



Get to know the Youth MPs

Full name: Aaron Dahmen

Education: Sacred Heart College

Location: Auckland

MP: Simon O'Connor

Electorate: Tāmaki

"I applied to be a Youth MP as I wanted to foster and develop the way youth are engaged politically around New Zealand and most especially in the Tāmaki area, helping them to understand how much of an impact they can have."

Full name: Abigail May

Education: Woodford House

Location: Havelock North

MP: Barbara Stewart

Electorate: Waikato

"I applied to become a Youth MP in order to broaden my knowledge of the system of government in New Zealand and to gain experience in political advocacy."

Full name: Aimee-Chantelle Gough

Education: Aranui High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Rino Tirikatene

Electorate: Te Tai Tonga

Aimee wants to gain experience and pursue her interest in politics. "I applied to be a Youth MP as I want to make a positive contribution to my community."

Full name: Alexander Dante Croft

Education: Birkenhead College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman

Electorate: Northcote

Alexander wants to be a Youth MP due to his interest and passion for politics and would like to learn new skills for his future career. "I am really looking forward to meeting young people to talk about New Zealand's current issues."

Full name: Alexis Sutherland

Education: Darfield High School

Location: Darfield

MP: Rt Hon David Carter

List

Alexis has a keen interest in politics and wants to make a positive contribution to her community. "Youth Parliament sounded like an incredible opportunity to voice the issues and opinions of the youth of New Zealand."

Full name: Amy Palmer

Education: Avonside Girls High School

Location: Dunedin

MP: Joanne Hayes

List

Amy believes that Youth Parliament is an opportunity to grow as a person, and to better understand how New Zealand is run. "Youth Parliament will be an opportunity to increase my awareness of what is happening in my community and allows me to become more focussed on my future career choices."

Full name: Anthony Bunnik

Education: St John's College

Location: Hamilton

MP: Sue Moroney

List

Anthony is interested in Youth Parliament as it is a great way for him to pursue his interest in politics. "I applied to become a Youth MP as I have a keen interest in politics and I want to learn new skills to pursue my career in a similar path."

Full name: Awatea Irihapeti Te Rerenga Whetu Wihongi

Education: Western Springs College

Location: Auckland

MP: Peeni Henare

Electorate: Tamaki Makaurau

Awatea wants to make her voice heard and expand Māori representation in Parliament. "I took up the challenge because I would do anything to represent the population of Māori people in Parliament."

Full name: Ben Henderson

Education: Fielding High School

Location: Fielding

MP: Ian McKelvie

Electorate: Rangitikei

Ben wants to capitalise on the opportunity to actively engage with people, in particular young people, in his community and the wider Rangitikei electorate. "I applied to be a Youth MP as I want to make a positive contribution in my community."

Full name: Beth Clearwater

Education: Bayfield High School

Location: Dunedin

MP: David Clendon

Electorate: Northland

Beth is eager to gain a more thorough understanding of policies, parties' values and New Zealand politics more generally. "I want to take the opportunity to express my view on issues I am passionate about."

Full name: Bethany Walters

Education: Aranui High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Poto Williams

Electorate: Christchurch East

Bethany applied to become a Youth MP as she wants to advocate for her community. "I want to make my voice heard for people who are unable to do so. I also want to learn how to raise public awareness of issues that affect young people."

Full name: Bianca Bailey

Education: Kaipara College

Location: Auckland

MP: Rt Hon John Key

Electorate: Helensville

Bianca applied to become a Youth MP as one of her friends was a Youth MP in 2013. "I want to make my voice heard for Helensville youth at Youth Parliament 2016."

Full name: Britnee Paige Tapara

Education: Chilton St James

Location: Lower Hutt

MP: Chris Bishop

List

Britnee has a strong passion for helping and giving back to her community. She wants to make Lower Hutt a better place for young people. "I want to advocate for youth mental health during my time with Youth Parliament 2016."

Full name: Cameron Wright

Education: Onslow College

Location: Wellington

MP: Hon Peter Dunne

Electorate: Ōhāriu

Cameron is passionate about youth issues and his community. He wants to represent the views of his peers where they can be heard and help young people become more engaged. "I want to gain a better understanding of the political system and I am willing to improve my skills through Youth Parliament 2016."

Full name: Carragh McKay

Education: Marian College

Location: Christchurch

MP: Hon Clayton Cosgrove

List

Carragh wants to be a Youth MP to help her community and to be a voice for those who may not be heard. "I am passionate about politics and believe that I have a lot to contribute to Youth Parliament."

