

## Reference sheet: Category 1: All reports to the Minister for Youth focused on the delivery of Youth Parliament 2025

Ref #		Date Finalised	Title	Report Reference
1	.01	27 May 2024	Information on Youth Parliament	REP/24/05/454
1	.02	22 July 2024	Meeting on Youth Parliament 2025	REP/24/07/639
1	.03	15 August 2024	Youth Parliament – Options for 2025	REP/24/08/737
1	.04	24 September 2024	Options for Youth Parliament 2025: Update	REP/24/09/861
1	.05	27 September 2024	Youth Parliament 2025: Letters to the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of Representatives seeking approval	REP/24/09/900
1	.06	1 November 2024	Letters of Invitation to the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group	REP/24/10/999
1	.07	20 November 2024	Youth Parliament 2025 Multi Party Reference Group	REP/24/11/1020
1	.08	09 December 2024	Final Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack	REP/24/12/1133
1	.09	05 February 2025	Youth Parliament 2025: Overview and upcoming decisions	REP/25/02/057
1	.10	24 April 2025	Update on Youth Parliament Parliamentary Working Groups	REP/25/04/313
1	.11	12 June 2025	Youth Parliament 2025: Invitations for formal events	REP/25/06/452
1	.12	30 June 2025	Attendance at Youth Parliament 2025	REP/25/06/456



# Report



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Date: 27 May 2024

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

Reference: REP/24/5/454

## Information on Youth Parliament

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with information on Youth Parliament to support your meeting with the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and the Clerk of the New Zealand House of Representatives scheduled for Thursday 30 May 2024.
- 2 The report includes background information, including the roles and responsibilities, in relation to Youth Parliament, of the:
  - Speaker of the House of the New Zealand Representatives
  - Minister for Youth
  - Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, and the Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
  - Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai.
- 3 The report also provides high-level information on initial planning for a Youth Parliament in 2025, including funding and potential next steps.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Note** the contents in this report
- 2 **Note** that Ministry of Youth Development officials would like to discuss options for a Youth Parliament in 2025 at the next Youth officials meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 June 2024

John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

27 May 2024

Date

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

29/5/24

Date



## Background

- 4 On Thursday 30 May, from 9:30am to 10:00am, you are scheduled to meet with the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives, Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee (Speaker) and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, David Wilson (Clerk) to discuss Youth Parliament, at their request.
- 5 The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora, and Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai officials have had initial discussions regarding the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025. This includes the resourcing and support that would be required from each agency, based on roles and responsibilities for Youth Parliament 2022, in anticipation of providing further advice on options to you in June 2024.

## The Youth Parliament Programme

- 6 New Zealand's Youth Parliament was first held on Monday 19 September 1994 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. Subsequently, in March 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister of Youth Affairs to deliver a Youth Parliament once every Parliamentary term, and for it to be administered by MYD in conjunction with OoC [CAB (95)M11/10 refers]. A Youth Parliament has subsequently been delivered once every three years since. The last Youth Parliament was held in 2022 and the next Youth Parliament is due to be delivered in 2025.
- 7 Youth Parliament is an opportunity for around 140 young people, aged 16 – 24 years, to learn about and experience the New Zealand political process, as Youth members of Parliament (Youth MPs) and Youth Press Gallery members, and for the first time in 2022, a Youth Clerk of the House (Youth Clerk).
- 8 The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity for young people from around New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system and how to influence decision-making, and actively work and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about by key decision-makers, other young people and the general public. As outlined in the Social Policy Committee Cabinet Paper SPC (96) 104, Youth Parliament aims to:
  - replicate the parliamentary process
  - provide an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and engage with their local communities, to involve as many young people as possible (before and after the Youth Parliament event)
  - make known the views expressed to appropriate policy agencies
  - maximise the educational opportunities of the Youth Parliament event
  - enhance parliamentary public relations.
- 9 The Youth Parliament programme has historically had two components:
  - a six-month Youth Parliament tenure involving engagement with electorate members of Parliament (MPs) or Press Gallery journalists/editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support
  - a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament in Wellington with mock legislative and general debate speeches, select committees, a question time session with Ministers of the Crown present, and other parts of the parliamentary process. A copy of the Youth Parliament 2022 two-day programme is attached at **Appendix One**.



- 10 The selected participants receive induction training and information delivered by MYD, OoC, New Zealand Electoral Commission staff, and former Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members, to help prepare them for their roles.
- 11 The Youth Parliament programme is an investment in youth development through providing a high-quality programme that encourages and supports young people to develop, alongside gaining new knowledge, skills, and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.

## The Historic Value and Reach of Youth Parliament

### Youth Parliament 2019

- 12 The six-month Youth Parliament 2019 programme ran from March to August 2019. The two-day event took place on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 July with 120 Youth MPs participating. A total of 20 Youth Press Gallery members reported on Youth MPs and the projects they delivered, as well as the proceedings across the two days.
- 13 Youth Parliament 2019 achieved the following:
  - *Replicated the parliamentary process* – Youth Parliament 2019 included an opening ceremony that mirrored the state opening of Parliament, question time, ten select committees, a third-reading style legislative debate and vote, and a general debate
  - *Involved as many young people as possible* – Youth MPs estimated they engaged with a combined total of at least 31,000 young people. Youth Press Gallery members had over 100 articles published online about Youth Parliament 2019 and its participants, reaching a wide audience, including the general public
  - *Maximised the educational opportunities of the Youth Parliament event* – All speeches and questions asked in the debating chamber were published online, and activities that occurred in the debating chamber were live broadcast for the first time
  - *Enhanced parliamentary public relations* – To reach young people, activities were promoted via social media, including participant selection, participant training, the select committee public submission process, and the two-day Youth Parliament event in July 2019. The combined total reach (Facebook and Instagram) and impressions (Twitter) for Youth Parliament 2019 social media posts was over 188,000
  - *The views expressed were shared with appropriate policy agencies* – Representatives from policy agencies supported each of the ten select committees as independent advisors and received a copy of the relevant committee's final report.
- 14 An A3 high-level representation of the youth development outcomes achieved through the Youth Parliament 2019 programme is attached at **Appendix Two**.

### Youth Parliament 2022

- 15 An independent and detailed evaluation of Youth Parliament 2022 was undertaken, and the final report is attached in **Appendix Three**. Of the Youth Parliament programme participants interviewed as part of this evaluation:
  - 96% detailed that they had gained valuable skills from being part of Youth Parliament 2022 (e.g., leaderships skills and communication skills)
  - 92% rated the Youth Parliament event as very good or good
  - Seven in ten participants had engaged with their community or published articles. Topics covered included youth and mental health issues, youth civics education, and relationships education.



- 16 The evaluation concluded that participants demonstrated greater political and community engagement since being a Youth Parliament participant, enabling them to place more thought into who they were going to vote for in the future: *“when I do become able to vote, I will be able to say comfortable and confidently I know how Parliament works, I know the process that they do, and I think definitely go towards me making a decision when I come to vote”* (Youth MP).

## Role of the Minister for Youth

- 17 As indicated above, in 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister of Youth Affairs to deliver a Youth Parliament once every Parliamentary term. The Minister for Youth retains overall responsibility for the triennial delivery of the Youth Parliament programme.
- 18 The Minister for Youth's role can focus on:
- promoting an ‘apolitical’ Youth Parliament
  - promotion of Youth Parliament, for example via a media release to launch the selection period for Youth Parliament participants
  - reinforcing the youth development focus of Youth Parliament
  - advocating to Parliamentary colleagues for the opportunity for young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform.
- 19 The table below sets out the involvement of former Ministers for Youth in programme activities during the previous five Youth Parliaments. The Minister for Youth has had a speaking role at the Opening ceremony and at the social event for the last three Youth Parliaments.

Youth Parliament	Minister for Youth	Minister's involvement
2022	Hon Priyanka Radhakrishnan	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member of the official party</li> <li>- delivery of an opening address</li> </ul> Social event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- opening address</li> </ul>
2019	Hon Peeni Henare	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member of the official party</li> <li>- delivery of an opening address</li> </ul> Social event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- opening address</li> </ul>
2016	Hon Nikki Kaye	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member of the official party</li> <li>- delivery of an opening address</li> </ul> Social event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- opening address</li> </ul>
2013	Hon Nikki Kaye	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member of the official party.</li> </ul> The Minister of Youth Affairs was not included as a speaker on the opening ceremony programme
2010	Hon Paula Bennett	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- member of the official party</li> <li>- delivery of an opening address</li> </ul>



## Role of the Speaker

- 20 The two-day Youth Parliament event has traditionally been held within the Parliamentary precinct, to reflect and replicate the parliamentary process. The Speaker is responsible for administering the Parliamentary precinct.
- 21 For previous Youth Parliaments, the Speaker's role and responsibilities included:
  - granting permission to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event within the Parliamentary precinct
  - jointly with the Minister for Youth, seeking the Prime Minister's agreement to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event in the July parliamentary adjournment
  - attending and participating in the opening of the two-day Youth Parliament event.
- 22 During planning for the 2022 Youth Parliament, the Speaker:
  - noted that the OoC would be responsible for leading and implementing the two-day Youth Parliament event, and
  - agreed that the established Parliament Business Committee could be used to support the implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament.

## Roles and responsibilities of MYD, MSD, and OoC for Youth Parliament 2022

- 23 As noted above, Cabinet agreed in 1995 to Youth Parliament being delivered as a triennial event, to be administered by MYD in conjunction with OoC, and overseen by the Minister of Youth Affairs (now the Minister for Youth).
- 24 Traditionally, MYD had led the role of planning and delivering the two-day Youth Parliament event. However, findings from an evaluation of Youth Parliament 2019 noted greater efficiencies, and better learning and development outcomes for young people, could be achieved through stronger collaboration with OoC.
- 25 The Youth Parliament 2019 evaluation findings, identified the benefits of OoC promoting and leading the two-day Youth Parliament event, which included:
  - delivering a more standardised approach to the selection of Youth MPs
  - delivering a more authentic experience
  - utilising its in-depth knowledge and expertise of the New Zealand Parliament
  - its strong relationships across the Parliamentary precinct
  - available resourcing capacities.
- 26 In addition, having OoC deliver the two-day Youth Parliament event was deemed to further enhance the overarching goal of duplicating Parliamentary processes, including promoting Parliamentary events to the public and media.
- 27 In 2021, officials sought policy and legal advice to establish if Cabinet approval is required prior to reallocating roles. The advice received confirmed Cabinet approval was not required to amend the implementation approach proposed for Youth Parliament 2022.



- 28 The then Minister for Youth subsequently agreed<sup>1</sup> that responsibility for leading and implementing the two-day Youth Parliament 2022 event to transfer from MYD to OoC.
- 29 A Memorandum of Understanding between MYD, MSD, and OoC was developed, which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in the delivery of Youth Parliament 2022. MYD retained the lead for providing youth development support for Youth Parliament participants, including providing pastoral care and community connections.
- 30 MYD also covered the main costs associated with Youth Parliament 2022, for 120 Youth MPs and 20 Youth Press Gallery members, through its baseline budget. OoC covered the costs associated with the Youth Clerk attending Youth Parliament 2022.
- 31 MSD's Child and Youth Policy team provided policy support for the Youth Parliament 2022 programme. This included supporting OoC to coordinate the drafting of select committee background papers, drafting instructions, and developing a notes and context document for a mock bill, and supporting the sourcing of independent advisors and witnesses for each Youth Parliament 2022 select committee.
- 32 A copy of the agreed key roles and functions, by each agency, for Youth Parliament 2022, is attached at **Appendix Four**.
- 33 The independent evaluation undertaken following Youth Parliament 2022, (**Appendix Three** refers), supported the governance model implemented for Youth Parliament in 2022, and stakeholders reported the reallocation of roles and responsibilities made delivery of the Youth Parliament programme more efficient because each agency could focus on their area of expertise.

### ***Delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025***

- 34 As noted above, a Youth Parliament is currently due to be delivered in 2025. To be consistent with the timeline for previous Youth Parliament programmes, the six-month tenure for participants would commence Saturday 01 March 2025 through to Sunday 31 August 2025, and the two-day Youth Parliament event would be held during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment period, with the approval of the Prime Minister.
- 35 MYD has commenced initial discussions with MSD and OoC regarding a Youth Parliament in 2025, including the resourcing and support that would be required from each agency, with the intention that further advice, including options, would be provided to you in June 2024.
- 36 A high-level indicative timeline for planning and delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025 is attached at **Appendix Five**.
- 37 MYD has identified a range of opportunities for your involvement in a Youth Parliament in 2025. These are outlined in **Appendix Six**.

### ***Budget for Youth Parliament***

- 38 MYD does not have an allocated budget to support the implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament. Since the inception of Youth Parliament, costs have been absorbed from within the MYD baseline Departmental Output Expense (DOE) budget. This has been mainly achieved via savings (e.g., delaying appointments to vacancies) and/or reallocated budgets.
- 39 An indicative budget for a Youth Parliament in 2025 is attached at **Appendix Seven**.

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<sup>1</sup> Rt Hon Trevor Mallard, Speaker, and Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Minister for Youth met to discuss the findings of the evaluation of Youth Parliament 2019, and the opportunities this represented for the reallocation of roles and responsibilities between OoC and MYD to deliver Youth Parliament 2022 and beyond.



- 40 It is unlikely that MYD will be able to absorb the approximate \$410,000.00 cost of a Youth Parliament in 2025. Through the recent all of Government fiscal savings exercise it is anticipated that MYD will have its departmental budget reduced by \$156,000. Additionally, MYD does not have any vacancies at present and cannot rely on any savings by delaying appointments to roles to fund Youth Parliament.
- 41 We are currently exploring the possibility of MSD absorbing the costs for the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025. However, this would require a transfer of funding between appropriations and would be subject to approval by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.
- 42 Please note that no discussions have been had with the Minister for Social Development and Employment regarding the funding of Youth Parliament as we are only at the exploratory stage of this potential option.
- 43 The Youth Parliament programme would run from Saturday 01 March to Sunday 31 August 2025, and funding would therefore be spent over two financial years. Meaning that the total cost of \$410,000.00 for a Youth Parliament would be split across two financial years.

### *Resourcing and support required from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives*

- 44 On 15 May 2024, OoC advised MYD officials that resourcing constraints are likely to limit its capacity to support the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025. OoC has advised that it has not secured any funding, and as such is not able to make commitments on whether it can support implementation of a Youth Parliament in 2025.
- 45 MYD is aware the 12<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Parliament will be hosted by the New Zealand Parliament from Monday 02 – Thursday 05 September 2024. This event is also likely to place pressure on personnel resourcing from OoC during the planning and implementation stages for a Youth Parliament in 2025.
- 46 As OoC has a specialist role within Parliament which includes Parliamentary Engagement and access to MPs, MYD and OoC would need to agree on alternative plans relating to the allocation of functions and tasks should OoC have limited or no resourcing available. Alternate options for the design and content delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025 could be considered.

### **Next steps**

- 47 Youth officials are available to attend your meeting with the Speaker and the Clerk should you wish.
- 48 MYD would like to discuss your preferences for Youth Parliament at the next Youth officials meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 June 2024 and will provide you with a briefing in advance of this meeting.
- 49 As indicated in this report, if a Youth Parliament in 2025 is to proceed based on the 2022 programme design, MYD would likely require additional financial support from MSD, and this would require agreement with the Minister for Social Development and Employment.
- 50 Subject to decisions on Youth Parliament 2025 proceeding in either its current format or an amended format, you may wish to brief your Cabinet colleagues through an oral item at Cabinet to ensure cross-government support for a 2025 Youth Parliament programme, prior to commencing any communication with the wider Parliament.



## Attachments

- **Appendix One:** The Youth Parliament 2022 two-day programme
- **Appendix Two:** Representation of the youth development outcomes achieved through the Youth Parliament 2019 programme
- **Appendix Three:** Evaluation of The Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi Youth Parliament 2022 Report
- **Appendix Four:** Youth Parliament 2022 organisation and delivery roles and functions summary
- **Appendix Five:** High-level indicative timeline for planning and delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025
- **Appendix Six:** Potential opportunities for the Minister for Youth's involvement in a Youth Parliament in 2025
- **Appendix Seven:** Indicative Budget for a Youth Parliament in 2025

File Ref: AA16165241

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Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: The Youth Parliament 2022 Two-Day Programme



### Day One - 19 July 2022

8.30am	Arrive at Parliament <i>Beehive foyer</i>	12.15pm	Lunch <i>Banquet Hall</i>
9.00am	Opening of Youth Parliament <i>Legislative Council Chamber</i>	1.15pm	Select Committees: evidence and consideration <i>Select Committee rooms</i>
10.00am	Official photo <i>External Parliament stairs</i>	4.30pm	General Debate <i>Debating Chamber</i>
10.25am	Morning Tea <i>Banquet Hall</i>	6.00pm	Informal dinner <i>Banquet Hall</i>
11.00am	Question time <i>Debating Chamber</i>	7.45pm	Bus to hotel

### Day Two - 20 July 2022

8.30am	Arrive at Parliament <i>Beehive foyer</i>	1.00pm	Presentation of Select Committee reports <i>Debating Chamber</i>
9.00am	Select Committees: considering draft report <i>Select Committee rooms</i>	1.30pm	General Debate <i>Debating Chamber</i>
10.15am	Morning tea <i>Banquet Hall</i>	3.55pm	Closure of Youth Parliament 2022 <i>Debating Chamber</i>
10.30am	Legislative debate and vote <i>Debating Chamber</i>	4.00pm	Closing reception <i>Grand Hall</i>
12.00pm	Lunch <i>Banquet Hall</i>	4.30pm	Leave Parliament

■ House business \* Open to the public ^ Broadcast on Parliament TV





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



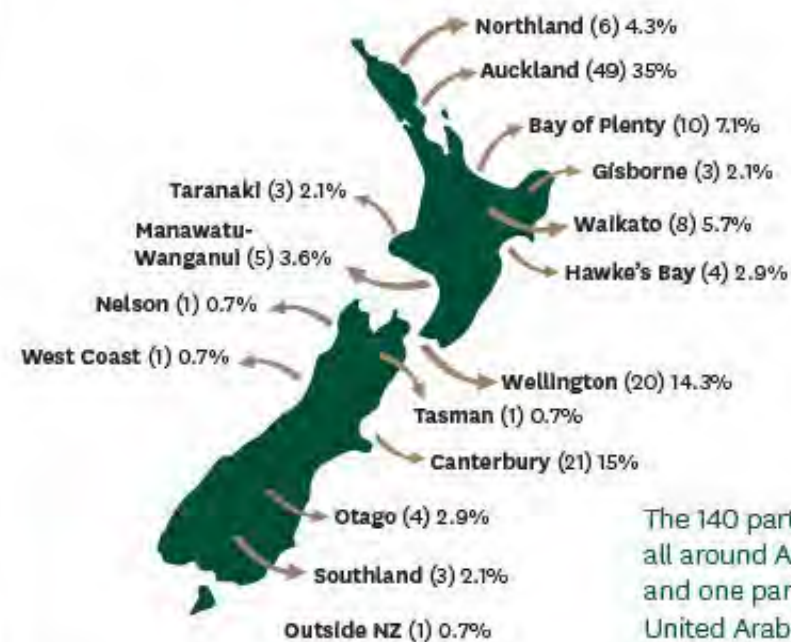


# Youth Parliament 2019

## Youth Parliament 2019 participant comments:

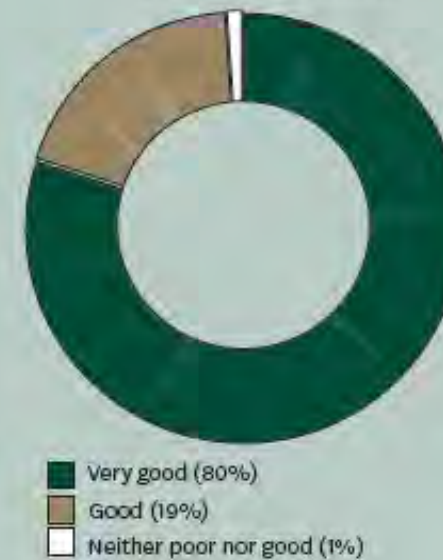
- “I made multiple new friends and have made **great connections** with other Youth MPs. My project went very well and **I had so much support.**”
- “**I learned so much** during the Youth Parliament events, I think it made me more mature especially with the experiences I had.”
- “I think overall it 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



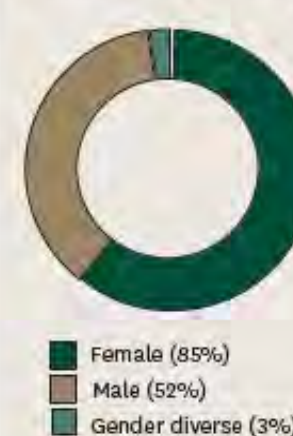
**93%** said they have increased engagement with, and contribution to something I value in my community

**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

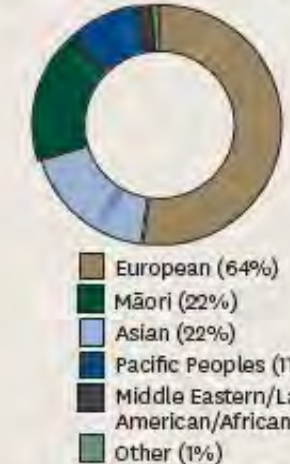


## Age of participants



As at the end of the programme on 31 August 2019

## Ethnicity of participants



Participants could select more than one ethnicity





**Malatest**  
International

**Final report:**

**The Ministry of Youth  
Development – Te Manatū  
Whakahiato Taiohi: Youth  
Parliament 2022**

**December 2022**





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## Executive summary

### Background

Youth Parliament 2022, the tenth Youth Parliament programme, was jointly led and delivered by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi (including the Youth Policy function in the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora) and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OOC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai.

Due to the success of the first Youth Parliament, in 1995 Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every term. Every three years, the Youth Parliament programme creates a unique opportunity for young people to engage with politics, parliamentary processes, and their community. About 140 young people participate as Youth members of Parliament (Youth MPs), Youth Press Gallery members and, in 2022, the Youth Clerk of the House. The Youth Parliament programme has two components:

- A six-month Youth Parliament tenure involving engagement with electorate Member of Parliament or Press Gallery editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support
- A three-day Youth Parliament event in Wellington with legislative and general debate speeches, select committees, and other parts of the parliamentary process.

The Youth Parliament programme aims to:

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

Youth MP community engagement, publication of Youth Press Gallery Member articles, and publicity surrounding the Youth Parliament programme extend Youth Parliament's influence to other young people and the wider community.

Based on previous Youth Parliament programme evaluation findings, several changes were implemented to strengthen the delivery of the programme and a decision made to reallocate roles and responsibilities between OOC and MYD.

MYD commissioned Malatest International to evaluate the 2022 Youth Parliament programme to better understand:



- What changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?
- How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?
- How did the participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?
- What opportunities are there to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme?

### Summary of findings

Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
<b>What changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OOC led and implemented the Youth Parliament event.</li> <li>• MYD continued to lead youth development support for participants.</li> <li>• MSD continued to provide policy support.</li> <li>• The move to joint delivery governed by the MOU between OOC and MYD strengthened the delivery for 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the benefits of joint delivery between OOC and MYD by reviewing the process and continuing to clarify roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Involve a wider group of agencies to extend the benefits across Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ consider greater contribution by <b>Youth Policy function of MSD</b> to the design of the programme.</li> <li>◦ introduce <b>Ministry of Education</b> to use Youth Parliament to contribute to a civics education piece and create an opportunity for participants and their wider community to learn about voting and engaging with the machinery of Government.</li> <li>◦ include <b>alumni voice</b> to the design of the programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?</b>	
<b>Application and selection process</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection processes for Youth MPs varied across the country.</li> <li>• Stakeholders felt participants were more representative of the Aotearoa New Zealand population than in previous programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase application and selection process guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information to MPs about selecting a Youth MP, including what others have done in the past and what other MPs are doing.</li> <li>• <b>Continue to increase diversity of Youth Parliament participants:</b> Promote Youth Parliament as an event for all young people, not just those with leadership experience or political connections. The concentration of the many outcomes in the</li> </ul>



Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
	participant group increases the importance of the selection process being accessible.
<b>Youth Parliament tenure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement and contact with adult counterparts varied for Youth MPs, but was more consistent for Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk.</li> <li>The majority of young people engaged with their community.</li> <li>Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles on local and political issues.</li> <li>Participants enjoyed their various trainings, but found in-person sessions more valuable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increase guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information for MPs about Youth Parliament, including what role MPs are expected to play in supporting Youth MPs and what Youth MPs should complete during Youth Parliament. Include examples of previous success stories.</li> <li><b>Provide more clarity for MPs about their role in supporting Youth MPs:</b> More clarity about role of MPs in providing apolitical support and supporting community engagement.</li> <li><b>Set clear expectations of Youth MPs for community engagement:</b> Post-COVID-19 there is an opportunity to clarify expectations for Youth MP community engagement. This could be in the form of a minimum requirement for Youth MPs to engage with their community and collect and share community voice.</li> <li><b>Increase in-person training:</b> Utilise in-person training as much as possible. If online training is needed, make it shorter, more digestible, and more interactive.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Parliament event</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority of participants felt prepared for the Youth Parliament event, but a large group did not.</li> <li>Most young people had positive experience during the event, but Youth MPs agreed it was intensive.</li> <li>Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles about the event and Youth MPs.</li> <li>The event was more political than in previous programmes, but Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk were encouraged to be apolitical.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Extend pre-event educational opportunities for participants:</b> Create opportunities for Youth MPs to engage with speech writers to assist with development of their speeches, prepare young people for navigating different perspectives, and increase familiarity with Youth Parliament standing orders.</li> <li><b>Continue to refine the Youth Parliament Standing Orders to make the Youth Parliament event youth-friendly:</b> The role of the Youth Clerk and the Youth Parliament Standing Orders was important. Planning time for applause and considering removing some of the more difficult to plan aspects of debate (for example, motions without notice) in the House could make it easier to manage without reducing its value for participants.</li> <li><b>Focus the parliamentary activities on the most valuable components:</b> Simplify parliamentary activities and make them less information heavy. Consider opportunities to remove events altogether, such as the mock bill. Consider the</li> </ul>



Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
	<p>value of adding opportunities for more debate between participants and time for debrief after the sharing of sensitive topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Create working spaces for Youth MPs:</b> Have working spaces available to Youth MPs, like the space available to Youth Press Gallery, with printing facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Youth Parliament participants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young people felt well-supported by MYD and OOC and had very positive experiences with their chaperones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increase opportunities to engage with Wellbeing Team:</b> Create opportunities for participants to engage with wellbeing supports during the Youth Parliament tenure, increase visibility of Wellbeing Team during the Youth Parliament event, and distinguish the Wellbeing Team from MYD and OOC staff.</li> <li>● <b>Further improve support for youth with disabilities:</b> Provide access to trained professionals to support youth with disabilities to participate.</li> </ul>
<b>How did participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?</b>	
<p><b>Value for participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased engagement with politics and their community.</li> <li>● Improved understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's political system.</li> <li>● Developed valuable skills</li> <li>● More connected with like-minded peers and Parliament networks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Value for Parliament and the Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hear youth voice.</li> <li>● Enhanced Parliamentary public relations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Value for all young people:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learn about Parliament.</li> <li>● Increased engagement with politics and their community.</li> </ul>	<p>If benefits to the wider community are an important outcome of the Youth Parliament programme they could be enhanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Further raise the profile of the Youth Parliament event:</b> Set up a webpage and social media channel for Youth Press Gallery members during the event.</li> <li>● <b>Increase community engagement with Youth Parliament:</b> Encourage participants to report back to their community about their experience and learnings, have a space for friends and whānau to attend and engage with the Youth Parliament event, and potentially involve young people in the selection process.</li> </ul>



# 1. Background

## 1.1. The Youth Parliament programme

Youth Parliament 2022, the tenth Youth Parliament programme, was jointly led and delivered by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi (including the Youth Policy function in the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora) and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OOC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai.

Due to the success of the first Youth Parliament, in 1995 Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every term. Every three years, the Youth Parliament programme creates a unique opportunity for young people to engage with politics, parliamentary processes, and their community. About 140 young people participate as Youth members of Parliament (Youth MPs), Youth Press Gallery members and, in 2022, the Youth Clerk of the House. The Youth Parliament programme has two components:

- A six-month Youth Parliament tenure involving engagement with electorate Member of Parliament or Press Gallery editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support
- A three-day Youth Parliament event in Wellington with legislative and general debate speeches, select committees, and other parts of the parliamentary process.

The Youth Parliament programme aims to:

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

Youth MP community engagement, publication of Youth Press Gallery Member articles, and publicity surrounding the Youth Parliament programme extend Youth Parliament's influence to other young people and the wider community.

## 1.2. Evaluation of the Youth Parliament programme

The evaluation of the 2019 Youth Parliament programme highlighted some opportunities to strengthen the programme:



- More collaboration between MYD and OOC to deliver the programme.
- A more consistent selection process across regions with a focus on ensuring equity of opportunity to participate for young people.
- Improve consistency in the engagement with Members of Parliament (MPs).
- Expand opportunities to increase the incentives for Youth MPs to engage their communities through their community project and other ways.
- Increase media coverage of the Youth Parliament event.
- Expand opportunities for Youth Press Gallery members to disseminate their writing, in addition to the existing newsletter.
- Pair Youth Press Gallery members with mentors from the official Press Gallery and affiliate with a press organisation.
- If feasible, extend the Youth Parliament event to slow the pace of the programme and give young people time to acclimatise.

MYD commissioned Malatest International to evaluate the 2022 Youth Parliament programme to better understand:

- What changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?
- How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?
- How did the participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?
- What opportunities are there to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme?

#### **1.2.1. Logic model and evaluation framework**

We developed a logic model (Figure 1) and evaluation framework (Appendix 1) to guide the evaluation. The framework aligns the evaluation questions with indicators and data sources, providing a basis for the data collection tools, analytical framework, and this report.



### Overarching goal of Youth Parliament:

Young people experience and engage with the work of Parliament and create meaningful connections, not only between themselves and Parliament, but with their wider communities

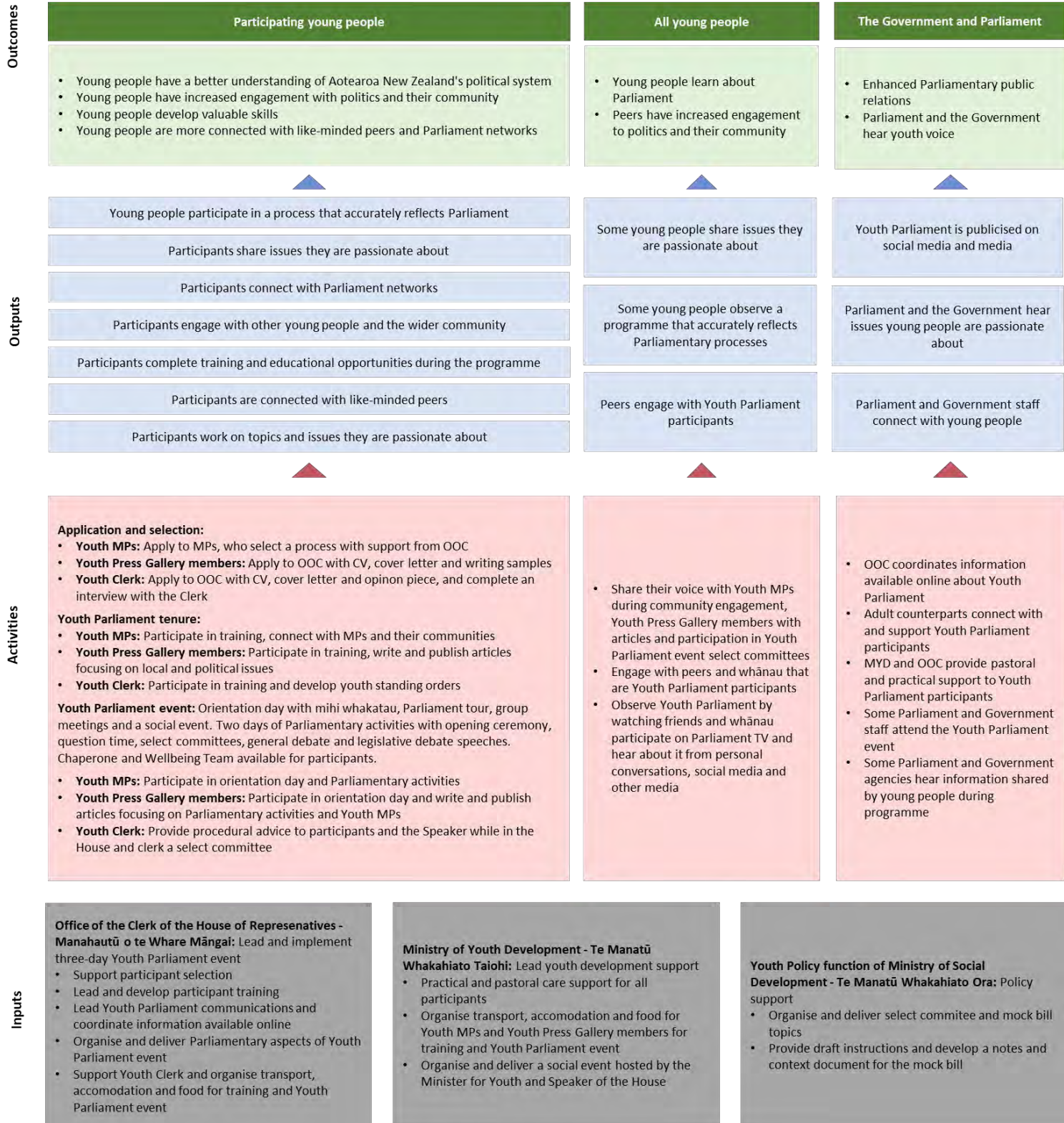


Figure 1. Logic model for the evaluation of the 2022 Youth Parliament programme



### 1.2.2. Data collection

We invited Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members to complete an online survey. Overall, 51% of Youth MPs and 58% of Youth Press Gallery members completed the survey. The profile of survey respondents was consistent with the overall demographics of participants, although rangatahi Māori and Pacific young people were slightly underrepresented (Table 1).

