



YMCA VICTORIA
YOUTH PARLIAMENT

2019 Application & Information Pack

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



To Whom It May Concern,

You are formally invited to be part of the 33rd annual YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament!

For over 30 years, the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament has provided an opportunity for young Victorians to be heard in the most public forum of all – Parliament House of Victoria!

The YMCA Youth Parliament Program is run by YMCA Victoria in partnership with the Victorian Government. With the help of a dedicated volunteer Taskforce comprised of past Youth Parliamentarians, 120 young Victorians will be invited to debate issues they are passionate about in the real chambers of Parliament.

You are invited to enter a team of six young people to participate in this unique program. With the assistance of an experienced mentor, the team will research and debate an issue they are passionate about and present it in the form of a Bill in the Parliamentary chambers.

After all the Bills have been debated and received the assent of the Youth Governor, they are handed to the Minister for Youth who in turn distributes them to the relevant Ministers and Departments of government for further consideration. This process has resulted in over 25 Youth Parliament Bills being adopted into state legislation; including gender neutral school uniforms, and banning lightweight plastic bags.

Beyond the real and potent advocacy of the Youth Parliamentarians, the benefit of the Youth Parliament is in giving young people a voice, igniting a passion and delivering real and transferable skills.

The program commences with a mandatory residential training weekend held in late May, and culminates in a five night long residential camp in late June. This week long camp focuses on three full days of debate in Parliament House, which gives young people a chance to flex their newly developed parliamentary skills. Away from Parliament House, participants take part in a series of rewarding and sometimes challenging personal development sessions at YMCA Lake Dewar Lodge which aims to develop their teamwork and leadership skills.

Every year, the feedback from past participants of the program are glowing, with many young people citing their Youth Parliament experience as being formative in their development journeys. In the 2018 Youth Parliament, a staggering 91% of participants reported they would highly recommend the Youth Parliament program to their peers, and 93% of participants listed the Youth Parliament as a core platform to be heard and respected. In a time when many young people feel overlooked or excluded, we know that the Youth Parliament offers something special.

Applications are always extremely competitive; to secure your place in this tremendous program, please submit an application contained in the pages below.

Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns through this process.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olly Tripodi".

Olly Tripodi

Program Director - 2019 YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament

“ *I feel inspired to make positive social change in my own community. Since Youth Parliament I've tried really hard to be the best version of myself and help others to do the same. I feel more motivated than ever!* **”**

— 2018 Youth Parliamentarian

Key Information

WHEN: Friday 24th May – Sunday 26th May 2019
(Compulsory Training Weekend)
Sunday 30th June– Friday 5th July 2019
(2019 Youth Parliament)

COSTS: \$4,650 (including GST) per team of 6 (six) participants
Please note: this fee does not cover the cost of travel to and from the residential program.

WHERE: Lake Dewar Lodge YMCA
339 Garrards Lane, MYRNING, 3341
Sitting Days
1st, 2nd, and 4th of July 2019
Parliament House, Spring St, Melbourne

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Youth Parliament is open to any young person aged between 16 and 25 years residing in the state of Victoria.

Key contacts during the application period:

Olly Tripodi
Program Director
0425 454 976
youthparliament.vic@ymca.org.au

Michael Delaney
Assistant Manager
0403 289 373
michael.delaney@ymca.org.au

How to Apply

Please read through the following information pack and find the application form on pages 7 - 9. If you need further space to complete the application, please add an additional page.

Please note: the application pack requires the prospective list of team members to be listed, though it is not a problem if some changes to the list need to be made down the track.

Please email your application titled: <Team Name>'s 2019 Youth Parliament Team Application to youthparliament.vic@ymca.org.au

“ *The program really succeeds in fostering this community that pushes people into opening their minds and considering perspectives that are not necessarily the same as theirs. Of course, the program does also succeed spectacularly in its primary function, which is creating a platform for young people to have their voices heard.* ”

– 2017 Youth Parliamentarian

Application Details

Applications for Youth Parliament Teams will be open until **5.00pm on Thursday the 7th of March 2019.**

- A team is made up of six participants. All team members must be between 16 - 25 years as of 24th May 2019.
- Only two of the six members of a team can be returning participants.
- All team members should be committed to participating in all aspects of the Youth Parliament program.
- **Please note:** applications for Youth Parliament are very competitive, with the program reaching capacity at only 20 teams. As such, each application will be assessed on several criteria to provide a balanced and accurately representative program which includes the vast spectrum of young Victorians. Selection of the 20 successful applications will be based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
 - Appropriate representation of the diversity of Victoria's young people.
 - An application completed in its entirety, including three Bill topics representative of the views of your team members.
 - Applications are submitted on time.

Application Details (continued)

Resource Person

The application process should be managed by a Resource Person. A Resource Person is the individual responsible for organising the team and coordinating their application submission. A teacher, youth or council worker, or motivated team member would make a great resource person.

