

**YOUTH**

**PARLIAMENT**

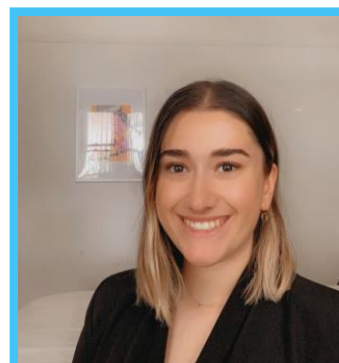
**2023 Volunteer Application  
Information Pack**



## A message from our program coordinator

Dear future Youth Parliament Taskies,

Thank you for taking the time to show your interest in our amazing flagship program, Youth Parliament. Our program has been led by young people, for young people for the past 21 years. Over those years we have seen the amazing cohorts create change in their local communities and on a state level. And we are excited to have you join us!



*Tina Flaskas, Youth Parliament,  
Program Coordinator 2023*

If you are looking for an opportunity of the lifetime, then this program is for you. Whether you love supporting change making from behind the scenes, or thrive in the spotlight we have a position for you! Taskies are the backbone of this program, without people like you, the voices of young people would not be echoed through the halls of NSW Parliament House. Taskies not only get the chance to take the lead on camp, but rather, they are enabled to take the lead during the hybrid phase of the program. As a volunteer you will mentor a committee of your choosing and guide the participants through the Bill writing process. Seeing your committee from the start of training camp to hearing them seek the call in the Legislative Assembly will give you a feeling of absolute pride. As a taskie, we become close friends who support one other throughout the entire year. I myself having been a participant have seen how important taskies are, and as a participant, my taskies were young people who inspired me to challenge myself. Also having been a volunteer myself, it was an opportunity that change my outlook on advocacy and fuelled my level of passion for all things advocacy. There is a role for everyone, whether like me, you prefer to be more of behind-the-scenes logistics person or if you like to be front and centre in chairing debates in chamber.

I truly want to see as many young people represented in this year's volunteer taskforce. Having representation from a range of electorates would be incredible and would reflect how diverse us young people are! It is an opportunity 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 would like to learn more please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Tina Flaskas

Youth Voice Coordinator  
Y NSW Youth Parliament

## What is Youth Parliament?

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

The program provides high school-age students with the opportunity to engage in civic leadership, policy development, and democratic parliamentary debate. Youth Parliament plays an important role in public discourse as it is all about the empowerment of young people, providing them with a platform to have their voices heard.

Our program is run by young people-for young people. This residential program has 9 Youth Committees comprised of 8-10 passionate young people. Aimed at young people in years 10, 11, and 12 or equivalent age 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 Y's youth volunteer 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 reports with recommendations on issues for change within each government portfolio. These are debated during a mock sitting week in NSW Parliament House in a chamber where many MPs chair the debates. Youth Parliament culminates in a final event where young people present their report recommendations to a government MP in that portfolio.

*"As a person who lives in NSW who has lots of ideas and notions, who wants to really initiate change, I believe Youth Parliament and the Y allows young people like me to be an agent of change"*

- 2021 Youth Parliamentarian

## **Key Information**

### **Training Camp**

**When:** Monday 17 April 2023 – Wednesday 19 April 2023

**Where:** YMCA NSW Sydney Olympic Park Lodge, 1 Jamieson Street Silverwater

**Purpose:** To introduce the cohort to Youth Parliament. Here you will deliver a series of workshops ranging from advocacy, leadership and parliamentary procedure. These will prepare each committee to write an incredible Youth Bill to be ready to debate these in NSW Parliament House.

Across the three days, taskies will:

- Deliver in skill development workshops covering advocacy and leadership
- Establish a Youth Cabinet (of participants)
- Moderate practice parliamentary debates
- Deliver in parliamentary training ranging from parliamentary debate etiquette to parliamentary research for the Bill Writing process
- Explain the Bill writing process
- Explain understanding of the program timeline
- Meet and engage with your committee as a committee advisor

Please note that both residential components of the program are compulsory elements of the program and taskies will be required to attend for the full duration of both. We will roster shifts so each taskie gets a moderate break throughout either camps. At the Y NSW, we understand that you have a busy schedule and we are happy to work with you.

## **Residential Camp/ Youth Sitting Week**

**When:** Sunday 9 July 2023 – Saturday 15 July 2023

**Where:** YMCA NSW Sydney Olympic Park Lodge, 1 Jamieson Street Silverwater and NSW Parliament House

**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.

Across the Youth Sitting Week, taskies will:

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- Travel on a private bus on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July to NSW Parliament House from Sydney Olympic Park Lodge to debate and participate in the Youth Sitting Week
- Connect with State MPs 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
- Run chamber and manage the debate schedules/ scripts and other materials
- Unwind and connect with peers at campsite

Please note that both residential components of the program are compulsory elements of the program and participants will be required to attend for the full duration of both.