**Table 1. Demographics of survey respondents and overall participants**

Demographics	Survey	Overall participants <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72 (51%)</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Role</b>		
Youth MP	85%	86%
Youth Press Gallery member	15%	14%
<b>Age (at time of the Youth Parliament event)<sup>2</sup></b>		
16	17%	12%
17	43%	45%
18	32%	32%
19	4%	7%
20+	4%	6%
<b>Gender<sup>3</sup></b>		
Male	44%	48%
Female	49%	50%
Gender diverse	7%	2%
<b>Ethnicity (ethnicity total count<sup>4</sup>)</b>		
Māori	19%	26%
Pacific Peoples	7%	13%
Asian	19%	19%
MELAA	4%	2%

<sup>1</sup> Provided by MYD.

<sup>2</sup> Age and gender was not provided for one young person.

<sup>3</sup> Gender of overall participants is based on pronoun information provided to MYD. Based on n=131 as it was not appropriate to assume gender identity for all pronouns provided i.e., she/they or they/he.

<sup>4</sup> Young people may be represented in multiple groups.



Demographics	Survey	Overall participants <sup>1</sup>
European	56%	54%
Other Ethnicity	3%	8%

We used semi-structured interviews to explore the perspectives of participants and stakeholders in-depth (Table 2).

**Table 2. Interview participants**

Source	Evaluation participants
<b>Participant interviews</b>	<b>19</b>
Youth MPs	14
Youth Press Gallery members	4
Youth Clerk	1
<b>Stakeholder interviews</b>	<b>10</b>

At the end of the survey, we asked young people to opt-in for interviews. We also randomly selected some young people for interviews to balance interview participation between Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members. Nine young people opted-in and all completed interviews, while 17 were randomly selected and nine agreed to an interview. The Youth Clerk was not asked to complete the survey due to their unique role and instead participated in an in-depth interview of their experience.

MYD and OOC provided contact details for ten stakeholders from MSD, MYD, OOC and the Press Gallery, which included two MPs.

### 1.2.3. Analysis

We used a general thematic approach to identify themes in qualitative data. We entered the results in an analytical framework based on the overall evaluation framework. Quantitative data from the survey data were analysed descriptively.

### 1.2.4. Strengths and limitations

Triangulation of information gathered from different sources and perspectives strengthened the evaluation:

- The strong response to the survey and the match between the respondent and non-respondent profiles gives confidence in the accuracy of the survey results.
- The range of stakeholders provided a diversity of perspectives.



- Young people participated in the evaluation within two months of the Youth Parliament event while their memories of their experiences were fresh but may not evidence longer term impacts on participants.

Young people not selected for Youth Parliament were outside the scope of this evaluation but could provide useful perspectives on the application and selection processes. The wider group of young people could also help to understand the reach of outcomes from Youth Parliament programme.



## 2. Changes in roles and responsibilities

### 2.1. Changes to strengthen delivery of the Youth Parliament programme

Several changes were implemented to strengthen the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme. The most significant was the reallocation of roles and responsibilities between OOC and MYD (including the Youth Policy function in MSD). The programme was previously led and delivered by MYD (and MSD) with some support from OOC.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created in July 2021 between MYD and OOC to clarify the intended goals and objectives of the Youth Parliament programme and their respective roles and responsibilities. MYD and OOC felt this would:

- deliver a more standardised approach to the selection of Youth MPs
- utilise OOC's in-depth knowledge and expertise of the New Zealand Parliament, strong relationships across the Parliamentary precinct, and available resourcing capacities
- enhance the goal of duplicating Parliamentary processes.

MYD would continue to lead youth development support for participants, MSD would continue to provide policy support, and OOC would lead and implement the Youth Parliament event (Figure 2).





**Figure 2. Roles and responsibilities for the Youth Parliament programme**

Stakeholders thought this reallocation of roles and responsibilities made delivery of the programme more efficient because each partner could focus on their area of expertise. OOC was best placed to replicate Parliamentary processes because its staff had the best understanding of Parliament and MYD was best placed to provide pastoral care and to apply the principles of youth development to the programme.

*[OOC] run a Parliament for Members of Parliament. So it makes sense that we're running it for Youth MPs, because we actually know the building, know the procedures. (Stakeholder)*

*It makes complete sense for MYD to be involved for the pastoral care element. They know how to work with young people and support them. (Stakeholder)*

Stakeholders also agreed the changes strengthened the relationship between MYD and OOC, which was more difficult in the past without clarity around roles and responsibilities.

*The relationship between the two agencies is always fraught. And it seems to have been less fraught each time ... I think the key reason for that is we put together an MOU at the start of the process this time, which we haven't done before. And that clearly outlined roles and responsibilities, and who was responsible for what. (Stakeholder)*

The weekly meetings between OOC, MYD and MSD contributed to MSD feeling well supported and included in the partnership. However, MSD felt changes to the policy process for the 2022 programme were made without consulting them which created unrealistic requirements which needed to be scaled back later.



*Some of those changes made between 2019 and this year were made without asking policy what worked best ... I think next time if any changes are made, policy really has to be part of it, because there were some things that were really inefficient or not doable that we had to push back on. (Stakeholder)*

## 2.2. Differing focuses within the Youth Parliament programme

The MOU between OOC and MYD described the Youth Parliament programme as an opportunity for young people from around Aotearoa New Zealand to be heard and to work on issues they are passionate about. The core objective is defined as:

*To encourage young people to experience and engage with the work of Parliament and to create meaningful connections, not only with themselves and Parliament, but extending to their wider communities as well.<sup>5</sup>*

While this overall goal was clear, the two organisations still had different focuses. MYD wanted the Youth Parliament programme to support participants to develop their ability to engage with the machinery of Government and advocate for their community. OOC felt the programme was an opportunity to educate young people about Parliament and engage with the voting system, and support them to have their say.

Some stakeholders felt increased involvement and support provided by OOC, alongside COVID-19 interruptions and changes in personnel in MYD, contributed to more emphasis on the Youth Parliament event and less focus on community engagement. They thought this contributed to some young people coming to the Youth Parliament event and having their say, rather than sharing the voice of their community.

Interviewed stakeholders felt the reallocation of roles was a positive change for the Youth Parliament programme, both for the delivery and for participants. However, they noted some challenges in working together because of differences between Parliament and Government agencies and different, but overlapping, responsibilities.

This led to a general feeling by OOC and MYD staff, that MYD and OOC were two separate teams working to deliver the Youth Parliament programme, rather than one team working together.

*Despite intentions, this was very much two teams trying to deliver one project. And we were never really one team. (Stakeholder)*

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<sup>5</sup> Youth Parliament 2022 MOU.

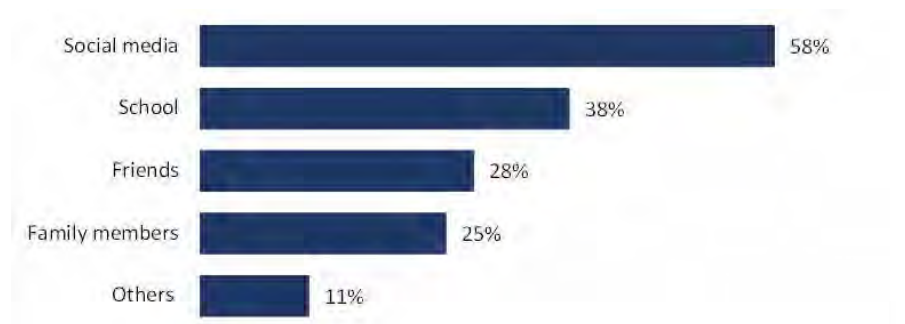


### 3. Young people's experiences of the 2022 Youth Parliament programme

#### 3.1. Application and selection process

##### 3.1.1. Participants applied for a range of reasons

Participants most often heard about the 2022 Youth Parliament programme from social media, at school or from their friends (Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Where participants heard about the 2022 Youth Parliament programme (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**

Participants applied because they wanted:

- To develop their interest in politics, learning about Aotearoa New Zealand's political system and learning from MPs  
*I was interested in politics and [the programme] was advertised in a way that led me to be in a position to be able to learn about the New Zealand political system, but also get to know that my local MP. (Youth MP)*
- To connect with their community and share youth voice  
*It's a national platform that Youth Parliament offers to represent my peers and the views of other youth in New Zealand. (Youth MP)*
- To develop journalism skills  
*I have a very big passion in journalism. And that's the path that I wanted to go down. (Youth Press Gallery member)*
- To meet other like-minded young people.  
*I think it was just a good option for me to have a more tangible way of engaging with people and getting to know other like-minded. (Youth MP)*

Some stakeholders felt the good reputation of the Youth Parliament programme was a key driver for young people to apply.



*I think Youth Parliament as a whole has quite a high profile. And I think, to young people at school, it's similar to Model UN in the sense that it is held in high esteem as an opportunity for young people to participate in. (Stakeholder)*

### 3.1.2. MPs took different approaches to selecting the Youth MPs

MPs were responsible for selecting their Youth MPs and had autonomy over their own approach. OOC provided guidance and information about selecting a Youth MP, including advertising and appointing, but some stakeholders reported that MPs wanted more guidance.

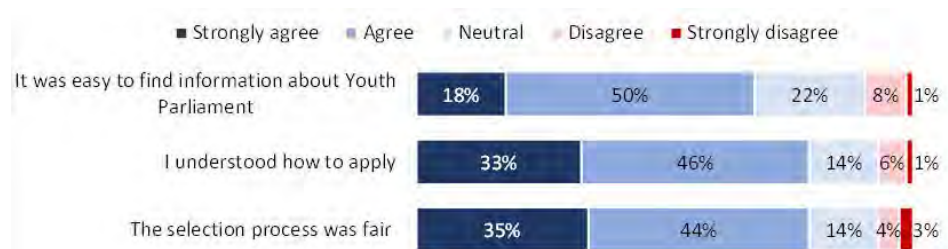
*I've talked to MPs who really had no idea [how to select a Youth MP] and didn't know what other people did and didn't know what had been done before. And so just had to make it up as they went along. They did well. But it would have been easier for them if they had some frameworks, or options, or examples of what other people have done in the past. (Stakeholder)*

Youth MPs described experiences ranging from submitting written CVs and/or cover letters to speeches and short videos. Some completed formal or informal interviews. One-third (31%) of participants had already met their MP prior to the 2022 Youth Parliament programme. The Press Gallery Chair selected the Youth Press Gallery members with OOC facilitating the application process and the Clerk selected the Youth Clerk. Youth Press Gallery members had a more consistent application process, where they submitted a CV, cover letter, and writing samples. They did not complete an interview. The Youth Clerk submitted a CV, cover letter, wrote an opinion piece about a Parliament ruling, and completed an interview with the Clerk.

### 3.1.3. Most participants thought the application process was simple and fair

The process from application to selection took two to four weeks for all roles, which many considered appropriate. Most survey respondents agreed it was easy to find information about the 2022 Youth Parliament programme and they understood how to apply (Figure 4).

*I found it quite easy to find easy to access information. The application process itself was relatively easy. (Youth MP)*



**Figure 4. Participant views on the clarity and fairness of the application process (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**



Most participants (79%) believed the selection process was fair (Figure 4), compared to a small proportion of Youth MPs who felt the inconsistent application process and unequal opportunities in rural and urban areas made it an unfair process for Youth MPs across Aotearoa New Zealand.

*I think it was a little bit, who you know, and to a certain extent, what opportunities you'd had to be involved in activism before ... [in Auckland] there's lots more opportunities for activism and to be in groups like that that look really good. And I think that shows if you're more involved when you're in a bigger region compared to, say, if you're from rural New Zealand. (Youth MP)*

*I don't think [the selection process] was fair. Because you applied to your MP, and each party has his own selection process. Some of my friends went through a much more rigorous selection process, like do speeches, but I didn't do that. (Youth MP)*

#### **3.1.4. Stakeholders thought the participants were more diverse**

OOC and MYD encouraged diversity in the Youth Parliament participants. Interviewed stakeholders who had participated in previous programmes thought the 2022 Youth Parliament programme was more diverse, with a range of ethnicities, disabilities, and life experiences, including rainbow, care experienced, and rurally located young people.

*Each year, I continually am impressed by the diverseness of Youth Parliament. It's probably more diverse than our actual Parliament and great to see so many people with different needs and representing different communities. (Stakeholder)*

In contrast, stakeholders commonly felt its accessibility was limited by young people's perceptions of who could take part. The Youth Parliament programme's reputation was a driver for some young people to take part, but also discouraged young people who thought it was only for those with leadership experience.

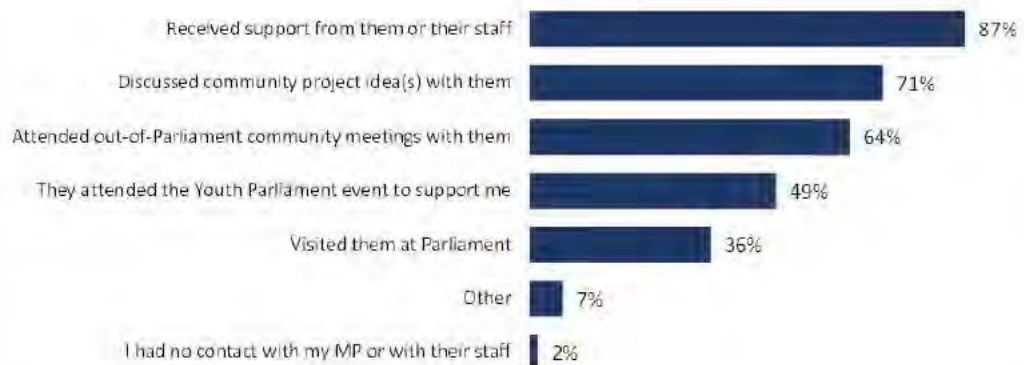
*I think there's still like an inherent level of filtering that goes through young people's heads, if they see their head student applying, then they will make assumptions around the types of people that will attend these sorts of events. (Stakeholder)*

### **3.2. Relationships with adult counterparts**

#### **3.2.1. Youth MPs had varying relationships with their MPs**

Almost all Youth MPs had some contact or engagement with their MP or their MPs staff (Figure 5). Most received support from their MP or their staff, and many discussed community project idea(s) with them and attended community events with them. For most, their MP was easy to reach and they had regular contact with them.



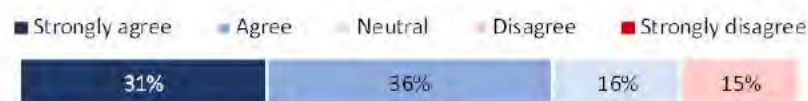


**Figure 5. Engagement Youth MPs had with their MPs (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

Some Youth MPs described their experience with the 2022 Youth Parliament programme as being more self-led because their MP was busy. Despite this, many of them had good relationships with their MP.

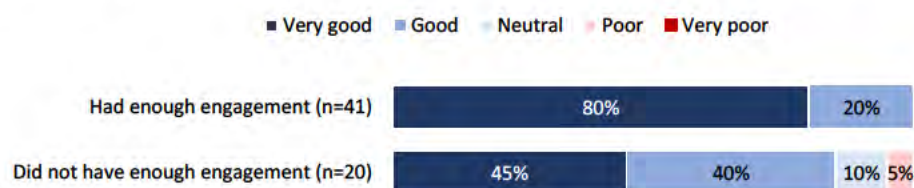
*I think my relationship with my MP was quite good. I didn't have much contact with him during the [Youth Parliament] event ... I only emailed him when I needed something more importantly. (Youth MP)*

About two-thirds of Youth MPs had enough engagement with their MP (Figure 6).



**Figure 6. Participant views about whether they had enough engagement with their MP (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

Youth MPs who had enough engagement with their MP were more likely to say their overall experience was very good (80% compared to 45%) (Figure 7).



**Figure 7. Correlation between participant engagement with their MP and their overall tenure experience (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

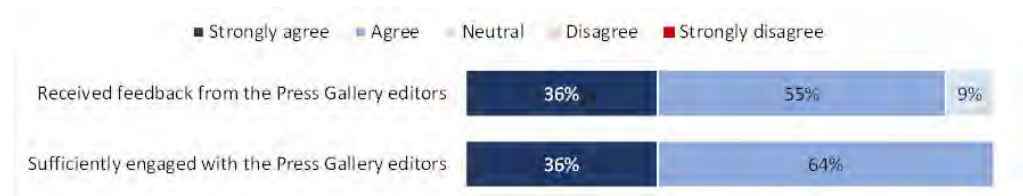
### 3.2.2. Youth Press Gallery members were closely supported by Youth Press Gallery editors



Youth Press Gallery members were closely supported by the OOC Communications Lead, and RNZ's *The House* editor and journalist. Many pitched ideas to them and were supported with writing feedback and pastoral care. The Communications Lead was also responsible for assigning Youth Press Gallery members to different parts of the Youth Parliament event. They provided a direct connection for Youth Press Gallery members to get their writing published through the Parliament website and *The House* (Radio New Zealand), whose editor supported participants with editing and publishing.

All surveyed Youth Press Gallery members received enough engagement and support from the Youth Press Gallery editors during the Youth Parliament tenure and event (Figure 8).

*We could contact [the Press Gallery editors] on Facebook because we had a Facebook group. We also had their emails ... They're extremely easy to contact.*  
(Youth Press Gallery member)



**Figure 8. Youth Press Gallery member engagement with Youth Press Gallery editors**  
(Source: Survey responses, n=11)

### 3.2.3. The Youth Clerk was highly supported by OOC and Parliament staff

The Youth Clerk was closely supported by OOC and Parliament staff with mentorship, a training day at Parliament in April, educational opportunities and pastoral care. The Clerk and his staff were very easy to contact and the Youth Clerk felt well-supported during the Youth Parliament tenure and event.

Much of the Youth Clerk's work was focused on the development of Standing Orders for the Youth Parliament event, a new addition for 2022. The Youth Clerk prioritised inclusiveness and accessibility in the standing orders, including encouraging Youth MPs to use te reo Māori and updating rules on how Youth MPs engaged with each other. MYD completed a thematic analysis of the General Debate speeches and found an increase in the use of te reo Māori compared to 2019.

They met with OOC staff over Zoom to talk through the previous Youth Parliament Standing Orders and flag areas for improvement and worked closely with Parliament legal staff to make changes. The Clerk and Speaker of the House were also consulted, with OOC support, to confirm changes made.

The Youth Clerk spoke at the opening of Youth Parliament on behalf of participants, provided procedural advice to participants and the Speaker, and clerked a select



committee. They sat alongside either the Clerk or Deputy Clerk when the Youth MPs were in the House. They felt unsure about how to provide advice to the Speaker at the beginning, not wanting to interrupt, but that it was valuable having the Clerk or Deputy Clerk with them to encourage them, explain things and answer questions.

While they were assigned to clerk a select committee, the Youth Clerk felt their role became redundant once the chairperson had been appointed. However, they enjoyed being able to go between select committees and hear the different discussions between Youth MPs, noting they felt this was something Youth MPs missed out on.

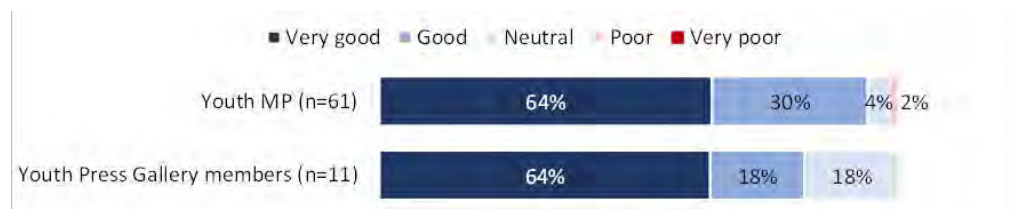
The Youth Clerk said the training day was crucial to ensure they had a clear understanding of their role and what they needed to do. The Youth Clerk thought any young person could do the role with the level of support they received from OOC and Parliament staff.

### 3.3. Youth Parliament tenure

The Youth Parliament programme included a six-month tenure after participants were assigned to their roles. During this period all participants were invited to attend monthly online training sessions. In addition:

- Youth MPs attended an online national training, and engaged with their MP and their community.
- Youth Press Gallery members attended an in-person national training, and wrote and published articles focusing on local and political issues.
- The Youth Clerk attended a training day at Parliament, and worked to develop Standing Orders for the Youth Parliament event.

Most survey respondents (94% of Youth MPs and 82% of Youth Press Gallery members) rated their overall experience during the Youth Parliament tenure as good or very good (Figure 9).



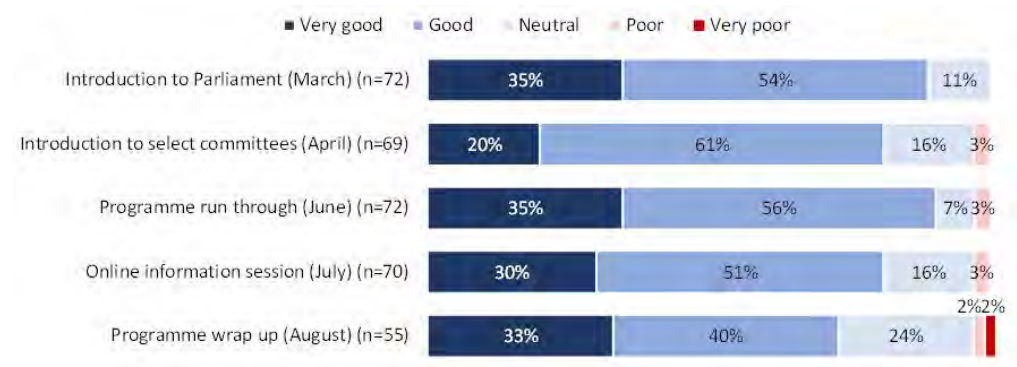
**Figure 9. Participant overall experience during the Youth Parliament tenure (Source: Survey response)**

#### 3.3.1. Young people valued their training



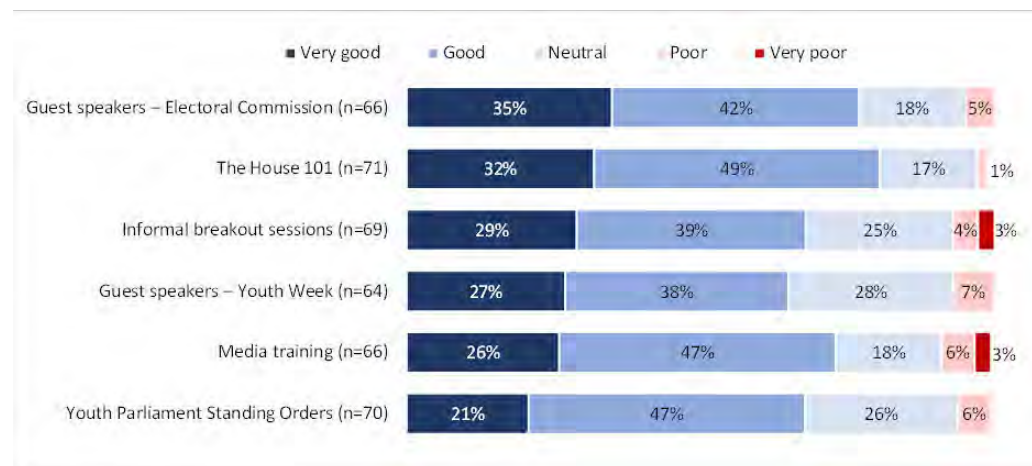
All Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members were invited to OOC training sessions during the Youth Parliament tenure to educate them on Parliament and prepare them for the Youth Parliament event: a monthly training series and a training day in May 2022. The Youth Clerk attended the Standing Orders section of the day to introduce their role to the other participants and talk through the Standing Orders for the Youth Parliament event.

Most participants were satisfied with the monthly training series but had a less positive experience with the programme wrap-up in August (Figure 10).



**Figure 10. Participant views on the quality of the monthly training series. Note those who did not attend selected 'not applicable' and are excluded here (Source: Survey response)**

Participants also enjoyed the training day in May 2022 and were most positive about The House 101 (Figure 11).



**Figure 11. Participants views on the quality of the online training day in May (Source: Survey response)**

While many shared the online trainings were useful in helping them prepare for the Youth Parliament event, others with existing knowledge found them less valuable.

*I don't really like the ones about what happens in Parliament because I've already been involved in it. So personally, I didn't really find it useful. (Youth MP)*



The online format was impersonal for some and did not allow young people to connect, while others found the trainings too long and unengaging.

*Some of the Zoom sessions are quite long, I felt like they could have been shorter.  
(Youth MP)*

Youth Press Gallery members also attended a half-day in-person national training, which provided them insights on journalism writing and how Parliament works. They also had a tour of Parliament, including a lunch with Press Gallery Chairs and MPs.

Youth Press Gallery members really appreciated the opportunity to improve their writing skills and meet real Press Gallery Journalists, which provided positive experiences in preparation for the Youth Parliament event.

*[The in-person training] was pretty critical for a lot of people in the Press Gallery ... [It] gave the foundation of what we'd be doing and a sense of preparedness and an urge to publish articles. It was the kick-off event for the tenure. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

### 3.3.2. The majority of Youth MPs engaged with their community

During the Youth Parliament tenure, more than half (56%) of Youth MPs took part in a community project on the issues they were passionate about (Figure 12). Youth MPs were also encouraged to deliver a speech about voting at their own schools and the majority attended community events or engagements with their MP. This community engagement was valuable for the participants, but also extended the value of the Youth Parliament programme to the wider youth community. Community engagement was made more challenging in the COVID-19 environment and changes in personnel at MYD meant it was less of a focus than in previous programmes. Overall, one-quarter (25%) of the Youth MPs who completed the survey did not deliver any community project or speech during the Youth Parliament tenure.



**Figure 12. Youth MP community engagement (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

Youth MPs delivered a wide range of community projects on issues that mattered to them, including:

- Youth and mental health issues.
- Sex and consent.
- Relationship education.



- Driver licence barriers.
- Lowering the voting age.
- Youth civics education.
- Promotion of community activities.

Youth MPs said their connections of their MPs were vital for completing their community project. Those whose MPs were not located in the same community noted their MP was limited in their ability to support their community project.

*[My MP] set up an interview with [a Government official], which was really good. We talked about what I could do for my community project. I felt quite supported by her. (Youth MP)*

Youth MPs spoke to various organisations and local schools and organised events in their community. Some Youth MPs supported their peers to complete their projects.

Youth MPs who did not complete a community project said this was due to capacity constraints and COVID-19 interruptions, while others could not connect with or get support from communities to complete them. Some Youth MPs were unsure of what they needed to do or could do.

*I wish I had more support for my community projects. I was not sure about what to do or what is counted as a community project. (Youth MP)*

### **3.3.3. Youth Press Gallery members wrote about local and political issues**

Youth Press Gallery members were encouraged to complete and publish articles during the Youth Parliament tenure. Many published through *The House* (Radio New Zealand) and the Parliament website through the OOC Communications Lead, while some published elsewhere via their own media connections. Interviewed and surveyed Youth Press Gallery members published articles about:

- civics education
- lowering the voting age
- abolition of the starting out wage
- current political issues
- profiles of Youth MPs.

Some looked at past articles for inspiration, while others wrote about issues they wanted to share or discussed topic ideas with other Youth Parliament participants. Some Youth Press Gallery members worked collaboratively to write articles.

Youth Press Gallery members enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the community in putting together articles as a valuable learning experience.

*[Community engagement] encouraged me to go out of my comfort zone. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

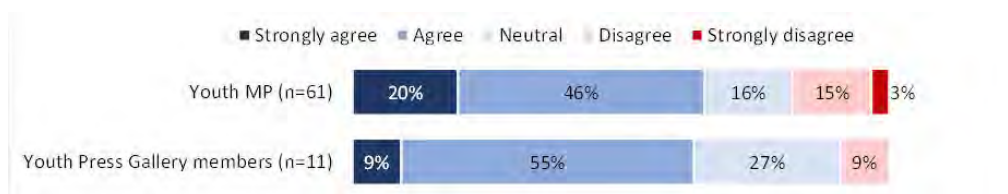


Some Youth Press Gallery members did not publish any articles during the Youth Parliament tenure because of capacity constraints.

### 3.4. Youth Parliament event

#### 3.4.1. Many young people were prepared for the Youth Parliament event

One of the main purposes of the Youth Parliament tenure was to prepare participants for the Youth Parliament event. Only two-thirds of survey respondents (66% of Youth MPs and 64% of Youth Press Gallery members) felt prepared to participate in the Youth Parliament event, with almost 20% of Youth MPs and 10% of Youth Press Gallery members feeling unprepared (Figure 13).



**Figure 13. Participant views about whether they felt prepared for the Youth Parliament event (Source: Survey responses)**

Most young people we interviewed were prepared to participate in the Youth Parliament event based on their prior experience and skills they had learnt from training and their adult counterparts. Some Youth MPs said their MP or MPs staff helped them to prepare their speech, while others prepared by themselves.

Some stakeholders said Youth MPs could benefit from access to speech writers to help prepare them for their general and legislative debates.

#### 3.4.2. Youth MPs enjoyed the intensive three-days at Parliament

Almost all (92%) Youth MPs rated the Youth Parliament event as very good or good (Figure 14).



**Figure 14. Youth MP overall experience of the Youth Parliament event (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

The orientation day at Parliament included a welcome/mihi whakatau, tour of Parliament, population group meetings and a social event. While some Youth MPs missed parts of the orientation day due to flight cancellations, those who did attend generally had a positive experience (Figure 15).

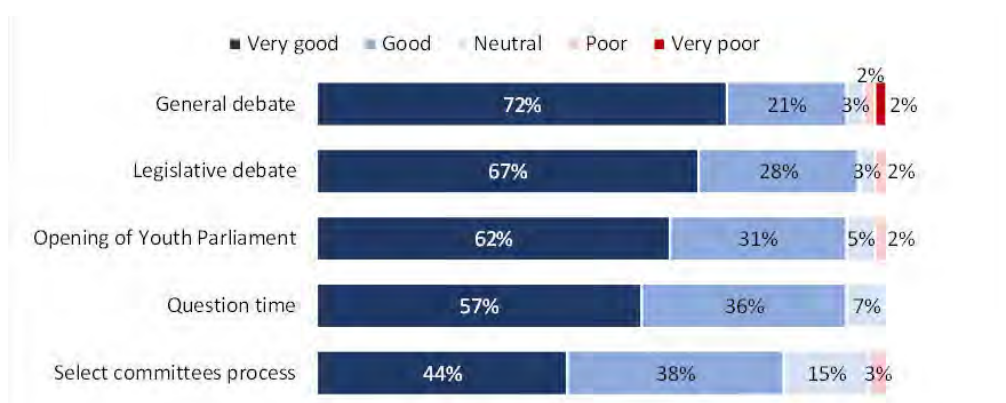


*We got an awesome tour around the Beehive, got a great understanding of the building itself, when it got built and stuff like that and the architects and the paintings there, so that was awesome. (Youth MP)*



**Figure 15. Youth MP satisfaction with orientation day activities (Source: Survey responses, n=49<sup>6</sup>)**

The remaining two days included the opening of Youth Parliament, general and legislative debates, question time and select committees. Almost all surveyed Youth MPs had positive experiences with all activities we asked about (Figure 16).



**Figure 16. Youth MP satisfaction with Parliamentary activities (Source: Survey responses, n=61)**

Youth MPs were assigned to ten select committees covering a range of issues and were provided background information and reading prior to the Youth Parliament event. During the select committees, Youth MPs elected a chairperson, spoke with Government officials, and heard from submitters who were mostly young people. A select committee report was produced with the support of Parliament staff and the chairperson reported back to the House.

Many interviewed Youth MPs enjoyed select committees because they created an opportunity to discuss an issue they were interested in with other young people. The chairperson played an important role in making sure the discussion ran smoothly

<sup>6</sup> n=49 to remove 11 Youth MPs who did not attend the orientation activities due to flight cancellations.



because Youth MPs came into the select committees with different levels of preparedness and knowledge.

*I really enjoyed the select committee ... We felt very listened to and [the chair] was amazing at just keeping the peace and then appearing to hear all sides. (Youth MP)*

Youth MPs had the opportunity to deliver a general debate speech about an issue of their choice, a legislative debate speech about the mock bill, or ask questions of Ministers. All speeches and questions were broadcasted on Parliament TV for whānau and friends to watch. Many interviewed Youth MPs enjoyed completing a speech or asking questions of Ministers, as they could talk about issues that mattered to them and their community. Others enjoyed being able to speak in the House and have their whānau watch.

*[The best bits for me] was the question time. Because it was just interesting hearing how the Prime Minister responded to the questions and the questions that were being asked. (Youth MP)*

The legislative debate speeches contributed to a vote of Youth MPs on the Minimum Wage (Starting-Out Wage Abolition) Amendment Bill. While young people enjoyed the legislative debate, some stakeholders were unsure if the mock bill was the best use of the Youth Parliament event time.

*I want to say the mock bill is quite important, but I actually don't think it is. And I think it's pretty rare that young people are going to be engaged in the legislative process again, and I don't necessarily think that's the best way to teach young people about the legislative process (Stakeholder)*

The Make it 16 campaign, a youth-led campaign that advocated for lowering the voting age to 16 years formed out of Youth Parliament 2019 and has continued since. It was discussed by Youth MPs at the Youth Parliament event and became a sensitive topic after heated debate between the affirmative and opposing sides.

A large number of Youth MPs walked out of the House in protest against a speech many considered offensive. The Youth MPs we interviewed did not consider it an issue, but some stakeholders were more concerned. Some felt it was a reasonable response consistent with the approach their adult counterparts were entitled to take. Others thought it was important to listen and contest the ideas presented and that the walk-out went against the spirit of the Youth Parliament event.

