

STAKEHOLDER TOOLKIT



Canberra Region

**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**



INTRODUCTION

About The Y



The Y is the largest global youth movement, reaching almost 65 million people in 120 countries. Our vision is for a better world, with and for young people.

In Australia, we offer a wide range of programs and services that support children and young people across their life cycle, from early learning and kindergarten programs to meaningful career pathways, through to recreation and other supports for older Australians, with over 23 million participations each year in over 650 communities across Australia.

The Y movement in Australia comprises 12 Member Y Associations united by our strong shared history of working to solve community problems and standing with, and for, young people.

The Y Canberra has grown with the region, evolving side-by-side since 1941, growing to serve the entire region and areas of NSW.

About Youth Parliament

Running in every state and territory across Australia, Youth Parliament is the Y's flagship civics program that engages around 400 young people aged 16–25. Participants re-enact parliamentary processes, take on leadership roles and formulate bills to gain a better understanding of civic participation and form connections with one another and their community.

There is a great need for this program. 62% of Year 10 students do not meet or exceed the proficient national standard for the National Assessment Program for the Civics and Citizenship Curriculum (NAP-CC) in 2019.

But is the failure to grasp civics topics the fault of young people if they are being excluded from civic participation?

Civics is more than politics. Derived from the Latin word 'civicus', meaning 'relating to a citizen', topics relating to civics should allow the space for young people to not only understand the processes but be part of enacting real positive change in their communities. That's the purpose of the Youth Parliament program.

About ACT Youth Parliament

The [YMCA Youth Parliament for the Canberra Region](#) sees 25 young people aged 16-25 from Canberra and the surrounding region representing their community and young people in our ACT Legislative Assembly. The Youth Parliament is an opportunity for the Y Members of the Legislative Assembly (YMLAs) to learn about the role of our ACT Legislative Assembly and our place in civics and democracy. Youth Parliament is a platform that empowers participants to use their voice as a young person, representing our community.

In 2025/26, the Canberra Youth Parliament will be led by a central theme of

➤ **OUR TIME IS NOW** ⚡

This not only embodies the spirit of the Youth Parliament but also uses a direct, empowering approach to call on young people in the Canberra region to get involved and have a say. Through a collectivist, peer-to-peer approach, the campaign seeks to break down the barrier of young people feeling as though they do not have a voice, or they do not fit a pre-determined mould, to be included in decisions that determine their future – empowering them to work together as they advocate for a better future.

Youth Parliament activities include:

- Understanding the processes of the ACT Legislative Assembly
- Partaking in motions, speeches and debates
- Working in committees and conducting community consultations
- Undertaking various duties and responsibilities

Key dates for the 2026 Youth Parliament Program

- **Applications open**
July
- **Applications close**
November
- **Application selection outcome**
December
- **Applicant onboarding**
December to January
- **Y Youth Parliament Canberra Launch**
February
- **Events, functions and workshops**
March to July
- **Youth Parliament Sitting Week**
July
- **Wrap up**
July to August



Thank you for your interest and support – let's get going!





ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

What's in the toolkit and how to use it?

To help us reach as many young people in the Canberra region, we need your help to spread the word about Youth Parliament and empower audiences to engage, sign up, and get involved.

This toolkit provides individuals and organisations with information and campaign materials that can be used to promote the ACT Youth Parliament in schools, universities, youth networks and on social media – wherever your ideas take you.

In the next pages, we will be sharing the following resources:

Key messages for The Y ACT Youth Parliament Campaign

Communication materials to promote and support
The Y ACT Youth Parliament

Tips on **how to engage** with your audiences

MESSAGING

Key messages for the ACT Youth Parliament Campaign



We have what it takes to shape the future of our communities.

The ACT Youth Parliament is your chance to join others just like you as we advocate for a better future. No experience, prior knowledge or understanding required – your unique perspectives and passion for better outcomes is all it takes to make positive change.

Your voice matters in conversations that determine your future.

It is well overdue for younger generations to be given a seat at the table and it's more important now than ever before. The ACT Youth Parliament program, run by The Y Canberra, is the opportunity to do just that – be heard in issues that affect our futures. Everyone has something to offer in the conversations that determine the future of our communities; it's never too early to get involved.

We can't do it alone. Advocating for a better future for our communities is a collective effort.

Join the ACT Youth Parliament and see why there really is strength in numbers. Craft bills, collaborate in workshops and consult with members of the community and advocate for positive change alongside like-minded young peoples. We are stronger together.