Full name: Chantelle Cobby

Education: Rotorua Girls' High School

Location: Rotorua

MP: Hon Todd McClay

Electorate: Rotorua

Chantelle has a keen interest in politics and sees Youth Parliament 2016 as a way to strengthen her knowledge. "I applied to become a Youth MP in order to broaden my knowledge of the system of government in New Zealand and to gain experience in political advocacy."

Full name: Charlotte Cumming

Education: Craighead Diocesan School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Eugenie Sage

List

Charlotte is passionate about politics and helping other young people of New Zealand. "I want to make a difference and be the change I want to see in the world and in doing so help others and New Zealand as a whole."

Full name: Cheyenne Te Haara-Barr

Education: Riccarton High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Dr Megan Woods

Electorate: Wigram

Cheyenne applied to become a Youth MP as she wants to make positive changes for her generation. "I also want to learn and discover what politics and, in particular, youth issues are about."

Full name: Chloe Destrieux

Education: Alfriston College

Location: Auckland

MP: Louisa Wall

Electorate: Manurewa

Chloe believes Youth Parliament will be a unique and valuable learning experience and the perfect opportunity to get even more involved in her community. "A teacher recommended me as a capable student and I was thrilled to hear about such a unique opportunity."

Full name: Christopher Oleva-Tanuvasa

Education: Saint Peter's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Su'a William Sio

Electorate: Māngere

Christopher wants to raise awareness on issues that matter, especially to youth. "I want to represent my electorate in Youth Parliament 2016 and want to make my voice heard for young people."

Full name: Connor McCormick

Education: Ormiston Senior College

Location: Auckland

MP: Andrew Bayly

Electorate: Hunua

Connor wants to use his opportunity to represent Hunua, and to pursue his interest in politics and current affairs.

Full name: Coral Cooper

Education: n/a

Location: Wairoa

MP: Meka Whaitiri

Electorate: Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

Coral has experience in discussing youth issues in a local governance environment and is keen to bring them to Wellington. "Youth Parliament will be a great opportunity for me to meet other Youth MPs who are passionate about what we currently have as youth and how we can grow from what we have."

Full name: Creedence Cable

Education: Northcote College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon David Parker

List

Creedence applied to become a Youth MP as she wants to advocate on current issues for the young generation. "My deputy principal thought I would be a good candidate for Youth Parliament and I am encouraged by his support."

Full name: Crystal Te Moananui

Education: Thames High School

Location: Thames

MP: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Electorate: Hauraki-Waikato

For Crystal, Youth Parliament is a big stepping stone towards becoming a Māori politician in the future." I applied to become a Youth MP as I want to make my voice heard for Māori young people."

Full name: Daniel Tepai Tamatoa
Kelly

Education: St John's College

Location: Hastings

MP: Hon Craig Foss

Electorate: Tukituki

Daniel is interested in politics and is very passionate about others and social and cultural equality. "Becoming a Youth MP really appealed to me as I always have had a strong passion for New Zealand current affairs. Politics is something that affects all of us and it is crucial that young people show an interest and take part in the shaping of our nation."

Full name: Daniella Clements-Levi

Education: Westlake Girls High School

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Maggie Barry

Electorate: North Shore

Daniella has a strong passion for New Zealand politics. She believes that no matter how we view politics it is something that affects all of us and it is important that we show an interest and take part in shaping New Zealand. "As a Youth MP I will be able to be a voice for the youth in my community."

Full name: Danielle Carson

Education: Southland Girl's High School

Location: Invercargill

MP: Ria Bond

Electorate: Invercargill

For Danielle, Youth Parliament is a step towards being able to begin a positive change in her community. "It is an opportunity to show other youth that our voice is important, and that civic engagement is essential as it is door-opening for our future."

Full name: Dharma Bratley

Education: Orewa College

Location: Auckland

MP: Mark Mitchell

Electorate: Rodney

Dharma is interested in the work that MPs do in their communities. She also wants to learn more about politics as it is important. "I applied to become a Youth MP as I am very interested in the work that MPs do in relation to their communities."

Full name: Dion Patrick Mahoney

Education: Van Asch Deaf Centre

Location: Christchurch

MP: Hon Ruth Dyson

Electorate: Port Hills

Dion applied to be a Youth MP as he sees this as a once in a lifetime opportunity. "I am interested in being able to share ideas with other Youth MPs and to get an idea as to what it is like to work as an MP."

Full name: Dylan Parshotam

Education: King's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Dr Parmjeet Parmar

List

Dylan applied as he wishes to represent his community. He is also interested in bringing youth engagement in politics to the forefront of issues. "I am very passionate about politics and see Youth Parliament 2016 as a great way to gain experience for my future career."