*I think a lot of young people need to understand, while getting up and leaving during the debate is legitimate protest that you can use, you should probably save it for when it really means something like if someone is genuinely being bigoted, rather than when they say something you disagree with. (Youth MP)*

Many young people shared feeling very drained and exhausted by the end of the Youth Parliament event.



*The event is quite condensed ... By the end of it, a lot of us are very tired and we were ready to go home. And so we weren't able to give our full attention to people who were doing finishing speeches. (Youth MP)*

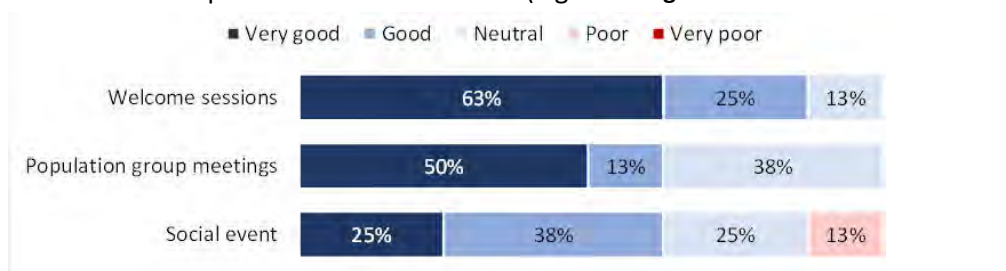
### 3.4.3. Youth Press Gallery enjoyed the Youth Parliament event

Youth Press Gallery members participated in the orientation day with Youth MPs and were assigned to different parts of the remaining two days by the OOC Communications Lead. This created some structure for the Youth Press Gallery members, but they had the autonomy to choose what they wrote about and could roam between activities and engage with Youth MPs. All Youth Press Gallery members who attended the Youth Parliament event rated it as good or very good (Figure 17Figure 17Figure 17).

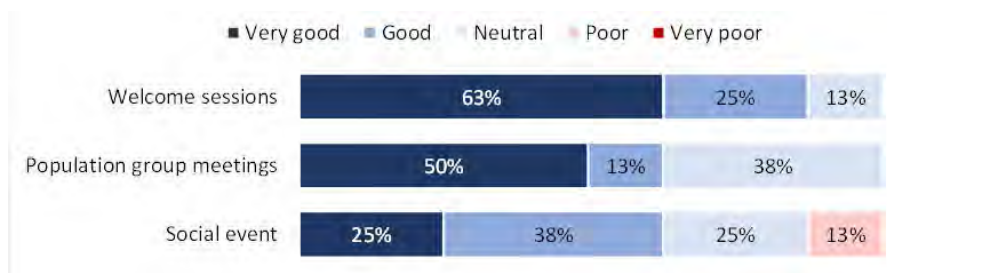


**Figure 17. Youth Press Gallery member overall experience of the Youth Parliament event (Source: Survey responses, n=10<sup>7</sup>)**

The majority enjoyed the orientation day activities, but were less positive about the social event compared with the Youth MPs (Figure 18Figure 18



**Figure 18).**

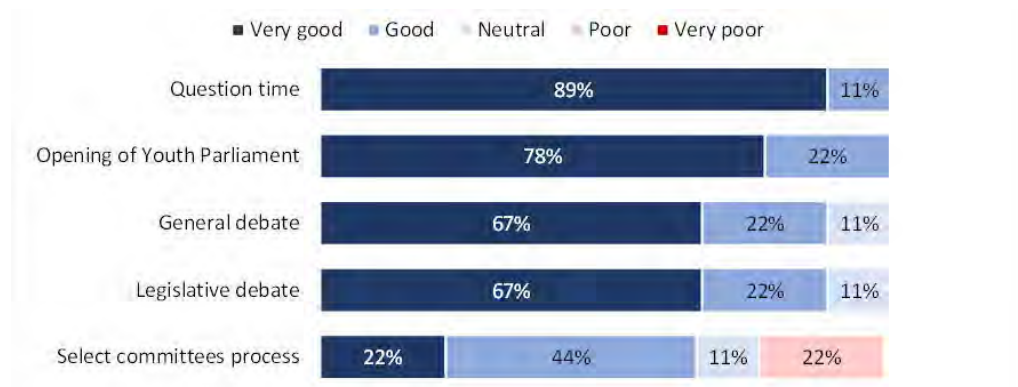


<sup>7</sup> Where one Youth Press Gallery member did not attend the Youth Parliament event due to COVID-19.



**Figure 18. Youth Press Gallery member satisfaction with orientation day activities (Source: Survey responses, n=8<sup>8</sup>)**

Youth Press Gallery members seemed far more positive about the Parliamentary activities on day two and three, although some had a negative experience with the select committee process (Figure 19). One interviewed Youth Press Gallery member said the ability to report on a select committee was dependent on the quality of discussion in the select committee and some select committees did not produce sufficient content to write about.



**Figure 19. Youth Press Gallery member satisfaction of Parliamentary activities (Source: Survey responses, n=9<sup>9</sup>)**

Youth Press Gallery members had a designated workspace during the Youth Parliament event and valued having their own space away from the activities to write and relax.

*[We] had our own room that was separate to everyone else. That was quite helpful because we had our own space and if we need to decompress, we'll go in there ... I thought that was quite good for wellbeing, just having that physical separation away from others. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

They were closely connected as a group despite their ages ranging from 17 to 23 at the time of the Youth Parliament event<sup>10</sup>. Older Youth Press Gallery members provided mentorship and support to younger members, while younger members offered a perspective closer matching the Youth MPs, who were of the same age.

Interviewed and surveyed Youth Press Gallery members published articles about:

- Pasifika experience of Youth Parliament

<sup>8</sup> n=8 to remove two Youth Press Gallery members who did not attend the orientation activities.

<sup>9</sup> n=9 to remove one Youth Press Gallery member who attended day two and three of the Youth Parliament event but did not rate individual activities.

<sup>10</sup> Youth Press Gallery roles were open to a wider age range of young people than Youth MPs, who needed to be aged 16 to 18 years to apply for their role.



- mock bill debate
- Make it 16 campaign
- interviews with Youth MPs.

As for the Youth Parliament tenure, some Youth Press Gallery members did not publish work about the Youth Parliament event because of capacity constraints after the event.

All Youth Press Gallery members were invited to a meeting after the Youth Parliament event with the Youth Press Gallery editors, including the OOC Communications Lead and the editor for *The House*. Most (75%) Youth Press Gallery members attended the meeting. The Youth Press Gallery editors collected Youth Press Gallery members' feedback at the meeting and discussed internship opportunities with them.

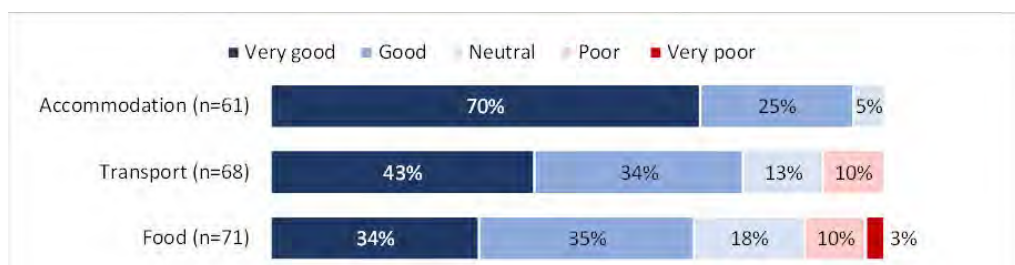
*[After the Youth Parliament event we were] asking them to make pitches for whether they wanted to be involved in the internship. And part of that was also informing them that we were going to be continuing to want pitches from them for stories for which we would potentially pay for the publishing. (Stakeholder)*

#### 3.4.4. Most participants enjoyed the food, accommodation, and transport

Most Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members had positive experiences with the food, accommodation, and transport available to them during the Youth Parliament event, although some had negative experiences with transport and food (Figure 20).

*I think some of our young people were not really happy with the food or the quantity of food. More food, more options. Some of the young people were like, 'What is this kind of food?' 'Too bougie.' Or it's food that young people aren't familiar with and therefore not fulfilling. (Stakeholder)*

*On the Monday, there was a bit of confusion with buses, getting from Parliament to our hotel ... And then there was the closing of Parliament, but people were having to run away to be on planes. (Youth MP)*



**Figure 20. Participant views about accommodation, transport, and food (Source: Survey responses)**

#### 3.4.5. Maintaining the apolitical nature of Youth Parliament was difficult



Youth Parliament is described as apolitical because Youth MPs are not expected to represent their adult counterpart's political party or views. MPs are encouraged not to be party political in their support for the Youth MPs. While the Youth MPs we interviewed did not feel bound to represent the views of their MP, many did find the event political and thought some Youth MPs chose to represent party lines.

*A lot of people had less knowledge than me and went in wanting to learn. I could tell they struggled with super political bias that people had. (Youth MP)*

*Ideally, it would be to set aside their political position. And it's more to work with a Youth MP around the development of their skill sets. (Stakeholder)*

Stakeholders thought this years' event was more political than in the past. The increased focus on the Parliamentary event rather than the community engagement emphasised its more political aspects. Stakeholders also thought some Youth MPs were representing the views of their MPs or that MP staff had contributed to their speech writing.

*I think it's good that people were choosing people that aligned with their party values. But I think inherently that made Youth Parliament a party event, when the whole idea is that it's party neutral, because everyone was like, I support certain party values. (Youth MP)*

Some thought the selection process and the inherently political nature of Parliament pushed the programme towards being more political. Interaction with MPs in their political roles could create pressure, intentional or not, to promote a similar political perspective. Most stakeholders thought additional guidance and support for MPs in their role as apolitical supports for Youth MPs could help but acknowledged the challenges with capacity.

*I think there just needs to be a bit of briefing on how to support your young person to go through the process and to also ensure that agendas are not pushed on to them. (Stakeholder)*

Some Youth MPs and stakeholders believed it was important to be apolitical so the programme could focus on youth development, while others saw the Parliament event as unavoidably political.

*We should realise that this is a place that you can only get into if you are politicised ... No one's gonna get in as an independent, not in the next few decades I don't think. So we need to kind of make it as real as possible, and that even comes down to that party affiliations and all that kind of stuff as well. (Stakeholder)*

In contrast to Youth MPs, Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk had a more apolitical experience as they were encouraged by their adult counterparts to write from an apolitical perspective and provide apolitical advice.



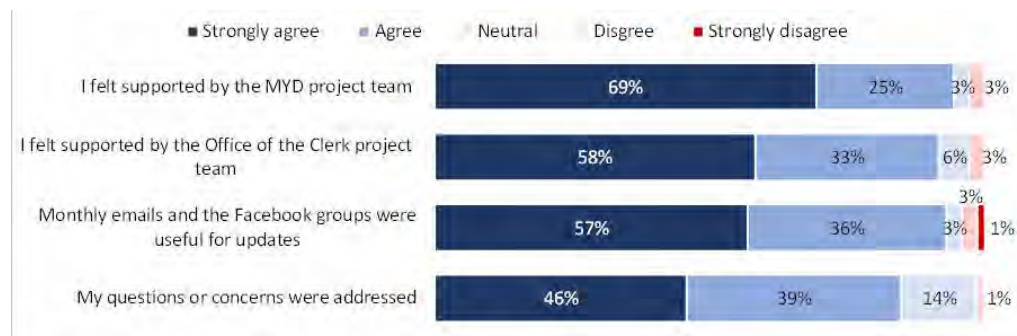
*As a Youth Press Gallery member, we were pretty neutral in terms of the political debates that were taking place at the [Youth Parliament] event. Our role was more to just to write about them. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

### 3.5. Support for Youth Parliament participants

Stakeholders wanted a diverse group of participants and understood the importance of providing different options for support so participants could choose what fit their needs best.

*And those are their [diverse] life experiences that they are coming with, which is what we kind of ask for them to speak from or we ask for them to bring into the space. So how best do we nurture that or look after that in the same way that we have invited it in. (Stakeholder)*

Both MYD and OOC staff were involved in providing support. Most survey respondents felt well supported and had their questions and concerns addressed (Figure 21).



**Figure 21. Participant views about different programme supports (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**

OOC sent participants monthly emails throughout the Youth Parliament tenure and created official Facebook groups for participants. These were the primary channels for communication. The Facebook groups served as forums for participants to ask questions or raise concerns.

MYD also ran several drop-in Zoom sessions for Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members to attend in the lead up to the Youth Parliament event, including an initial session to introduce young people and their whānau to the chaperones, the Wellbeing Team and the wider MYD team. These sessions were another opportunity for participants to meet staff but were not well attended by young people. OOC led the pastoral care support for the Youth Clerk, however they were introduced and connected with the Wellbeing Team during their training day at Parliament.

Stakeholders felt an opportunity was missed to provide wellbeing support during the Youth Parliament tenure and that participants could benefit from support to

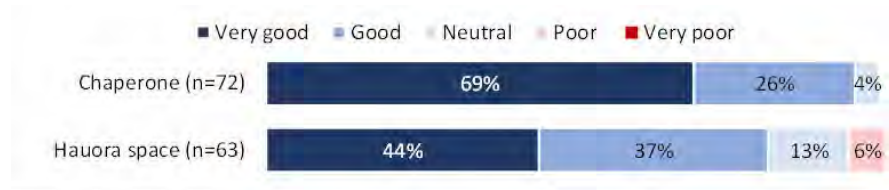


navigate power dynamics from working with adult counterparts and juggling work, school, and Youth Parliament commitments.

*Just being able to check in with the young person and how might they feel a better resourced or supported, even being in one-to-one zooms or meeting in their local MPs offices, and talking through the projects that they're working on. And how much ownership they have about or how obligated they might feel or whether they can push back, or say no. What does that look like? (Stakeholder)*

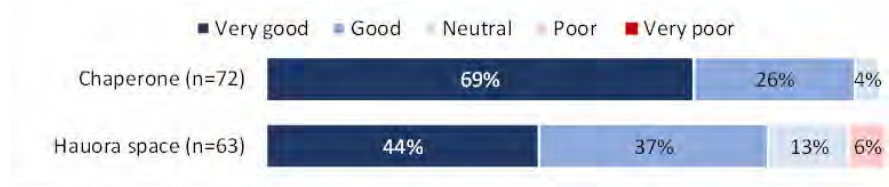
### 3.5.1. Support in the Youth Parliament event

Most survey participants were positive about the support they received during the Youth Parliament event (Figure 22).



**Figure 22. Participant views about wellbeing support during Youth Parliament event (Source: Survey responses)).**

Almost all (96%) felt well supported by their chaperone and many had positive experiences with the hauora space.



**Figure 22. Participant views about wellbeing support during Youth Parliament event (Source: Survey responses)**

Chaperones were the key point of contact, support, and resource for participants during the Youth Parliament event. They attended all three days and spent time with participants during the day and at their accommodation. The chaperone team was made up of MYD staff, including Regional Relationship Managers and other MYD officials, who came from across Aotearoa New Zealand. They were also diverse in ethnicities and gender identity.

Youth MPs were allocated to chaperones based on the select committee they were assigned to. Youth Press Gallery members had their own chaperone. Participants varied in their level of engagement with the chaperones. Some met their chaperone remotely in advance of the Youth Parliament event and received ongoing support, while others did not meet their chaperone until the Youth Parliament event.



*My chaperone was very supportive. He was just there like, so anyone could go to him for anything. After I did my speech, he was just talking through the experience or things with me. (Youth MP)*

The Wellbeing Team was new to the Youth Parliament programme in 2022. It was comprised of three counsellors and a staff member from the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Together they facilitated the hauora space, a place for participants to relax, decompress, eat, and drink, and talk with trained professionals. Many stakeholders made positive comments about the pastoral care support provided to young people, noting the Wellbeing Team was a necessary addition to this programme, but some felt the Wellbeing Team could be more visible to young people across the Youth Parliament event.

*The second day I went to the wellbeing team as I was very like drained. I went to them. So there was a space outside that you could just like unwind for a little, that was good. (Youth MP)*

One gender diverse young person we spoke with felt MYD had done all they could to support gender diversity, and that it was more down to participants' intolerances that made their experience difficult.

*I guess, you're never going to be able to eliminate intolerance. I think it'd be very hard to do. I think, honestly, what MYD has done has been at the best of what they can do. (Youth MP)*

On the other hand, one participant said complaints of bullying after the Youth Parliament event were ignored by MYD.

*We got an email from the Minister of Youth Development team, saying that if you're getting [bullying] after the [Youth Parliament] event, just switch off your social media. And not offering a lot of support ... We found that was felt really insensitive. (Youth MP)*

Stakeholders said some considerations were made to make Youth Parliament physically accessible for young people, such as allowing participants in wheelchairs to speak from the Hansard desk. One chaperone felt limited in their ability to support youth with physical disabilities because they did not have the skill set to support these youth and relied on whānau to provide care. They thought youth with disabilities could benefit from access to trained support staff.

*I feel that, specifically for our young people with physical disabilities, we need to ensure that they have trained professionals on standby or just there in support of them, regardless of whether their family members come along ... [an untrained professional] doesn't do this young person justice, for their experience. (Stakeholder)*

Others said time to debrief after the discussion of sensitive topics, such as experiences of care experienced young people, could further encourage these young people to share.



Some of the pastoral care support available to participants continued after the Youth Parliament event. Two members of the Wellbeing Team offered drop-in sessions for participants, but no young people attended. A stakeholder from the Wellbeing Team felt this may have been due to Wellbeing Team's perceived association with MYD and OOC. Some young people continued to reach out to their chaperones.

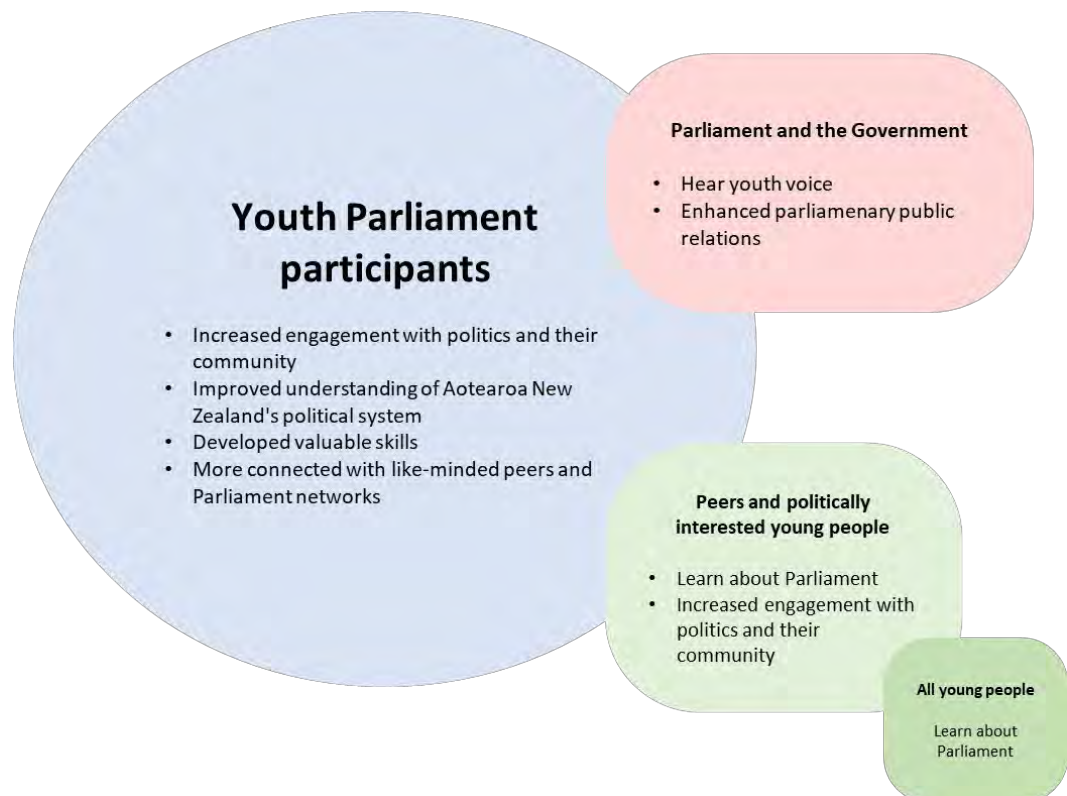
*Talking to a group of Youth MPs at Youth Parliament, one young person, one youth MP, said that it would be unlikely that either them or anyone else from their cohort would reach out to any one perceived to be a part of this entire programme ... that we would be seen as not a safe place to go. (Stakeholder)*

One stakeholder suggested that providing a neutral space to debrief about the Youth Parliament event could be valuable for any participants who did not feel able to talk to the team delivering the programme. They thought reminding participants that the Wellbeing Team is not MYD or OOC staff could be beneficial for this.



## 4. Value of the 2022 Youth Parliament programme

Youth Parliament 2022 was a special and unique experience for the participants. While the benefits of the programme are largely concentrated on the participants, the intended benefits extend beyond the participants to the wider community of young people and Parliament and the Government (Figure 23). It is clear that Youth Parliament had some benefit to other young people, albeit limited to politically interested young people or peers and whānau of participants. Youth Parliament was a significant investment from OOC, MYD, and MSD and stakeholders raised that it was important to consider the resource invested alongside the benefits to the participants directly and the extent to which they extended to the wider community of young people and other stakeholders.



**Figure 23. Value of Youth Parliament to participants and wider**



#### 4.1. Participants were more positive than in 2019

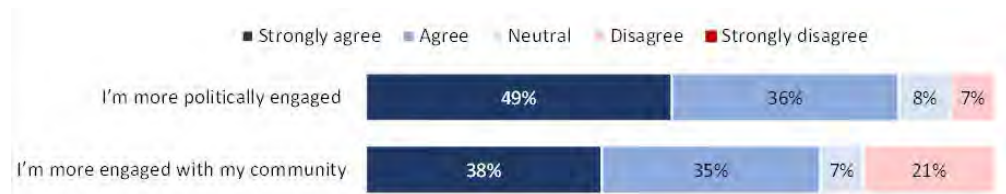
Comparison of 2019 and 2022 survey<sup>11</sup> results suggests participants:

- had more engagement with their adult counterparts
- were more satisfied with the level of engagement with their adult counterparts
- rated their overall experience higher
- experienced more political and community engagement.

#### 4.2. Participants benefited from taking part in Youth Parliament

##### 4.2.1. Participants increased engagement with politics and their community

Young people demonstrated more political and community engagement after participating in the programme. The survey response showed that most respondents had increased their political engagement (85%) and community engagement (73%) since being a part of Youth Parliament (Figure 24).



**Figure 24. Participant political and community engagement after participating in Youth Parliament (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**

Many of the participants had an interest with politics before the programme. That motivated some to take part. Replication of the Parliamentary process improved their understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's political system. Examples included learning more about Parliament, political parties, how the House of Representatives operates, how the select committee works, and being involved in the legislative process. Interviewed young people and stakeholders both identified the increasing understanding of the Parliamentary process were key learnings for young people.

*[Youth Parliament] definitely made me a lot more engaged with Parliament. I always had an understanding of how it works, but it definitely feels a lot clearer that I've got to see it happen. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

<sup>11</sup> Note there was a much higher response to the 2022 survey than the 2019 survey (72 compared to 21). Comparison therefore provides useful indications of differences but are not conclusive.



Interviews with participants suggested these learnings increased their engagement and changed how they saw Parliament.

*I think Youth Parliament helped me engage with politics in general, as beforehand I sort of had a negative view of politics and how it works. So Youth Parliament to me was really like, they actually do things that matters, and you can contribute to that. (Youth MP)*

Young people felt Youth Parliament enabled them to put more thought into who they are going to vote for in the future.

*When I do become able to vote, I will be able to say comfortable and confidently I know how Parliament works, I know the processes that they do, and I think definitely go towards me making a decision when I come to vote. (Youth MP)*

Interviewed young people also showed more interest in connecting with their own community and engaging in community events. Some were already engaged with their communities and volunteered regularly, but the programme had strengthened their feelings around engaging with community.

The programme also helped participants decide whether they wanted their interest in politics to be something they pursued as a career. The experience helped some decide to change to a focus on politics, while others decided to look at other options.

*It's made me want to change my career. I wanted to go into science and marine biology. But next year, I have now applied to everywhere for political science, international relations, and see if they will help me if I can work in the [political space]. (Youth MP)*

*I think the experience has made me realise that actually, the type of people that are involved in politics and the way that it comes about isn't actually something that interests me anymore. I enjoyed [the Youth Parliament event], but this is not how I want to spend the rest of my life. (Youth MP)*

#### 4.2.2. Participants developed valuable skills

The Youth Parliament programme provided young people with opportunities to develop a wide range of skills. Almost all survey respondents (96%) have gained valuable skills through the programme (Figure 25).



**Figure 25. Participant views on whether they gained valuable skills during Youth Parliament**  
(Source: Survey responses, n=72)



The Youth MPs we interviewed described improvements in their:

- leadership skills
- confidence
- communication skills – written and verbal
- understanding of a wider range of perspectives.

*I think Youth Parliament has given me lots and lots of confidence to be able to go out into my community with ideas and say, hey, actually, I can make a change, and I am willing to push a little bit harder. (Youth MP)*

All interviewed Youth Press Gallery members highlighted their development of writing skills and interviewing skills through the programme. They also gained more understandings about the Press Gallery Editor role and political journalism.

*I definitely learnt a lot about writing and how to write for like journalism and writing to the right audience, and making sure your work is really reasonable and accessible to a wide range of ages. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

#### 4.2.3. Participants connected with like-minded peers and Parliament networks

Most interviewed Youth MPs met at least some of the others during the Youth Parliament tenure. The majority of Youth MPs had connected with other Youth MPs with similar political views or from the same region, while Youth Press Gallery members met at their in-person national training.

During the Youth Parliament event, young people enjoyed socialising with like-minded peers from different backgrounds. The participants and stakeholders both highlighted the value of talking with other young people about youth issues.

*Politics is an area not everyone's into, but for two days [we're] in an environment where you're around those kinds of people and they're also of the same age as you. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

Many interviewed participants have stayed in contact with the young people they met during the programme.

*I definitely made like lifelong friends with a lot of them. I think I had a great time meeting people. And I met someone through Youth Parliament, who's now my best friend. (Youth MP)*

Some have built good relationships with their MPs or the Press Gallery editors through their participation in Youth Parliament, where young people found useful resources to develop their career path.

*Now I've got a job in Parliament working as a communications adviser. (Youth MP)*

*They've said, 'Feel free to put us as references in the future if you need'. (Youth Press Gallery member)*



Some Youth MPs wanted more opportunities to talk to the Youth Press Gallery members. Many felt the Youth Clerk was helpful in getting advice about standing orders.

*The Youth Clerk was amazing. I wanted to do a motion without notice, and she was able to put across what I needed to do and gave me that information, and discussions with other Youth MPs. (Youth MP)*

Outside of the participant group, some Youth MPs connected with students in school leadership positions in their area during the Youth Parliament tenure. They thought the connections were beneficial for their personal networks and connection to their communities.

### 4.3. The Government and Parliament heard youth voice

The Youth Parliament event created a space for the Government and Parliament to hear directly from young people. The event brings the voice of 120 Youth MPs, the Youth Clerk, and 19 Youth Press Gallery members to Parliament. Question time, general and legislative debates, and select committees were times for young people to speak about the issues that mattered for them.

Half of surveyed young people (50%) thought issues raised by them had been heard by key decision makers, while nearly one-third (30%) felt their voice was disregarded (Figure 26).

*I think it was more up to MPs and Government workers if they chose to come and listen. (Youth MP)*



**Figure 26. Participant views on whether issues raised by young people were heard by key decision makers (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**

Interviewed stakeholders noted the value of the select committee component in sharing youth voice, as the chairperson of each youth select committee was required to report to the House during Youth Parliament and all reported to their real select committees.

*I was in the primary production select committee, and we were asked back by the primary production select committee, so the actual select committee, to come and report on our report and further expand. (Youth MP)*

The social event and engagement with Youth MPs' adult counterparts through the Youth Parliament tenure were also opportunities for the political leadership to hear from young people directly. Not all MPs engaged with those opportunities.



*It's definitely, especially to youth, the message that, hey, actually, it doesn't matter what you are, we have a valid set of opinions that can be shared. (Youth MP)*

Stakeholders described how youth voice had contributed to their work including:

- Legislative and general debate speeches informing the MYD Youth Plan.
- MPs listening to question time, and general and legislative debates.
- Government agency staff hearing feedback from the mock bill.
- Contribution of select committee feedback in real select committees.
- Media and social media attention.

Stakeholders and participants criticised a lack of mandate for Parliament and Government agencies to listen to and engage with youth shared during the programme and felt it was a missed opportunity to gather valuable insights on youth issues. This was especially noted for the mock bill feedback where participants saw MPs set aside their feedback.

*I think it would be cool if there were a requirement for agencies who supported us with work on the select committee process to then receive back the briefings that have been written by the young people and kind of incorporate that into the work programs. (Stakeholder)*

#### **4.4. Some benefits extended beyond the participants**

Stakeholders suggested that Youth Press Gallery members published more content and more quality content than in previous Youth Parliament programmes. The articles published by the group were one of the main ways for Youth Parliament to reach the wider community of both young people and adults.

*[Youth Press Gallery members] published, I would think, probably three times as much content as they did last [time] in Youth Parliament ... A lot more content, and a lot better content. (Stakeholder)*

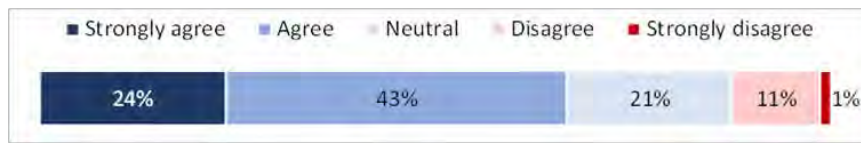
Stakeholders thought more avenues could be explored to raise the profile of the Youth Parliament event, such as giving Youth Press Gallery members access to the Parliament website and social media.

*[I wonder] whether we could have a few more people in the [Press] Gallery by just handing over the logins to the Parliament, website and social media during that time and the Youth Press Gallery themselves run all our external media that week. (Stakeholder)*

##### **4.4.1. Young people positively influenced their peers**

The participants extended a positive influence to their peers and their wider communities. Two-thirds of survey respondents (67%) agreed their peers are more politically engaged as a result of their participation in Youth Parliament (Figure 27).





**Figure 27. Participant views on whether their peers are more politically engaged because of Youth Parliament (Source: Survey responses, n=72)**

Youth MPs described encouraging other young people to use their voice and continue to engage in the community. Many thought that their friends and family became more politically engaged or showed more interest in Parliament.

*A lot of [my friends] wouldn't be interested in the Parliament process, but having someone they knew that had written an article about it got them to engage in those problems. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

Participants also encouraged their peers to vote, share their views in select committees or participate in future Youth Parliament events.

Some participants encountered challenges in reaching other young people who were not already interested in politics.

*I definitely tried to [reach other people] because I had an Instagram account, but the people who follow that Instagram account are the ones that are engaged with politics anyway. (Youth MP).*

Some stakeholders shared hoping participants would report back to their community after participating in Youth Parliament to share their experiences and learnings.

*I hope that [participants] are champions for Parliament ... who are sharing their experience. (Stakeholder)*

#### **4.4.2. Youth Parliament media reached a wider group of young people**

The publicity of Youth Parliament provided a way for young people to learn about Parliament. They could watch their friends and whānau participate on Parliament TV and hear about it on social media and other media. Some said having a space for whānau and friends to attend Youth Parliament could further this engagement.

*I've talked to my friends about it. And I think in general, a lot of my them saw what was happening on social media and kind of got into think about that. And there was also quite a lot of media coverage on it, too. So I think it definitely got people thinking about Parliament and seeing that like young people are engaged with it. (Youth Press Gallery member)*

Having young people submit in Youth Parliament select committees provides a unique insight for them to the select committee process, which may increase their likelihood to participate in select committees or participate in future Youth Parliament programmes.



*[Submitting in a Youth Parliament select committee] gives people that perhaps [are] maybe too nervous to submit to an actual committee, or may not recognise, may go, 'oh I'm not sure if I should do or if I have enough insight to submit to an actual committee'. At least they submit to a youth committee and realise how relaxed it is and actually how it's just about your view, and then feel inspired to come and submit further. (Stakeholder)*

Involving young people in other parts of the programme, such as in the selection of Youth MPs could increase the likelihood of young people voting in the future.

One MP invited all young people who applied to be their Youth MP to visit Parliament and connect with Parliament networks.

#### **4.4.3. Enhanced parliamentary public relations**

Youth Parliament provided a vehicle to promote positive parliamentary public relations. It helped showcase how Parliament works, that it can be accessible for young people and that youth voice is valuable. Apart from the broadcasting on Parliament TV, the articles published by Youth Press Gallery members and the media coverage of the programme were the main avenues to enhance parliamentary public relations. Stakeholders noticed a high volume of media coverage of the Youth Parliament event. These stories and articles had the potential to reach the general public and enabled them to learn about Parliament.

*A lot of [media coverage] was slightly different content than what would often be given, and all of that makes Parliament more open to public, because it's not just people talking about politics, it's talking about parliament, and there is a major difference. (Stakeholder)*



## 5. Summary and recommendations

The 2022 Youth Parliament programme provided a unique opportunity for 140 young people to be more involved in their community, receive an in-depth look at how Parliament works, and to express their views on topics that matter to them. The experience is uniquely valuable for the participants. The benefits to the wider community of young people, Parliament, and the Government could be areas of focus for making the most of the large investment of resource from both MYD and OOC.

Table 3 summarises the evaluation findings and highlights opportunities for development of future Youth Parliament programmes.

