your electorate, and other issues that are important to you.

Who can apply?

You are eligible to apply if you are:



A young person in years 10 - 12 in high school

To participate in the Y NSW Youth Parliament, you must be in years 10 - 12 for the full duration of the 2025 program.



Living in New South Wales

Only young people living in the state of New South Wales are eligible to participate.

In the application form, we will ask which electorate you live in. To find this out, click here:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/find-my-electorate>



Passionate about local issues and representing your community

Regardless of who you are and what you believe in, if you're passionate about your community, you should apply.



Important Dates!



Applications open
Wednesday 30 October 2024



Applications close
Thursday 23 January 2025



Applicants notified
Friday 31 January 2025



Training camp
Sydney
Tuesday 22 April to
Thursday 24 April 2025



Youth Bill writing
Online
April to June



Residential camp
Sydney
Sunday 13 July to
Friday 18 July 2025

How much will it cost?

The Y NSW is committed to ensuring the Youth Parliament program is accessible to young people. Each year, the Y actively seeks funding to cover as much of the cost as possible to reduce the fee for participants.



The cost to participate in the Youth Parliament program is **\$1400**. This fee covers all accommodation and meals for both camps, transport to and from Parliament House, workshops, activities and materials during the program.

First Nations scholarships

We are proud to offer a select number of First Nations scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Please indicate in your application if you would like to be considered for one of these scholarships.

Financial barriers

If the cost of Youth Parliament is a barrier for you to participate in the program, please indicate this in your application, and we will endeavour to support you to raise the funds. Many young people seek support to raise funds from their community which includes their school, local MP, rotary clubs and other community organisations.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about the Youth Parliament fee, please contact the Youth Parliament Team at youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

Who runs Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is run by the Y NSW, and has been running in NSW since 2002. The Y Youth Parliament has been running in multiple states and territories across Australia for over 30 years.



The Youth Parliament Team consists of:

- Y NSW Staff
 - Youth Parliament Coordinator
 - Youth and Child Voice Manager
 - Youth Parliament Wellbeing Coordinator
 - Wellbeing Team
- Youth Parliament Taskforce



The Youth Parliament Taskforce are there to help you with all the content of the program, from writing Youth Bills, speeches and everything you need to know to feel confident in Youth Sitting Week. Many of them have done the program before as a participant so they know exactly what you are about to experience.



The Youth Parliament Taskforce are made up of volunteers aged 18 and over. All Taskforce members have Working with Children Checks and receive training in areas which include:

- Safeguarding Children & Young People
- Mental Health First Aid
- Cultural Capacity
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Parliamentary Processes

How do I apply?

1

Scan the QR Code or click the link below

[Click Here to Apply to Youth Parliament!](#)



2

Fill out the application form and answer all the questions.

These will include:

- Personal information
- Demographic information
- Application selection questions
- Scholarship application
- Acknowledgments



3

Choose a format to answer the selection questions



If you choose a **written application**, fill out the boxes in the form with your answers.



If you choose a **video application**, follow the steps on the next page.

The selection questions for this year are:

1. Why are you applying for the NSW Youth Parliament Program?
2. What is a significant issue young people are facing in your community, and what are some solutions?
3. What do you want to achieve through your participation in Youth Parliament?

How to submit a video application

1

Make your video

- Answer the selection questions on the previous page.
- Make sure the video is 2 minutes or less.
- Save your video file as 'YP25_Application_Firstname Lastname'

2

Submit your video

Choose the format to submit your video:



Upload Video to Application Form (*max size 50MB*)

- Record your video.
- Upload video to the Application Form when prompted.
- Allowed types are .mov and .mp4



Email (*max size 10MB*)

- Sign up or log in to your email
- Compose an email and attach your video
- Add the subject line 'YP25 Video Application First Name Last Name'
- Email to youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

3

Finish Your Application

- Indicate in the application that you have submitted your video.
- Make sure all questions are answered
- Submit your application.

What will I get out of Youth Parliament?



Learn to work in a team with a diverse group of people

Develop lifelong friendship with like-minded young people



Learn new skills and develop your knowledge of civics and leadership



Stay on camp with friends

Practice and increase your public speaking or oral advocacy skills



Visit NSW Parliament and learn about history



Be challenged and expand your thinking

Learn how to write your own piece of legislation



Take on a leadership role at Youth Parliament

Learn how to understand and respect people's different perspectives



Join an alumni network and community of 1,700 Youth Parliamentarians



Have loads of fun!

Want more information?

You can follow us on social media to keep updated with the Youth Parliament Program and applications



@the.ynswyp



@the.ynswyp

You can also reach out to the Youth Parliament Team via our email



youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

**We look forward to
seeing your application!
Good Luck!**