Full name: Ellen Kathleen Travis

Education: Western Heights High School

Location: Rotorua

MP: Fletcher Tabuteau

List

Ellen applied to become a Youth MP as she wants to find out more about how Parliament works. "Youth Parliament 2016 is a good opportunity to decide whether politics is something that I would like to do in the future."

Full name: Emily Rose Woodhouse

Education: St Hilda Collegiate School

Location: Dunedin

MP: Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi

List

Emily applied to be a Youth MP because she feels that the voices of everyday youth are not being heard. "I think this is a great opportunity to make changes that will positively impact the lives of New Zealand's youth as a whole."

Full name: Emma Elizabeth Tompkins

Education: Buller High School

Location: Westport

MP: Hon Damien O'Connor

Electorate: West Coast Tasman

Emma has a keen interest in politics and would like to have a career in this field in the future. "I want to be involved in politics when I am older so I see being a Youth MP as a gateway experience to this."

Full name: Eve Louise McCallum

Education: King's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Michael Woodhouse

List

Eve enjoys politics and talking about the big picture. "I also really value the importance of a democracy; this is the reason why I applied to become a Youth MP."

Full name: Fa'ataualofa Abbytailor
So'olefai

Education: Henderson High School

Location: Auckland

MP: Alfred Ngaro

List

Fa'ataualofa wants to make a positive contribution to her community to voice the problems that concern New Zealand's youth. "I applied to be a Youth MP as I think this is an amazing opportunity to advocate for my community."

Full name: Fenella Smith

Education: Marlborough Girls' College

Location: Blenheim

MP: Maureen Pugh

List

Fenella wants to increase her knowledge about politics and the way that government operates. "I am involved in a school's leadership programme and I see Youth Parliament as an opportunity to enhance my skills in this area."

Full name: Finnian Galbraith

Education: Kāpiti College

Location: Kāpiti

MP: Kris Faafoi

Electorate: Mana

Finnian applied to become a Youth MP as he wants to follow a career in politics. "I like being involved in my community and see Youth Parliament as a great opportunity which could help me in the future."

Full name: Gabriella Keys

Education: St Mary's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Denise Roche

List

Gabriella was drawn to Youth Parliament due to her interest in politics and youth issues. She wants to take part in creating dialogue and positive change in her community, gaining insight into the issues that affect young New Zealanders. "I see Youth Parliament 2016 as a good way to gain experience and knowledge in regards to New Zealand's political process."

Full name: Gennevieve White

Education: Marist College

Location: Auckland

MP: David Shearer

Electorate: Mt Albert

Gennevieve applied to become a Youth MP as she is interested in politics and would like to gain insight into how government works. "I am looking forward to learning more about politics and political ideas."

Full name: Georgia Muller

Education: Rutherford College

Location: Auckland

MP: Phil Twyford

Electorate: Te Atātū

Georgia applied to become a Youth MP as she is passionate about her community and wants to represent those living in it. "I wish to make New Zealand a better place for the future of youth."

Full name: Grace Holmes

Education: Sacred Heart College

Location: Lower Hutt

MP: Hon Trevor Mallard

Electorate: Hutt South

Grace has a strong interest in politics and a huge passion for her community. "I believe that Youth Parliament 2016 will enable me to make my voice heard for the young people of my community."

Full name: Grahame Elliott Woods

Education: Tauranga Boys' College

Location: Tauranga

MP: Todd Muller

Electorate: Bay of Plenty

Grahame would like to gain a deeper understanding of the New Zealand political system and meet with the people who decide our country's future. "I feel that this would be a great opportunity to understand the life of an MP, to go out and learn from and meet people within the Bay of Plenty community."

Full name: Hamish William Duncan

Education: King High School

Location: Dunedin

MP: Clare Curran

Electorate: Dunedin South

Hamish has applied to be a Youth MP because he would like to be "the voice of youth for Dunedin South".

Full name: Hannah Monigatti
Education: ACG Senior College
Location: Auckland
MP: David Seymour
Electorate: Epsom

Hannah is passionate about politics and wants to contribute to the building of a freer, more progressive future for New Zealand. "Through engaging with young people in my community I hope to gain a very real understanding of their ideas and concerns. Youth Parliament will be an incredible opportunity to learn about the intricacies of the parliamentary system and further my knowledge of the very real issues facing New Zealand and how we combat these."