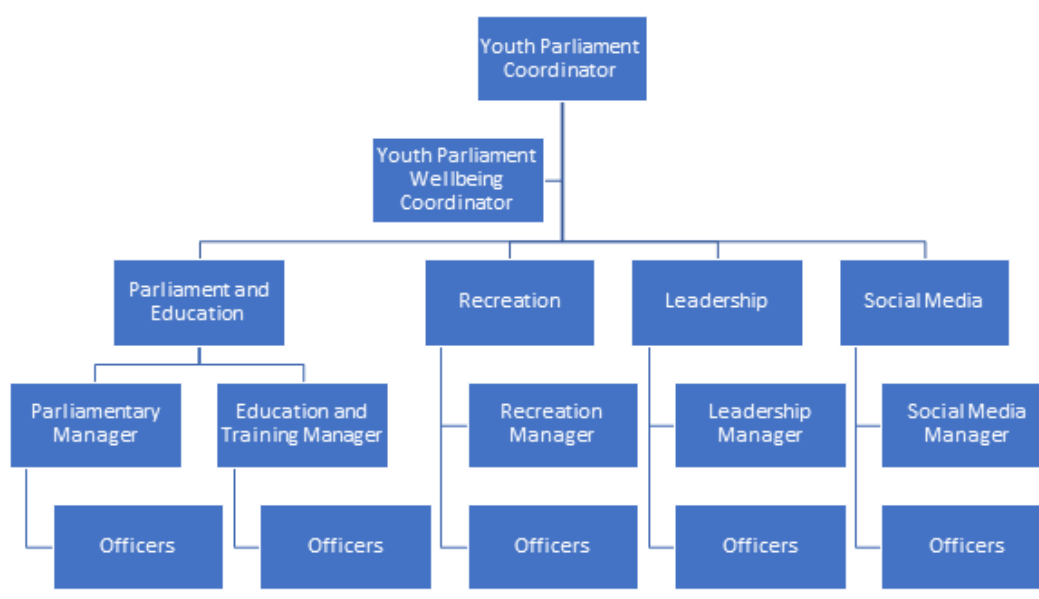
## Program Costs

\$0 per taskie

We cover the cost of travel to and from NSW Parliament House, accommodation for both camps, catering for both camps and at NSW Parliament House, and training for advocacy workshops, leadership workshops, hybrid delivery of content and recreation for both camps.

## Taskforce Structure

All taskies despite their portfolio will be committee advisors.



## Taskforce Roles

### **Role: Parliamentary Manager**

**Description:** Want to lead and run the parliament side of the program? This is a role for you. This role requires you to work in partnership with the Education and Training Manager while taking direction from the youth Parliament Coordinator. You will help develop parliamentary education sessions with the Education and Training Manager while making sure, the entire participant cohort and volunteers know the parliamentary procedure for our youth sitting week.

During our youth sitting week you will manage our youth parliamentarians in chamber, our volunteering members of NSW Parliament who are chairing our youth debates. You will be required to stick to debate schedules, liaise with NSW MPs and Y NSW staff. You will also be working with the Youth Parliament

coordinator to liaise with Parliament House, to ensure our program is following their procedures.

### **Key responsibility:**

- Create and deliver educational sessions Youth Parliament in-chamber debates, Parliamentary etiquette, Parliamentary procedure and how to liaise with NSW Member of Parliament (be sure to make these as creative and interactive as possible)
- Guide committee meetings through hybrid means – be sure to not take a top-down approach to leadership, you are very much a team player who is on the ground.
- Lead parliament and education officers in delivering sessions - be sure to not take a top-down approach to leadership, you are very much a team player who is on the ground.
- Run the parliamentary chamber – ensure that all volunteers are having the opportunity to clerk and have touch points with NSW Members of Parliament and that all participants are having the opportunity to speak in debates –
- Create and deliver parliamentary scripts and reviewing Youth created Bills/ Reports
- Brief Members of NSW Parliament who are chairing Youth Sitting Week Debates

### **Role: Education and Training Manager**

**Description:** Our participants require necessary training to get them ready to take on a week in NSW Parliament House. From parliamentary processes to speech writing, the Education and Training manager will oversee all education content to our participants. This role requires an individual who is driven, and has great time management.

Youth Parliament is based on youth committees. These committees develop bills and reports that are debated in NSW Parliament House, it is up to this role to ensure that each committee is sticking to the time-frame to ensure that youth bills and reports are ready to be delivered in chamber. You will lead committee advisors (the entire volunteer base) to ensure all documents are ready to be delivered in chamber. You will also lead the education sessions which will be delivered in a hybrid model (in-person and on zoom) along with delivering training sessions to other volunteers.

#### **Key responsibilities:**

- Create and deliver educational sessions Youth Parliament Bill/ Report writing, delivering speeches and working within a parliamentary committee (be sure to make these as creative and interactive as possible)
- Lead committee meetings through hybrid means – be sure to not take a top-down approach to leadership, you are very much a team player who is on the ground.
- Lead parliament and education officers in delivering committee meetings - be sure to not take a top-down approach to leadership, you are very much a team player who is on the ground.
- Assist the Parliamentary manager in running chamber – this may include writing parliamentary scripts and reviewing Youth created Bills/ Reports
- Actively assist in chamber as directed by the Parliamentary Manager and Youth Parliament Coordinator.

