

Youth Parliament 2019

Aotearoa New Zealand's Youth Parliament was first held on 19 September 1994, as an event that commemorated the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years.

A Youth Parliament event has been delivered once every Parliamentary term (every three years) since 1994. In 2010 a six-month programme was added, to make Youth Parliament more than an event and support participants to engage with their communities. The 1 March to 31 August 2019 Youth Parliament programme, including the 16 and 17 July Youth Parliament 2019 event, was the ninth Aotearoa New Zealand Youth Parliament.

The six-month Youth Parliament programme includes each Member of Parliament selecting a Youth MP to represent them and their community, and the Parliamentary Press Gallery selecting up to 20 members of a Youth Press Gallery to report on Youth MPs, producing a total of 140 participants. Youth MPs deliver self-directed projects on topics of interest to them, research the topics to be discussed at the Youth Parliament event, and engage with the MP who selected them. All participants attend the Youth Parliament event in Wellington.

Youth Parliament's objectives are to:

- replicate the Parliamentary process
- involve as many young people as possible (before and after the event)
- maximise the educational opportunities of the event
- enhance Parliamentary public relations
- make known the views expressed to appropriate policy agencies.

Approximately 60 Youth MPs took part in, or organised a project, including:

- establishing youth councils and advisory groups
- surveying their community on youth issues
- delivering youth forums and workshops
- working with their school to encourage education on civics, climate change, and Aotearoa New Zealand history.



Youth MPs recommend teaching methods to better support students of all ethnicities

From [The House](#) · 8:00 pm on 23 July 2019

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By [Laura Williams](#) - [thehouse@rnz.co.nz](#)

New Zealand's youth MPs are challenging the Government to lift the success of students by making a more culturally inclusive education system. The challenge was laid down at Youth Parliament 2019's select committee hearings. Youth Press Gallery member [Laura Williams](#)* breaks down its report.



Members of the Youth Parliament 2019 Education and Workforce Select Committee hear submissions on improving education methods to better support students of all ethnicities. Photo: [Supplied / Neil Mackenzie](#)

Youth have their say at special symposium

by [Shaan Te Kani](#)

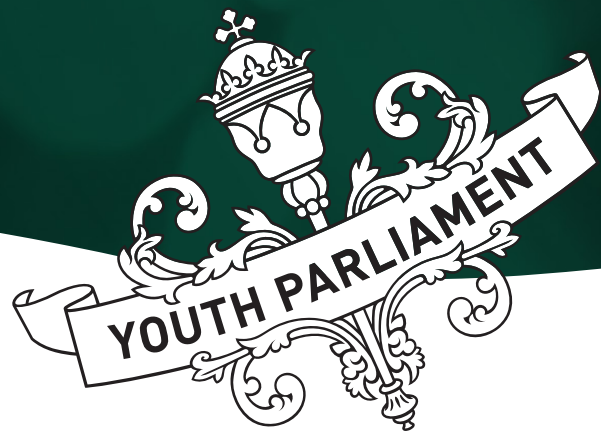
Published: May 22, 2019 2:46PM

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FUTURE LEADERS: Students of Tairāwhiti work on issues they want to be raised at Youth Parliament in July. From left are Matariki Gibson, Maia Te Koha, Nathan Mihaka, Lucy Coulston, Sade Materoa Rewiri, Maia Ingoe, Otiria Para, Rebekah Raihanian, Rubin Karere, Te Whetu Tibble, Alexandra Pickering-Ruru, Mackenzie Mitchell and Anahera Irwin. Picture by [Liam Clayton](#)

The Youth Press Gallery and media outlets published over **100 articles** online about Youth Parliament 2019 and its participants.



Youth Parliament 2019

Youth Parliament 2019 participant comments:

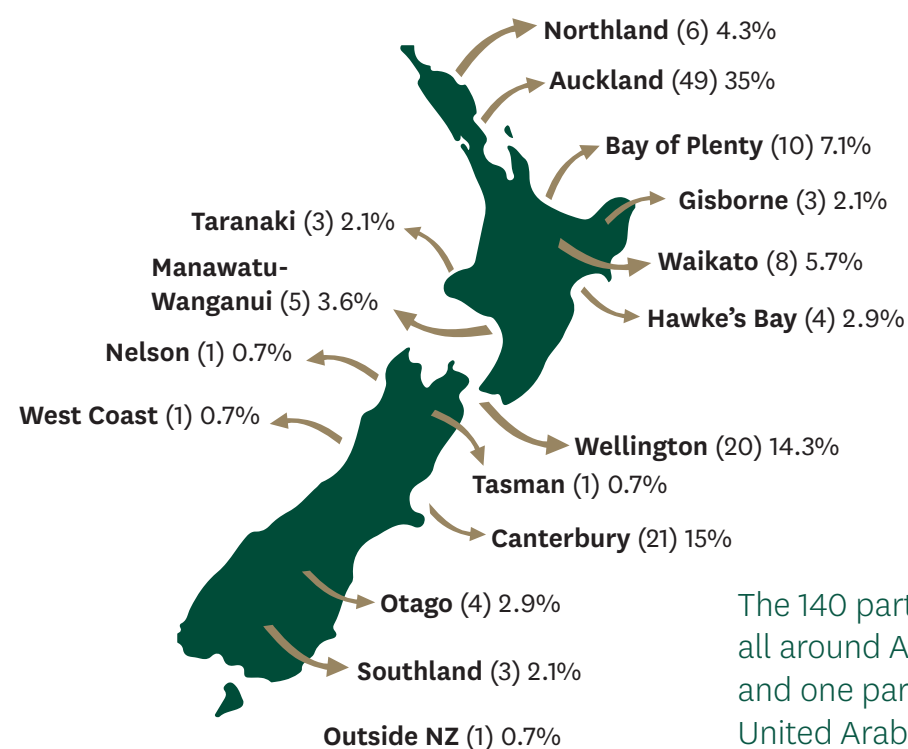
“I made multiple new friends and have made **great connections** with other Youth MPs. My project went very well and **I had so much support.**”