Full name: Hinepounamu Apanui-Barr
Education: Wellington Girls' College
Location: Wellington
MP: Marama Fox
Electorate: Ikaroa-Rawhiti

Hinepounamu has an interest in New Zealand politics and wants to see what is involved in being an MP. "I am really looking forward to the whole experience."

Full name: Holly Elizabeth Fletcher
Education: Rangiora High School
Location: Rangiora
MP: Matt Doocey
Electorate: Waimakariri

"I have a desire to make a difference in my community for youth and all other members of the Waimakariri community."

Full name: Hope Dianne Sexton
Education: Kuranui College
Location: Featherston
MP: Ron Mark
Electorate: Wairarapa

Hope is taking the opportunity to learn about a career pathway interest. "I have applied to be a Youth MP because I believe it is important for youth to have a say and help make some decisions."

Full name: Hugo Andrew Beard
Thompson

Education: Tauranga Boys' College

Location: Tauranga

MP: Hon Simon Bridges

Electorate: Tauranga

Hugo is driven to advocate for people in his community and to meet other young people who share similar interests and passions. "This is a fantastic opportunity to involve myself and learn about the New Zealand political system through a cabinet minister's perspective."

Full name: Huia Jackson

Education: Ao Tawhiti Unlimited
Discovery

Location: Christchurch

MP: Steffan Browning

Electorate: List

"I believe progressive politics can make a positive difference and I want to be part of that difference."

Full name: Ilene Lei

Education: St Cuthbert's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Darroch Ball

Electorate: Palmerston North

Ilene felt that being a Youth MP would be an amazing opportunity for new challenges and personal advancement. "Youth Parliament provides a great platform for youth to offer valuable support to community members and gives chances for voices to be heard."

Full name: Isaac Proctor

Education: Elim Christian College

Location: Auckland

MP: Jami-Lee Ross

Electorate: Botany

"Youth Parliament is an amazing opportunity for youth to voice their opinion and vision for this nation."

Full name: Isabella Biggs

Education: St Matthew's Collegiate School for Girls

Location: Greytown

MP: Alastair Scott

Electorate: Wairarapa

Isabella felt that Youth Parliament would be a great stepping stone to finding out about the life of an MP. "I have a strong interest in politics, as well as in the region I live in. I want to meet other young people interested in politics and thought Youth Parliament would be a great way to work with those currently running the government."

Full name: Jacob Lerner

Education: Auckland Grammar School

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Paul Goldsmith

Electorate: Epsom

Jacob has an abiding interest in politics and policy making. He has followed politics all around the globe and has developed a fascination for both NZ and US politics. "I have come to develop sound conservative views on local, national and international issues and would like to have a career in politics. These are the reasons why I have applied to be a Youth MP."

Full name: Jaimee Melissa Thomas

Education: Burnside High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Kevin Hague

Electorate: West Coast

Jaimee describes herself as someone who takes advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. "I am a very passionate person and I want to make a change."

Full name: Jaistone Mataio

Education: Tawa College

Location: Wellington

MP: Hon Hekia Parata

Electorate: Mana

"I want to be an MP in the future and advocate for issues of importance in my community."

Full name: Jake Hoffart

Education: Aquinas College

Location: Tauranga

MP: Clayton Mitchell

Electorate: Tauranga

Jake wants to experience the workings of political systems first hand and bring pressing youth issues to the fore. "I am a strong believer in putting New Zealand first. I feel that New Zealand First's simple, easy to understand policies that align with the best interests of New Zealand citizens reflect my own political agenda."

Full name: James Busch

Education: Massey High School

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Paula Bennett

Electorate: Upper Harbour

James wants to pursue a career in politics and feels Youth Parliament will give him an invaluable experience. "I am passionate about getting the right things done."

Full name: Javan William Rose

Education: Lake Taupo Christian School

Location: Taupo

MP: Hon Louise Upston

Electorate: Taupo

Javan has an interest in politics and knows that Youth Parliament will be a great opportunity to learn more about it. "I want to represent the youth of the Taupo electorate at Youth Parliament."

Full name: Jenny Wu

Education: St Cuthbert's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Mahesh Bindra

Electorate: Auckland

Jenny is passionate about solving conflicts and inequalities in the world. "By taking part in Youth Parliament I will be able to gain experience for my future career."

Full name: Jessica Boniface

Education: New Plymouth Girls' High School

Location: New Plymouth

MP: Jonathan Young

Electorate: New Plymouth

Jessica has applied to join Youth Parliament so that she could meet like-minded people and grow as a person. "I believe I have a strong voice to communicate the issues I wish to address."

