



# YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

South Australia

# 2024 Program Overview

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

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



Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services

# 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 2024 YMCA SA Youth Parliament and we can't wait to see the range of issues you choose to debate in Parliament House in July.

This booklet outlines the Youth Parliament journey for participants in 2024. We hope you're excited!

# 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 2024, 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 given where possible.**

Committee Name	Description
Accessibility and Human Services	The Accessibility and Human Services Committee focuses on accessibility and ensuring South Australians needs are met. This committee also looks at supporting communities through socially inclusive policy. Topics you could cover include disability and neuro-divergent accessibility, inclusion in society, access to essential services, public housing (Inclusive of quality, standards, rent, construction, etc.) and concessions. However, if you are more specifically interested in: Planning, as well as the infrastructure within communities, then the 'Planning, Infrastructure, and Transport committee' might be better suited to you.
Agriculture, Mining and Industry	The Agriculture and Industry committee is a brand-new committee focused on developing rural areas and agricultural and mining industries. In this committee you may create bills which improve wine businesses in regional South Australia, create new laws surrounding pest removal, or creating a form of encouragement for those who choose to do agriculture or vineyard related tertiary courses. However, if you are interested in: Improving the rights of workers in the agriculture industry or improving safety in the workplace, then the "Employment, Business and Consumer Affairs" committee may be the right choice for you!
Climate, Wildlife and Waters	The Climate, Wildlife and Waters Committee focuses on environmental sustainability, conservation, and waterway management in South Australia. Within this committee, you might explore recycling, deforestation prevention, nature reserves and species' endangerment. However, if you are more interested in: Encouraging research into climate change or implementing renewable energy, then the "Science, Energy and Technology Committee" may be better suited to you!
Crime, Justice and Corrections	The Crime, Justice and Corrections Committee focuses on ensuring that South Australia's justice system is fair, accessible, efficient, and effective. Within this committee, you might explore aspects of law reform, such as crime prevention policies and programs, rehabilitation and reparation services, redefining criminal offenses, and altering sentencing procedures and outcomes. However, if you are more interested in: The accessibility of individuals to their fundamental rights and reformation of the border systems of the South Australian government, then the 'Democracy, Governance and Rights Committee' may be better suited for you!
Democracy, Governance and Rights	The Democracy, Governance and Rights focuses on improving South Australia's democracy and means of governance as well as reforming government procedures, rights, and protections. This might include, increasing transparency measures such as rules around political donations, anti-corruption measures or increasing civil participation in government decision making. You might attempt to increase protections for, explore the extent of rights such as freedom of speech or freedom of movement should be protected, or you may make changes to government mechanisms, such as the responsibilities of local government or regulations regarding the civil service. If you specifically wish to modify the rights of prisoners may or the powers of the judicial system you may wish to select the "Crime Justice and Corrections committee."
Education, Training and Skills	The Education, Training and Skills committee is dedicated to improving South Australia's quality of education and expanding training and skills. This may include modifying the school system, such as what ought to be taught, what should be prohibited or even how school the system should work entirely, such as how funding is allocated, the divisions between public and private, primary, and secondary and specialty schools and general programs. Policies regarding training could focus on creating programs for or incentivising the training of certain skills or might focus on retaining or attracting individuals with certain skills. Note that those policies specifically regarding educating or training those with a disability may be better suited to the "Accessibility and human services committee."
Employment, Business and Consumer Affairs	The Employment, Business and Consumer Affairs committee focuses on improving the rights of workers and consumers and encouraging the growth of small and big businesses. In this committee you may explore topics such as improving work, health, and safety guidelines, creating an additional support system for small businesses, or providing a form of encouragement for consumers to shop in store at reliable shops rather than purchasing online. However, if you are more interested in: Agricultural and regional based businesses, such as wineries, mining, and fisheries then you may want to try out the "Agriculture, Mining and Industry committee."
Health and Wellbeing	The Health and Wellbeing committee is dedicated to improving the mental health, physical health, and accessibility of health facilities around South Australia. In this committee you may explore topics such as: creating further accessibility to hospitals or health care facilities for regional people, elderly, or those without modes of transport, creating more specialist health facilities in specific areas, implementing a guaranteed job placement for any studying nurses, doctors or specialists. However, if you are more interested in: Disability services and assistance for those with disabilities or chronic conditions, consider selecting the 'Accessibility and Human Services' committee.
Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation	The Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation committee is focused on improving the rights of Indigenous Australians living in South Australia as well as reconciling for past injustices against the Indigenous peoples of South Australia. Some topics that you may look at is introducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in schools and/or workplaces, creating greater regional hubs out in communities with access to local services, further grant/crisis funding and peer-support counselling with other First Nations people. However, if you're more interested in: Providing housing for Indigenous people or improving the accessibility to mental health support services for Indigenous people, you may want to consider selecting the "Accessibility and Human Services" committee instead!
Planning, Infrastructure and Transport	The Planning, Infrastructure, and Transport Committee focuses on how South Australians live, move, and work. Within this committee, you might focus on land use and zoning laws, building projects, public community spaces and urban design, housing development, public transport policies and infrastructure, roads, railways & marine networks, road safety, and licensing and registration. However, if you are interested more in: The quality, regulation, and standards of (public) housing, including things such as rents, then the 'Accessibility and Human Services Committee' may be better suited for you! If the development features in public and urban areas to promote culture and recreation take your interest, then the 'Recreation, Tourism and Culture Committee' committee may be better suited for you!
Recreation, Tourism and Culture	The Recreation, Tourism and Culture Committee focuses on supporting the cultural and tourism sectors of South Australia, as well as promoting recreational and leisure activities. Topics you could cover include recreation (Community Centres, Recreational Facilities such as swimming centres, theatres, public libraries, and more), sport, tourism, the arts, and cultural activities and practices. Infrastructure and funding relating to such areas is also within the scope of this committee. However, if you are more interested in: Indigenous Affairs, cultural promotion, or reconciliation, then the 'Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation committee' might be better suited to you.
Science, Energy and Technology	The Science, Energy and Technology Committee is a new committee with a focus on STEM and our state's energy supply. You may choose to investigate the creation of a more stable, clean, or cheap energy supply for the state. You also might look at the regulation of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence. However, if you are interested in: Climate change management that doesn't involve energy production or emerging research, then the "Climate, Wildlife and Waters Committee" may be for you!

# 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.

---

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Signed consent forms due

March 2024  
Your Youth Parliament  
journey begins

April to July 2024

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.

Training weekend  
21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024



**Parliament Week**

14<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
(Sunday-Friday)

August 2024  
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 mentors (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

21<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

### 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

14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### 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 \$500 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, **17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

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

Training Weekend: **20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 Saturday – Sunday)**

Parliament Week: **13<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (Sunday-Friday)**







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



[Facebook](#)

#youthparliament



[Instagram](#)

#YP2024



[Twitter](#)

#makeyourmark

---

Resources available on the website:

<https://www.sa.ymca.org.au/what-we-do/youth-empowerment/youth-parliament>

---

If you have any questions, please send an contact Youth Empowerment at:

Ph: 0422 343 916  
[youth@ymcasa.org.au](mailto:youth@ymcasa.org.au)