**Mildura Rural City Council - YMCA Youth Parliament**

**Program**

Mildura Rural City Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from young people aged between 16 and 25 years, to be a part of the 2020 YMCA Youth Parliament Program Mildura Team.

YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament is a program designed to give young Victorians a chance to be heard at the highest levels of State Government, on a wide range of issues relevant to young people's lives.

A team of six participants will receive training in public speaking and leadership at residential camps, as they research issues they’re passionate about. From this research they will develop a Bill, which they will then debate in Victorian Parliament over three days in July.

The program provides a great personal and professional development opportunity, and the bills that are handed to the relevant Ministers, provide the government with insight into what issues are important to young Victorians.

Over the past 29 years, more than 25 pieces of State Legislation have originated in the Youth Parliament. Some examples of this include Roadside Drug Testing for Drivers, Mandatory Wearing of a Bicycle Helmet and Removal of Glass from Identified High-Risk Entertainment Venues.

The program involves two residential camps at YMCA Lake Dewar lodge, Myrniong. The training weekend, held on the 22 – 24 May, trains the participants on parliamentary etiquette, public speaking and gives participants a chance to meet each other and grow their skills. The Youth Parliament program culminates in a week long residential camp, 26 June – 3rd July, of which 3 days of debate in Parliament House, with the remainder of the time spent at the campsite in preparation and taking part in resilience and leadership building sessions.

**Cost**

This opportunity is funded by Mildura Rural City Council and YMCA at no cost to successful applicants.

**Dates**

Training Weekend – Friday 22 to Sunday 24 May 2020

Youth Parliament Sunday 26 June to Friday 3 July 2020

(Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne - Monday 29 and 30 June and 1 July 2020)

**Expressions of Interest**

Completed Expressions of Interest must be submitted by no later than 5pm, Thursday 30 January 2020.

**Email to:**

[youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au)

For further information or assistance with the application, please contact the Youth Development Officer on (03) 5018 8100.

**Participant expectations**

Participating in Youth Parliament is a privilege. Unfortunately due to the limited spaces on the program, applicants may sometimes miss out. Therefore it is important that every applicant who wishes to attend the Youth Parliament Program understands what is expected of them and is willing to commit to these expectations.

We expect the following of our participants:

* Participants commit to attending all meetings organised with their mentor (usually two to three 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 we understand that our participants are adults, while on camp participants must respect that the YMCA Youth Parliament Program has a duty of care for participants. Therefore participants must respect 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 an apolitical 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**

* Access to an experienced mentor for the duration of the program.
* Access to an experienced Media and Communication Officer for the duration of the program.
* 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 access to the Legislative chambers of Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne.
* An exclusive function held in honour of the Youth Parliamentarians.
* Morning tea for friends and family following the official 2020 Youth Parliament opening ceremony.
* An exclusive Youth Parliament t-shirt and compendium.

**Team requirements**

* A team is made up of six participants.
* All team members must be aged between 16 and 25 years as of 25 May 2020.
* All team members should be committed to participating in all aspects of the Youth Parliament program. This includes attending all days at the residential training weekend and week-long program, partaking in preparation for the program by drafting Bills and speeches as well as all other requirements of them by the program.

**YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

**Personal Details**

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| First name |  | | | Surname | | |  | | | |
| Date of Birth |  | Age |  | | | Gender | | Male | | Female |
| Postal Address |  | | | | | | | | | |
| Email Address |  | | | | Contact Phone | | | |  | |

**We want to get to know you as an individual. Help us learn who you are by responding to the following questions.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Are you:** | |
| Able to participate in training in Melbourne on Friday 22 May - Sunday 24 May 2020?  Able to participate in Youth Parliament from Sunday 26 June – Friday 3 July 2020?  Are you available to participate in mentoring sessions? | Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes  No |

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| 1. **When I heard about the YMCA Youth Parliament, I thought it would be a good opportunity to………** |
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| 1. **Being part of the Youth Parliament Mildura Team is important because……………………….. (Max 50 words)** |
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| 1. **What Youth issues in our State do you believe need changing?** |
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| 1. **What “Bill Topic” do you think the Mildura Rural City Council Youth Parliament Team should focus on?** |
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| 1. **Tell us about yourself. Please describe any experience or personal achievement that you think would be relevant to being involved in the Youth Parliament.** |
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**Youth Parliament Youth Team members will be expected to participate in meetings. Team members will also be required to attend the organised events and any training workshops. At times the committee will have the opportunity to attend additional training and volunteering opportunities.**

**I acknowledge and understand that should I be successful in my Expression of Interest, that I will meet the required expectations as listed above.**

**Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parents/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (if under 18 years)**