Full name: Jia Dua

Education: Lynfield College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Phil Goff

Electorate: Mt Roskill

Jia wants to be more than just another statistic but someone who can help stimulate positive change for our country. "I see the opportunity to be a Youth MP as a stepping stone on the journey to this goal of being involved, engaged and have both the views of myself and my community represented."

Full name: Joshua Gill

Education: Hauraki Plains College

Location: Coromandal

MP: Catherine Delahunty

Electorate: Coromandal

Josh would like to seize this opportunity to work alongside other Rangatahi, "it seemed like a great experience to work along-side other Rangatahi."

Full name: Julia Beatrice Wiener

Education: University of Auckland

Location: Auckland

MP: Julie Anne Genter

Electorate: Epsom

After an address from MP Julie Anne Genter at a Model United Nations event, where she encouraged delegates to apply for Youth Parliament, Julia says: "I wanted the opportunity to represent my peer group and give voice to the issues which affect young people particularly."

Full name: Justice-Te Amorangi
Hetaraka

Education: Whangarei Girls' High
School

Location: Whangarei

MP: Kelvin Davis

Electorate: Te Tai Tokerau

"I want to experience government processes and have the opportunity to voice the perspectives of the youth of Whangarei on important issues."

Full name: Kaleb Paul Reid

Education: Matamata College

Location: Matamata

MP: Lindsay Tisch

Electorate: Waikato

Kaleb has a strong interest in leadership and involvement in his community. "I wish to experience the processes involved in law-making and the political environment; I will relish the opportunity to represent my community."

Full name: Kane Bassett

Education: Tokomairiro High School

Location: Milton, Otago

MP: Hon Bill English

Electorate: Clutha, Southland

Kane applied to be a Youth MP because he has a strong passion for politics and wants Clutha, Southland to be represented as best as it could at Youth Parliament 2016. "I believe I can ensure this."

Full name: Karan Kalsi

Education: Lynfield College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon David Cunliffe

Electorate: New Lynn

Karan wants to represent the diverse opinions and voices of youth within his community and give young people the opportunity to have youth concerns heard in Parliament. "I wish to pursue a career in politics and this will give me the opportunity to learn more about being a parliamentarian."

Full name: Kasey McDonnell
Education: Wellington High School
Location: Wellington
MP: Grant Robertson
Electorate: Wellington Central

"I've been interested in politics and social issues for a while and thought it was too great an opportunity to be an active part of the community to pass up."

Full name: Kate Chew-Lit
Education: Marist College
Location: Auckland
MP: Jan Logie
Electorate: Porirua

Kate hopes to one day be a politician. "I am very passionate about developing my community for the better which is what I believe politics focusses on."

Full name: Katie Gotlieb
Education: Otago Girls' High School
Location: Dunedin
MP: Metiria Turei
Electorate: Dunedin

Katie has applied for Youth Parliament "to make a difference for the future of today's youth".

Full name: Katrina Sneath
Education: Onslow College
Location: Wellington
MP: Mojo Mathers
Electorate: Christchurch

Katrina wants to set an example of being a role model and to be treated as an equal with her peers. "I want to build networks and connections to help me to achieve my goal of being an advocate for people with disabilities and I want to be more aware of how laws are made."

Full name: Keegan Bruce Phipps
Education: Nelson College
Location: Nelson
MP: Hon Dr Nick Smith
Electorate: Nelson

Keegan is a member of the Nelson Youth Council and has developed a passion for youth advocacy and for the issue of youth unemployment in New Zealand.

Full name: Kelly Stitely

Education: Otago Girls High School

Location: Dunedin

MP: Dr David Clark

Electorate: Dunedin North

Kelly applied for Youth Parliament to learn more about democracy and political processes within New Zealand. "I want to be able to make a difference within my community by representing youth opinion and inspiring youth."

Full name: Kelvyn Henare

Education: Te Kapehu Whetu

Location: Northland

MP: Pita Paraone

List

Kelvyn wants to gain a better understanding of how government works. "I also want to learn what skills and values are required to be a successful MP."

Full name: Keryn Emma Tubbs

Education: Dunstan High School

Location: Alexandra

MP: Jacqui Dean

Electorate: Waitaki

As a Youth MP, Keryn wants to gather "the opinion of young people and get them more involved." She is also passionate about helping young people to realise the extent to which politics affects their everyday life, i.e. how relevant politics is to them.