**Table 3. Summary of the evaluation findings and suggestions for future Youth Parliament programmes**

Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
<b>What changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OOC led and implemented the Youth Parliament event.</li> <li>• MYD continued to lead youth development support for participants.</li> <li>• MSD continued to provide policy support.</li> <li>• The move to joint delivery governed by the MOU between OOC and MYD strengthened the delivery for 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the benefits of joint delivery between OOC and MYD by reviewing the process and continuing to clarify roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Involve a wider group of agencies to extend the benefits across Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ consider greater contribution by <b>Youth Policy function of MSD</b> to the design of the programme.</li> <li>○ introduce <b>Ministry of Education</b> to use Youth Parliament to contribute to a civics education piece and create an opportunity for participants and their wider community to learn about voting and engaging with the machinery of Government.</li> <li>○ include <b>alumni voice</b> to the design of the programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?</b>	
<b>Application and selection process</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection processes for Youth MPs varied across the country.</li> <li>• Stakeholders felt participants were more representative of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase application and selection process guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information to MPs about selecting a Youth MP, including what others have done in the past and what other MPs are doing.</li> </ul>



Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
Aotearoa New Zealand population than in previous programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Continue to increase diversity of Youth Parliament participants:</b> Promote Youth Parliament as an event for all young people, not just those with leadership experience or political connections. The concentration of the many outcomes in the participant group increases the importance of the selection process being accessible.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Parliament tenure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engagement and contact with adult counterparts varied for Youth MPs, but was more consistent for Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk.</li> <li>● The majority of young people engaged with their community.</li> <li>● Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles on local and political issues.</li> <li>● Participants enjoyed their various trainings, but found in-person sessions more valuable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increase guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information for MPs about Youth Parliament, including what role MPs are expected to play in supporting Youth MPs and what Youth MPs should complete during Youth Parliament. Include examples of previous success stories.</li> <li>● <b>Provide more clarity for MPs about their role in supporting Youth MPs:</b> More clarity about role of MPs in providing apolitical support and supporting community engagement.</li> <li>● <b>Set clear expectations of Youth MPs for community engagement:</b> Post-COVID-19 there is an opportunity to clarify expectations for Youth MP community engagement. This could be in the form of a minimum requirement for Youth MPs to engage with their community and collect and share community voice.</li> <li>● <b>Increase in-person training:</b> Utilise in-person training as much as possible. If online training is needed, make it shorter, more digestible, and more interactive.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Parliament event</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The majority of participants felt prepared for the Youth Parliament event, but a large group did not.</li> <li>● Most young people had positive experience during the event, but Youth MPs agreed it was intensive.</li> <li>● Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles about the event and Youth MPs.</li> <li>● The event was more political than in previous programmes, but Youth Press Gallery members and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Extend pre-event educational opportunities for participants:</b> Create opportunities for Youth MPs to engage with speech writers to assist with development of their speeches, prepare young people for navigating different perspectives, and increase familiarity with Youth Parliament standing orders.</li> <li>● <b>Continue to refine the Youth Parliament Standing Orders to make the Youth Parliament event youth-friendly:</b> The role of the Youth Clerk and the Youth Parliament Standing Orders was important. Planning time for applause and considering removing some of the more difficult to plan aspects of debate (for example, motions without notice) in the House could make it easier to manage without reducing its value for participants.</li> </ul>



Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
the Youth Clerk were encouraged to be apolitical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Focus the parliamentary activities on the most valuable components:</b> Simplify parliamentary activities and make them less information heavy. Consider opportunities to remove events altogether, such as the mock bill. Consider the value of adding opportunities for more debate between participants and time for debrief after the sharing of sensitive topics.</li> <li>● <b>Create working spaces for Youth MPs:</b> Have working spaces available to Youth MPs, like the space available to Youth Press Gallery, with printing facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Youth Parliament participants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young people felt well-supported by MYD and OOC and had very positive experiences with their chaperones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increase opportunities to engage with Wellbeing Team:</b> Create opportunities for participants to engage with wellbeing supports during the Youth Parliament tenure, increase visibility of Wellbeing Team during the Youth Parliament event, and distinguish the Wellbeing Team from MYD and OOC staff.</li> <li>● <b>Further improve support for youth with disabilities:</b> Provide access to trained professionals to support youth with disabilities to participate.</li> </ul>
<b>How did participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?</b>	
<p><b>Value for participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased engagement with politics and their community.</li> <li>● Improved understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's political system.</li> <li>● Developed valuable skills</li> <li>● More connected with like-minded peers and Parliament networks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Value for Parliament and the Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hear youth voice.</li> <li>● Enhanced Parliamentary public relations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Value for all young people:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learn about Parliament.</li> </ul>	<p>If benefits to the wider community are an important outcome of the Youth Parliament programme they could be enhanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Further raise the profile of the Youth Parliament event:</b> Set up a webpage and social media channel for Youth Press Gallery members during the event.</li> <li>● <b>Increase community engagement with Youth Parliament:</b> Encourage participants to report back to their community about their experience and learnings, have a space for friends and whānau to attend and engage with the Youth Parliament event, and potentially involve young people in the selection process.</li> </ul>



Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased engagement with politics and their community.</li> </ul>	



## Appendix 1: Evaluation Framework

High-level questions	Sub-questions	Data Sources
<b>What was changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?</b>		
What did increased collaboration between MYD and OOC mean for Youth Parliament 2022?	What was the intention of increasing collaboration between MYD and OOC for participants?	Interviews with stakeholders
	How did MYD create positive youth development opportunities and provide support for participants?	Interviews with stakeholders
	How did OOC lead and implement the two-day Youth Parliament event? What did this mean for participants? How was the event promoted to the public and media?	Interviews with stakeholders
What was recommended in the 2020 evaluation, but was not changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme?	What recommendations were not implemented? Why were recommendations not implemented?	Interviews with stakeholders
<b>How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?</b>		
How did young people become involved with the programme?	How did young people hear about Youth Parliament?	Survey of young people
	How were Youth MPs selected to participate in the programme? Did selection differ across the regions?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people
	Were participants representative of the Aotearoa New Zealand population?	Survey of young people
How did young people experience the six-month Youth Parliament programme?	What role did MPs, Press Gallery members and the Clerk of the House play in the programme? How did they interact with young people?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	What opportunities did young people have in the six-month Youth Parliament programme?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people



High-level questions	Sub-questions	Data Sources
	What support did young people have in the six-month Youth Parliament programme?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How closely were young people able to work with their adult counterparts?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How did the participating young people engage with others because of Youth Parliament 2022?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How valuable was the six-month programme for participants?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
How did young people experience the Youth Parliament event?	What did young people do during the Youth Parliament event?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	What support was available to young people to fully engage in the event?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How well did the event replicate Parliamentary processes?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	What opportunities are there to strengthen the Youth Parliament event for young people?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How valuable was the Youth Parliament event for participants?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
How did young people share their opinions with policy agencies?	How did young people collaborate with policy agencies?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people



High-level questions	Sub-questions	Data Sources
	How will/have policy agencies use/d reports produced in Youth Parliament 2022? How is this information to be provided to young people?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people
<b>How did participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?</b>		
Did Youth Parliament 2022 increase participants' political/civic/community engagement?	What did young people learn about their democracy/civic education? How does this reflect what they already knew?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
	Have young people already changed, or do they plan to change, their civic participation (voting, volunteering, community activities, political activities)?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
How did young people engage with their communities?	How were Youth MPs incentivised to engage in community projects? What barriers stopped them from engaging in community projects?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people
	How did Youth MPs inform their community of parliamentary actions and processes?	Interviews with young people
	What opportunities were available to Youth Press Gallery to disseminate their writing?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
	How were Youth Press Gallery supported to disseminate their writing?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
	What other opportunities have young people had to engage with their community?	Interviews with young people
What changes have young people experienced as a result of their participation?	What did young people learn from participating in Youth Parliament 2022?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
	Have young people influenced their peers and community to become more politically engaged?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people
	Have there been other outcomes for young people because of Youth Parliament 2022?	Interviews with young people, survey of young people



High-level questions	Sub-questions	Data Sources
<b>What opportunities are there to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme?</b>		
What opportunities exist to improve the Youth Parliament programme?	What improvements could be made to the application and selection process?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	What improvements could be made to the programme and the Youth Parliament event? What other educational opportunities could be available for young people?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people
	How could youth be better supported to engage in Youth Parliament?	Interviews with stakeholders and young people, survey of young people



## Appendix Four: Youth Parliament 2022 organisation and delivery roles and functions summary

Role / function	Lead Responsibility		
	MYD	Office of the Clerk	MSD Child and Youth Policy
Project planning	✓	✓	✓
Secretariat support for the Minister for Youth	✓		
Working Business Committee/Whips to provide updates/ seek advice on Youth Parliament		✓	
Liaise with the Office of the Prime Minister		✓	
Liaise with MP Offices regarding Youth Parliament		✓	
Liaise with the Office of the Governor General		✓	
Support participant selection and liaise with guardians		✓	
Lead development and delivery of participant training content		✓	
Organise and deliver a social function	✓		
Programme costs: Develop budget, pay for costs associated with planning and delivery of Youth Parliament 2022 in its current format	✓		
Lead Youth Parliament communications		✓	
Coordinate Youth Parliament information available online		✓	
Organisation and delivery of the Parliamentary aspects of the orientation programme and two-day event, including all aspects relating to the procedure of the House		✓	
Organise travel, accommodation and pastoral support for participants involved in the Parliamentary aspects of the orientation programme and two-day event	✓		
Primary liaison with Parliamentary staff and contractors		✓	
Briefing all Parliamentary staff, contractors, officials, and the Office of the Speaker about Youth Parliament		✓	
Delivering the topic selection and development process with appropriate input by the Office of the Clerk			✓
Coordinating the drafting of select committee background papers			✓
Drafting instructions and developing a notes and context document for the mock bill			✓
Facilitate public submissions on each inquiry topic, draft summaries of submissions, liaise with selected advisors on invitations to witnesses and committee session logistics, and write select committee reports		✓	
Finalise inquiry topics, select advisors for each select committee, and write the background papers for each inquiry		✓	
Sourcing independent advisors and witnesses for each Youth Parliament select committee, and hosting them at the two-day event		✓	



## Appendix Five: High-level indicative timeline for planning and delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025

Project Phase	High-level Description	Indictive Timeline
Initial project planning	Agreement to initiate Youth Parliament programme	June 2024
	Confirmation of Project management and Governance structure	(TBC)
	Preparation of Member of Parliament (MP), Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG) and Clerk of the House (Clerk) Information to support their respective roles	Mid-July 2024
Participant selection period	MP, PPG and Clerk information packs designed and distributed	By 30 August 2024
	Launch of selection process for Youth MPs and Youth PG members	01 September 2024
	Selected Youth MPs and Youth PG members announced	Early December 2024
Training period	Facebook group and communication established with Youth MP and Youth PG members	Early December 2024
	Youth MP and Youth PG information packs developed	By mid-December 2024
	Regional training sessions organised, and travel arranged for Youth MP and Youth PG members	Mid-January 2025
	Regional training sessions delivered	February – March 2025
Youth Parliament Preparation	Topic and mock bill selection	Late October 2024 to mid-May 2025
	Mock bill drafted	
	Select committee background papers written and distributed	
	Youth MPs invited to indicate preferred topic/s for select committee	
	Select committee hearing, witnesses and experts confirmed	
	Select committee allocation	
	Debating chamber activity allocation	
	Online participant training planning	
	Select committee submission process	
	Select committee submission collation and circulation	
	Online participant training	
Youth Parliament event	Two-day event programme written and distributed	End-May 2025
	Participant handbook written and distributed	Mid-June 2025
	Two-day Youth Parliament 2022 event	July 2025
Evaluation	Evaluation report	September 2025



## Appendix Six: Potential opportunities for the Minister for Youth's involvement in a Youth Parliament in 2025

Activity	Proposed Location/Details	Potential Minister for Youth involvement
Ballot draw of Youth Parliament mock bill	Event at Parliament (e.g., Banquet Hall) Event could be livestreamed on New Zealand Parliament Facebook page	Attend with an option to say a few words
Youth Parliament participant online training event	Online - pre-recorded video, or real-time attendance via video conference	Welcome and introduction to Youth Parliament
Youth Parliament participant orientation at Parliament	Event at Parliament	Co-host with Speaker Speak as one of the whenua welcoming the participants at the pōwhiri Kai follows the pōwhiri with an opportunity to mix and mingle with participants
Social event for Youth Parliament participants	Event at Parliament (likely to be the Banquet Hall)	Co-host with Speaker Opportunity to speak Minister for Youth could write to all members of Parliament to invite them to attend
Youth Parliament opening ceremony	Event at Parliament (Legislative Council Chamber)	Opening address speech Minister for Youth could write to the Governor-General and invite them to open a Youth Parliament in 2025 Minister for Youth could write to all members of Parliament to invite them to attend
Youth Parliament Question Time	Parliament (Debating Chamber)	Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>as a participant, if a specific question is directed by a youth member of Parliament to the Minister for Youth, and/or</li> <li>as an observer to proceedings</li> </ul>
Youth Parliament closing ceremony	Event at Parliament (Grand Hall)	Co-host with Speaker Opportunity to speak, mix and mingle with participants Minister for Youth could write to all members of Parliament to invite them to attend
Final Youth Parliament 2025 participant online training	Online - pre-recorded video, or real-time attendance via video conference	Thank you to participants and closing comments of a Youth Parliament in 2025

**Note:** Further opportunities may be identified, subject to the final design and planning of a Youth Parliament programme for 2025.



## Appendix Seven: Indicative Budget for a Youth Parliament in 2025

This table provides an indicative budget for a Youth Parliament in 2025, based on the 2022 expenditure.

**Note** this excludes expenditure met by OoC in 2022.

Item	Cost \$
Catering and meeting room hire costs <sup>1</sup>	\$60,000
Travel (airfares, taxi fares, car parking, buses, car hire etc)	\$65,000
Accommodation	\$55,000
Professional services (photographer, NZ Sign Language interpretation)	\$9,500
Documentation production, printing, stationery and consumables	\$8,000
Live filming/broadcasting	\$12,000
Sub total	<b>\$209,500</b>
<b>Staffing</b>	
Dedicated project staff (Project Coordinator and Project Manager)	\$200,000
Total estimated cost	<b>\$409,500</b>

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<sup>1</sup> There are no charges for accessing the Parliament precinct



**Reference:** REP/24/7/639

**Background** New Zealand's Youth Parliament was first held on Monday 19 September 1994 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. Subsequently, on 03 April 1995, Cabinet agreed that a Youth Parliament would be held on a three yearly basis, led by the Minister for Youth, and administered by MYD in conjunction with OoC [CAB (95) M11/10 refers].



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A Youth Parliament has subsequently been delivered once every parliamentary term. The last Youth Parliament was held in 2022 and the next Youth Parliament is due to be delivered in 2025.

The Youth Parliament programme has historically had two components:

- a six-month tenure involving engagement with members of Parliament (MPs) or Press Gallery journalists/editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support, and
- a two-day event at Parliament with mock legislative and general debate speeches, select committees, and a question time session with Ministers of the Crown present.

On Monday 27 May 2024, you received the report 'Information on Youth Parliament' from MYD. This report contains information on the benefits of the programme to young people, and the roles and responsibilities of the Speaker, Clerk, Minister for Youth, MYD and OoC [REP/24/05/454 refers].

#### *Youth Parliament 2022*

For Youth Parliament 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding between MYD, Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora, and OoC was developed, which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in delivery.

- OoC had the lead role in running the **participant selection** process, including liaising with Members of Parliament and their electoral offices, and **delivering the two-day event**. OoC covered the **costs associated with the Youth Clerk** attending Youth Parliament 2022.
- MYD retained the lead for providing **youth development support for Youth Parliament participants during the six-month tenure**, including pastoral care and community connections, managed by MYD staff and project management resource. MYD covered the **majority of operational costs** associated with Youth Parliament 2022, including travel and accommodation for the 120 Youth MPs and 20 Youth Press Gallery members, through its baseline budget.
- MSD's Child and Youth Policy team provided **policy support**.

A copy of the agreed key roles and functions, by each agency, for Youth Parliament 2022, is attached as **Appendix One**.

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#### **Engagement on Options for Youth Parliament in 2025**

As you are aware, early planning has commenced for delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025, including with the OoC.

Following your meeting with the Speaker and the Clerk on 30 May 2024, MYD has consulted with OoC and members of the MYD YAG on potential options for delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025:

- A 'Business as Usual' Youth Parliament (i.e., a six month tenure for Youth MPs and Press Gallery members, and a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament)
- A scaled back Youth Parliament (i.e., a one-day Youth Parliament event)
- A local civics education programme.

#### *OOC Feedback*

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- Financial resourcing constraints means OoC is currently unable to support the delivery of either of the potential Youth Parliament options in 2025, including no staff available in July 2025 to support a two-day event. In addition, we understand that the 12th Commonwealth Youth Parliament will be hosted by the New Zealand Parliament from Monday 02 – Thursday 05 September 2024 which would place pressure on personnel resourcing from OoC during the planning and implementation stages for a Youth Parliament in 2025.
- OoC's Parliamentary Engagement team and Parliamentary Services have a number of youth focussed engagement initiatives that could be included in a regional civics education programme.

At this stage, OoC has advised their support for any of the potential options is limited to business-as-usual activities i.e. Parliament tours and small-group educational visits.

#### *YAG Feedback*

- There was strong support for the 'Business as Usual' model with some ideas for enhancing the experience and value expressed.
- YAG members articulated that cancelling Youth Parliament or scaling it back would send the message of cost-cutting a youth voice programme.
- There was also strong support for a local civics education programme, but YAG members didn't consider this would be an alternative to the current Youth Parliament programme. YAG members noted Youth Parliament had its own mana and strong visibility of youth voice and provided a unique experience to participants. The YAG suggested there would be value in running both programmes.

While the engagement was small and not representative of the wider youth population, the YAG's feedback provided a good indication from young people who have some knowledge and/or experience of the Youth Parliament programme.

#### **Resourcing of a Youth Parliament in 2025**

The delivery of a Wellington-based Youth Parliament event will require the support and resourcing from the OoC at a similar level to the 2022 programme. OoC has a specialist role within Parliament that includes Parliamentary Engagement, secretariat services to the House of Representatives and direct access to members of Parliament which MYD is unable to replicate. However, there may be ways we can reduce the resourcing impact on OoC in some areas e.g., considering whether Select Committee reports and Hansards are required to be produced in the way it's been done previously, or at all.

As previously advised, MYD does not have an allocated budget to support the delivery and implementation of Youth Parliament in 2025, which has been absorbed in the MYD baseline budget in the past. MYD will provide you with further advice on the delivery of a Youth Parliament, including potential funding options to support its delivery.

#### **Oral item at Cabinet**

You have indicated you may wish to consult with your Cabinet colleagues on the outcome of this meeting with the Speaker and Clerk. Given Youth



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	Parliament is Cabinet-mandated, any change to the status quo would likely require a Cabinet decision. If you decide to proceed with Youth Parliament you may also wish to discuss funding options with your colleagues.
<b>Risks/Issues</b>	<p>To deliver a 'Business as Usual' Youth Parliament in 2025, a decision to proceed would likely be needed by mid-August 2024. Any delay would impact on the implementation timeline and the ability to deliver a two day event in July 2025, as well as the time available for members of Parliament to undertake a robust Youth MP selection process (this process would usually commence in early September 2024). A high-level timeline for a 'Business as Usual' Youth Parliament 2025 is attached as <b>Appendix Two</b>.</p> <p>As Youth Parliament has a long-standing history, there may be public scrutiny and criticism should it not be delivered within the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary term.</p>

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File Ref: A16288018



## Appendix One: Youth Parliament 2022 organisation and delivery roles and functions summary

Role / function	Lead Responsibility		
	MYD	Office of the Clerk	MSD Child and Youth Policy
Project planning	✓	✓	✓
Secretariat support for the Minister for Youth	✓		
Working Business Committee/Whips to provide updates/ seek advice on Youth Parliament		✓	
Liaise with the Office of the Prime Minister		✓	
Liaise with MP Offices regarding Youth Parliament		✓	
Liaise with the Office of the Governor General		✓	
Support participant selection and liaise with guardians		✓	
Lead development and delivery of participant training content		✓	
Organise and deliver a social function	✓		
Programme costs: Develop budget, pay for costs associated with planning and delivery of Youth Parliament 2022 in its current format	✓		
Lead Youth Parliament communications		✓	
Coordinate Youth Parliament information available online		✓	
Organisation and delivery of the Parliamentary aspects of the orientation programme and two-day event, including all aspects relating to the procedure of the House		✓	
Organise travel, accommodation and pastoral support for participants involved in the Parliamentary aspects of the orientation programme and two-day event	✓		
Primary liaison with Parliamentary staff and contractors		✓	
Briefing all Parliamentary staff, contractors, officials, and the Office of the Speaker about Youth Parliament		✓	
Delivering the topic selection and development process with appropriate input by the Office of the Clerk			✓
Coordinating the drafting of select committee background papers			✓
Drafting instructions and developing a notes and context document for the mock bill			✓
Facilitate public submissions on each inquiry topic, draft summaries of submissions, liaise with selected advisors on invitations to witnesses and committee session logistics, and write select committee reports		✓	
Finalise inquiry topics, select advisors for each select committee, and write the background papers for each inquiry		✓	
Sourcing independent advisors and witnesses for each Youth Parliament select committee, and hosting them at the two-day event		✓	



## Appendix Two: High-level timeline for the delivery of a 'Business as Usual' Youth Parliament in 2025

2024					
Late-July	August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Funding options to be considered</u> (MYD, MSD, OoC)</li> <li><u>Cabinet oral item</u></li> </ul>	<p>A decision to proceed with a 'BAU' Youth Parliament is required by mid-August<sup>1</sup>. Next steps would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Formal approval from the Prime Minister</u> (normal practice is a letter from the <b>Minister for Youth and the Speaker</b>)</li> <li><u>Appointment of an MYD Youth Parliament Project Manager</u> (MYD) ★</li> </ul>	<p><u>Participant selection period</u> (Information packs created, promotional period, engaging with MPs / Electorate offices, selection process) (OoC)</p>			<p><u>Announcing successful candidates</u> (Youth MPs, Youth Press Gallery) (<b>Minister for Youth [tbc], MYD</b>)</p>
		<p><u>Youth Parliament two-day event preparation</u> (mock bills, select committee papers, logistics, etc) (MYD, MSD Policy, and OoC)</p>			

2025							
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Youth Parliament two-day event preparation continues (mock bills, select committee papers, logistics, etc) (MYD, MSD Policy, and OoC)						Youth Parliament Two-Day event (Mid-July) ★	31 August 2025 - Tenure period ends
Participant training sessions ★		1 March 2025 – Tenure period commences					
(MYD, MSD Policy, OoC)							

★ = funding implications for MYD

<sup>1</sup> A decision to proceed with a 'BAU' Youth Parliament by mid-August (including confirmation of funding) allows:

- up to six weeks (from late-July to the end of September) to: seek the Prime Minister's approval for Youth Parliament 2025, refresh recruitment information packs, present a Youth Parliament information and expectations paper to the Parliament Business Committee
- up to eight weeks, in October and November, for participant selection, including providing MPs with supporting material for selection processes
- up to three weeks to complete due diligence process in preparation for announcing successful Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members mid-December 2024.



# Report



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAITO TAIOHI

*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*

Date: 15 August 2024

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

Reference: REP/24/08/737

## Youth Parliament – Options for 2025

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report is a requested report-back on options for delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025, within available personnel and financial resourcing for the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, and the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai confirmed its support for the next Youth Parliament would be limited to business-as-usual activities, such as Parliament tours and small-group educational visits
- 2 **note** the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai confirmed any Youth Parliament activity outside of its business-as-usual would require additional resourcing
- 3 **note** the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai has a specialist role within Parliament that includes Parliamentary Engagement, secretariat services to the House of Representatives, and access to members of Parliament which the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi is unable to replicate
- 4 **note** the costs associated with delivery of activities led by the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi for a Youth Parliament in 2025 could be met within the Partnering for Youth Development multi-class appropriation
- 5 **note** that Ministry of Youth Development– Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi officials would like to discuss this report at the Youth officials meeting scheduled for Monday 19 August 2024.

John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

15/08/2024

Date

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

19/8/24

Date



## Background

- 2 During an officials meeting on Thursday 25 July 2024, you requested further information on options for delivering a Youth Parliament 2025, within available personnel and financial resourcing for the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, and the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi.
- 3 As previously indicated [REP/24/07/639 refers]:
  - OoC has a specialist role within Parliament that includes Parliamentary Engagement, Secretariat services to the House of Representatives, and direct access to Members of Parliament (MPs) which MYD is unable to replicate
  - the delivery of a standard Youth Parliament (i.e., a six-month tenure for Youth MPs, a Youth Clerk of the House (Youth Clerk) and Press Gallery members, and a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament) will require support and resourcing from the OoC at a similar level to the 2022 programme.
- 4 Neither OoC or MYD have a separate budget or personnel resourcing specifically assigned to the Youth Parliament programme. MYD has reviewed the standard Youth Parliament programme to identify opportunities and options for a Youth Parliament in 2025, which delivers on the intentions and aims of Youth Parliament but is implemented in a manner which seeks to minimise the work programme and resourcing demands for both OoC and MYD.

## The Youth Parliament Programme

- 5 Aotearoa New Zealand's first Youth Parliament was held on Monday 19 September 1994. As outlined in the Social Policy Committee Cabinet Paper SPC (96) 104, Youth Parliament aims to:
  - replicate the parliamentary process
  - provide an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and engage with their local communities, to involve as many young people as possible (before and after the Youth Parliament event)
  - make known the views expressed to appropriate policy agencies
  - maximise the educational opportunities of the Youth Parliament event
  - enhance parliamentary public relations.
- 6 Youth Parliament provides opportunities for around 140 young people, aged 16 – 24 years, to learn about and experience the Aotearoa New Zealand political process, as Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) and Youth Press Gallery members, and for the first time in 2022, a Youth Clerk. The programme has historically had two components:
  - A six-month Youth Parliament tenure involving engagement with electorate Members of Parliament (MPs) or Press Gallery journalists/editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support.
  - A two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament in Wellington with mock legislative and general debate speeches, mock select committees, a mock question time session with Ministers of the Crown, and other parts of the parliamentary process.
- 7 The Youth Parliament programme is an investment in youth development through providing a high-quality programme that encourages and supports young people to develop, alongside gaining new knowledge, skills, and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.
- 8 Subject to a Youth Parliament being approved for 2025, MYD is proposing the programme is adapted to be delivered within the capacities and limitations of the agencies involved in its



implementation, including reallocating some functions. Programme design will also incorporate findings from the evaluations undertaken in 2019 and 2022, to strengthen the youth development aspects of the programme and to increase the reach of the programme, involving as many young people as possible.

### **Progress update from Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai**

- 9 MYD met with OoC on Wednesday 31 July 2024 and Monday 12 August 2024. Options for reducing the resourcing ask and the scaling of Youth Parliament were discussed with OoC. Due to OoC's specialist role and expertise within Parliament their support would still be required to deliver any version of a Youth Parliament.
- 10 OoC have reiterated that they are not resourced to support the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025 that involves any activity beyond their business as usual activities e.g. Parliament tours and small-group educational visits.
- 11 In order to implement any proposed Youth Parliament programme for 2025 OoC have advised that they would therefore require additional funding and resourcing.

### **Options for consideration subject to funding**

- 12 MYD has reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in the delivery of Youth Parliament 2022, to identify which functions could be maintained, amended, or removed to enable the implementation of a Youth Parliament in 2025.
- 13 MYD is proposing the tenure period for Youth Parliament 2025 is streamlined to a maximum four months. A four-month programme would run from Monday 31 March 2025 to Thursday 31 July 2025. A period of just over 16 weeks allows time for selected Youth MPs (YMP) to connect with their MP, engage with their communities, and prepare for the Youth Parliament two-day event, if it was to be held in the July 2025 recess and school holiday period. MYD would look to improve the guidance provided to MPs to support their YMP during this period, which was something that the evaluation of the 2022 programme recommended and should improve its value.
- 14 As previously mentioned, a YMP selection process would usually be expected to commence in early September 2024 [REP/24/7/639 refers]. From October 2024 many students will be preparing for exams, making it challenging to promote the Youth Parliament opportunity to young people from this time onwards. Further delay, beyond the end of August 2024 in commencing the recruitment process would be best approached by delaying the Youth Parliament two-day event, to be held in the October 2025 recess period (school holidays), rather than July 2025.
- 15 Streamlining the Youth Parliament tenure period would also support an extended period to complete participant selection and training and is likely to ease the personnel resourcing requirements on OoC and MYD between August 2024 and March 2025.
  - remove the recording and live screening of Youth Parliament 2025
  - replace the formal social event with a youth-friendly whakawhanaungatanga (establishing relationships) session.
- 16 Outside of removing and/or replacing some factors which have been historically included within the programme to replicate the Parliamentary process, MYD has assessed these proposed changes as not having significant impacts on the remaining key aims of Youth Parliament, and has focused on incorporating factors which will provide a positive youth development opportunity.



## Proposed role and responsibilities for Youth Parliament 2025

### *Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai*

- 17 OoC's specialist role and expertise within Parliament is crucial to effectively implement the participant selection process, and the smooth running of the Youth Parliament 2025 select committee and general debate sessions in July 2025. Where possible, MYD would work with OoC to minimise the impact on its personnel resources.
- 18 As previously mentioned, OoC would require new dedicated resourcing to support any Youth Parliament activity beyond its business-as-usual role. To implement any proposed programme for 2025, the dedicated input and support that would be required from OoC includes:
  - working in partnership with MYD to support MPs to select a Youth MP
  - supporting the select committee secretariat function during the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event, if this option was included
  - supporting the general debate component of the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event.

### *Reducing the resourcing requirements on OCC*

- 19 To further reduce the resourcing requirements on OoC, the following changes could be introduced to the Youth Parliament 2025 programme:
  - design and implement a low-key opening of Youth Parliament, which would include an opening address by the Minister for Youth, and an Official photo opportunity
  - remove the legislative debate (mock Bill) and allocate more time to the general debate (individual speeches)
  - remove the requirement to write-up and present Select Committee reports to Youth Parliament 2025; or
  - replace the Select committee sessions with a new activity
  - remove the Hansard reporting requirement for Youth Parliament 2025.

### *Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi*

- 20 A major responsibility for MYD is covering the main costs associated with the Youth Parliament programme, which for 2025 is estimated to be in the region of \$410,000.00. For MYD to support Youth Parliament 2025, additional project resource and reprioritisation will be required. MYD will seek to manage this within the Partnering for Youth Development multi-class appropriation (MCA) budget and current work programme.
- 21 MYD has received confirmation from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Finance team it can manage its costs for Youth Parliament 2025 across the Departmental Output Expenses and Non-Departmental Output Expenses categories of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA. MYD is required to ensure the overall spend at year-end is within the total funding level of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA in any given financial year.
- 22 For Youth Parliament 2025, MYD would retain the lead for providing youth development support for Youth Parliament participants, including providing pastoral care and community connections.
- 23 MYD is preparing to recruit project resource to support delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025, and this will be in place once a decision is made to proceed.



## **Key Risks and/or Issues**

- 24 At present OoC have confirmed that they are not able to provide support for a Youth Parliament without new dedicated resourcing and funding. They hold a specialist role and expertise which is crucial to effectively delivering a Youth Parliament be that a traditional or revised format.
- 25 A key risk with not delivering a Youth Parliament in 2025 is potential criticism from young people, and other interested stakeholders in relation to this long-standing youth development opportunity.

## **Next steps**

- 26 MYD officials welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this report at the Officials' meeting on Monday 19 August 2024.

File Ref: A16353071

Author: Dibs Patel, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



# Report



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

**Date:** 24 September 2024

**Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

**Reference:** REP/24/09/861

## Options for Youth Parliament 2025: Update

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with an update on progress made towards the planning, implementation, and funding of Youth Parliament 2025, seeks your decision on proposed timeline and governance arrangements, and outlines next steps.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Note** the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai has confirmed it can contribute to supporting the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025, but that its support will be limited to activities it can deliver within its available baseline resourcing and business as usual activities
- 2 **Note** the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will be taking on responsibility for some areas previously led by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, such as the recruitment process for Youth Parliament participants
- 3 **Agree** to the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, in conjunction with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, designing, planning, and implementing a Youth Parliament 2025 programme

Agree / Disagree

- 4 **Agree** the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event will be held either during the:

4.1 July 2025 Parliamentary recess period

Agree / Disagree

Or

4.2 September/October 2025 Parliamentary recess period (*recommended*)

Agree / Disagree



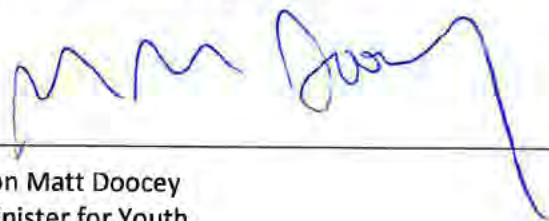
- 5 **Note** following your agreement, the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will prepare a draft letter to the Prime Minister to request his approval to host the Youth Parliament event occurring during your selected recess period
- 6 **Note** if the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event is held in July 2025 the participant selection process would need to commence mid-November 2024
- 7 **Note** previous Youth Parliaments have benefitted from having a cross-Parliamentary reference group consisting of members of Parliament from different political parties, as well as a Press Gallery representative
- 8 **Agree** to establish a Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree

*Keith Newton*

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Keith Newton  
Acting General Manager, Youth

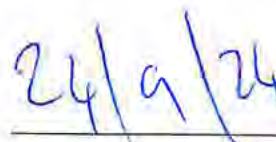


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Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

24 September 2024

Date



Date



## Background

- 2 The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity for young people from around Aotearoa New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system, government decision-making processes, and to actively work on and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about by key decision-makers, other young people, and the general public. The next triennial Youth Parliament programme is due to be delivered in 2025 [REP/24/5/454 refers].
- 3 The Youth Parliament programme is an investment in youth development through providing a high-quality programme that encourages and supports young people to gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences and supports them to participate confidently in their communities.