“**I learned so much** during the Youth Parliament events, I think it made me more mature especially with the experiences I had.”

“I think overall it was **organised very well** and everyone was so supportive and I took so much away from the experience and made me realise how **important youth are for New Zealand** in the future. This was certainly important for me to meet a diverse range of people.”

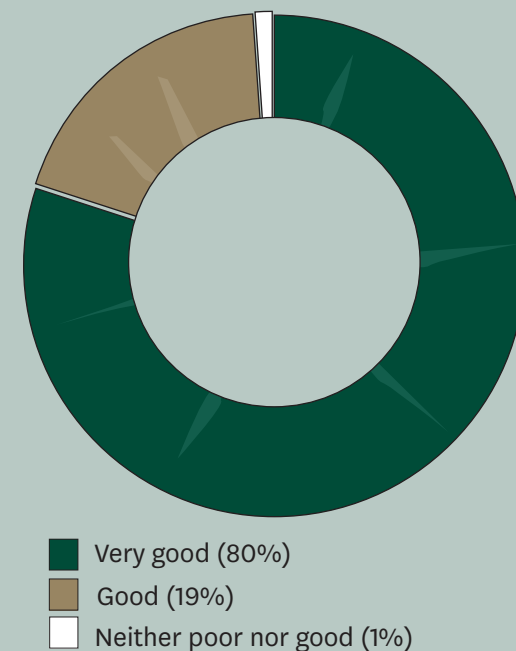
“Was an overall good experience, it gave an **insight of what MPs do** when they are sitting in the house, and also having relationships with MPs, Youth MPs, and other parliamentary staff.”

Number of participants from each region



The 140 participants came from all around Aotearoa New Zealand, and one participant came from the United Arab Emirates.

Participant experience of the six-month Youth Parliament 2019 programme



Participant resilience and wellbeing outcomes



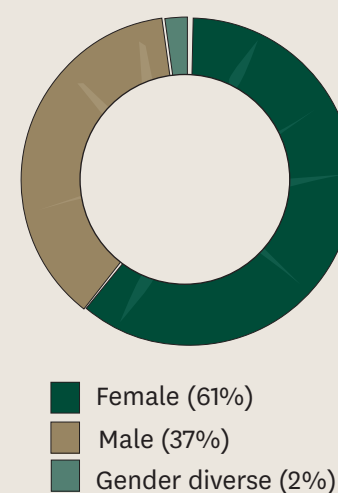
93% said they have increased engagement with, and contribution to something I value in my community

85% said they have an increased feeling of being connected or having a greater sense of belonging

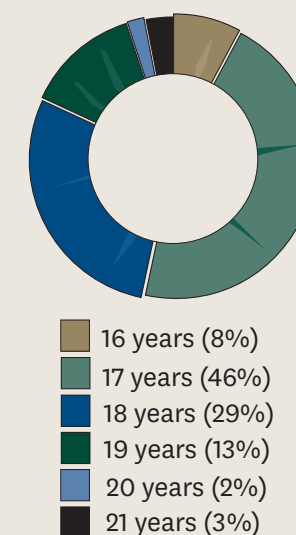
88% said they have an increased number of strong healthy relationships with peers and/or trusted adults

84% said they have an increased sense of optimism about the future and belief that I have a range of life choices

Gender of participants

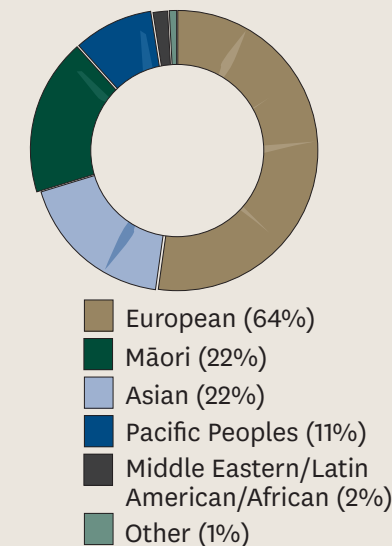


Age of participants



As at the end of the programme on 31 August 2019

Ethnicity of participants



Participants could select more than one ethnicity