Full name: Keziah Niamh Lawes

Education: Kaipara College

Location: Helensville

MP: Hon Steven Joyce

Electorate: Auckland

Keziah believes Youth Parliament will be a good opportunity to learn about the way Parliament is run and it aligns with her interest in law. "This will be a great experience and I will make a difference in my local and wider community."

Full name: Kii Winston Tijani Small

Education: Victoria University
Wellington

Location: Kaitaia

MP: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Electorate: Northland

Kii is studying political science at university and is passionately focussed on Northland politics. "I want to improve understanding amongst young people about the importance of voting in local and national elections."

Full name: Kiri Isabelle Crossland

Education: Waikato Diocesan School
for Girls

Location: Hamilton

MP: Tim Macindoe

Electorate: Hamilton West

Kiri really enjoys debating and is interested to see how the country is run. "Through this experience I want to find out if I can make a difference to New Zealand in the future."

Full name: Krystal Wright

Education: Kapiti College

Location: Kapiti

MP: Hon Nathan Guy

Electorate: Otaki

Krystal believes that it is important to have her community portrayed correctly and to enhance leadership opportunities. "I enjoy politics and enabling youth in my community to get involved in big decision making processes."

Full name: Leah Louise Bell

Education: Otorohanga College

Location: Te Kuiti

MP: Barbara Kuriger

Electorate: Taranaki – King Country

Leah applied to become a Youth MP as she would like to learn more about New Zealand politics. "I want to gain insight into how Parliament works and meet other youth who are passionate, politically conscious and forward thinkers."

Full name: Levi Farrell

Education: Kelston Boys' High School

Location: Auckland

MP: Carmel Sepuloni

Electorate: Kelston

Levi's objective is to experience the environment of Parliament and to learn valuable life skills that may assist in his future career. "I applied to be a Youth MP because I want to gain some valuable understanding of our political system."

Full name: Michael Anil Daya-Winterbottom

Education: King's College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Judith Collins

Electorate: Papakura

Michael has a keen interest in debating and is really looking forward to being in the Parliament chambers. "I decided to apply for Youth Parliament as I have always had an interest in politics and I would like to be a politician one day."

Full name: Michael Tui McLeod

Education: New Plymouth Boys' High School

Location: New Plymouth

MP: Andrew Little

List

Michael thinks that the future of our nation is something dear to his heart. "Youth are a part of our future and I want to help shape and mould our country into greatness."

Full name: Nathan Wilson

Education: Pakuranga College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Maurice Williamson

Electorate: Pakuranga

Nathan sees Youth Parliament as a fantastic opportunity to express youth issues. "I applied to be a Youth MP as this is a fantastic avenue to make my voice heard. My personal interest in politics inspired me to take on the challenge."

Full name: Ngahaki Gardiner

Education: Rotorua Lakes High School

Location: Rotorua

MP: Hon Te Ururoa Flavell

Electorate: Waiariki

Ngahaki has a keen interest in international and current politics. "In 2014, I delivered pamphlets in support of Matua Te Ururoa and for the Māori Party. I have grown as a person as I am now a confident speaker, with knowledge and skills on public speeches."

Full name: Ngahuia Muru

Education: Whakatane High School

Location: Whakatane

MP: Hon Anne Tolley

Electorate: East Coast

Ngahuia is an active member of her community and is passionate about making a positive change in her community. "I applied to be a Youth MP as I would like to have the opportunity to be included in government consultations one day. In the future, I would love to be in a position where I can have a positive impact on people."

Full name: Nina Gabriella Santos

Education: Auckland Girls' Grammar School

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Nikki Kaye

Electorate: Auckland Central

Nina believes that politicians play a key role in transforming and shaping a nation. "Being a Youth MP will allow me to reach out to and engage with more young people in my community, as well as host events and projects to support their ideas."

Full name: Nisha Novell

Education: Hillcrest High School

Location: Hamilton

MP: David Bennett

Electorate: Hamilton East

Nisha would like to pursue a career in politics and law. "Being a Youth MP will be the perfect experience for me as I will be able to use the skills gained from previous ventures such as National Model United Nations."

Full name: Noella Ishimwe Niyonzima

Education: Naenae College

Location: Lower Hutt

MP: Chris Hipkins

Electorate: Rimutaka

Noella wants to experience first-hand what it feels like to be in Parliament, debating, making speeches and discussing policies. "I applied because I am interested in politics and the role it plays in New Zealand's economy."

Full name: Ogonna Favor Nweke

Education: Avondale College

Location: Auckland

MP: Melissa Lee

Electorate: Mt Albert

Favor applied to be a Youth MP as she has a keen interest in politics. "I want to represent the needs and voice of youth in my community at Youth Parliament 2016."