## Delivering a Youth Parliament 2025

- 4 Subject to your formal agreement to hold a Youth Parliament 2025, the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi intends to deliver a programme that strengthens and enhances the opportunity for young people.
- 5 As previously indicated [REP/24/07/639 refers], the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai has a specialist role within Parliament that includes parliamentary engagement, secretariat services to the House of Representatives, and direct access to members of Parliament (MPs) which MYD is unable to replicate.
- 6 On Friday 06 September 2024, MYD provided your Office with a progress update on Youth Parliament 2025, noting that "OoC has confirmed they can contribute to supporting the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025 noting their support will be a reduction from their involvement in 2022, and will be limited to activities they can deliver within their current baseline resourcing".
- 7 To ensure a positive Youth Parliament experience can be delivered in 2025 within the resourcing available, planning work has commenced with OoC to design a programme that delivers on the overarching goal and intentions of Youth Parliament, and capitalises on the roles, relationships, and areas of expertise of each agency. At the same time, it is proposed that the 2025 programme will not replicate functions that do not directly add value to participants' learning and experience.
- 8 Findings from the evaluations undertaken in 2019 and 2022 will also be taken into account throughout the Youth Parliament 2025 programme design, including a focus on strengthening the youth development aspects of the programme.

### *Reallocation of roles and functions*

- 9 On Tuesday 10 September 2024, MYD discussed with OoC the key functions/activities it will be in a position to support in a proposed Youth Parliament 2025 programme. OoC's final responsibilities will be confirmed once detailed planning is undertaken; however early discussions have indicated OoC's involvement will be limited to:
  - supporting the opening and closing of Youth Parliament 2025
  - facilitating the use of the Parliament precinct venue and facilities
  - supporting MYD to make connections with MPs, and their local electoral teams
  - supporting with aspects of the pre-Youth Parliament 2025 online training programme that relate to OoC-led activities
  - supporting the replication of some parliamentary processes, e.g., General Debate, Parliamentary cross-party groups, and/or mock Question Time



- delivering an educational tour of the Parliament precinct.
- 10 Other functions/activities that OoC delivered in 2022, that it has indicated it is unable to replicate in 2025, include:
- promotion of the Youth MP and Youth Press Gallery member recruitment and selection process, and supporting MPs and their Offices
  - drafting updated Standing Orders for Youth Parliament 2025
  - leading cross-Parliament communications with the different political parties (managed through the House Business Committee and Parliament Engagement Committee in 2022)
  - appointment and support for a Youth Clerk
  - preparation of a Mock Bill
  - recording and live screening via Parliament TV
  - providing Hansard support
  - drafting Select Committee reports.
- 11 In relation to the first two bullet points in paragraph 10, MYD will take the lead responsibility for supporting the promotion and selection process of Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members for Youth Parliament 2025. MYD will also set expectations around the standard of behaviour required of Youth Parliament participants, which will be focused on during the participant training period.
- 12 A cross-Parliament reference group is proposed below for your consideration, which would provide an alternate avenue for managing cross-Parliament communications.
- 13 For the remaining bullet points in paragraph 10, MYD has not identified any significant impacts to the overall programme that will result from removing and/or replacing the functions/activities which have historically been included to support the replication of the Parliamentary process and would need to be delivered by OoC due to their specialist role in the Parliament precinct. Most of these activities are considered to be low value learning and experience opportunities in the standard programme, offering limited youth development for the majority of the participants. There appears to be a longstanding tradition and history around some of these aspects which is worth noting (e.g., Hansard records), however the removal of these aspects is considered low impact in relation to the overall programme delivery.

### *Youth Parliament Resourcing*

- 14 As previously advised, MYD does not have an allocated budget to support the implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament. Since its inception, Youth Parliament costs have been absorbed within the MYD baseline Departmental Output Expenses (DOE) budget. This has been mainly achieved via savings (e.g., delaying appointments to vacancies) and/or reallocated budgets.
- 15 We have previously indicated that it is unlikely MYD will be able to absorb the approximate \$410,000.00 cost of a Youth Parliament in 2025. However, MYD has now confirmed with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Finance team it can manage its costs for Youth Parliament 2025 across the DOE and Non-Departmental Output Expenses (NDOE) categories of the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA).<sup>1</sup> In practice, by the end of the financial year, MYD's DOE budget may reflect an

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<sup>1</sup> The single overarching purpose of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA is to improve outcomes for young people through youth development.



overspend, which will be offset by an underspend within the NDOE budget. MYD must just ensure the overall spend at year-end is within the scope and overall limit of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA in any given financial year.

- 16 MYD is progressing with the recruitment of a dedicated fixed-term full-time project manager to lead the design, planning, and implementation of Youth Parliament 2025. We anticipate this role will be on board by early October 2024.
- 17 For Youth Parliament 2022, OoC had approximately 1.5 FTE dedicated to the Youth Parliament programme. OoC has indicated its intention to appoint an existing staff member to a part-time (8-10 hours per week) Youth Parliament 2025 liaison role.
- 18 Once these project staff are appointed, they will commence detailed project planning, which will include attending Youth officials' meetings where required. They will work closely with MYD Ministerial Services staff and your Office throughout the planning stages.

#### *Youth Parliament Participant selection process*

- 19 Youth Parliament has traditionally consisted of one Youth MP per sitting MP. In 2025, this would equate to 123 Youth MPs (aged 16 to 18 years), representing 65 general electorate seats, seven Māori electorate seats, and 51 list MPs.
- 20 A Youth Press Gallery also forms part of the standard Youth Parliament membership, consisting of up to 20 young people aged 16 to 24 years. In 2022, a Youth Clerk was recruited; however, it is unlikely OoC will be able to support a similar role in 2025.
- 21 The recruitment of Youth MPs is usually completed by each individual sitting MP. MYD anticipates a similar format will be expected for Youth Parliament 2025. As MYD will need to incorporate this work alongside an already large set of responsibilities and does not have the direct access to MPs that OoC does, we will be looking at ways to simplify the recruitment process to further align it with the programme outcomes of Youth Parliament. MYD intends to discuss options with you at the next Youth officials' meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15 October 2024.
- 22 MYD is proposing to seek the support of the Press Gallery Chair for the recruitment process for Youth Press Gallery members.

#### **Timeline**

- 23 Youth Parliament has typically consisted of a tenure for participants which commences at selection, includes approximately six months to undertake community engagement projects and training, and culminates in a two-day event at Parliament which is held during the standard three-week recess period in July.
- 24 Given the constraints on time and resourcing to deliver the Youth Parliament programme in 2025, there are alternate options for you to consider with regard to the length of the participant selection period, the timing of two-day event, and length of the community engagement period. A high-level timeline with key dates for these options is attached at **Appendix One**.

#### *Youth Parliament two-day event – July 2025 option*

- 25 Historically the two-day Youth Parliament event has been held during the end of term two school holiday/Parliamentary recess period.<sup>2</sup> Should you wish to proceed with a July 2025 event, this would result in a reduction in the available time for the participant selection process, from ten weeks to five weeks, with appointments made by the end of February 2025. This is likely to place

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<sup>2</sup> The Youth Parliament 2022 two-day event was held on Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 July 2022.



pressure on both interested young people and MPs/Electorate Offices to complete the application and selection process within a shorter timeframe than they were anticipating.

- 26 The Term Two 2025 school holidays are scheduled from Monday 30 June to Friday 11 July 2025. The Parliamentary calendar will likely be confirmed in mid-December 2024/early January 2025, however MYD understands that the July recess period may reduce from three to two weeks in 2025. OoC has also advised there is another significant event planned to take place in Parliament during this time. An additional risk with this timing is there is a higher chance of travel disruptions during the winter months which is something that was experienced in Youth Parliament 2022.
- 27 To partially mitigate against the risk of a five-week selection period, there is an option to commence the promotion and selection process earlier from November 2024 onwards. However, MYD is aware that most young people aged 16-18 years will already be out of school and harder to access due to study commitments. There is an option to keep the promotion and selection period open during the first few weeks of Term One 2025, noting this would again attract a significant engagement challenge over the summer period with young people, MPs, and their Electorate Offices.

*Youth Parliament two-day event – September/October 2025 option (recommended)*

- 28 MYD considers holding the two-day event during the end of Term Three school holiday/Parliamentary recess period would be a more viable option. The Term Three 2025 school holidays are scheduled from Monday 22 September to Friday 03 October 2025. This would provide more time to prepare for the training of participants, the community project period, and would enable participants to better plan their year ahead.
- 29 MYD is aware that traditionally the Term Three school holiday period is close to the exam period which is generally during Term Four and following the derived exam period schools often hold in Term Three. To mitigate against Youth Parliament interfering with student studies and exams, MYD would ensure that the focus of pre-work activities is completed in Term Two, with a smaller workload expected in Term Three while students prepare for derived exams, noting young people may have opted into other extra-curricular activities over this period. MYD would recommend the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event is held during the first week of the Term Three school holiday period, on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 September 2025, to provide more time for study after the event.
- 30 It is proposed the Youth Parliament 2025 participant recruitment phase would take place from the end of January 2025, with selected participants being announced at the end of April 2025.<sup>3</sup> This would allow the official Youth Parliament tenure period to commence from early-June 2025, providing adequate time for the preparation of recruitment and promotion material and briefing of MPs. It would also avoid the school holiday period when young people are likely to have less availability and be harder to reach, and less focused on learning and development opportunities.
- 31 A standard step in the Youth Parliament planning process is the Minister for Youth seeking the Prime Minister's permission to the dates for holding the two-day event in the Parliament precinct. Subject to agreement, MYD is proposing you seek the Prime Minister's approval to hold the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event during the end of Term Three school holiday/Parliamentary recess period.

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<sup>3</sup> The 2025 school term starts between Monday 27 January (at the earliest) and Friday 07 February (at the latest) and ends Friday 11 April 2025.



*Community engagement period*

- 32 Noting constraints on time and resourcing across all parties, MYD is proposing the tenure for Youth Parliament 2025 programme participants is reduced to an approximate four-month period, regardless of whether the two-day event takes place in July or September/October. This is shorter than the Youth Parliament 2019 and 2022 programmes, which were a six-month tenure period.
- 33 A four-month tenure period will still allow sufficient time for participants to connect with their MPs, engage with their communities, and prepare for the Youth Parliament two-day event. Previous evaluations have indicated the tenure period wasn't utilised by many Youth MPs, with many not undertaking community engagement or only for a short period of time. In the Youth MP training, there will be specific guidance set for this period around expectations for community engagement, with the intention to strengthen the youth development aspects of the programme and increase its reach to a wider group of young people contributing their voices. We will also incorporate in the guidance for MPs more specific ideas on how they can support Youth MPs during this period.
- 34 Subject to your agreement:
- For the July two-day event, the four-month tenure would commence Monday 17 March 2025 through to Friday 25 July 2025, and the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event would be held on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025, when we anticipate there will be a parliamentary adjournment period.
  - For the September/October two-day event, the four-month tenure would commence Monday 02 June 2025 through to Friday 03 October 2025, and the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event would be held on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 September 2025, when we anticipate there will be a parliamentary adjournment period.
- 35 A high-level timeline is attached at **Appendix One**, providing key dates and actions for both options.

**Cross-Parliament leadership and oversight**

- 36 The Minister for Youth has lead responsibility for the Youth Parliament programme. Previous Youth Parliaments have also utilised governance processes<sup>4</sup> to support the Minister for Youth to fulfil this role, which invite representation from each of the political parties, as well as a Press Gallery representative. These representative multi-party groups have traditionally been chaired by the Minister for Youth with secretariat support from MYD.
- 37 The role of multi-party group members includes advocating with their Parliamentary colleagues on the opportunity for young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform. Members are also a conduit to inform and update members' respective caucuses, can champion an objective, nonpartisan Youth Parliament and its youth development focus, and provide guidance and input into the options for the organisational processes leading up to the two-day event.
- 38 For Youth Parliament 2022, OoC and the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives (Speaker of the House) (who was joint host of Youth Parliament with the Minister for Youth) took responsibility for all MP engagement and these functions were undertaken by the House Business Committee and the MP Engagement Committee. Given the lesser role OoC will play in the programme, this is not considered an option for Youth Parliament 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> For Youth Parliament 2022, OoC utilised the existing Parliamentary MP Engagement Committee



- 39 We anticipate that a Multi-Party Reference Group, likely to be made up of different political parties' Youth spokespersons, or an appropriate representative, alongside a representative from the Press Gallery, would be beneficial to the final design, planning, and delivery, for Youth Parliament 2025.
- 40 If you opt to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group for Youth Parliament 2025, we anticipate it could provide input into:
- the selection process for Youth Parliament participants
  - the design of the Youth Parliament community engagement period
  - the programme for the Youth Parliament two-day event
  - MPs' involvement and participation in the selection process, tenure period, and two-day event.
- 41 We expect the group could meet two to three times in the lead-up to the two-day Youth Parliament event. Each meeting would be scheduled for approximately 30 minutes to an hour and could be held virtually, if required.
- 42 Subject to your agreement, MYD will work with your Office to identify the best approach to inviting representation from invited parties. The first meeting would ideally take place in November 2024, with an agenda focused on the following draft topics:
- Youth Parliament background information.
  - Proposed Youth MP and Youth Press gallery member selection process.
  - Proposed role of MPs in Youth Parliament 2025.
  - Dates/times and agendas for future meetings.
- 43 MYD, in conjunction with OoC, will hold responsibility for implementing actions agreed by the Multi-Party Reference Group, and ensure the design and delivery of a Youth Parliament experience which meets the expectations of stakeholders.

## Next steps

- 44 Following your review and approval of recommendations in this report, and during your upcoming leave, MYD will:
- draft a letter from you to the Prime Minister outlining plans for the delivery of Youth Parliament 2025 and seeking his agreement for the next Youth Parliament two-day event to be held on your preferred dates.
  - draft a request to the Speaker of the House seeking his permission to hold the event, and orientation programme, within the Parliamentary precinct during the agreed Parliamentary recess period.
  - work with your Office to consider options for you to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group and invite select MPs to participate.
- 45 At the next Youth officials' meeting on Tuesday 15 October 2024, MYD will discuss:
- options for you to announce Youth Parliament 2025 and key dates for the programme, which will be coordinated with invites to a Multi-Party Reference Group of MPs. You may also wish to inform your Cabinet colleagues prior to any announcement.
  - options for the recruitment and selection of MPs.



- 46 MYD will commence preparing an information pack for MPs to guide them through the process of selecting a Youth MP. We anticipate a draft will be made available for your review by late October 2024, and you may then choose to consult your Multi-Party Reference Group.

File Ref: A16445347

Author: Dibs Patel, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Acting General Manager Youth, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: Youth Parliament 2025 High-level Timeline

2024											
September			October			November			December		
Term 3			Holidays			Term 4			Holidays		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Decision to proceed with Implementing a Youth Parliament in 2025</li><li>Appointment of Project Manager (MYD)</li></ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Formal approval from the Prime Minister</li><li>Send letter to the Speaker of the House</li><li>Establish a Multi-Party Reference Group (TBC)</li></ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Publicly announce Youth Parliament 2025 dates</li><li>Hold the first Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group meeting (TBC)</li></ul>					
2025: For a September event											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			
Holidays	Term 1			Term 2		Holidays		Term 3		Holidays	
Distribution of information packs and promotional material to MPs, engagement with Electorate Offices, as required, to support selection process. Participant selection period (ten weeks). All selections to be completed by Friday 04 April 2024				Participant training		Youth MP tenure period					
Announce opening of application process		Promote the Youth Parliament 2025 application process		Announce successful candidates		Youth Parliament two-day event preparation					
						Friday 03 October 2025 - Tenure period ends					
2025: Alternative Timeline, for a July two-day event											
Participant selection period (ten weeks, subject to application process commencing in November 2024)			Participant training			(Participant training may slightly overlap with the tenure commencement)			Two-Day event (Tuesday 01 - Wednesday 02 July)		
									Friday 25 July 2025 - Tenure period ends		



# Report



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAŌ TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Date: 27 September 2024

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

Reference: REP/24/09/900

## Youth Parliament 2025: Letters to the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of Representatives seeking approval

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with draft letters to send to the Prime Minister and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, seeking their agreement to the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event being held in the Parliament precinct during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Note** the proposed dates for the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event are Tuesday 01 to Wednesday 02 July 2025
- 2 **Sign** the letters to the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, seeking their agreement to hold the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event in the Parliament precinct during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment
- 3 **Agree** to send the letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives first and await his support and approval of the dates before sending the letter to the Prime Minister.

Agree / Disagree

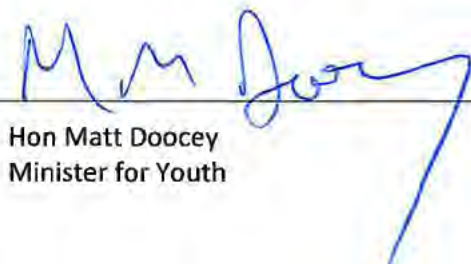
Agree / Disagree

*Keith Newton*

Keith Newton  
Acting General Manager, Youth

27 September 2024

Date

  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

22/10/24  
Date



## Background

- 4 On Tuesday 24 September 2024, you agreed to the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event being held in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment [REP/24/09/861 refers].
- 5 As per previous practice, and the standard process for Youth Parliament programme planning, you are required to seek the Prime Minister's agreement to hold the next Youth Parliament event on your preferred dates. You also must seek the Speaker of the House of Representative's (the Speaker) formal approval to holding the event in the Parliament precinct on those dates. The proposed dates for the two-day event are Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025.

## Draft letter to the Speaker

- 6 To support you to seek the Speaker's agreement to the use of the Parliament precinct for the two-day event on your preferred dates, a draft letter is attached for your consideration as **Appendix One**.
- 7 You have met with the Speaker on two occasions to discuss options for Youth Parliament 2025. As this letter will be the first formal notification to the Speaker that you intend to proceed with the programme, it provides information about key elements of the proposed programme design, OoC involvement, and an offer for him to get involved in the detailed planning and oversight of the event.

## Draft letter to the Prime Minister

- 8 To support you to seek the Prime Minister's agreement to hold the next Youth Parliament event on your preferred dates, a draft letter is attached for your consideration as **Appendix Two**.
- 9 As this letter may be the first opportunity for the Prime Minister and his Office to be made aware of the Youth Parliament programme, it provides background information on Youth Parliament, an overview of the proposed 2025 programme and timeline including the participant selection process, and notes your intention to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group.

## Next steps

- 10 Subject to your agreement to these letters, MYD will work alongside your Office to finalise and send the letter to the Prime Minister's and Speaker's Offices. It is recommended that this letter is sent to the Speaker and his approval and support is confirmed before the letter to the Prime Minister is sent, particularly as this may alter the proposed dates for the two-day event.
- 11 At the next Youth officials meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 October 2024, MYD will provide an update on:
  - planning for Youth Parliament
  - subject to approval from the Prime Minister and the Speaker to your preferred dates, options for announcing the Youth Parliament event, and
  - options for you to establish the Multi-Party Reference Group and invite select members of Parliament to participate.

File Ref: A16476292

Author: Dibs Patel, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Acting General Manager Youth, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



**Appendix One – Draft letter to the Speaker (attached separately)**

**Appendix Two – Draft letter to the Prime Minister (attached separately)**



## **Appendix One: Draft Text for a Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee  
Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Mr Speaker

### **Youth Parliament 2025**

Thank you for your support for Youth Parliament 2025.

This letter seeks your approval to hold the two-day Youth Parliament in the Parliamentary Precinct during the Parliamentary adjournment in July 2025, and I wish to propose the tentative dates of Tuesday 01 to Wednesday 02 July 2025. As is standard practice for Youth Parliament, once I have your approval, I will also seek the Prime Minister's agreement.

My expectation is the Youth Parliament programme is an investment in youth development through providing a high-quality programme that encourages and supports young people to gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences and supports them to participate confidently in their communities.

I understand the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) has advised it can contribute to supporting the delivery of a Youth Parliament in 2025 within its available baseline resourcing and 'business as usual' activities. As this is reduced support from previous youth parliaments, my officials at the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will take the lead responsibility for the planning and delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme, including supporting Members of Parliament (MP) to select a Youth MP to represent them and their community over a four-month tenure, culminating in the two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament. MYD will also work with the Parliamentary press gallery to select up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members.

The Youth Parliament 2025 programme is still early in the design phase, and I expect MYD to work closely with OoC officials (within their availability) to ensure the event aligns with both your and my expectations. Some aspects which have historically been included in the Youth Parliament programme to replicate the parliamentary process will not be included in the 2025 programme in order to reduce OoC's workload. This includes:

- drafting updated Standing Orders for Youth Parliament 2025
- appointing a Youth Clerk
- preparing a Mock Bill
- recording and live screening the event via Parliament TV
- providing Hansard support
- drafting Select Committee reports.

As part of the preparation for Youth Parliament, I intend to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group of MPs to support the development of the Youth Parliament programme, as well as asking members of the group to keep their caucuses informed and engaged with the event.



Reflecting the nonpartisan nature of Youth Parliament, the group will include MPs from each party represented in Parliament and include a representative of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Should you agree to the two-day event being held in the July 2025 adjournment, and once the 2025 House sitting programme has been confirmed, your Office's approval will be sought to use a number of facilities in the Parliamentary Precinct including the Debating Chamber of New Zealand's House of Representatives, Legislative Council Chamber, Grand Hall, Banquet Hall and Select Committee rooms on and around 01-02 July 2025.

I am on leave from Saturday 28 September to Sunday 18 October 2024, however once I return it would be great to discuss your interest in being involved in the oversight and planning of Youth Parliament, including the two-day event.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth



## Appendix Two: Draft Text for a letter to the Prime Minister

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister  
Executive Wing

Dear Prime Minister

### **Youth Parliament 2025**

I have been in discussions with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and my officials at the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi regarding options for a Youth Parliament in 2025. I have agreed that my officials at the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, with support from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC), will take responsibility for the planning and delivery of a Youth Parliament 2025.

As there is no formal budget for Youth Parliament, and support from OoC is going to be less than in previous years, I have decided to proceed with a modified programme, but one that will still deliver a unique and valuable youth development experience of the Parliament environment for the participants.

Youth Parliament 2025 will still broadly follow the previous programme model, with 123 Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) and up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members. It will consist of a four-month tenure which culminates in a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament.

As is standard practice, I am seeking your agreement to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has agreed to the proposed dates of Tuesday 01 to Wednesday 02 July 2025.

### **Background**

Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every parliamentary term [CAB (95) M11/10 refers]. This event has continued under the leadership of the Minister for Youth, and the last Youth Parliament was held in 2022.

Youth Parliament enables key parliamentary and government decision makers to hear from young people from around Aotearoa New Zealand on what is important to them. It also provides an opportunity for those involved to learn about parliamentary and government decision making processes through representing their communities, participating in general debates, in mock working groups and asking parliamentary questions of Ministers.

### **Next Steps**

As per past practice, each Member of Parliament (MP) will be asked to select a Youth MP to represent them and their community. MYD will provide MPs with information and guidance to assist them with selecting their Youth MP. The Youth MP and Youth Press Gallery selection process is planned to be completed by February 2025, to coincide with the start of the new school term and to allow for selected young people to begin their four-month tenure in the New Year.



During their four-month tenure Youth MPs will receive training, engage with the MP who selected them, work on self-initiated projects, and prepare for and attend the two-day event. Youth Press Gallery members will report on Youth MPs' tenure activities and the Youth Parliament event itself.

As part of the preparation for Youth Parliament, I am intending to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group. Reflecting the nonpartisan nature of Youth Parliament, I am anticipating this group will comprise a Member of Parliament from each political party represented in Parliament, as well as a representative of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. The group's role will be to support the development of a Youth Parliament programme, as well as keeping their caucuses informed and engaged with the event.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth





**23 OCT 2024**

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Prime Minister

## **Youth Parliament 2025**

I have agreed that the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will commence planning for the delivery of a Youth Parliament 2025, with support from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC).

I have been in discussions with the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and my officials regarding options for a Youth Parliament in 2025. As there is no formal budget for Youth Parliament, and support from OoC is going to be less than in previous years due to resourcing constraints, I have decided to proceed with a modified programme, but one that will still deliver a unique and valuable youth development experience of the Parliament environment for the participants.

Youth Parliament 2025 will still broadly follow the previous programme model, with 123 Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) appointed by each Member of Parliament (MP) and up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members appointed by the Press Gallery. It will consist of a four-month tenure, incorporating a period for Youth MPs to engage with their communities and a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament.

As is standard practice, I am seeking your agreement to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment, on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025. I am also seeking the agreement of the Speaker for the use of the parliamentary precinct on these dates, noting the 2025 sitting programme is yet to be finalised.

## **Background**

Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every parliamentary term [CAB (95) M11/10 refers]. Since then, Youth



Parliament has been held each term under the leadership of the Minister for Youth, and the last Youth Parliament was held in 2022.

Youth Parliament enables key parliamentary and government decision makers to hear from young people from around New Zealand on what is important to them. It also provides an opportunity for those involved to learn about parliamentary and government decision making processes through representing their communities, participating in general debates, in mock working groups and asking parliamentary questions of Ministers.

### **Next Steps**

In mid-November, I plan to announce my intentions to host Youth Parliament 2025. Following this, each MP will receive an information pack to support them to select a Youth MP to represent their community.

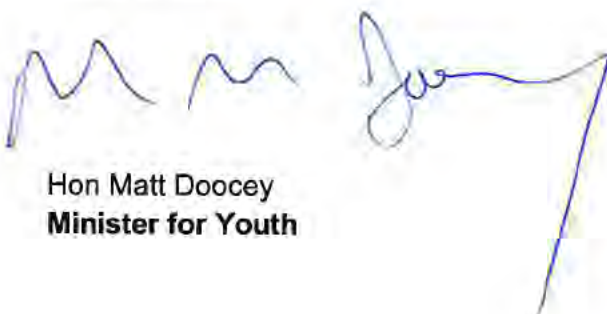
MPs will be able to promote the Youth MP selection any time from early December 2024, but applications for all Youth MPs will officially open in February 2025 to coincide with the start of the new school term. MPs will be asked to advise my officials of their chosen Youth MP by Tuesday 01 April 2025, and the four-month tenure for selected young people will run from Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 29 August 2025. MYD will be seeking the assistance of the Press Gallery to appoint the Youth Press Gallery members.

During their four-month tenure Youth MPs will receive training, engage with the MP who selected them, work on self-initiated projects within their communities, and prepare for and attend the two-day event in early July. Following the two-day event, Youth MPs will report back to their communities and have the option to continue with their community engagement projects. Youth Press Gallery members will report on Youth MPs' tenure activities and the Youth Parliament event itself.

I am intending to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group to support the successful delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme. Reflecting the non-partisan nature of Youth Parliament, I am anticipating this group will comprise a Member of Parliament from each political party represented in Parliament, as well as a representative of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. The group's role will be to support the development of a Youth Parliament programme, as well as keeping their caucuses informed and engaged with the event. Following your agreement to this letter, I intend to write to each Party Leader to request a nomination from their Party as a Multi-Party Reference Group representative.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth



# Hon Matt Doocey

Minister for ACC  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality  
Minister for Youth  
Associate Minister of Health  
Associate Minister of Transport



23 OCT 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Prime Minister

## Youth Parliament 2025

I have agreed that the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will commence planning for the delivery of a Youth Parliament 2025, with support from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC).

I have been in discussions with the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and my officials regarding options for a Youth Parliament in 2025. As there is no formal budget for Youth Parliament, and support from OoC is going to be less than in previous years due to resourcing constraints, I have decided to proceed with a modified programme, but one that will still deliver a unique and valuable youth development experience of the Parliament environment for the participants.

Youth Parliament 2025 will still broadly follow the previous programme model, with 123 Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) appointed by each Member of Parliament (MP) and up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members appointed by the Press Gallery. It will consist of a four-month tenure, incorporating a period for Youth MPs to engage with their communities and a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament.

As is standard practice, I am seeking your agreement to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment, on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025. I am also seeking the agreement of the Speaker for the use of the parliamentary precinct on these dates, noting the 2025 sitting programme is yet to be finalised.

## Background

Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every parliamentary term [CAB (95) M11/10 refers]. Since then, Youth



Parliament has been held each term under the leadership of the Minister for Youth, and the last Youth Parliament was held in 2022.

Youth Parliament enables key parliamentary and government decision makers to hear from young people from around New Zealand on what is important to them. It also provides an opportunity for those involved to learn about parliamentary and government decision making processes through representing their communities, participating in general debates, in mock working groups and asking parliamentary questions of Ministers.

### **Next Steps**

In mid-November, I plan to announce my intentions to host Youth Parliament 2025. Following this, each MP will receive an information pack to support them to select a Youth MP to represent their community.

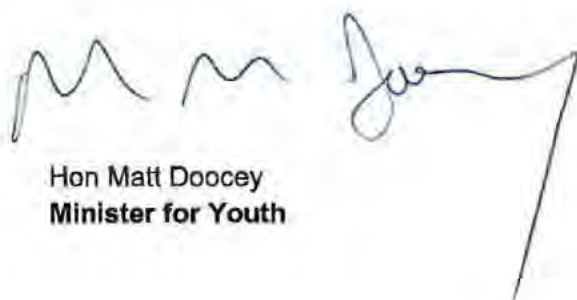
MPs will be able to promote the Youth MP selection any time from early December 2024, but applications for all Youth MPs will officially open in February 2025 to coincide with the start of the new school term. MPs will be asked to advise my officials of their chosen Youth MP by Tuesday 01 April 2025, and the four-month tenure for selected young people will run from Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 29 August 2025. MYD will be seeking the assistance of the Press Gallery to appoint the Youth Press Gallery members.

During their four-month tenure Youth MPs will receive training, engage with the MP who selected them, work on self-initiated projects within their communities, and prepare for and attend the two-day event in early July. Following the two-day event, Youth MPs will report back to their communities and have the option to continue with their community engagement projects. Youth Press Gallery members will report on Youth MPs' tenure activities and the Youth Parliament event itself.

I am intending to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group to support the successful delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme. Reflecting the non-partisan nature of Youth Parliament, I am anticipating this group will comprise a Member of Parliament from each political party represented in Parliament, as well as a representative of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. The group's role will be to support the development of a Youth Parliament programme, as well as keeping their caucuses informed and engaged with the event. Following your agreement to this letter, I intend to write to each Party Leader to request a nomination from their Party as a Multi-Party Reference Group representative.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

**Approved**



Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister





11 November 2024

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister,

I approve the 2025 Youth Parliament to be held at the New Zealand Parliament on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July 2025.

As mentioned previously, the Office of the Clerk will provide support to the Ministry of Youth Development Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi within its available baseline resources and "business as usual" activities.

The Parliamentary Service will assist the Office by providing limited additional resources.

The Office and the Service will work with you to find appropriate locations for the event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Brownlee', written over a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee  
**Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives**





# Report

**Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**Reference:** REP/24/10/999

Letters of Invitation to the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group

## Purpose of the report

- 1 This report seeks your agreement to send a letter to Parliamentary party leaders and the Chair of the Press Gallery inviting them to nominate a member of their caucus / the gallery to join the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group.
- 2 This report also requests your review of the draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group to ensure it aligns with your expectations of the role of the group.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** that, subject to receiving agreement from the Speaker of the House of Representatives to hold the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment, you are planning to announce the Youth Parliament 2025 opportunity during the week beginning Monday 18 November 2024
- 2 **review and approve** draft letters to Parliamentary party leaders and the Chair of the Press Gallery inviting them to nominate a member of their caucus / the gallery to join the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group
- 3 **note** that the Prime Minister has provided approval for Youth Parliament 2025. Once the Speaker of the House of Representatives has given his approval for Youth Parliament 2025, your Office will prepare the final letters with your e-signature, and distribute the letters to Parliamentary party leaders and the Chair of the Press Gallery
- 4 **review** the draft Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group Terms of Reference



- 5 **note** that you will have a further opportunity to finalise the draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group as part of your review and approval of the papers for the first meeting of the group.



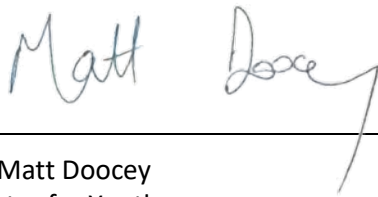
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John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

1/11/2024

---

Date



---

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

3/11/2024

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Date



## Background

- 3 You have agreed that the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi progress planning and implementation for the delivery of Youth Parliament 2025, including a two-day event in the July 2025 Parliamentary adjournment, with support of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives [REP/24/09/861 refers].
- 4 On Tuesday 22 October 2024 and Wednesday 23 October 2024, your Office sent letters to the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives (the Speaker) and the Prime Minister seeking their agreement to hold the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event in the Parliament precinct during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment [REP/24/09/900 refers]. Your Office received approval from The Prime Minister on 31 October 2024. Subject to approval from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, you are intending to establish a Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) [REP/24/09/861 refers].

## Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group

- 5 As the Minister for Youth, you have lead responsibility for the Youth Parliament programme. Previous Youth Parliaments have utilised governance processes to support the Minister for Youth to fulfil this role, which invite representation from each of the Parliamentary parties, as well as a Press Gallery representative. These representative multi-party groups have traditionally been chaired by the Minister for Youth with secretariat support from MYD.
- 6 MYD is proposing you send a letter to each of the Parliamentary party leaders (excluding your own) inviting them to nominate a member of their caucus with a particular interest in youth matters to join the MPRG. A draft letter to Parliamentary party leaders is attached as **Appendix One** for your consideration.
- 7 MYD also recommends writing to the Chair of the Press Gallery, Maiki Sherman, requesting she joins the MPRG, or nominates a member of the Press Gallery to attend on her behalf. The Press Gallery holds a vital role within the Youth Parliament programme by providing support for the Youth Press Gallery, including in the promotion of the opportunity through their networks, and in the selection and training of Youth Press Gallery members. A draft letter to the Chair is attached as **Appendix Two** for your consideration.
- 8 Subject to your agreement to the attached draft letters, and following receipt of the Speaker's approval, MYD will work with your Office to finalise the letters, prepare them for your signature, and send to the respective Parliamentary party leaders and the Press Gallery Chair.