The future of civics, policy and politics in Australia does not consist of cookie-cutter members – uniqueness is the real strength in these settings.

The ACT Youth Parliament program is your chance to bring your perspectives, experiences, and ideas to the table as we work to shape the future of our communities. Break the mould. Define your own space. Help create a future we can be proud of.

The ACT Youth Parliament program is run by students for students.

Join like-minded peers in advocating for a better future for our communities. Learn about our place in civics and democracy through interactive workshops, re-enacted parliamentary processes, and understanding the true meaning of civic participation, all while forming connections with each other and the community. It's time to join the conversations that determine our future.

With the many issues affecting our communities and world today, it's easy to feel that these topics are too large for the younger generations to take on. But, your voice matters and it's never too early to make a difference.

The ACT Youth Parliament program is your chance to join us in shaping tomorrow, today. Tackle the large topics, break down the barriers, advocate for a better future and forge a tomorrow we are proud of.

Unlock your full potential.

The ACT Youth Parliament program is designed to back you and your future. Join like-minded young people as we work toward advocating for real change and real outcomes. Together, we can make a difference.

Calls-to-Action

It's our future, have your say
Make a difference
Visit The Y website and sign up for the Youth Parliament program
#OurTimelsNow #YouthParliamentACT

Shape a tomorrow we can be proud of
Make a difference
Visit The Y Canberra website and sign up for the Youth Parliament program
#OurTimelsNow #YouthParliamentACT

Be unique. Be heard. Join The Y at the ACT Youth Parliament program
Make a difference
Join us in advocating for our future - ymcacanberra.org.au
#OurTimelsNow #YouthParliamentACT

ACT Youth Parliament – our chance to have a say
Make a difference
Visit The Y Website and sign up for the Youth Parliament program
#OurTimelsNow #YouthParliamentACT



PROMOTE AND SUPPORT ACT YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Digital resources

The ACT Youth Parliament digital resources can be used to spread awareness of The Y Canberra's Youth Parliament and encourage engagement with communications material. The resources include posters, flyers, social media tiles, social media banners and media release templates.

We encourage you to share these resources to help us spread awareness and interest in the program. You can choose to support the campaign in one or more of the following ways:

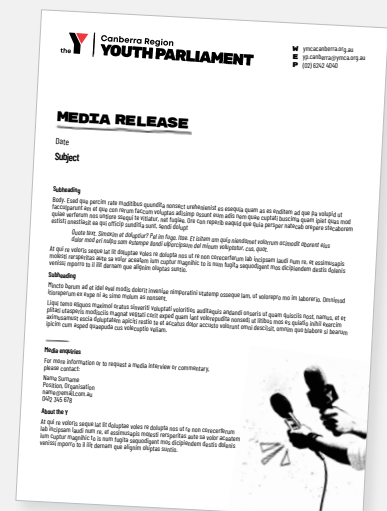
- Print posters to showcase in, or share with, your networks.
- Share Youth Parliament images and banners on your organisation's social media platforms using the **#OurTimesNow** and **#YouthParliamentACT** hashtags.



Posters



Program flyer



Media release template

Engage on social media

- Please follow The Y on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to join the conversation.
- Tag our social media channels while sharing your content.
- Use our campaign hashtags **#OurTimesNow** and **#YouthParliamentACT** on your posts so we can re-share and engage with your posts.
- While posting your content, we encourage you to prompt your users to visit ymcacanberra.org.au
- Refer to 'Key Messages' and 'Calls-to-Action' above for content inspiration.



Social tiles



LinkedIn banner



Facebook banner

Include The Y Youth Parliament logo on your digital channels

You can feature The Y Youth Parliament logo in your website content, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram posts relating to The Y ACT Youth Parliament to show your support for the ACT Youth Parliament program.

The logo is available to download via our [digital resources](#).



Logos

Purchase merchandise

Buy ACT Youth Parliament merchandise to support The Y Canberra and raise awareness of the program among local communities, the ACT and the surrounding region via [our website](#).

SIGN
UP



the

Canberra Region

**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**



**Thank you for helping The Y Canberra get
the Youth Parliament Campaign out there
and encourage much-needed conversations
around young voices in large conversations.**

We also appreciate your support in recognising and celebrating the
incredible work of The Y Youth Parliament programs across Australia.