Full name: Peter McKenzie

Education: Scots College

Location: Wellington

MP: Hon Annette King

Electorate: Rongotai

"Being involved in Youth Parliament gives you adrenaline and being able to speak about issues I'm passionate about, like education, is an added bonus."

Full name: Rebecca Newman

Education: Napier Girls' High School

Location: Napier

MP: Stuart Nash

Electorate: Napier

Rebecca wants to taste the experience of being a Youth MP in order to pursue a career in politics. "Youth Parliament is an amazing opportunity to influence change and learn from the other Youth MPs. I am looking forward to being a part of it."

Full name: Rose McLeod

Education: Craighead Diocesan School

Location: Timaru

MP: Hon Jo Goodhew

Electorate: Rangitata

Rose sees Youth Parliament as a great opportunity to make her voice heard. "I want to have the opportunity to express my opinion on current issues and develop a wider understanding of challenges facing young people."

Full name: Ruby Bridge

Education: Victoria University

Location: Strathmore

MP: James Shaw

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Ruby applied to be a Youth MP because she is interested in politics and wants to pursue a career in this area. "I thought that Youth Parliament would be an invaluable experience in that respect."

Full name: Run Qi Zhu

Education: Avondale College

Location: Auckland

MP: Gareth Hughes

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Run wants to gain experience in making a positive change through activism and volunteerism. "Youth Parliament is an opportunity to learn about the process through which legislation is made and to gain the skills and support to make a real difference."

Full name: Ruth Wright

Education: Palmerston North Girls' High School

Location: Palmerston North

MP: Iain Lees-Galloway

Electorate: Palmerston North

Ruth has always been passionate about politics and she would love to have the opportunity to translate this energy into doing some good for her community. "I look forward to discussing my interests with like-minded people, as well as working on youth issues."

Full name: Samir Loumachi

Education: Freyberg High School

Location: Palmerston North

MP: Jono Naylor

List

Samir is pleased to have this learning opportunity on politics through Youth Parliament. "It has been an aspiration from a young age to represent youth views in my city for those who may not be able to vote."

Full name: Selena Gordon

Education: McAuley High School

Location: Drury

MP: Jenny Salesa

Electorate: Manukau East

Selena applied to further her knowledge in politics. Her objective is to make a positive contribution in her community. "I applied to be a Youth MP to inspire young people around me and to develop new knowledge in politics."

Full name: Setareh Brown

Education: Whangarei Girls' High School

Location: Whangarei

MP: Dr Shane Reti

Electorate: Whangarei

Setareh applied to be a Youth MP as she wants to make a difference in her community. "Youth Parliament is a good opportunity to learn new skills. It will help me to achieve positive change in the future."

Full name: Sophie Harrison

Education: Papanui High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Richard Prosser

List

Sophie has a keen interest in politics and is always keen to learn new skills. "Youth Parliament is an excellent opportunity to find out what the duties of an MP are and also to understand how Parliament works."

Full name: Stacey Rose

Education: Palmerston North Boys' High School

Location: Palmerston North

MP: Denis O'Rourke

List

Stacey wants to become a Youth MP as he believes he could make a positive change in his community. "I applied because I wanted to make a difference for the youth in our nation."

Full name: Stefan Robert McClean

Education: Newlands College

Location: Johnsonville

MP: Brett Hudson

List

Stefan believes Youth Parliament provides an opportunity to contribute along with similar minded people. "I applied for the position of Youth MP as I am considering a future in politics. I would like to make a difference at a community level and on the international stage."

Full name: Stephanie-Anne Ross

Education: South Otago High School

Location: Balclutha

MP: Todd Barclay

Electorate: Clutha-Southland

Stephanie applied to be a Youth MP to discuss issues with other young people that affect our country. "I am going to study politics at university next year so I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to learn new skills."

Full name: Stephen Jones

Education: James Hargest College

Location: Invercargill

MP: Dr Kennedy Graham

List

Stephen applied to be a Youth MP as he has a keen interest in law and politics. "I believe that Youth Parliament would help me to gain experience for my future career."

Full name: Summer O'Dwyer

Education: Samuel Marsden Collegiate School

Location: Wellington

MP: Paul Foster-Bell

List

Summer wants to know how decisions are made for her country as she believes that one of the aspects that make New Zealand so great is the ability to work together. "I would like to be an ambassador for the Wellington youth and provide a voice to make positive changes."