### *Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group Terms of Reference*

- 9 A draft Terms of Reference for the MPRG is attached at **Appendix Three** for your review and feedback. In the Terms of Reference, it is proposed the role and responsibilities of the MPRG would include:
  - championing an objective Youth Parliament with a youth development focus
  - advocating with Parliamentary colleagues (including through members' caucuses) the opportunity to support young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform
  - informing and updating each member's respective caucuses / the Press Gallery on Youth Parliament 2025
  - providing advice and guidance on aspects of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.



- 10 MYD is proposing the draft Terms of Reference is included in the set of papers sent to the MPRG ahead of their first meeting. You may wish to provide to the group for their information, or seek feedback, noting it would be your decision as to whether that feedback is incorporated into the final version.

### **Next steps**

- 11 Subject to you approving the letters to the Parliamentary party leaders and Press Gallery Chair, and the Speaker's approval of Youth Parliament 2025, your Office will distribute the letters.
- 12 Based on the high-level timeline discussed and agreed with you at the Youth officials meeting on Wednesday 23 October 2024, upcoming key dates are as follows:
- Friday 01 November 2024 – approval from the Speaker received
  - Tuesday 05 November 2024 – MPRG invite letters sent
  - Tuesday 12 November 2024 - nominees for the MPRG received
  - Week beginning 18 November 2024 – your announcement about Youth Parliament 2025
  - Week beginning Monday 25 November 2024 – first meeting of the MPRG.
- 13 Subject to your approval, the draft MPRG Terms of Reference will be included in the papers for the first meeting of the MPRG. Once the first MPRG meeting has been scheduled and nominations have been received, MYD will provide you with a proposed set of papers for your approval and will work with your Office to ensure papers are sent to the MPRG members one week prior to the meeting.

File Ref: A16537772

Author: Dibs Patel, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group nomination request – Party Leaders

To party leaders:

[Party Leader name]

Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear [Party Leader]

### Youth Parliament 2025: Invitation to join Multi-Party Reference Group

It is my pleasure to advise that planning for Youth Parliament 2025 is underway. The four-month tenure period for young participants will commence in April 2025, with the two-day event at Parliament set to be held in July 2025. I am writing to invite you to nominate a member of your party caucus with a particular interest in youth matters to join my Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group.

Youth Parliament is held every Parliamentary term, with the first event held in 1995 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity for young people from around New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system, government decision-making processes, actively work on and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about, and engage with key decision-makers, other young people, and the general public.

As with previous Youth Parliament programmes, each member of Parliament (MP) will be asked to select a young person, aged 16-18 years, as their Youth member of Parliament (Youth MP) to represent their community. We will also recruit a Youth Press Gallery to report on the activities of Youth MPs. My expectation is the Youth Parliament 2025 programme is an investment in youth development, which will encourage and support young people to gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences, and to participate confidently in their communities.

The role of the Multi-Party Reference Group is to support me to deliver a positive experience for the young people participating in Youth Parliament 2025, including acting as a key conduit within political parties to ensure all MPs understand what is expected of them and how best to support their Youth MPs. We will also provide all MPs with a Youth MP information and recruitment pack by Friday 29 November 2024 so they understand what is involved.

I would appreciate it if you could please nominate a member of your party's caucus to join the Multi-Party Reference Group and notify my Youth Private Secretary on s9(2)(a) by Tuesday 12 November 2024. As mentioned, it would be great if the invitation was extended to a party representative with an interest in youth matters (e.g., the Youth spokesperson). A Parliamentary Press Gallery representative will also be invited to participate.

I aim to convene the first meeting of the Multi-Party Reference Group in late November 2024, and expect the group will meet approximately every two months until August 2025. Once nominations have been received for the Multi-Party Reference Group, my Office will contact all nominees with more information. Following this, I intend to announce that Youth Parliament will be taking place in 2025, along with information for young people around the date that MPs



must receive their applications. I'd appreciate you keeping this confidential until after my announcement to help ensure the information young people receive is consistent.

Yours sincerely

Hon Matt Doocey  
**Minister for Youth**



## **Appendix Two: Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group nomination request – Chair of Press Gallery**

Maiki Sherman  
Chair, Press Gallery  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Maiki

### **Youth Parliament 2025: Invitation to join Multi-Party Reference Group**

It is my pleasure to advise that planning for Youth Parliament 2025 is underway. The four-month tenure period for young participants will commence in April 2025, and the two-day event in Parliament is set to be held in July 2025. In previous Youth Parliaments, the support of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, and particularly the Chair, has been vital in its success. I would like to invite you to join my Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group. Additionally, my officials at the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will also be reaching out to discuss what support you might be able to provide for other aspects of the programme.

Youth Parliament is held every Parliamentary term, with the first event held in 1995 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity for young people from around New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system, government decision-making processes, actively work on and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about and engage with key decision-makers, other young people, and the general public.

My expectation is the Youth Parliament 2025 programme is an investment in youth development, which will encourage and support young people to gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences, and support them to participate confidently in their communities. As with previous Youth Parliament programmes, each member of Parliament (MP) will be asked to select a young person, aged 16 to 18 years, as a Youth member of Parliament (Youth MP) to represent their community. We will also recruit a Youth Press Gallery to report on the activities of Youth MPs. My officials will be in contact with you in due course to discuss a proposed process to recruit Youth Press Gallery members for Youth Parliament 2025. I'd appreciate you keeping this confidential until after my announcement to help ensure the information young people receive is consistent.

With regards to the Multi-Party Reference Group, I have also invited all political party leaders to nominate a representative. The role of this group is to support me to deliver a positive experience for the young people participating in Youth Parliament 2025, including acting as a key conduit within political parties represented in Parliament, and the Parliamentary Press Gallery, to ensure all MPs and Gallery members understand what is expected of them and how best to support the Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members.

I aim to convene the first meeting of the Multi-Party Reference Group in late November 2024, and expect the group will meet approximately every two months until August 2025. Once



nominations have been received for the Multi-Party Reference Group, my Office will contact all nominees with more information. Following this, I intend to announce that Youth Parliament will be taking place in 2025, including the key recruitment dates that young people wanting to be Youth MPs will need to be aware of, and the process for the recruitment of Youth Press Gallery Members.

I would appreciate if you could advise my Youth Private Secretary **s9(2)(a)** if you would like to join the Multi-Party Reference Group, or alternatively nominate another member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery to join, by 12 November 2024.

Yours sincerely

Hon Matt Doocey  
**Minister for Youth**



## Appendix Three: Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group Draft Terms of Reference

### 1. Establishment of the Multi-Party Reference Group

The Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) for Youth Parliament 2025 is a cross-party reference group established to support the successful delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.

### 2. Membership of the Multi-Party Reference Group

The Minister for Youth invited the Chair of the Press Gallery to join the group, and asked Parliamentary party leaders to nominate a representative who may have an interest in youth matters (i.e., the Youth Spokesperson for the Party). If the nominated Member of Parliament (MP) is unable to participate in the MPRG, they can delegate the invitation to an appropriate representative. The members of the MPRG are [tbc – invitees noted below in yellow]:

- o Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth (MPRG Chair)
- o ACT Party nominee
- o Labour Party nominee
- o NZ First Party nominee
- o Green Party nominee
- o Te Pāti Māori nominee
- o Press Gallery Chair or nominee.

Officials in attendance will include staff from the Office of Hon Matt Doocey, and from the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi which will provide the secretariat function for the MPRG. Representative/s from the Office of the Clerk of House of Representatives (OoC) will be invited to attend.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Minister for Youth and MYD:

- a) In 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister of Youth Affairs to deliver a Youth Parliament once every Parliamentary term. The Minister for Youth retains overall responsibility for the triennial delivery of Youth Parliament. As the Minister responsible, Hon Matt Doocey will provide direction to his MYD officials to deliver the programme.
- b) MYD is the lead organisation for delivery of the 2025 programme in the lead up to and during the two-day event at Parliament, the pastoral care of participants, and the evaluation of Youth Parliament. Responsibilities will also include providing secretariat support to the MPRG and disseminating information to MPs. MYD will be supported by partners across government to deliver Youth Parliament 2025 as required.

The role of the MPRG includes to:

- a) Champion an objective Youth Parliament with a youth development focus.
- b) Advocate with Parliamentary colleagues (including through members' caucuses) the opportunity to support young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their



communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform.

- c) To inform and update each member's respective caucuses / the Press Gallery on Youth Parliament 2025.
- d) Provide advice and guidance on aspects of the programme, at the request of the Minister for Youth, such as the role MPs and the Press Gallery can play to support Youth Parliament participants during:
  - The Youth MP selection process
  - The community engagement period
  - The two-day event at Parliament
  - The evaluation of Youth Parliament following the tenure period of participants.

#### **4. Tenure of the Multi-Party Reference Group**

The MPRG is being asked to provide advice and support on the Youth Parliament 2025 programme during the period of late November 2024 to the end of participants' tenure on 29 August 2025.

#### **5. Meeting mechanics of the Multi-Party Reference Group**

It is anticipated that the MPRG will meet at least three times during its tenure. A meeting will only proceed if a minimum of four members (excluding officials) are able to attend. MPRG members can nominate a named representative to attend on their behalf.

The Minister for Youth will chair the meeting and MYD will hold the secretariat function. The Minister's Office will endeavour to distribute an agenda and papers at least three working days in advance of a meeting. Any follow-up actions for members will be distributed within one week following the meeting.

If a member would like to add an agenda item, this can be arranged via a request to the Office of the Minister for Youth.



# Report



**Date:** 20 November 2024 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

**Reference:** REP/24/11/1020

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## Youth Parliament 2025 Multi Party Reference Group

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides, for your review and approval, a draft agenda and papers for the first meeting of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi Party Reference Group expected to be held in December 2024, which includes a draft Youth Parliament 2025 Members of Parliament Information Pack for the group to review.

### Recommendations

- 2 It is recommended that you:
  - 1 **note** on Tuesday 24 September 2024, you agreed to establishing a Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group
  - 2 **note** the intention to hold the first meeting of the Multi-Party Reference Group in early December 2024, subject to receiving nominations for members to join the group from each Parliamentary party leaders (excluding your own) and agreement/a nomination from the Chair of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, and their availability
  - 3 **agree** to the draft agenda for the first meeting of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group
  - 4 **review** the draft Youth Parliament 2025 Members of Parliament Information Pack
  - 5 **note** you will be provided with a draft Youth Parliament 2025 Press Gallery Members Information Pack following your Office and MYD officials' engagement and agreement with the Parliamentary Press Gallery Chair/their nominee on a process to recruit and select Youth Press Gallery members
  - 6 **agree** the papers to be sent to the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group in advance of their first meeting will consist of:
    - 6.1 Agenda
    - 6.2 Draft Multi-Party Reference Group Terms of Reference
    - 6.3 Draft Youth Parliament 2025 Members of Parliament Information Pack
    - 6.4 Youth Parliament 2025 calendar



- 7 **review** the draft talking points to support you to Chair the first meeting of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group
- 8 **review** the draft cover email for your Office to send to MPRG members that sets out what is expected of the members at the first meeting and will have the meeting papers attached



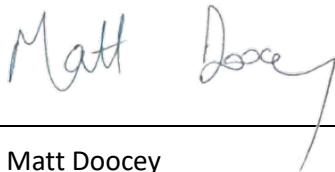
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John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth  
Ministry of Youth Development

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20 November 2024

Date



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Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

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25/11/2024

Date



## Background

- 3 On Tuesday 24 September 2024 you agreed to the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, in conjunction with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, to design, plan and implement a Youth Parliament 2025 programme, including a two-day event in the July 2025 Parliamentary adjournment [REP/24/09/861 refers].
- 4 On Thursday 31 October 2024, you received agreement from the Prime Minister to hold the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event in the Parliament precinct during the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment. On Monday 11 November 2024, you also received agreement from the Speaker of the House of Representatives [REP/24/09/900 refers].
- 5 As the Minister for Youth, you have lead responsibility for the Youth Parliament programme. Previous Ministers for Youth have utilised representatives from each political party and the Parliamentary Press Gallery to support them with the Youth Parliament programme.
- 6 You have agreed to establish a Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) [REP/24/09/861 refers]. It is anticipated the role of the MPRG is to support you deliver an objective, nonpartisan Youth Parliament 2025 programme that offers high-quality youth development opportunities.

## Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group Meeting

- 7 On Friday 01 November 2024, MYD provided you with a letter to Parliamentary party leaders (excluding your own) and the Chair of the Parliamentary Press Gallery inviting them to nominate a member of their caucus/the Press Gallery to join the Youth Parliament 2025 MPRG [REP/24/10/999 refers]. These letters were sent by your Office on Tuesday 12 November 2024.
- 8 Subject to nominations for the MPRG being received in time, you intend to hold the first MPRG meeting in early December 2024. So far, your Office has received the following nominations: Hon Willow-Jean Prime (Labour), Jenny Marcroft MP (NZ First), Cameron Luxton MP (ACT Party), and Francisco Hernandez MP (Green Party).

### *Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group papers*

- 9 A draft agenda for the first MPRG is attached as **Appendix One** for your review and feedback. MYD is proposing that the purpose of the first meeting will be to provide clarity on the role and purpose of the group and seek feedback on the draft guidance for all members of Parliament (MPs) on their role in supporting Youth Parliament.
- 10 Draft talking points to support you to Chair the first MPRG meeting are attached as **Appendix Two** for your review and feedback.

### *Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information pack*

- 11 MYD is proposing that the draft Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack, attached as **Appendix Three**, is included in the set of papers sent to the MPRG members ahead of their first meeting, for their consideration. MYD will incorporate members' feedback discussed at the meeting and send to you for review and final approval prior to it being sent to all MPs, along with a cover letter to all MPs.
- 12 The MP Information Pack does not include details on the process to appoint Youth Press Gallery members. On Wednesday 20 November 2024, MYD officials and your Office engaged with the Press Gallery Chair to begin discussions about the Press Gallery's role in Youth Parliament. In the draft MPRG agenda it is proposed that the Press Gallery Chair/their nominee and MYD officials will provide a verbal update on discussions to date.



### Next steps

- 13 Once your Office has been advised of all nominees for the MPRG (noting you requested nominees by Tuesday 19 November 2024), your Office will schedule the first MPRG meeting in early December 2024.
- 14 Subject to your approval of the papers for the first MPRG meeting, your Office will distribute them to the MPRG members at least three working days prior to the meeting. **Appendix Four** provides a draft cover email for your Office to send to MPRG members that sets out what is expected of the members at the first meeting. This email will have the meeting papers attached.
- 15 Based on current planning, upcoming key dates are as follows:
  - Monday 18 November 2024 – your announcement of Youth Parliament 2025
  - Tuesday 19 November 2024 – nominations for the MPRG due to be received
  - Wednesday 04 December 2024 – next Youth officials meeting
  - Early December 2024 (date TBC) – first meeting of the MPRG
  - By 12 December 2024 – Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack sent to MPs.

File Ref: A16537772

Author: Benji Moorhouse, Project Manager, Youth Parliament, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director Strategy, Performance and Evaluation, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: Draft agenda for Multi-Party Reference Group meeting

### Multi-Party Reference Group - Youth Parliament 2025

**Date:** Thursday 05 December 2025 (tbc)

**Time:** 1.45 – 2.45pm (tbc)

**Venue:** Office of Hon Matt Doocey, 4.1R EW

**Members:** Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth (Chair)  
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Labour Party MPRG representative  
 Cameron Luxton, ACT Party MPRG representative  
 Jenny Marcroft, NZ First MPRG representative  
 Francisco Hernandez, Green Party MPRG representative  
 Tbc – Te Pāti Māori nominee  
 Tbc – Parliamentary Press Gallery Chair or nominee

**In attendance:** Staff from the Office of the Minister for Youth, Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) and Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

#	Agenda items	Who	Enclosures
1	Welcome from Minister for Youth	Minister for Youth	
2	Role and purpose of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG)	Minister for Youth	Draft Terms of Reference
3	Overview of Youth Parliament 2025	Minister / MYD officials	Youth Parliament 2025 calendar as at tbc December 2024
4	Support from Members of Parliament (MPs) for Youth Parliament 2025	All MPs	Draft Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack
5	Support from Parliamentary Press Gallery for Youth Parliament 2025	Press Gallery Chair / MYD officials	
6	Closing comments	Minister for Youth	
	Next meeting: February 2025 TBC		



## **Appendix Two: Draft talking points for Multi-Party Reference Group meeting**

### **Item 1: Welcome from Minister for Youth [Minister]**

- Welcome, and thank you for making the time to join this Multi-Party Reference Group for Youth Parliament 2025.
- This is the eleventh Youth Parliament.
- I have established this group to support me to deliver a quality and positive experience for the young people participating in Youth Parliament 2025.
- The Youth Parliament programme provides high-quality youth development opportunities, and gives young New Zealanders the opportunity to gain an understanding of how government works.
- It is also a unique opportunity for Members of Parliament (MPs), to learn about the important issues affecting young people today as well as their aspirations and ideas for moving New Zealand forward.
- I am keen to ensure every MP has the information and guidance they need to help them select a Youth MP to represent them and their community. Some may be familiar with it, and may have been Youth MPs themselves, and for others it will be the first time being involved.

### **Item 2: Role and purpose of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) [Minister]**

- Please refer to the draft Terms of Reference you were provided with a copy of.
- I'd like to seek your feedback on the Terms of Reference before they are finalised.
- Broadly, it's proposed the role of this group is focused on:
  - championing an objective Youth Parliament with a youth development focus
  - advocating with Parliamentary colleagues on the opportunity to support young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform
  - informing and updating each member's respective caucuses / the Press Gallery on Youth Parliament 2025
  - providing advice and guidance on aspects of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.
- I'm hoping we can meet every two months, and my Office will schedule these meetings ASAP. You can send someone in your place if you're unable to attend.

### **Item 3: Overview of Youth Parliament 2025 [Minister / MYD officials]**

- I've received approval from the Prime Minister and Speaker that Youth Parliament 2025 will take place during the July 2025 Parliamentary recess, on 01 July and 02 July.
- Some of the programme this time around will be different. It will respond to feedback we received from young people and Youth MPs in the evaluation of Youth Parliament 2022 – mainly focused on making the best use of their entire tenure – which is the community engagement they do in the couple of months prior to travelling to Wellington.
- The Office of the Clerk had also partnered with MYD in the last Youth Parliament, and can't this time due to resourcing challenges, so that will change the look and feel of some of the elements of the programme they can support.



- The programme is still in design phase and will be presented to you at the next meeting.
- **Please refer to the Youth Parliament 2025 calendar that you were sent.**
- My officials will run you through the key dates and respond to any questions you may have.

**Item 4: Support from Members of Parliament (MPs) for Youth Parliament 2025 [All MPs]**

- **Please refer to the draft Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack.**
- As you're aware, each MP will need to recruit, select and mentor a Youth MP.
- We've provided this pack to you to review, to help ensure that it is going to provide MPs with everything they need to carry out their role.
- We'll incorporate your feedback in this pack as best we can.
- As you'll see in the calendar, our intention is that the MP information pack is sent out later this week.
- In our communications to MPs we will note that you are all in this group. This may result in questions at your next caucus meeting – answer what you can, but anything else can be referred to the Youth Parliament email address that we've referenced in the pack.

**Item 5: Support from Parliamentary Press Gallery for Youth Parliament 2025**

- Alongside the Youth MPs, the Press Gallery will appoint 20 Youth Press Gallery members.
- My Office and officials have recently met with the Press Gallery Chair to discuss what the Press Gallery's role will be / what support they will need, and how their recruitment process will run.
- [Press Gallery Chair / nominee] and my officials will provide an update on this part of the planning.

**Closing comments [Minister]**

- Thanks again for your time today, I'm really appreciative of your support for this programme and the young people that will be participating.
- We're planning to schedule our next meeting in February – this will be during the 'applications open' period, and we'll share the proposed programme for the two-day event.
- If you have any questions please direct them to my Office, or the Youth Parliament email address, in the first instance.



## **Appendix Three: Draft Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack**



## **Appendix Four: Draft cover email from Minister for Youth's Office to MPRG members**

Dear [Name],

On behalf of the Minister for Youth, Hon Matt Doocey, thank you for again agreeing to be part of the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi Party Reference Group (MPRG). The first meeting for this group has been scheduled for [time] on [date].

Please find attached an agenda and papers for the meeting, including a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the MPRG, the high-level calendar for Youth Parliament 2025 and the Members of Parliament (MPs) Information Pack which is designed to build understanding of the Youth Parliament programme for MPs and support them to select their Youth MP.

It would be appreciated if you could please review the draft ToR and MP Information Pack and bring any feedback you have on these documents to the meeting.

Please note at this stage the MP Information pack is confidential and has not been shared wider than this group. It is our intention that following the MPRG meeting the finalised pack will be distributed to all MPs by [date].

If you have any questions please reach out, otherwise we'll look forward to seeing you on [day].

Yours sincerely

[Minister for Youth's Office]



# Report



**Date:** 09 December 2024      **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth

**Reference:** REP/24/12/1133

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## Final Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with the final version of the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack, alongside a draft email that can be used to send the Information Pack to all members of Parliament.

### Recommendations

- 2 It is recommended that you:
  - 1 **approve** the attached final version of the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack
  - 2 **note** the attached draft email partially responds to Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi Youth Advisory Group recommendations to promote the importance of meaningful youth voice and leadership with other decision-makers by sending a letter to members of Parliament and Ministers
  - 3 **approve** the attached draft emails which your Office will use to send the final Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack to all members of Parliament

**approved / not approved**

**approved / not approved**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Robertson".

John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth  
Ministry of Youth Development

09 / 12 / 2024

Date

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Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth

---

Date



## Background

- 3 You approved a draft of the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack (MP Information Pack) to be included in the papers for the first Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) meeting [REP/24/11/1020 refers]. This is a document that will support members of Parliament (MPs) to select a Youth MP to represent their community as part of the Youth Parliament programme.
- 4 On Thursday 05 December 2024 you convened the first meeting of the Youth Parliament 2025 MPRG, and members were asked to provide feedback on the MP Information Pack [REP/24/11/1020 refers]. The role of the MPRG is to support you to deliver an objective, nonpartisan Youth Parliament 2025 programme that offers high-quality youth development opportunities.
- 5 As noted at the first MPRG meeting, MPs are due to receive their MP Information Pack by Thursday 12 December 2024.

## Feedback on the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack

- 6 There was no specific feedback received from MPRG members regarding the MP Information Pack, either via email or at their meeting on Thursday 05 December.
- 7 There have been some minor changes to the pack since you last reviewed it, which responds to feedback as follows:
  - MYD consulted with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OOC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai on the draft MP Information Pack. OOC had minor feedback which we have actioned, which was largely focused on tailoring language to suit the needs of busy MPs.
  - MYD has received requests from MP offices for social media posts they can use to promote Youth Parliament 2025 in their communities. There is now a reference in the MP Information Pack to a social media tile we are recommending your Office sends to all MPs alongside the MP Information Pack attached.
- 8 An updated final draft of the MP Information Pack is attached as **Appendix One** for your approval, alongside a version that highlights the changes that have been made.

## Distribution of the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack

- 9 As noted above, your Office is due to send the final MP Information Pack to all MPs by Thursday 12 December 2024. Attached as **Appendix Two** is a draft email to MPs for your review. **Appendix Three** contains the social media tiles we are recommending your Office also sends as an attachment to the email.

## Ministry of Youth Development Youth Advisory Group recommendations

- 10 On Friday 07 June 2024, you met with the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to discuss their *'Insights and Findings from Engagements: Strengthening youth leadership and advisory groups'* Report (the Report) [REP/24/05/499 refers] and their recommendations for you following their engagements with other youth leadership and advisory groups.
- 11 Two recommendations within the Report, which you agreed to, are to
  - *"agree to the proactive release of this report and send a letter to ministerial colleagues with information about existing groups, asking them what ways their agencies are engaging with or hearing directly from young people", and*



- *“send a letter to MPs and local councils about the importance of mechanisms for youth voice and participation including an emphasis on the role youth councils play.”*

12 MYD’s recommendation at that time was to send a letter to your colleagues later in the year, to coincide with other youth voice communications, either related to the Youth Plan or Youth Parliament. We have therefore taken this opportunity of you writing to your MP colleagues to send the MP Information Pack to include broader messages regarding youth voice and to ask them to consider how they can champion youth voice within their electorates and/or Ministerial portfolios.

### **Next Steps**

- 13 Following your review and approval of the appendices contained in this report, your Office will send the finalised MP Information Pack to all MPs via email. As noted above, this is due to take place by Thursday 12 December 2024.
- 14 On Friday 13 December 2024, a reminder/prompt for MPs to read through the MP Information Pack in OOC’s ‘Members Update’ sent the first week of each House sitting period.
- 15 MYD will work alongside your Office to continue to implement the remainder of the MYD YAG recommendations as noted in the Report. We are also working with your Office to schedule a meeting with the YAG in the new year.

File Ref: A16633544

Author: Emily Mather, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director Strategy, Performance and Evaluation, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## **Appendix One: Final draft Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack**

[attached separately]



## Appendix Two: Draft email to members of Parliament regarding the Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack

**Subject:** Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack

**Attachments:**

- Youth Parliament 2025 Member of Parliament Information Pack
- Social Media Tiles

**To:** All MPs

Dear MPs,

Part of my role as Minister for Youth is to be a champion for young people living across New Zealand. As MPs, we also have a responsibility to ensure that we are capturing the voices of all those within our communities. This letter outlines a couple of initiatives that I would appreciate your support with to promote young people's voices.

### Youth Parliament 2025

You may have seen that I recently announced the 11<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament is taking place in 2025, which is led by my officials at the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD), with the support of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

As an MP, your support for this programme is vital. Youth Parliament only happens once in a Parliamentary term and provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity for you to work with a local Youth MP and hear about topics and issues young people are passionate about. Your selected Youth MP will be involved in community engagements, and I encourage you to work closely with them and make the most of these valuable interactions.

The **attached** *Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack* provides information for you and your Electorate Office to support your involvement in the programme. It includes a timeline for you/your Electorate Office, information about the role of the Youth MP, and suggestions for the recruitment process for your Youth MP.

During the participant selection period, all MPs are asked to promote Youth Parliament 2025 and encourage a wide range of young people to apply and get involved. The **attached** social media tiles have been developed for you to use in your promotional activities. MYD is also promoting Youth Parliament through its channels and in the youth sector, with interested young people encouraged to contact their local MP's Office for further information about how to apply.

All public information regarding Youth Parliament is available at [www.youthparliament.govt.nz](http://www.youthparliament.govt.nz). You will find a set of *Frequently Asked Questions* in the MP Information Pack, and any further questions can be emailed to [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz). As mentioned in the MP Information Pack, I have also established a Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group to advise on the programme and support MPs.

### Supporting youth voice in your community

Earlier this year, the MYD Youth Advisory Group (YAG), following engagements with young people from a range of central government and youth sector youth advisory groups and youth councils, presented me with a report, that summarised groups' experiences participating in decision-making spaces, including what has worked well, what some of the challenges have been, and what their aspirations for youth voice in decision-making spaces are. A key request from those involved was to see and hear Ministers and MPs valuing youth voice, and to consider different ways for young people to be heard and contribute to decision-making that impacts them.



In addition to your role in Youth Parliament as an MP, it is important to engage with young people in your community more broadly, hear what topics and issues matter most to them, and bring their voices to Parliament. Engaging with existing youth voice and leadership groups is one way to do this. More information about youth voice including youth engagement resources is available [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Hon Matt Doocey  
**Minister for Youth**



## Appendix Three: Social Media Tiles





# Report



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAITO TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

**Date:** 05 February 2025

**Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth

**Reference:** REP/25/02/057

## Youth Parliament 2025: Overview and upcoming decisions

### Purpose of the report

- 1 Following on from the Briefing to the Incoming Minister (Youth), this report provides you with more detailed background information on Youth Parliament. It includes a progress update on the current design and implementation of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme following decisions made to date, as well as an overview of upcoming decisions required.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the former Minister for Youth agreed to the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi designing, planning, and implementing a Youth Parliament 2025 programme, and received agreement from the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of New Zealand Representatives to host an in-person event on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025 in the Parliamentary precinct
- 2 **note** that officials wish to discuss the draft Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event programme attached as **Appendix Five** with you at the Youth officials' meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 February 2025, and in particular, the Parliamentary Working Group component of the programme
- 3 **agree** to invite Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand to attend the Opening of Youth Parliament on Tuesday 01 July 2025
- 4 **approve** the draft agenda attached as **Appendix Seven** for the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group meeting so your Office can distribute it to members on Monday 10 February 2025

Agree / Disagree

Approved / Not Approved



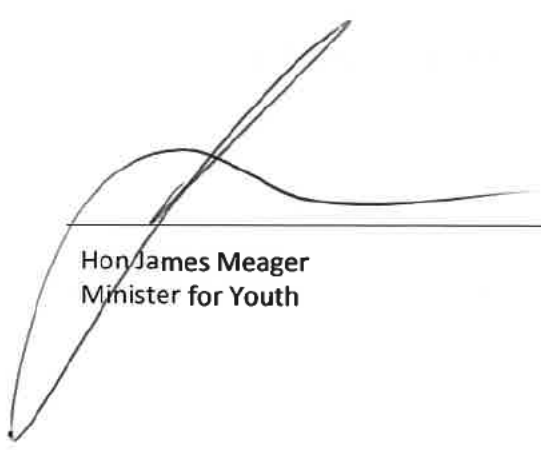
- 5 **note** you will soon receive a report from the Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Finance Team seeking your agreement to a fiscally-neutral funding transfer within the Partnering for Youth Development Appropriation categories to support the implementation of Youth Parliament 2025

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John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

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Date



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Hon James Meager  
Minister for Youth

8/2/25

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Date



## Background

- 2 Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every parliamentary term [CAB (95) M11/10 refers]. This event has continued under the leadership of each subsequent Minister for Youth.
- 3 Each parliamentary term, Youth Parliament is an opportunity for around 140 young people, aged 16 – 24 years, to learn about and experience the New Zealand political process, as Youth members of Parliament (MPs) and Youth Press Gallery members. The programme provides an opportunity for young people from around New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system, how to influence decision-making, and actively work and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about by key decision-makers, other young people and the general public.
- 4 As outlined in the Social Policy Committee Cabinet Paper SPC (96) 104, Youth Parliament aims to:
  - replicate the parliamentary process
  - provide an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and engage with their local communities, to involve as many young people as possible (before and after the Youth Parliament event)
  - make known the views expressed to appropriate policy agencies
  - maximise the educational opportunities of the Youth Parliament event, and
  - enhance parliamentary public relations.
- 5 The Youth Parliament programme has historically comprised two components:
  - a six-month Youth Parliament tenure involving engagement with electorate and list MPs or Press Gallery journalists/editors, community engagement, training, mentoring, and support, and
  - a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament in Wellington with mock legislative and general debate speeches, select committees, a Question Time session with Ministers of the Crown present, and other parts of the parliamentary process.
- 6 The Minister for Youth has the overall responsibility for the triennial delivery of Youth Parliament. In recent Youth Parliaments, the Minister's role has focused on:
  - oversight of the Youth Parliament programme, including providing direction to Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi officials
  - reinforcing the youth development focus of Youth Parliament
  - promoting an 'apolitical' Youth Parliament
  - promotion of Youth Parliament, for example via a media release to launch the selection period for Youth Parliament participants
  - advocating to Parliamentary colleagues for the opportunity for young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform.



## Youth Parliament 2022

- 7 The last Youth Parliament was held in 2022. For this programme, the responsibility for leading and implementing the two-day Youth Parliament event was jointly led by MYD – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi and the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OOC) – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai, following an agreement between the Minister for Youth and the Speaker of the House of New Zealand Representatives (the Speaker). MYD was responsible for providing youth development support for Youth Parliament 2022 participants, including providing pastoral care and community connections. OOC was responsible for the planning and implementation of the two-day event in Parliament and managed all liaison with MPs and Parliament staff.
- 8 MYD covered the main costs associated with Youth Parliament 2022 through its baseline departmental budget, which largely related to project staff, and participants' travel and accommodation. OOC covered the costs associated with the Youth Clerk, which was a new role implemented for the first time in Youth Parliament 2022.
- 9 Youth Parliament 2022 was a successful programme, with 120 Youth MPs, 20 Youth Press Gallery members, and a Youth Clerk taking part. MYD commissioned Malatest International to conduct an evaluation of the 2022 programme. Approximately 50% of Youth MPs and almost 60% of the Youth Press Gallery members completed an online evaluation survey, and interviews were conducted with key stakeholders and officials. A summary of key findings is attached as **Appendix One**<sup>1</sup>. The voices of young people and stakeholders captured in this evaluation have assisted in informing the Youth Parliament 2025 programme and approach.

## Decisions made to date regarding Youth Parliament 2025

- 10 The former Minister for Youth met with the Speaker of the House of New Zealand Representatives on Thursday 30 May and Wednesday 24 July 2024. The meetings focused on whether delivery of a Youth Parliament 2025 was feasible given resourcing constraints faced by both OOC and MYD.
- 11 The Minister for Youth directed MYD to engage with its Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and gather youth voice and intel on how different models of Youth Parliament (e.g., business-as-usual, a scaled-back programme, or no Youth Parliament programme) would resonate with young people. While the engagement was small and not representative of the wider youth population, the YAG's feedback was that there is strong support for a business-as-usual programme.
- 12 On Tuesday 24 September 2024, the former Minister for Youth agreed that MYD, in conjunction with OOC, would commence designing, planning, and implementing a Youth Parliament 2025 programme.
- 13 On Wednesday 23 October 2024, the Prime Minister agreed the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day in-person event would be held in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment, on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025.
- 14 On Tuesday 05 November 2024, the Speaker asked for the Minister for Youth to attend the Parliamentary Business Committee to discuss Youth Parliament<sup>2</sup>. Following this meeting, on Monday 11 November 2024, the Speaker wrote to the former Minister for Youth confirming his approval for the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day in-person event to be held at the New Zealand Parliament buildings. The Speaker also confirmed OOC will only provide support within its baseline resources for 'business as usual' activities, and that the Parliamentary Service will assist

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<sup>1</sup> Your Office has a copy of the full evaluation and can provide you with this if you wish.

