

YMCA Junior Parliament 2026 Overview

- **Debate issues important to the youth of South Australia**
- **Develop leadership and personal skills**
- **Learn how to make change in your community**

About the program

YMCA South Australia Junior Parliament is a non-partisan program that empowers young people to be advocates for their community.

Junior Parliament provides a forum for young South Australians to express their views in a safe and supported environment. It's all about personal development, youth empowerment and connecting politicians and decision-makers with youth voices and opinions.

Your role as a Junior Parliamentarian is a privilege - you will use your voice to represent young people across South Australia. Use it wisely.

Junior Parliamentarians will learn about one way of enacting change; through Parliamentary process. They will learn how legislation comes into affect, and the process of going from an idea, to a written bill, to a law. They will also develop their public speaking and teamwork skills.

Best of all, Junior Parliamentarians will join other young South Australians who want to learn more about creating positive and effective change in their community.

We can't wait to see the range of issues chosen by young people to be debated in the chambers of the Junior Parliament!

This booklet outlines the Junior Parliament journey for 2026.

What happens at JP?

At Junior Parliament, you will learn about a common way of enacting change; the Parliamentary Process. You will also have the opportunity to develop your public speaking and debating skills, and build your confidence.

Junior Parliamentarians are allocated into teams and work together to write a Youth Bill, and set personal goals to work towards!

Junior 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 across the State. Young people 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.

Junior Parliament is an opportunity to engage with the wider South Australian public. At Junior Parliament 2026, you will have the opportunity and support to advocate for your Youth Bill in the community.



What is a Youth Bill?

Junior 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 Human Services for the Government's consideration.

What can you write a Bill 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
- Primary and Secondary Education
- State Courts
- State Taxation
- Emergency Services (Police, Hospitals, Fire Service)
- Environment and Conservation
- Arts
- Agriculture
- Multicultural Affairs
- Youth
- Housing
- Social Justice
- Tourism
- Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
- Recreation and Sport

... and much more!

Program Timeline

Applications

Applications are now open! Applications are set to close on Sunday, 6 September 2026.

Participants Notified

Successful applicants will be notified before September 11. Invoices for participation fees will be sent out the following week.

3-Day Day-Program

6 - 8 October 2026 - Compulsory

Training Day #1 - Tuesday 6 October 2026

- The first day of camp is where you will learn all about Parliament, Bill writing, public speaking and more! In addition to equipping you with the technical skills and know-how, the Training day also involved recreation activities and a focus on soft-skills, such as confidence.

Training Day #2 - Wednesday 7 October 2026

- This day you'll continue the training that you began on Tuesday, with extra time to write your bills and a special leaders election to nominate your Party leaders.

Parliament Day - Thursday 8 October 2026

- This is it. The crux of the program which includes a formal Opening ceremony, Closing Ceremony and debating issues of importance in the House of Assembly.

Essential Dates + Information

When do applications close?

Applications are set to close on **Sunday 6 September 2026**.

Once accepted, when will the Code of Conduct form be due?

The forms will need to be returned by **Friday 25 September 2026**.

Once accepted, when will the program fees be due?

Once you have received your invoice, payment of fees will need to be received before **Friday 25 September 2026** (unless otherwise negotiated).

I'm from a regional area, can I participate?

Of course! Whilst this is a day program we will still be offering accommodation for regional participants, please let us know if you require this

Do we stay overnight?

No. Junior Parliament will be running as a day program this year

Contact Information

Parliament Programs Team

☎ 0406 201 069 - Edward Mickan

✉ youth@ymcasa.org.au

Resources available on the website - link below:

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

Social Media



Facebook

/YMCA SA Youth Parliament



Instagram

@ymcaypsa

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out - our team is here to help!