Once a team is accepted onto the program, the resource person will be responsible for the following:

- Assisting in organising an initial meeting with the team's assigned YMCA mentor.
- Assisting the team as required, but acknowledging that as young leaders, the participants should lead the decision making process and workload.
- Being a point of call if an issue arises with the team, including issues about payment or team members. The resource person will mostly liaise with the Program Director.
- Ensuring payment is made in full, in accordance with the agreed timeline.

Participant Expectations

Participating in Youth Parliament is a privilege. Due to the limited spaces on the program, unfortunately some young people miss out. Therefore, it is imperative that every applicant who wishes to participate in the Youth Parliament program understands what is expected of them and is willing to meet those expectations. We expect the following of our participants:

- Participants commit to attending all meetings organised with their mentor (usually 2-3 meetings throughout the program), and any additional meetings their team organises to work on a Bill or speech writing.
- Participants are expected to spend at least five hours working on the Bill and speech writing outside of the residential program.
- Participants must attend the entire three-day residential training weekend and six-day residential program at Lake Dewar Lodge YMCA.
- While on camp, participants must respect that the YMCA has duty of care for all participants, even if they are legally adults. This means that all participants adhere to all procedures and policies, and must stay on site at all times
- While on the residential program, participants are expected to participate in all sessions and activities to the best of their ability.
- Participants are expected to respect the diversity and the opinions of other young people on the program and understand that Youth Parliament is a place for sharing ideas and learning new things.
- Participants understand that Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program and is not affiliated with any political party or specific ideologies.
- Participants should note that Youth Parliament is an alcohol and drug free program and no alcohol or drugs shall be allowed onto the residential program.

What Participants Receive

- A three-day residential training weekend and six-day residential program, including full catering, accommodation and transport where necessary (this does not include transport to or from the residential campsite).
- Three days facilitated debate in the chambers of the Victorian Parliament House, Spring Street.
- An exclusive function held in honour of the Youth Parliamentarians.
- Access to an experienced YMCA mentor for the duration of the program.
- Access to an experienced Media and Stakeholder Relations Advisor for the duration of the program.
- An exclusive Youth Parliament t-shirt and compendium.
- A suite of best practice leadership and teamwork training that can be applied to a multitude of contexts beyond camp.

Youth Parliament Bills - The Process



Submitting an Application

- Applications must include three potential Bill topics which should be generated by the team members.
- Bill topics should be a statement of intention on a Victorian State issue. For example, rather than just 'Public Transport' it should read 'Free Public Transport for all Concession Card Holders'.
- Each Bill topic should be accompanied by a short statement as to why they wish to write a Bill on this topic.



How we select your Bill topic

- Once a team has been successfully accepted onto the program, our Parliamentary Team will get to work determining which Bill topic the team will be assigned.
- We endeavour to assign every team their first choice but sometimes this isn't possible because two or more teams submit the same topic, the topic isn't a State-based issue (i.e. relates to Federal issues), or the topic isn't appropriate.



Starting to write your Bill

- Once the Bill topic has been confirmed, the team will be contacted by an assigned mentor who will inform the team of their Bill topic and arrange to hold an initial meeting.
- This mentor will support the team through the entire Youth Parliament journey.



The following are some examples of previous years Bill topics:

- Promotion of alternative sentencing for non-violent crimes
- Extended concessions for students on public transport
- Increased incentives for relocations of skilled professionals to rural areas
- Universal accessibility of all musical and cultural festivals
- Container deposit scheme (cash-for-cans/bottles)

APPLICATION FORM

YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament 2019

Return to Olly Tripodi by **5.00pm on Thursday the 7th of March 2019**

TEAM INFORMATION

TEAM NAME
(name of school, community group, etc.)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TEAM
(type of people that make up the team, has the team participated before etc.)

RESOURCE PERSON

NAME:

RELATION TO TEAM:

CONTACT EMAIL:

PHONE NO:

Payment Details:

Deposits will not be accepted with initial applications. In the two weeks following applications closing, both successful and unsuccessful teams will be notified, and payment details for successful teams will be confirmed.

YMCA Victoria, in partnership with the Victorian Government, is committed to providing opportunities to all young people from all walks of life. For any assistance in relation to funding difficulties or additional support needed, please don't hesitate to contact us.

DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT

NAME:

CONTACT EMAIL:

PAYMENT TYPE:

- One total payment **(required by 5.00pm Monday 22 April 2019)**
- Two equal payments **(The first by 22/4/19, the second by 27/5/19)**
- Other, as discussed with the Program Director

APPLICATION FORM

YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament 2019

TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM MEMBER 1

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

TEAM MEMBER 2

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

TEAM MEMBER 3

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

TEAM MEMBER 4

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

TEAM MEMBER 5

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

TEAM MEMBER 6

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DOB:

PHONE NO:

SUBURB:

ISSUE YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

BILL PREFERENCES

1

BILL TOPIC PROPOSAL
(max 30 words)

WHY DOES THE TEAM WISH TO SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL?
(max 250 words)

2

BILL TOPIC PROPOSAL
(max 30 words)

WHY DOES THE TEAM WISH TO SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL?
(max 250 words)

3

BILL TOPIC PROPOSAL
(max 30 words)

WHY DOES THE TEAM WISH TO SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL?
(max 250 words)