<sup>2</sup> The Minister for Youth was unable to attend and sent representatives from his Office instead.



OOO by providing limited additional resources. The letters containing the Prime Minister's and the Speaker's approval are attached as **Appendix Two** for your reference.

- 15 Following engagement with OOC, it was confirmed that for Youth Parliament 2025, their support with 'business-as usual-activities' would be limited to:
  - supporting the opening and closing of Youth Parliament 2025
  - facilitating the use of the Parliament precinct venue and facilities
  - supporting MYD to make connections with MPs and their local electorate and list office teams
  - supporting with aspects of the pre-Youth Parliament 2025 online training programme that relate to any OOC-led activities
  - supporting the replication of some parliamentary processes, e.g., General Debate, Parliamentary cross-party groups, and/or Question Time
  - delivering an educational tour of the Parliament precinct.
- 16 Other functions/activities that OOC delivered in 2022, that it is unable to deliver in 2025, include:
  - a promotion of the Youth MP and Youth Press Gallery member recruitment and selection process beyond sharing MYD's social media posts, and supporting MPs and their Offices
  - b drafting updated Standing Orders for Youth Parliament 2025
  - c leading cross-Parliament communications with the different political parties (managed through the House Business Committee and Parliament Engagement Committee in 2022)
  - d preparation of a mock Bill
  - e drafting Select Committee reports
  - f recording and live screening via Parliament TV
  - g providing Hansard support
  - h appointment and support for a Youth Clerk.
- 17 In relation to points a-c of paragraph 16, for Youth Parliament 2025:
  - MYD has taken the lead responsibility for supporting the promotion and selection process of Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members.
  - In lieu of Standing Orders, MYD will set expectations around the standard of behaviour required of Youth Parliament participants during the participant training period.
  - The former Minister for Youth agreed to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group, which is supporting the cross-Parliament communications with members.
- 18 In relation to points d-e of paragraph 16, MYD has proposed alternative components in the 2025 programme that will not require OOC support and these are outlined in paragraph 38 of this report.
- 19 To date, MYD has not been planning a proposed alternative to points f-h of paragraph 16, which was noted by the former Minister for Youth, as these cannot be progressed without OOC support.



- 20 It was also agreed that for Youth Parliament 2025 there would be a four-month tenure (compared with the six-month tenure of Youth Parliament 2022), and that the programme would have more of a focus than in previous years on Youth MPs being active in their communities in the lead up to the two-day event to gain an understanding of the ideas, hopes, and concerns of young people in their area. An overview of the key dates is captured on page 14 of the MP Information Pack (attached as **Appendix Three**).
- 21 On Monday 18 November 2024, there was a Ministerial announcement via Media Release<sup>3</sup> that Youth Parliament 2025 would be taking place.

### *Project resourcing*

- 22 MYD has appointed a Project Manager for Youth Parliament 2025 on a fixed-term basis through to Tuesday 30 September 2025, and has recently recruited for a part-time Youth Parliament 2025 Project Coordinator on a fixed-term basis through to Friday 01 August 2025.
- 23 OOC has appointed a part-time Youth Parliament 2025 liaison role (approx. eight to ten hours per week), who is supporting MYD officials to work within Parliamentary processes and guidelines, access facilities and resources, as well as acting as a contributing member of the broader Youth Parliament project team.

### *First meeting of the Multi-Party Reference Group*

- 24 The Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) had its first and only meeting to date on Thursday 05 December 2024. The agenda for this meeting focused on the role and purpose of the MPRG, an overview of Youth Parliament 2025, the available support for MPs, and the role the Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG) will play. Papers included the draft Terms of Reference for the MPRG, a high-level timeline of the programme, and the draft MP Information Pack which members were asked to provide feedback on.
- 25 The MPRG endorsed the Terms of Reference for the group. A copy of these is attached as **Appendix Four**.
- 26 The former Minister for Youth also agreed to:
- distribute a final copy of the 'Youth Parliament 2025 MP Information Pack' to all MPs by Thursday 12 December 2024 (status: action complete)
  - provide MPRG members with a one-page overview to support them to brief their respective caucuses about Youth Parliament 2025 (status: action complete)
  - seek advice from officials on a solution/alternative to video the General Debate (status: open).

### *Communication to members of Parliament*

- 27 On Wednesday 11 December 2025, following review by the MPRG, and approval by the former Minister for Youth, all MPs were sent a copy of the MP Information Pack. This document aims to support all MPs and their Offices to select a Youth MP to represent their community as part of the Youth Parliament programme and includes templates to support them to promote their opportunity.
- 28 The MP Information Pack is attached as **Appendix Four**.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/youth-parliament-2025-announced>



- 29 The MP Information Pack contains dates and criteria for the Youth MP application process. It notes:
- Applications for Youth Parliament participants will open on Monday 03 February 2025 and close on Friday 28 February 2025.
    - Note: In 2022, some Youth MPs commented the application process was unfair due to the different ways to apply and timelines. To ensure consistency for Youth Parliament 2025, MYD has asked MPs to all have the same application opening and closing dates.
    - Note: The setting of a cut-off date for applications is consistent with previous Youth Parliament programmes and provides sufficient time for MPs to complete recruitment and selection processes prior to the induction process commencing.
  - Following the application period, all MPs are asked to run a selection process, between Monday 03 March 2025 and Monday 31 March 2025. This provides time for MPs to select their Youth MP from their pool of applicants in a way that works for the MP (e.g., informal interviews with shortlisted candidates).
  - Electorate and list MPs based in the same area are asked to communicate and work together to avoid any potential confusion in the application process. and to ensure both Youth MPs are coordinating their community engagement.
  - MPs must notify MYD of their preferred candidate by Tuesday 01 April 2025. MYD will run due diligence processes before Youth MPs are confirmed.
  - All Youth MP applicants must be between 16 – 18 years of age as at Friday 28 February 2025 (inclusive) and living in New Zealand.
    - Note: Press Gallery Applications must be between 16 – 24 years of age as at Friday 28 February 2025 (inclusive) and living in New Zealand.
- 30 MYD has a dedicated Youth Parliament contact email address, which has already received a wide range of queries from MPs and interested young people since the announcement of Youth Parliament 2025 in November 2024. We have been corresponding directly with Electorate and Community Office staff, as well as MPs themselves and updating your Office and the former Minister's Office on the nature of the queries.

### *Update on Youth Press Gallery recruitment process*

- 31 In November 2024, staff from MYD and the former Minister for Youth's Office met with Jason Walls, Chair of the PPG to discuss the process to appoint a Youth Press Gallery member and seek their support. Mr Walls agreed that the PPG would provide assist MYD with Youth Press Gallery member selection, training, facilitation, and potentially running a mock stand up in Parliament's theatrette.
- 32 On Monday 03 February 2025, applications for the Youth Press Gallery opened and will close on Friday 28 February 2025 consistent with the Youth MP process. Following this, MYD will work with the PPG to run a selection process. We will provide an update on this process at an officials' meeting in early March 2025 and as part of the Youth Status Report, which is a fortnightly reporting mechanism, commencing Wednesday 12 February 2025.



## Upcoming decisions required for Youth Parliament 2025

- 33 The following items are intended to be discussed with you at the Youth officials' meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 February 2025.

### *Programme for the in-person event*

- 34 Based on previous Youth Parliament programmes, and in consultation with OOC, MYD has designed a draft programme for the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event. The draft programme is attached as **Appendix Five** and we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you at the next officials' meeting before we begin to implement its components.
- 35 The programme is focused on incorporating findings from the evaluations undertaken following Youth Parliament 2019 and 2022 to strengthen the youth development aspects of the programme, while maintaining the core purpose of Youth Parliament.
- 36 As with previous Youth Parliaments, officials have incorporated an orientation day into the programme. This is intended to maximise the youth development opportunity for participants by allowing time to build connections with one another before getting into the thick of the programme and allows time for them to settle into Wellington, noting it is often participants' first time travelling away from home. Should there be any travel delays (as in 2022), the orientation also adds in a time buffer, making it more likely for all attendees to be in Wellington for the start of day one.
- 37 Once the programme is finalised, we will support your Office to write to the Speaker and invite the Speaker and/or a Deputy to chair the Question Time and the General Debate sessions of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.

### *Parliamentary Working Groups*

- 38 As noted above, in previous years, Youth Parliament has included a Select Committee process. This is not a feature of the 2025 programme as this sits outside OOC's 'business-as-usual' activities as agreed to by the Speaker [Paragraph 16 Refers]. As you will see in the draft programme, a significant component of the participants' time is planned to be spent in Parliamentary Working Groups (PWGs). PWGs are a proposed alternative for the Select Committee process, which we had noted to the previous Minister for Youth that we were exploring.
- 39 Aligned with the Youth Parliament aim of replicating parliamentary processes, Youth MPs would form their own parliamentary cross-party groups/PWGs which would come together to work towards a common purpose. Each PWG would be focused on one topic or issue taken from a pre-approved list. Youth MPs would select a topic they are interested in near the start of their tenure, and their community engagement would be focused on gathering youth voice from a wide range of young people in their communities on their chosen topic/issue and then bring those views to the in-person event in Wellington.
- 40 It is proposed that during the in-person event:
- on day one, each PWG would meet to discuss the views expressed in their communities on the topic/issue and hear from others. Each PWG would collate the feedback they've heard across the country, and there would be opportunities for Youth MPs to develop their confidence, and leadership and facilitation skills in the process. Groups would be supported by facilitators familiar with the subject matter (e.g., public service policy officials), and MYD staff. Youth Press Gallery members would also be assigned to each PWG, so that they are able to report on the discussions.



- on day two, the youth voice/findings would be presented back to decision-makers e.g., the relevant Minister/Public Service Senior Leader, providing an opportunity for them to hear the insights and views of young people. MPs would be invited to watch their Youth MP's group present.
- 41 The introduction of PWGs is a positive response to feedback from Youth Parliament 2022 participants, who described how it was important for them to work on topics that young people want to address. It also responds to a consistent theme that has come through in all MYD's engagements with young people over recent years – that young people want to provide their views on these topics to relevant agencies and decision-makers, to ensure their voices are being used and valued.
- 42 MYD has begun to identify potential topics with some government agencies. Before progressing any further, we would like to test the concept of the PWGs with you, including updating you on any topics submitted.
- 43 Should you endorse this approach, MYD will continue to engage with agencies to confirm the current list of topics and their agreement to the process for the PWGs, including officials' capacity to support with briefing material, and subject matter experts and senior decision-makers agreement to attend the PWG meetings.
- 44 You may also wish to promote this opportunity for young people to contribute to government decision-making. Options include discussing with your Ministerial colleagues, writing to them, or raising the need to collect topics at an upcoming Child and Youth Strategy meeting. Officials will discuss these options with you further.

### *Opening of Youth Parliament*

- 45 Historically, Youth Parliament is opened through a formal opening ceremony designed to replicate the State Opening of Parliament. As they are a key member in a State Opening of Parliament, the Governor-General of New Zealand is traditionally invited to attend the Youth Parliament opening ceremony.
- 46 We recommend you formally invite Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand (Governor-General) to attend the Opening of Youth Parliament on Tuesday 01 July 2025, and the subsequent official photo and morning tea. Should you agree to this, a draft letter of invitation is attached as **Appendix Six**. We have also supplied your Office with a completed form required to request the Governor-General's attendance at the event, which would be sent alongside your letter of invitation.

### *Second meeting of the Multi-Party Reference Group*

- 47 As outlined in the Briefing to the Incoming Minister (Youth), MPRG members are expecting the second meeting to take place during February. Your Office has scheduled this meeting to take place at 3.45pm – 4.30pm on Wednesday 12 February 2025, and is currently consulting with MPRG members on their availability to attend.
- 48 At the previous MPRG meeting in December 2024, members were advised the next agenda would focus on the two-day programme for the in-person event, and once the programme was confirmed by the Minister for Youth, it would be sent to all MPs. MPRG members are also expecting an update on outstanding actions from the first meeting of the MPRG [Refer Paragraph 26.c above].
- 49 A draft agenda for the second meeting of the MPRG is attached as **Appendix Seven**.



- 50 On Monday 03 February 2025, you communicated with the MPRG that your Office was seeking a time for the meeting and that an agenda and any supporting papers would be distributed prior to the meeting.
- 51 MYD does not propose there are any supporting papers to be distributed in advance of this meeting. If you agree to the proposed agenda, the only paper for the meeting would be the draft programme and we suggest this is instead tabled during the meeting, so you have the opportunity to discuss it with your officials first, on Tuesday 11 February 2025.
- 52 To support your attendance at the MPRG meeting, we have provided you with draft talking points, which are attached as **Appendix Eight**. These talking points are an early draft and will be completed and sent to your Office following the Youth officials' meeting, to incorporate any feedback and/or decisions made.

### *Funding for Youth Parliament*

- 53 MYD does not have an allocated budget to support the implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament. The main costs of the programme are project staff, and flights, accommodation, and catering expenses related to 143 participants' travelling to Wellington for the in-person event.
- 54 Historically, these costs have been absorbed within MYD's departmental budget, achieved primarily by not recruiting into vacancies and using these savings to fund Youth Parliament. As a result of the government savings exercise, MYD has had a reduction of \$0.156m in our departmental budget and disestablished two vacancies. A combination of that and not holding any vacancies has meant that the costs associated with Youth Parliament can no longer be absorbed within MYD's baseline budget in 2025.
- 55 As noted by the former Minister for Youth in August 2024, MYD does not have the available funds within the Financial Year 2024/2025 Departmental Output Expenses (DOE) category to fund Youth Parliament in 2025. At that time, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Finance Team confirmed MYD can manage its costs for Youth Parliament 2025 across the DOE and Non-Departmental Output Expenses (NDOE)<sup>4</sup> categories of the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) as there were no transfer conditions put in place when the MCA was established. This was also deemed appropriate given Youth Parliament delivers youth development opportunities for up to 143 participants aged 16 to 24 years.
- 56 The MSD Finance Team has since recommended that, as Minister for Youth with delegated responsibility for the Partnering for Youth Development MCA, your agreement should be sought to a fiscally neutral transfer between these categories so that there is not an overspend in one category and a corresponding underspend in the other at year end. This does not require Minister of Finance agreement.
- 57 The implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament 2025 falls across two Financial Years, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.
- For Financial Year 2024/2025, your agreement will be sought for a transfer of \$0.092 million from the NDOE budget to the DOE budget. This will be included in a briefing MSD will provide to your Office later this month, as part of their standard MBU process.

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<sup>4</sup> The NDOE category of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA is limited to purchasing youth development outcomes, and primarily administered via contracts with external third-party providers.



- MYD is also seeking an in-principle agreement to manage its cost in Financial Year 2025/2026 associated with the implementation and delivery of Youth Parliament 2025 by transferring the balance of the required budget from its Financial Year 2025/2026 NDOE category to the DOE category of the MCA. We anticipate the balance of costs will be no more than \$0.127 million. This transfer will be confirmed as part of the 2025 October Baseline Update process to be completed by the MSD finance team.

## Next steps

- 58 We look forward to discussing the contents of this report with you at the Youth officials' meeting scheduled on Tuesday 11 February 2025.
- 59 With your approval, your Office will distribute the attached Agenda to MPRG members on Monday 10 February 2025.
- 60 Following the Youth officials' meeting, we will provide you with updated talking points to support you at the MPRG meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12 February 2025.
- 61 Should you approve of the approach of the draft programme, we will soon provide you with a draft letter to request the Speaker or one of his deputies to attend the in-person event and fulfil the role of a Speaker during the General Debate and Question Time.
- 62 MYD will continue to respond to queries from MPs and members of the public through its dedicated email address.
- 63 We will provide you with regular updates on the progress of the Youth Parliament project through our Youth Status Reports (YSR). The first YSR will be provided to your Office on Wednesday 12 February 2025.
- 64 MYD will continue to promote the Youth Parliament opportunity to young people through its social media and networks. We can support you should you wish to further promote the opportunity.

File Ref: [A16741801]

Author: Dibs Patel, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: Key findings from the Youth Parliament 2022 Evaluation

Evaluation findings	Opportunities to strengthen the Youth Parliament programme
<b>What changed in the delivery of the Youth Parliament programme and what effects did the changes have?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OOC led and implemented the Youth Parliament event.</li> <li>• MYD continued to lead youth development support for participants.</li> <li>• MSD continued to provide policy support.</li> <li>• The move to joint delivery governed by the MOU between OOC and MYD strengthened the delivery for 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the benefits of joint delivery between OOC and MYD by reviewing the process and continuing to clarify roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Involve a wider group of agencies to extend the benefits across Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ consider greater contribution by <b>Youth Policy function of MSD</b> to the design of the programme.</li> <li>○ introduce <b>Ministry of Education</b> to use Youth Parliament to contribute to a civics education piece and create an opportunity for participants and their wider community to learn about voting and engaging with the machinery of Government.</li> <li>○ include <b>alumni voice</b> to the design of the programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>How did young people experience the 2022 Youth Parliament programme?</b>	
<b>Application and selection process</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection processes for Youth MPs varied across the country.</li> <li>• Stakeholders felt participants were more representative of the Aotearoa New Zealand population than in previous programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase application and selection process guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information to MPs about selecting a Youth MP, including what others have done in the past and what other MPs are doing.</li> <li>• <b>Continue to increase diversity of Youth Parliament participants:</b> Promote Youth Parliament as an event for all young people, not just those with leadership experience or political connections. The concentration of the many outcomes in the participant group increases the importance of the selection process being accessible.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Parliament tenure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and contact with adult counterparts varied for Youth MPs, but was more consistent for Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk.</li> <li>• The majority of young people engaged with their community.</li> <li>• Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles on local and political issues.</li> <li>• Participants enjoyed their various trainings, but found in-person sessions more valuable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase guidance for MPs:</b> Provide more information for MPs about Youth Parliament, including what role MPs are expected to play in supporting Youth MPs and what Youth MPs should complete during Youth Parliament. Include examples of previous success stories.</li> <li>• <b>Provide more clarity for MPs about their role in supporting Youth MPs:</b> More clarity about role of MPs in providing apolitical support and supporting community engagement.</li> <li>• <b>Set clear expectations of Youth MPs for community engagement:</b> Post-COVID-19 there is an opportunity to clarify expectations for Youth MP community engagement. This could be in the form of a minimum requirement for Youth MPs to engage with their community and collect and share community voice.</li> <li>• <b>Increase in-person training:</b> Utilise in-person training as much as possible. If online training is needed, make it shorter, more digestible, and more interactive.</li> </ul>



### Youth Parliament event

- The majority of participants felt prepared for the Youth Parliament event, but a large group did not.
- Most young people had positive experience during the event, but Youth MPs agreed it was intensive.
- Youth Press Gallery members published a range of articles about the event and Youth MPs.
- The event was more political than in previous programmes, but Youth Press Gallery members and the Youth Clerk were encouraged to be apolitical.
- **Extend pre-event educational opportunities for participants:** Create opportunities for Youth MPs to engage with speech writers to assist with development of their speeches, prepare young people for navigating different perspectives, and increase familiarity with Youth Parliament standing orders.
- **Continue to refine the Youth Parliament Standing Orders to make the Youth Parliament event youth-friendly:** The role of the Youth Clerk and the Youth Parliament Standing Orders was important. Planning time for applause and considering removing some of the more difficult to plan aspects of debate (for example, motions without notice) in the House could make it easier to manage without reducing its value for participants.
- **Focus the parliamentary activities on the most valuable components:** Simplify parliamentary activities and make them less information heavy. Consider opportunities to remove events altogether, such as the mock bill. Consider the value of adding opportunities for more debate between participants and time for debrief after the sharing of sensitive topics.
- **Create working spaces for Youth MPs:** Have working spaces available to Youth MPs, like the space available to Youth Press Gallery, with printing facilities.

### Supporting Youth Parliament participants

- Young people felt well-supported by MYD and OOC and had very positive experiences with their chaperones.
- **Increase opportunities to engage with Wellbeing Team:** Create opportunities for participants to engage with wellbeing supports during the Youth Parliament tenure, increase visibility of Wellbeing Team during the Youth Parliament event, and distinguish the Wellbeing Team from MYD and OOC staff.
- **Further improve support for youth with disabilities:** Provide access to trained professionals to support youth with disabilities to participate.

### How did participating young people benefit? What benefits extended to their peers and the wider community?

#### Value for participants:

- Increased engagement with politics and their community.
- Improved understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's political system.
- Developed valuable skills
- More connected with like-minded peers and Parliament networks.

#### Value for Parliament and the Government:

- Hear youth voice.
- Enhanced Parliamentary public relations.

#### Value for all young people:

- Learn about Parliament.

If benefits to the wider community are an important outcome of the Youth Parliament programme they could be enhanced by:

- **Further raise the profile of the Youth Parliament event:** Set up a webpage and social media channel for Youth Press Gallery members during the event.
- **Increase community engagement with Youth Parliament:** Encourage participants to report back to their community about their experience and learnings, have a space for friends and whānau to attend and engage with the Youth Parliament event, and potentially involve young people in the selection process.



- Increased engagement with politics and their community.



## Appendix Two: Letters written to the Prime Minister and the Speaker regarding Youth Parliament 2025

### Hon Matt Doocey

Minister for ACC  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality  
Minister for Youth  
Associate Minister of Health  
Associate Minister of Transport



23 OCT 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Prime Minister

#### Youth Parliament 2025

I have agreed that the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will commence planning for the delivery of a Youth Parliament 2025, with support from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC).

I have been in discussions with the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and my officials regarding options for a Youth Parliament in 2025. As there is no formal budget for Youth Parliament, and support from OoC is going to be less than in previous years due to resourcing constraints, I have decided to proceed with a modified programme, but one that will still deliver a unique and valuable youth development experience of the Parliament environment for the participants.

Youth Parliament 2025 will still broadly follow the previous programme model, with 123 Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) appointed by each Member of Parliament (MP) and up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members appointed by the Press Gallery. It will consist of a four-month tenure, incorporating a period for Youth MPs to engage with their communities and a two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament.

As is standard practice, I am seeking your agreement to hold the two-day Youth Parliament event in the July 2025 parliamentary adjournment, on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025. I am also seeking the agreement of the Speaker for the use of the parliamentary precinct on these dates, noting the 2025 sitting programme is yet to be finalised.

#### Background

Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the Minister of Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every parliamentary term [CAB (95) M11/10 refers]. Since then, Youth



Parliament has been held each term under the leadership of the Minister for Youth, and the last Youth Parliament was held in 2022.

Youth Parliament enables key parliamentary and government decision makers to hear from young people from around New Zealand on what is important to them. It also provides an opportunity for those involved to learn about parliamentary and government decision making processes through representing their communities, participating in general debates, in mock working groups and asking parliamentary questions of Ministers.

### Next Steps

In mid-November, I plan to announce my intentions to host Youth Parliament 2025. Following this, each MP will receive an information pack to support them to select a Youth MP to represent their community.

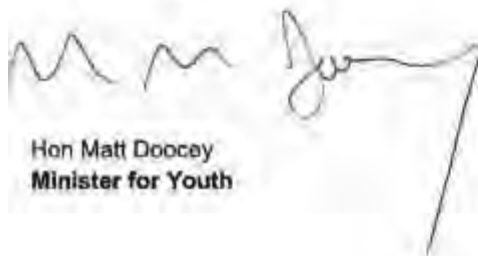
MPs will be able to promote the Youth MP selection any time from early December 2024, but applications for all Youth MPs will officially open in February 2025 to coincide with the start of the new school term. MPs will be asked to advise my officials of their chosen Youth MP by Tuesday 01 April 2025, and the four-month tenure for selected young people will run from Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 29 August 2025. MYD will be seeking the assistance of the Press Gallery to appoint the Youth Press Gallery members.

During their four-month tenure Youth MPs will receive training, engage with the MP who selected them, work on self-initiated projects within their communities, and prepare for and attend the two-day event in early July. Following the two-day event, Youth MPs will report back to their communities and have the option to continue with their community engagement projects. Youth Press Gallery members will report on Youth MPs' tenure activities and the Youth Parliament event itself.

I am intending to establish a Multi-Party Reference Group to support the successful delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme. Reflecting the non-partisan nature of Youth Parliament, I am anticipating this group will comprise a Member of Parliament from each political party represented in Parliament, as well as a representative of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. The group's role will be to support the development of a Youth Parliament programme, as well as keeping their caucuses informed and engaged with the event. Following your agreement to this letter, I intend to write to each Party Leader to request a nomination from their Party as a Multi-Party Reference Group representative.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Hon Matt Doocay  
Minister for Youth

**Approved**



Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister



RT HON GERRY BROWNLEE, MP



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

11 November 2024

Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Youth  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister,

I approve the 2025 Youth Parliament to be held at the New Zealand Parliament on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July 2025.

As mentioned previously, the Office of the Clerk will provide support to the Ministry of Youth Development Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi within its available baseline resources and "business as usual" activities.

The Parliamentary Service will assist the Office by providing limited additional resources.

The Office and the Service will work with you to find appropriate locations for the event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gerry Brownlee', written over a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee  
**Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives**

Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand  
email [speakers.office@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:speakers.office@parliament.govt.nz)



## **Appendix Three: Final MP Information Pack**

[attached separately]



## Appendix Four: Terms of Reference for the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group

### Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group: Terms of Reference



#### 1. Establishment of the Multi-Party Reference Group

The Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) for Youth Parliament 2025 is a cross-party reference group established to support the successful delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.

#### 2. Membership of the Multi-Party Reference Group

The Minister for Youth invited the Chair of the Press Gallery to join the group, and asked Parliamentary party leaders to nominate a representative who may have an interest in youth matters (i.e., the Youth Spokesperson for the Party). If the nominated Member of Parliament (MP) is unable to participate in the MPRG, they can delegate the invitation to an appropriate representative. The members of the MPRG are:

- Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Youth (MPRG Chair)
- Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Labour Party MPRG representative
- Cameron Luxton, ACT Party MPRG representative
- Jenny Marcroft, NZ First MPRG representative
- Francisco Hernandez, Green Party MPRG representative
- Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke, Te Pāti Māori MPRG representative
- Jason Walls, Chair of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Officials in attendance will include staff from the Office of Hon Matt Doocey, and from the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi which will provide the secretariat function for the MPRG.

#### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Minister for Youth and MYD:

- a) In 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister of Youth Affairs to deliver a Youth Parliament once every Parliamentary term. The Minister for Youth retains overall responsibility for the triennial delivery of Youth Parliament. As the Minister responsible, Hon Matt Doocey will provide direction to his MYD officials to deliver the programme.
- b) MYD is the lead organisation for delivery of the 2025 programme in the lead up to and during the two-day event at Parliament, the pastoral care of participants, and the evaluation of Youth Parliament. Responsibilities will also include providing secretariat support to the MPRG and disseminating information to MPs. MYD will be supported by partners across government to deliver Youth Parliament 2025 as required.

The role of the MPRG includes to:

- a) Champion an objective Youth Parliament with a youth development focus.



- b) Advocate with Parliamentary colleagues (including through members' caucuses) the opportunity to support young New Zealanders to experience and learn about Parliament, represent their communities, and debate the issues that affect them and other young people, on a national platform.
- c) To inform and update each member's respective caucuses / the Press Gallery on Youth Parliament 2025.
- d) Provide advice and guidance on aspects of the programme, at the request of the Minister for Youth, such as the role MPs and the Press Gallery can play to support Youth Parliament participants during:
  - The Youth MP selection process
  - The community engagement period
  - The two-day event at Parliament
  - The evaluation of Youth Parliament following the tenure period of participants.

#### **4. Tenure of the Multi-Party Reference Group**

The MPRG is being asked to provide advice and support on the Youth Parliament 2025 programme during the period of late November 2024 to the end of participants' tenure on 29 August 2025.

#### **5. Meeting mechanics of the Multi-Party Reference Group**

It is anticipated that the MPRG will meet at least three times during its tenure. A meeting will only proceed if a minimum of four members (excluding officials) are able to attend. MPRG members can nominate a named representative to attend on their behalf.

The Minister for Youth will chair the meeting and MYD will hold the secretariat function. The Minister's Office will endeavour to distribute an agenda and papers at least three working days in advance of a meeting. Any follow-up actions for members will be distributed within one week following the meeting.

If a member would like to add an agenda item, this can be arranged via a request to the Office of the Minister for Youth.



## Appendix Five: Draft programme for the Youth Parliament In-Person Event

Orientation Day			Day One: Tuesday 01 July 2025			Day Two: Wednesday 03 July 2025		
Time	Item	Location	Time	Item	Location	Time	Item	Location
11.00am – 2.00pm	Young people arrive in Wellington and check into accommodation. Lunch provided	Atura Hotel	From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel	From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel
2.00pm	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the theatrette	8.00am – 8.40am	Arrive at Parliament Introductory briefing	Through security to the theatrette	8.00am – 8.30am	Arrive at Parliament Day Two notices	Through security to the theatrette
2.30pm – 3.45pm	Mihi Whakatau and afternoon tea	Banquet Hall	9.00am – 9.45am	Formal opening of Youth Parliament 2025	Debating Chamber/LCC	8.45am – 10.45am	General Debate Part 2	Debating Chamber
3.45pm – 5.15pm	Tours of the Parliamentary Precinct and/or He Tohu (National Library of New Zealand Exhibition)	Parliament and National Library	10.00am – 10.15am	Official Youth Parliament 2025 photo	Internal Executive Wing Stairs	11.00am – 11.30am	Morning tea (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Grand hall
5.30pm	Meet back at the Banquet Hall	Banquet Hall	10.15am – 10.45am	Morning tea (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Banquet Hall	11.45am – 1.00pm	Question Time	Debating Chamber
5.45pm – 6.00pm	Pre-dinner introductions from MYD Minister for Youth may wish to attend	Banquet Hall	11.00am – 1.00pm	General Debate Part 1	Debating Chamber	1.15pm – 2.00pm	Lunch (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Banquet Hall
6.15pm – 7.15pm	Dinner (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Banquet Hall	1.15pm – 2.15pm	Lunch (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Banquet Hall	2.15pm – 3.45pm	Presentations on Parliamentary Working Groups, including Youth Press Gallery Questions	Theatrette
7.15pm – 8.15pm	MYD-led Whakawhānaungatanga activities	Banquet Hall	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Parliamentary Working Groups (Note: afternoon tea provided in rooms)	Select Committee Rooms	3.45pm – 4.00pm	Closing comments from the Minister for Youth and MYD	Theatrette
8.15pm – 8.30pm	MYD final announcements	Banquet Hall	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Preparation Time for Working Group Presentations/Reflection Time	Select Committee Rooms	4.15pm onwards	Transportation home commences	Various
8.30pm	Travel to hotel	Atura Hotel	5.45pm – 7.15pm	Youth Parliament Social Event. Dinner and entertainment (Note: MPs invited to attend/drop-in, but will not be catered for)	Banquet Hall			
8.40pm	Participants begin to make their way to own rooms, or spend time together in the conference room	Atura Hotel	7.45pm	Participants travel to hotel, make their way to conference room or own rooms	Atura Hotel			
9.30pm	All participants in their rooms	Atura Hotel	9.30pm	All participants in their rooms	Atura Hotel			



## Appendix Six: Draft letter to the Governor-General

[DATE]

Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO  
Governor-General of New Zealand  
Government House  
Private Bag 39-995  
Wellington Mail Centre  
LOWER HUTT 5045

Dear Your Excellency,

### ***Youth Parliament 2025 Opening Ceremony***

I am writing to invite you to open the next Youth Parliament on the morning of Tuesday 01 July 2025, at an opening ceremony designed to replicate the State Opening of Parliament. Following the Opening, there will be an Official Photo and Morning Tea.

Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of lowering the voting age to 18 years. In 1995, Cabinet invited the then Minister for Youth Affairs to hold a Youth Parliament every Parliamentary term. Youth Parliament 2025 is the eleventh of these events.

The five key objectives for the triennial Youth Parliament are:

- 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 by Youth Parliament to appropriate policy agencies.

The current Youth Parliament model includes 123 Youth Members of Parliament (Youth MPs) and up to 20 Youth Press Gallery members participating in a four-month tenure and two-day Youth Parliament event at Parliament, which will take place on Tuesday 01 July and Wednesday 02 July 2025, during the Parliamentary recess.

If you accept this invitation, the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will work with your team to prepare and support your role and you will receive a comprehensive briefing ahead of the July 2025 Youth Parliament event.

I understand your attendance at the 2022 Youth Parliament was an important feature for the young participants, and I hope your diary allows for you to attend again this year.

Yours sincerely,

Hon James Meager  
**Minister for Youth**



## Appendix Seven: Draft agenda for the Multi-Party Reference Group

### **DRAFT** Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group – Agenda

**Date:** Wednesday 12 February 2025 **Time:** 3.45pm – 4.30pm

**Venue:** Office of Hon James Meager, G.037, Parliament House

**Members:** Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth (Chair)  
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Labour Party MPRG representative  
 Cameron Luxton, ACT Party MPRG representative  
 Jenny Marcroft, NZ First MPRG representative  
 Francisco Hernandez, Green Party MPRG representative  
 Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke, Te Pāti Māori MPRG representative  
 Jason Walls, Chair of the Parliamentary Press Gallery

**In attendance:** Staff from the Office of the Minister for Youth and the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi.

#	Agenda items	Who	Enclosures
1	Welcome from Minister for Youth	Minister for Youth	
2	Draft programme for the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event	MYD officials	To be tabled
3	Overview of induction planning and training for participants	MYD officials	
4	Update from each MPRG member regarding their caucus' experience of Youth MP recruitment	MPRG members	
5	Any outstanding actions from the MPRG meeting of Thursday 05 December 2024	Minister for Youth	
6	Closing comments	Minister for Youth	
	Next meeting: April 2025 TBC		



## Appendix Eight: DRAFT talking points to support the Minister for Youth at the Multi-Party Reference Group meeting

### 1 Welcome from Minister for Youth

- Good afternoon members. Thank you for making the time for this meeting.
- As the new Minister for Youth, I'm looking forward to working with each of you to enable a unique youth development opportunity for our Youth Parliament 2025 participants, and make it a positive experience for all young people involved.