### **Role: Recreation Manager**

**Description:** Camp culture is a fundamental aspect to our Youth Parliament Program. In this role you must ensure there is a balance between our parliamentary sessions and recreation. In overseeing these recreation sessions, you are supporting the wellbeing of our participants while fostering social connections within the group.

As the Manager, you will lead a small team of volunteers in delivering a series of recreation sessions.

Thinking this role could be for you but have no idea what potential recreational sessions you can bring to the table? At YP the following recreation are the greatest hits between volunteers and participants. These include, trivia nights,

talent shows, capture the flag and so many more. We truly hope you will bring fresh, fun and interesting sessions to camp!

**Key responsibilities:**

- Create in-advance recreation sessions for Youth Parliament Training and Residential camp
- Deliver recreation sessions - be sure to make these as creative and interactive as possible
- Create in-advance wellbeing sessions/ check-ins for participants and for volunteers – under the guidance from the Youth Parliament Wellbeing Coordinator
- Deliver wellbeing sessions/ check-ins with participants and volunteers – under the guidance from the Youth Parliament Wellbeing Coordinator
- Ensure we are fostering a positive camp culture that is inclusive to all participants and volunteers
- Actively assist in chamber and with your designated committee as directed by the Parliamentary Manager and Youth Parliament Coordinator.

**Role: Leadership Manager**

**Description:** At the Y, we believe that leadership is about one's actions rather than titles. This Manager will ensure that this value is upheld throughout the entirety of the program. You will prioritise that each participant is unlocking their leadership potential despite them having or not having a leadership title. You will assist the newly elected Youth Governor in fulfilling their role. In this role you will guide the elected Youth Ministry to ensure they are leading their peers in the best way possible.

You will run the Youth Ministry election process along with the future youth Governor election process. You will also assist the Parliament and Education team in running youth caucus meetings.

### **Key responsibilities:**

- Create and run Youth Ministry elections
- Guide elected Youth Ministry Members in partnership with the Parliament and Education team
- Create and run Youth Governor Elections
- Boost and support participants to unlock their own leadership potential even though they might not have an official Youth ministry title
- Create and deliver leadership sessions – to have participants unlock their potential
- Support participants lead in community consultations for their Bills/ Responsibilities

### **Role: Social Media Officer**

**Description:** If you don't capture it, it didn't actually happen right? This is the mentality we need you to bring the team. We want to capture the entirety for YP. From our online zoom sessions to meeting face to face for the first time at camp, to hearing a participant deliver a speech for the first time. We want someone who is creative and fun who can work with our Corporate Affairs team in delivering social media content.

### **Key responsibilities:**

- Plan, capture and edit videos, photos for use across our social media channels and websites
- Schedule and post content on social media platforms
- Create branded graphics for our social media platforms
- Assisting in interviewing participants/ key stakeholders of our programs – upon taking direction from the corporate Affairs team
- Reporting into the Corporate Affairs team and Youth Parliament Coordinator

In this role, you will boost your knowledge and application of using creative software, photography/videography equipment and of utilising the back end of social media platforms to maximise on outreach.

## **Application Details**

**APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 5.00PM ON FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2023**

- All volunteers must be between 18-25 years for the duration of the two camps
- All volunteers must be committed to participating in all aspects of the Y NSW Youth Parliament program, including taskforce meetings,

committee, training camp, hybrid cohort zoom meetings and residential camp

- Have or be willing to obtain a volunteer working with children check

## How to Apply

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

<https://form.jotform.com/222537400935958>

For any questions regarding the application process or the program, please email Tina Flaskas at [youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au](mailto:youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au)

## KEY CONTACTS DURING THE APPLICATION PERIOD

Tina Flaskas	<a href="mailto:youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au">youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au</a>	0455631393
Tia Sandhu	<a href="mailto:tia.sandhu@ymcansw.org.au">tia.sandhu@ymcansw.org.au</a>	0476881408

## Program Timeline of Key Dates

Friday 17 February 2023, 5.00pm	Applications close
Monday 20 February 2023	Successful applicants notified via Acceptance Offer
Friday 24 February 2023	Signed Acceptance Offer due back
Monday 27 March 2023	Payment due
Monday 27 March 2023	Online introduction commences through Slack
Monday 17-19 April 2023	Training Camp at Sydney Olympic Park Lodge
Friday 21 April 2023	Online Slack Committee Meeting – Bill Writing

25 April 2023	Online Slack Committee Meeting – Bill Writing/ Progress Update with Committee Advisors
Monday 8 May 2023	Online Slack Committee Meeting – Bill Writing/ Amendment Progress Update with Committee Advisors
Monday 22 May 2023	Online Slack Committee Meeting – Final progress update
Friday 09 June 2023	Committee Youth Bills Due – Submissions made through Committee Advisors
Sunday 9 – Saturday 15 July 2023	Residential Camp/ Youth Sitting Week