Full name: Tangihia Te Aonga Mai Chaeli-Tequila Manuel

Education: Turakina Māori Girls' College

Location: Whanganui

MP: Adrian Rurawhe

Electorate: Te Tai Hauāuru

Tangihia is passionate about youth issues and social change. "I applied for this position because I would like to represent my community and my region in advocating the many issues that impact youth across our nation."

Full name: Te Ihingaarangi (Haven)
Henare-Heke

Education: Otago Girls' High School

Location: Dunedin

MP: Marama Davidson

List

Te Ihingaarangi is really involved in her community to create positive change. She applied to become a Youth MP as she "wants to make a difference for the future of today's youth".

Full name: Te Puawai Poukaria Reba
Wilson-Leahy

Education: Cashmere High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Tutehounuku (Nuk) Korako

List

Te Puawai has always taken an active interest in the political events of this day and has a keen interest in social justice. "As a young Māori woman, I care deeply about the future of our nation and realise that being a Youth MP is a great way for raising the concerns of youth."

Full name: Tebarae Amuera

Education: Mahurangi College

Location: Puhoi

MP: Tracey Martin

Electorate: Rodney

Tebarae believes that youth should be entitled to have opinions heard in parliamentary decisions as it would cover a range of different perspectives. "Coming from a Pacifica background but growing up in New Zealand, I have a very different perspective from other youth."

Full name: Tei Henson Driver

Education: Christchurch Girls' High School

Location: Christchurch

MP: Hon Nicky Wagner

Electorate: Christchurch Central

Tei Henson applied to be a Youth MP as she saw a poster advertising it at school and has previously participated in similar events through UN Youth. "I truly want to learn more about New Zealand and have a deeper understanding of my community."

Full name: Teresa Lee

Education: ACG Senior College

Location: Auckland

MP: Jacinda Ardern

List

Youth Parliament 2016 will be a valuable platform for Teresa to engage with the youth in her community and voice their opinions. "This event is an excellent opportunity to discuss the obstacles young New Zealanders have to tackle."

Full name: Thomas Bethell Swinburn

Education: Dilworth School

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga

Electorate: Maungakiekie

Thomas has long been interested in politics and world affairs. "Government is something we must value and uphold with great respect. I believe that it is our responsibility to play a part in the democratic process."

Full name: Thomas Callum Findlater

Education: Central Southland College

Location: Invercargill

MP: Sarah Dowie

Electorate: Invercargill

"I am taking this opportunity to learn about political life and to serve and represent the youth of Invercargill."

Full name: Tim Angelo Ryan

Education: Marlborough Boys' College

Location: Rapaura

MP: Stuart Smith

List

Tim has always been interested in the way Parliament and NZ politics work and Youth Parliament 2016 would give him an opportunity to experience this first hand. "I feel confident that as an active member of my community I will be able to represent the views and thoughts of our diverse region."

Full name: Tim Marshall

Education: St Thomas of Canterbury

Location: Christchurch

MP: Hon Amy Adams

Electorate: Selwyn

"I have always had an interest in politics and wanted to represent my youth community during Youth Parliament 2016. I believe that the Youth MP programme can help me to achieve this."

Full name: Timothy Douglas Rowe

Education: Wanganui High School

Location: Whanganui

MP: Hon Chester Borrows

Electorate: Whanganui

Timothy applied to Youth Parliament because of his interest in politics. "I would like to have a career in politics in the future and I see Youth Parliament as a great opportunity to learn new skills."

Full name: Veronica Jayne Manning

Education: Thames High School

Location: Thames

MP: Scott Simpson

Electorate: Coromandel

Veronica applied to Youth Parliament because she has an interest in politics, local issues and debates. "I also wanted to get a taste of what could be a possible career in politics in the future."

Full name: Vivien Huang

Education: Rangitoto College

Location: Auckland

MP: Dr Jian Yang

List

Vivien is a strong public speaker, she is confident that she can actively engage with a range of people. "I want to use this opportunity to demonstrate that youth do care about issues and have opinions on legislation which will ultimately concern us."

Full name: William Alexander Alessi Muir

Education: St Andrew's College

Location: Christchurch

MP: Hon Gerry Brownlee

Electorate: Ilam

William has a keen interest in politics and wants to make a positive contribution in his community. "I am very passionate about politics and I am interested in making a difference to youth in our society."

Full name: Zhicheng (Charlie) Wang

Education: Rangitoto College

Location: Auckland

MP: Hon Murray McCully

Electorate: East Coast Bays

"I want to make positive changes to New Zealand's society and environment and make New Zealand a better country to live in. I want to gain some experiences for my personal development as this is the field I am interested in pursuing."