### 2 Draft programme for the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event

- My officials have a draft programme to table here with you.
- Some of the programme this time around will be different. It will respond to feedback we received from young people and Youth MPs in the evaluation of Youth Parliament 2022 – mainly focused on making the best use of their entire tenure – which is the community engagement they do in the couple of months prior to travelling to Wellington.
- [placeholder – to be updated following Youth officials' meeting].

### 3 Overview of induction planning and training for participants

- I will pass to my officials to provide an overview of the induction planning and training participants will receive during their Youth Parliament tenure.

### 4 Update from each MPRG member regarding their caucus' experience of Youth MP recruitment

- As you're aware, each MP will need to recruit, select, and mentor a Youth MP. The recruitment and promotion should be well underway now. Applications close in two and a half weeks.
- I am keen to hear from each of you how your MP colleagues have found the Youth MP recruitment process so far, and if there's any queries that haven't yet been addressed by the team.

### 5 Any outstanding actions from the MPRG meeting of Thursday 05 December 2024

- At the first MPRG meeting, I understand members expressed an interest in exploring a solution or alternative to live-streaming to video record the General Debate session/s.
- I understand OOC is unable to provide live-streaming support, as it is outside the 'business-as-usual' approach they are taking in supporting Youth Parliament 2025.
- My officials have explored alternative options, noting that Youth Parliament funding is resourced within the MYD baseline.
- [placeholder – to be updated following Youth officials' meeting].

### 6 Closing comments

- Thanks again for your time today. I'm very appreciative of your support for this programme and the young people that will be participating.
- We're planning to schedule our next meeting in April and will aim to get this into your diaries shortly.
- If you have any questions please direct them to my Office, or the Youth Parliament email address, in the first instance.



# Report



**Date:** 24 April 2025 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE  
**To:** Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth  
**Reference:** REP/25/04/313

## Update on Youth Parliament Parliamentary Working Groups

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides an update on the Youth Parliament 2025 Parliamentary Working Groups and the confirmed set of topics provided by government agencies for the groups to engage with other young people in their communities on during their tenure. It also provides draft emails for you to consider sending to the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group members to update them on the confirmed topics, and to send to Ministers responsible for agencies that have submitted a topic, so they are aware of what is involved and are invited to attend the relevant Parliamentary Working Group session at the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the list of participating agencies and submitted topics for Youth Parliament 2025 Parliamentary Working Groups
- 2 **agree** to share proposed topics with Ministers responsible for agencies that have confirmed Parliamentary Working Group topics and invite them to attend the relevant session at the in-person event
- 3 **agree** to share the list of confirmed Parliamentary Working Group topics with the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group.

**agree / disagree**

**agree / disagree**



- 4 **note** the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi is exploring an opportunity for all Youth members of Parliament to engage on a youth voice topic at the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event, separate to the Parliamentary Working Groups.



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John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

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24/04/2025

Date

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Hon James Meager  
Minister for Youth

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Date



## Background

- 2 Each parliamentary term since 1994, Youth Parliament has provided an opportunity for around 140 young people, aged 16 – 24 years, to learn about and experience the New Zealand political process, as Youth members of Parliament (MPs) and Youth Press Gallery members. The programme provides an opportunity for young people from around New Zealand to learn first-hand about the country's democratic system, how to influence decision-making, and actively work and be heard on topics and issues they are passionate about by key decision-makers, other young people and the general public.
- 3 In previous years, Youth Parliament included a mock Select Committee process. However, in response to the evaluation of Youth Parliament 2022 and to increase the value of the youth engagement opportunity that Youth Parliament presents, the Select Committee process has been replaced with Parliamentary Working Groups (PWGs) for the Youth Parliament 2025 programme.

### *Parliamentary Working Groups*

- 4 Aligned with the Youth Parliament aim of replicating parliamentary processes, Youth MPs will form their own parliamentary cross-party groups/PWGs which will come together to work towards a common purpose. Each PWG will focus on a central topic or question that is being actively considered by a government agency. Enabling Youth MPs to work on a real policy topic directly responds to feedback about the lack of tangible outcomes in the past and will significantly strengthen the youth engagement opportunity. It is also intended to highlight to agencies and decision-makers the value that youth voice can bring to the policy process and the range of topics young people are keen to contribute to.
- 5 Youth MPs will have the opportunity to indicate their interest in which PWG topics they want to work on. The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will then assign each Youth MP to a PWG, taking into account their topic preferences, and also ensuring each PWG has around 10-12 members. Within each PWG, two members will be appointed as Co-Chairs<sup>1</sup> to help facilitate group discussions with the support of MYD staff.
- 6 Once Youth MPs have been assigned to a PWG, they will receive a written briefing from the responsible agency ('PWG Topic Brief') and participate in an information session for their group. They will then lead community engagement during May and June 2025, focused on gathering youth voice from a wide range of young people in their communities on their PWG topic/issue. Youth MPs will then bring those views to the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event (in-person event) in Wellington. On the first day of the in-person event, they will discuss feedback they've received and formulate their overview of feedback/recommendations which they will then present to decision-makers on the second day. As part of Youth MPs' induction training, there is a specific module focused on preparing Youth MPs for their community engagement.
- 7 Youth Press Gallery members will also be assigned a PWG to focus on. They will all be expected to either attend community engagements where possible, or discuss findings with Youth MPs along the way, and publish articles on these activities as part of their role to draw attention to the community engagement work of Youth MPs.
- 8 Following the in-person event, and in line with good practice youth engagement, it will be important for Youth MPs to close the feedback loop with young people in their communities who they've engaged. Closing feedback loops with engaged young people could involve sharing a summary of the feedback they contributed to their PWG, insights from the in-person PWG sessions, and any follow up actions responsible government agencies are taking. This step will be covered in the Youth MPs'

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<sup>1</sup> Youth MPs can opt to either give a general debate speech, ask a Minister an Oral Question during question time, or co-chair a Parliamentary Working Group. MYD will allocate Youth MPs to their preferred activity as best as possible.



induction training, and they will be able to attend drop-in sessions with MYD staff following the in-person event if they need additional support or guidance before their tenure ends.

- 9 A high-level overview of the PWG process including key deadlines, actions, and events for Youth MPs, Youth Press Gallery members, and government agencies is attached as **Appendix One**.

## **Confirming the Youth Parliament 2025 Parliamentary Working Group Topics**

- 10 MYD has been engaging with a range of government agencies since early 2025 to identify topics for the Youth Parliament 2025 programme PWGs. On behalf of MYD, Debbie Power, the Chief Executive (CE) of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora also sent a letter to CEs of most other central government agencies inviting them to submit topics for consideration.
- 11 There has been wide interest and response from agencies to the request for topics. MYD officials have reviewed submitted topics and decided on a finalised list of twelve topics, including some that are joint topics between agencies. This final list captures a broad range of topics across different agencies that young people can select from, and topics that we believe they will be able to engage with their communities on.
- 12 The full list of proposed PWG topics for the Youth Parliament 2025 programme is attached as **Appendix Two**.
- 13 MYD recommends you or your office engages with Ministers responsible for participating agencies, so they are aware there will be a PWG topic from their portfolio and to invite them to attend the PWG session during which Youth MPs will present their recommendations to government decision-makers (day two of the in-person event). A draft email for you to consider sending to the relevant Ministers is attached as **Appendix Three**.
- 14 MYD has indicated to the participating agencies that the next steps in the process include agencies appointing or confirming their agency Subject Matter Expert (SME) (due by Thursday 01 May 2025) followed by submission of PWG Topic Briefs (due by Monday 12 May 2025). The agencies have also been advised that you/your office may be engaging with Ministers about the PWGs, and they've been asked to ensure their CE/Leadership Team is aware the topic has been selected.
- 15 As discussed at the Youth Parliament 2025 Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG) meeting on Monday 14 April 2025, you may also choose to share the list of PWG topics with MPRG members. A draft email for you to consider sending to MPRG members is attached as **Appendix Four**.

### *Proposal for Youth portfolio topic*

- 16 As noted in the Youth Status Report for the period ending Wednesday 19 March 2025, MYD had intended to identify a PWG topic for the Youth portfolio which would have created an opportunity for you to be present during a PWG report back session. As a result of, and to accommodate the large response from interested agencies who submitted PWG topics, MYD is instead considering repurposing the draft PWG question and creating a wider engagement opportunity during the in-person event that would enable participation from all Youth MPs rather than only the 10-12 Youth MPs who would have been engaged through the PWG format.
- 17 The draft topic question for the Youth portfolio is, "How could New Zealand better engage young people in government decision-making?". This question will provide all Youth MPs the opportunity to contribute to wider work led by MYD that focuses on embedding youth voice across government decision-making.
- 18 An alternative means for exploring this topic is a pop-up, youth engagement space at the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event that would allow Youth MPs to engage with MYD Youth Advisory Group members and staff and contribute their ideas and perspectives in a more dynamic format. MYD is currently investigating this option.



## **Next Steps**

- 19 MYD will discuss the content of this report with you at the Youth officials meeting on Wednesday 30 April 2025.
- 20 Pending your agreement, MYD will support your office to share the PWG topics with relevant Ministers and the MPRG.
- 21 MYD will continue to liaise with agencies who are asked to confirm their SMEs and finalise their PWG Topic Briefs by Monday 12 May 2025.
- 22 Youth MPs are due to be sent a topic preference form on Thursday 8 May 2025 and asked to advise MYD of their PWG topic preferences by Thursday 15 May 2025. We are anticipating assigning Youth MPs to their PWG by Monday 19 May 2025.

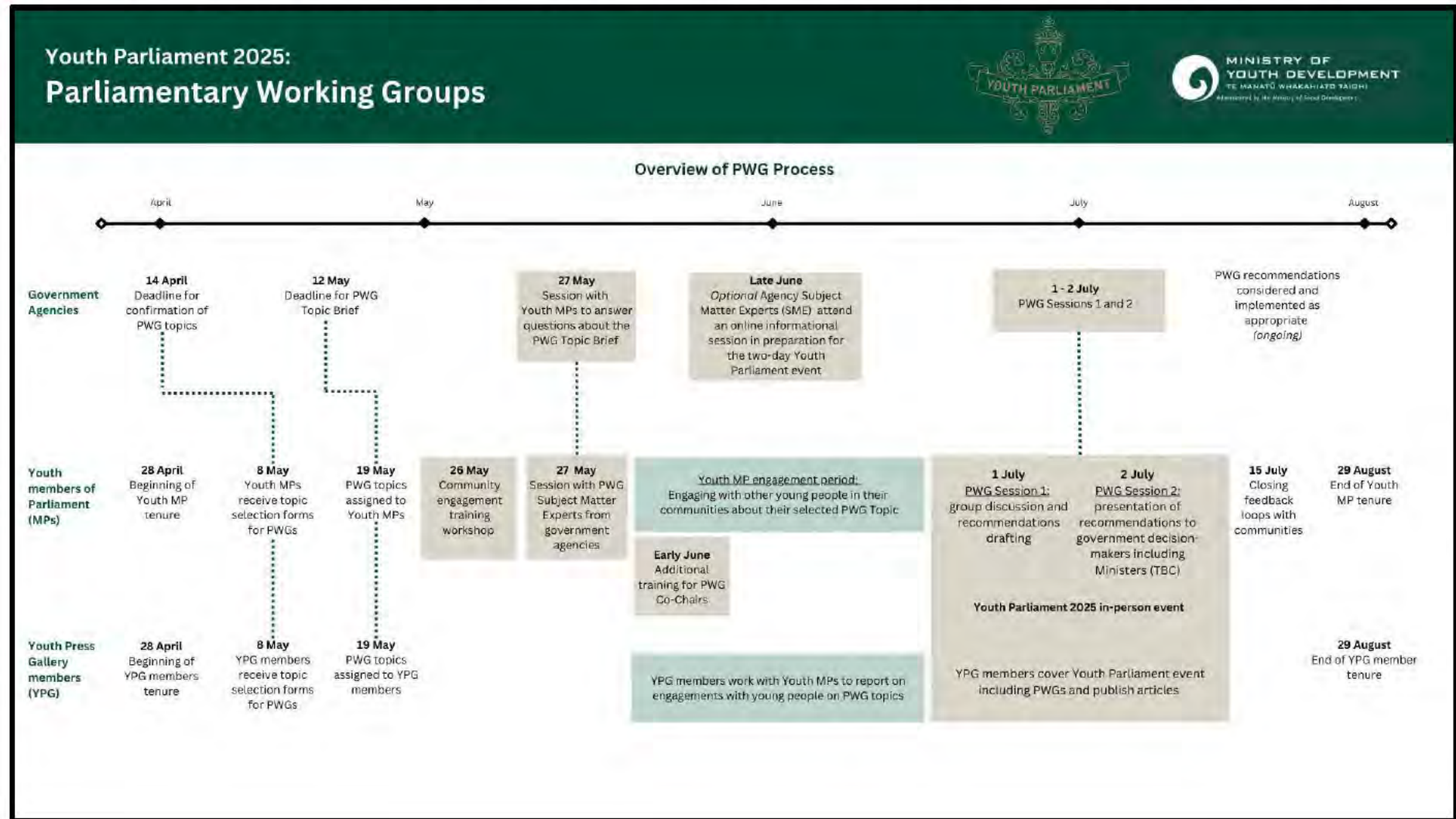
File Ref: A16904887

Author: Eliza Cummings, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director Youth, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: Overview of Youth Parliament 2025 Parliamentary Working Group Process Key Dates and Activities





## Appendix Two: Youth Parliament 2025 Parliamentary Working Group Topics

	Agency	Parliamentary Working Group (PWG) Topic
1	Ministry of Health	<p><b>Primary topic:</b> The 2023/24 New Zealand Gambling Survey (NZGS) found that young people aged 15-24 years make up approximately 25% (26,000 individuals) of moderate- and high-risk gamblers. There is also research to support that problem gambling in adolescence can persist into adulthood, and is strongly linked to financial pressures, family relationship issues, and poorer mental health outcomes.</p> <p><u>Sub-questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is what is currently being done to prevent and minimise gambling harm for young people effective?</li> <li>• What more could be done to prevent and minimise gambling harm for young people?</li> <li>• Could young people receive the same services and supports as adults, or do they need separate services and supports?"</li> </ul>
2	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	<b>Primary question:</b> Given that we need to ease the pressure on the housing market by creating more housing, is urban intensification the way to go?
3	Ministry of Social Development	<b>Primary question:</b> State of Caring QUESTION(S): How could New Zealand better prepare to address the growing population of carer support that will be required in the future?
4	Department of Internal Affairs	<b>Primary question:</b> How do you think philanthropic giving – whether that's donating or volunteering – supports local communities? How do we make the most of that giving to create meaningful change for communities?
5	Ministry of Primary Industries	<b>Primary question:</b> What should we be doing as a country to ensure we have the right workforce (i.e., right skills and capabilities) to make the most of the GeneTech regulatory changes?
6	Ministry for the Environment	<b>Primary question:</b> Economics and the environment – How can biodiversity credits be used as an economic tool to improve the environment and provide economic benefit?
7	Te Puni Kōkiri	<b>Primary question:</b> Te reo Māori in Aotearoa – What are the key barriers to the widespread adoption of te reo Māori in Aotearoa and how can these be systematically addressed?
8	Sport New Zealand	<p><b>Primary question:</b> How can government organisations use sport and physical activity to improve the lives of young people?</p> <p><u>Example sub-questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How could sport and physical activity at school (not just PE!) help make schools places students want to be?</li> <li>• How can sport and physical activity improve the hauora (both mental and physical health) of tamariki and rangatahi?</li> </ul>
<b>Joint agency PWGs:</b>		
9	Retirement Commission and The Treasury	<b>Primary question:</b> Given population ageing and other important trends expected to take place over the next 25 years, how should future governments approach retirement income policy and other social spending?
10	Ministry of Justice and the Public Health Agency	<b>Primary topic:</b> Protect young people online – What changes do we need to make to better protect young people online? (Protecting young people from the harms of social media and in other digital spaces including cyberbullying, online harassment, online threats, exposure to objectionable material, privacy breaches, the risks of A.I etc.).
11	Ministry of Education and Ministry for Pacific Peoples	<p><b>Primary question:</b> How could the education system improve the support it provides to Pacific learners?</p> <p><u>Example sub-question:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What changes to NCEA would better prepare Pacific students for future educational and career challenges?</li> </ul>
12	Ministry of Education and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People	<b>Primary topic:</b> Strengthening education, training, and employment outcomes for disabled young people, including neurodiverse young people.



## Appendix Three: Draft Email for Engagement with Other Ministers

Individual emails to be addressed to:

PWG #	Responsible Minister	Agency	Ministerial Portfolio
1 & 10	Hon Simeon Brown	Ministry of Health and the Public Health Agency	Minister of Health
2	Hon Chris Bishop	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Minister of Housing
3 & 12	Hon Louise Upston	Ministry of Social Development Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People	Minister for Social Development Minister for Disability Issues
4	Hon Brooke van Velden	Department of Internal Affairs	Minister of Internal Affairs
5	Hon Andrew Hoggard	Ministry of Primary Industries	Minister for Biosecurity Minister for Food Safety
6	Hon Penny Simmonds	Ministry for the Environment	Minister for the Environment
7	Hon Tama Potaka	Te Puni Kōkiri	Minister for Māori Development
8	Hon Mark Mitchell	Sport New Zealand	Minister for Sport and Recreation
9	Hon Scott Simpson	Retirement Commission	Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
9	Hon Nicola Willis	The Treasury	Minister of Finance
10	Hon Paul Goldsmith	Ministry of Justice	Minister of Justice
11 & 12	Hon Erica Stanford	Ministry of Education	Minister of Education
11	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Ministry for Pacific Peoples	Minister for Pacific Peoples

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your continued support of Youth Parliament 2025 including the selection of your Youth member of Parliament (MP). I want to draw your attention to the involvement of [AGENCY] in a key feature of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme, Parliamentary Working Groups (PWGs).

### Background

In previous years, Youth Parliament included a mock select committee process. However, to increase the value of Youth Parliament for government agencies, this has been replaced with PWGs. Aligned with the Youth Parliament aim of replicating parliamentary processes, Youth MPs will form their own parliamentary cross-party groups/PWGs. Each of the 10-12 PWGs will have a focus on a different real-time central topic or question contributed by a government agency. Each PWG will consist of approximately 10-12 Youth MPs, who will lead engagement with other young people in their community on the topic and bring those voices with them to Wellington for the two-day Youth Parliament 2025 event. Additionally, each PWG will have one-two Youth Press Gallery members assigned to cover the topic, including covering highlights from the engagements Youth MPs will lead with other young people and the recommendations made by Youth MPs about the PWG topic.

### Your agency's Youth Parliament 2025 PWG topic

I wanted to ensure you were aware of the PWG topic that has been put forward from your [INSERT NAME OF PORTFOLIO] portfolio for inclusion in this year's programme:



- INSERT TOPIC FOR RELEVANT MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO

### Next Steps

All Youth MPs are being inducted in early May and my officials are intending to share the full list of PWG topics with them on 8 May 2025 and ask them to indicate their preferences by 15 May 2025. They will also receive training specifically related to the community engagement they'll be undertaking on their PWG topic.

### Hearing what the Youth MPs have to say on your agency's topic

During the two-day, in-person Youth Parliament event, Youth MPs will take part in two PWG sessions:

- **PWG Session 1 (1 July 2025):** Youth MPs will discuss insights from their engagements with other young people in their community on their PWG topic and develop recommendations to present to government leaders. This session will be led by Youth MP Co-Chairs and supported by a PWG Subject Matter Expert from the relevant contributing agency and an MYD facilitator.
- **PWG Session 2 (2 July 2025):** Youth MPs will present recommendations to government decision-makers based on their discussion in Session 1.

Having the chance to present to government decision-makers on the things that matter to young people is a unique opportunity for the Youth MPs. I would like to formally invite you to attend the PWG session on 2 July 2025 which will be an opportunity for you to hear directly from the PWG focused on your agency's topic and to ask questions about Youth MP recommendations.

A copy of the full two-day programme is attached for your reference.

If you have any questions, please contact [INSERT BEST CONTACT] in my office. Please also let us know if you would like to attend the session on 2 July 2025. We will also confirm this closer to the time.

Thank you again for your support and engagement with Youth Parliament 2025.

Ngā mihi nui

[MIN EMAIL SIGNATURE]



## Appendix Four: Draft Email to MPRG members

Dear MPRG members,

Thank you for your continued support of Youth Parliament 2025.

You'll recall at our most recent meeting on 14 April 2025, my officials from the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi gave a high-level update on progress on the Parliamentary Working Group (PWG) component of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme. This email provides the list of PWG topics for your information and some background information in case you receive queries from your colleagues.

### Background

In previous years, Youth Parliament included a mock select committee process, however, to increase the value of Youth Parliament for government agencies, this has been replaced with PWGs. Aligned with the Youth Parliament aim of replicating parliamentary processes, Youth MPs will form their own parliamentary cross-party groups/PWGs. Each of the 10-12 PWGs will have a focus on a different real-time central topic or question contributed by a government agency. Each PWG will consist of approximately 10-12 Youth MPs, who will lead engagement with other young people in their community on the topic and bring those voices with them to Wellington for the two-day Youth Parliament event. Additionally, each PWG will have one-two Youth Press Gallery members assigned to cover the topic, including covering highlights from the engagements Youth MPs will lead with other young people and the recommendations made by Youth MPs about the PWG topic.

### PWG Topics for Youth Parliament 2025

Following submission of topics by government agencies, my MYD officials have confirmed the list of topics for Youth Parliament 2025 PWGs. The full list of topics is attached to this email for your reference.

All Youth MPs are being inducted in early May and my officials are intending to share the full list of PWG topics with them and ask them to indicate their preferences. They will also receive training specifically related to the community engagement they'll be undertaking on their PWG topic.

During the two-day, in-person event, Youth MPs will take part in two PWG sessions:

- **In-person PWG Session One (1 July 2025)**: Youth MPs will discuss insights from their engagements with other young people in their community on their PWG topic and develop recommendations to present to government decision-makers. This session will be led by Youth MP Co-Chairs and supported by a PWG Subject Matter Expert from the relevant contributing agency and an MYD facilitator.
- **In-person PWG Session Two (2 July 2025)**: Youth MPs will present recommendations to government decision-makers based on their discussion in Session 1.

### Next Steps

Youth MPs are due to be sent a PWG topic preference form on Thursday 8 May 2025 and asked to advise MYD of their topic preferences by Thursday 15 May 2025. MYD is intending to assign Youth MPs to their PWG by Monday 19 May.

MYD has now sent all MPs a copy of the guidance document you received to review: *Part 1: Providing pastoral care support for your Youth MP during their tenure from April – August 2025*. The next part, *Part 2: Youth Parliament 2025 Programme, Parliamentary Working Groups & Youth MP Community Engagement*, is due to be sent to MPs in mid-May and will provide more guidance to MPs on how they can support their Youth MPs with their PWG topic engagement.



If you have any questions, please contact [INSERT BEST CONTACT] in my office.

Thank you again for your support and engagement with Youth Parliament 2025.

Ngā mihi nui

[MIN EMAIL SIGNATURE]



# Report



**Date:** 12 June 2025 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth

**Reference:** REP/25/06/452

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## Youth Parliament 2025: Invitations for formal events

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with information, including high-level proposed programmes, draft invitations, and proposed invitation lists, related to the following Youth Parliament 2025 formal events:
  - Pōhiri (Monday 30 June)
  - Informal dinner (Monday 30 June)
  - Official Opening Ceremony (Tuesday 1 July)
  - Formal dinner (Tuesday 1 July).
- 2 The report seeks your agreement to send invitations to invitees to each event, as detailed in **Appendices Three to Seven**.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the high-level draft programmes for the Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri, Official Opening Ceremony, and the two dinners, attached as **Appendix Two**
  - 2 **approve** the draft invitations and invitation lists for each of these events attached as **Appendices Three to Seven**
- approve / not approved**
- 3 **note** should you agree to the above recommendation, the Ministry of Youth Development will support your office to send invitations to the proposed invitees from your Ministerial inbox as soon as possible



- 4 **note** your office will receive a comprehensive aide-mémoire, including run-sheets and draft speaking points, to support your attendance at Youth Parliament 2025 events on Thursday 19 June 2025



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John Robertson  
General Manager, Youth

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12 June 2025

Date

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Hon James Meager  
Minister for Youth

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Date



## Background

- 3 The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, with support from the Office of the Clerk (OOC) – Te Tari o Te Manahautū o Te Whare Māngai, is responsible for planning, organising, and leading the delivery of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme, which includes the Pōhiri, Official Opening Ceremony, and two dinners.
- 4 In the email titled '*Youth Parliament - Guidance for MPs (Part 2)*' that you sent to all Members of Parliament (MPs) on Monday 26 May 2025, MPs were provided with a programme for the in-person event which highlighted all events<sup>1</sup> that MPs could attend, and noted that MPs would receive an invitation for them to RSVP for the formal events in due course. As such, we expect many MPs will have already made arrangements to be in Wellington for the event and pencilled certain events into their diaries. A copy of the programme is attached at **Appendix One**.
- 5 This report provides different versions of invitations for you to send to MPs, the Youth Parliament Multi-Party Reference Group (MPRG), and other guests, tailored to the formal events that are appropriate for them to attend and the roles they may play, as outlined below. While it is proposed your office sends the attached invitations from your Ministerial email address, RSVPs for both dinners will be directed to MYD to manage.

### **Pōhiri: 2.00pm – 3.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025**

- 6 On orientation day, the Pōhiri will welcome all participants onto the Parliamentary precinct by representatives from Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui. It is scheduled to take place from 2.00pm – 3.15pm, which is inclusive of kai (an afternoon tea). A high-level run sheet for the Pōhiri is included within **Appendix Two**.
- 7 You are confirmed to attend the Pōhiri and will have an opportunity to speak following the formal proceedings. As this will be your first speaking opportunity with the whole group of participants, MYD recommends this speech is used as an opportunity to introduce yourself as the Minister responsible for Youth Parliament, and formally welcomes all participants to Youth Parliament 2025. At this stage we are anticipating all participants travelling to Wellington will have arrived at Parliament, however this additional Orientation Day in the programme was built in to provide a buffer period in case of any travel disruptions.
- 8 As you will note in the attached invitations, we are suggesting that you invite members of your Youth Parliament 2025 MPRG to attend the Pōhiri, as well as advising all MPs that they are welcome to attend as hau kāinga if they wish (RSVPs not required).

### **Informal Dinner: 5.45pm – 7.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025**

- 9 After the Pōhiri, youth participants will be organised into groups and go on a tour of the Parliamentary Precinct and/or He Tohu (National Library of New Zealand Exhibition).
- 10 Participants will then meet back at the Banquet Hall at 5.30pm to prepare for the informal dinner. You are scheduled to attend this event and will have a speaking opportunity from 5.45pm – 6.00pm. MYD recommends this speaking opportunity is used to reinforce expectations for participants around their conduct during Youth Parliament – setting them up to have a successful two full days.
- 11 You will note in the attached draft invitations that we have recommended you invite MPRG members to join you on stage during this address. This could reinforce the cross-Parliament support for the expectations of Youth Parliament 2025, including its non-Partisan focus, as well

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<sup>1</sup> Note the Pōhiri was mistakenly not highlighted in this programme. This has been rectified via the email to all MPs attached as Appendix Three.



as an opportunity for you to publicly acknowledge MPRG's support and assistance in the programme.

- 12 As mentioned in paragraph 4, MPs have already been notified they are able to attend the two dinners and that MYD would soon be seeking their RSVP to these events.

### **Official Opening Ceremony: 9.00am – 9.45am, Tuesday 1 July 2025**

- 13 The Official Opening Ceremony on the morning of Tuesday 1 July 2025 will mirror (as closely as possible) the State Opening of Parliament. It will take place in the Legislative Council Chamber (LCC) from 9.00am to 9.45am on Tuesday 1 July 2025, which is the first full day of the Youth Parliament event.
- 14 **Appendix Two** includes the draft programme for the Official Opening Ceremony. It is proposed there will be speeches from The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ (representing the Governor General in Her Excellency's absence), Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Barbara Kuriger, and a Youth MP who will speak on behalf of all Youth Parliament 2025 participants<sup>2</sup>. Further logistical detail will be included in the aide-mémoire and detailed run-sheets due to your office on Thursday 19 June 2025.
- 15 Friends and family of Youth Parliament participants, as well as any MPs will be invited to view the ceremony from the back of the LCC<sup>3</sup>. Members of the MPRG are invited to join you in the official party.
- 16 As you will have already spoken at the Pōhiri and informal dinner, we are not recommending you speak at the Official Opening Ceremony, however an opportunity will be made available for you if you wish.
- 17 When the ceremony comes to an end, attendees will proceed to the Galleria Steps for the official Youth Parliament 2025 photograph. This is scheduled to take place between 10.00am and 10.15am. Once completed, attendees will be ushered into the Grand Hall for morning tea which will take place between 10.15am and 10.45am.
- 18 MYD has been working with the Governor General's office regarding the support required for Hon Sir Anand Satyanand's attendance at the event. MYD is also liaising directly with the Deputy and Assistant Speaker's regarding their attendance and roles at events. The Speaker is unavailable as he is travelling overseas during the event.

### **Formal dinner: 5.30pm – 7.30pm, Tuesday 01 July 2025**

- 19 The Banquet Hall is booked for a formal dinner (also known as the social function) that will take place from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 July 2025. Evaluations of previous Youth Parliaments show participants highly value opportunities to socialise at the Youth Parliament two-day event with other engaged young people and to connect with MPs. It also aligns with the Youth Parliament objective to *enhance Parliamentary public relations*.
- 20 The high-level proposed programme for the formal dinner is included in **Appendix Two**. It aims to provide an opportunity to celebrate youth voice being heard and inspire young people through a speech given by keynote speaker, Chief Children's Commissioner Dr Claire Achmad, and a panel of current MPs who are former Youth MPs.

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<sup>2</sup> MYD intends to invite the Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee's Youth MP, Josh Henderson, the speaking opportunity during the official opening ceremony.

<sup>3</sup> Note MYD is currently ascertaining whether the gallery of the LCC will be available for spectators as it requires access via Te Pāti Māori offices.



- 21 We welcome any other suggestions you may have for speeches/entertainment during this event.

### *Keynote speaker*

- 22 Dr Achmad has expressed an interest in attending a Youth Parliament event to MYD officials and is recommended by MYD as a suitable speaker for this function. We'd recommend Dr Achmad's speech celebrates youth voice by inspiring the Youth Parliament 2025 participants to continue to make the most of Youth Parliament and its opportunities, as well as encouraging them to think about what they can aspire to beyond their four-month tenure. A draft invitation to Dr Achmad is attached at **Appendix Six**, which notes that you are due to meet on Thursday 19 June 2025 and could discuss this further.

### *Panel of current MPs who are former Youth MPs*

- 23 At a meeting held with your office on Tuesday 27 May 2025 regarding Youth Parliament logistics, it was suggested that current MPS who are former Youth MPs are invited to participate in a panel during the formal dinner, with discussion focused on their experiences as Youth MPs and how their involvement in the programme supported their journey to being elected as MPs.
- 24 The 2025 Youth Parliament participants will be invited to ask pre-vetted questions of the panel members. The following current MPs have been identified as former Youth MPs:

Name	Youth Parliament
Catherine Wedd	1997
Tangi Utikere	1997
Hon Ayesha Verrall	1997
Carl Bates	2000
Camilla Belich	2000
Hon Chris Bishop	2000
Tom Rutherford	2013

- 25 A draft invitation to the MPs who have been Youth MPs in the past is included as **Appendix Five**. No discussions with these MPs have taken place yet. As a contingency, if we only receive one or two acceptances, we could ask just one MP to deliver a speech on their experiences as a Youth MP instead.
- 26 The panel would be facilitated by an MC/MCs selected by MYD. We are currently scoping options for a suitable MC/MCs and will keep your office updated on this.

### *Entertainment*

- 27 Previous Youth Parliament social functions have included entertainment, such as a musical guest, dance group or choir. For 2025, MYD is proposing to remove the entertainment element of the social function in recognition of the current fiscal climate. MYD will arrange for background music to be played during the event via the Banquet Hall speaker system.

### *Attendance list for formal dinner*

- 28 The proposed attendance list for the formal dinner, aside from support staff, could comprise up to 230 guests, including:
- Youth Parliament 2025 participants (143)



- Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union<sup>4</sup> (1)
- Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the New Zealand House of Representatives (2)
- MPs (up to 40 based on previous Youth Parliament social events)
- Agency Chief Executives (includes agencies who have submitted Parliamentary Working Group topics of interest) (23)
- Youth sector organisation representatives, such as Ara Taiohi, The King's Trust New Zealand, Commonwealth Youth New Zealand, UN Youth New Zealand, Multiethnic Young Leaders (12)
- Chief Children's Commissioner, and others from Mana Mokopuna (5)
- Chief Ombudsman, Acting Privacy Commissioner, Chief Electoral Officer (3)
- Chair and Deputy Chair – Parliamentary Press Gallery (2)

29 The draft invitations inviting guests to attend the formal dinner on Tuesday 1 July 2025 are attached for your review and approval. You are welcome to add guests to the above list.

### **Next steps**

- 30 Subject to your approval and agreement, your office will arrange for the invitations to the Youth Parliament 2025 formal events to be sent to identified invitees as soon as possible.
- 31 As mentioned above, a detailed run-sheet for your attendance at any Youth Parliament event will be included in the Aide-Memoire due to your office on Thursday 19 June 2025.

File Ref: A17022968

Author: Emily Mather, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi  
Responsible manager: Keith Newton, Director Strategy, Performance & Evaluation, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

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<sup>4</sup> Your office recommended this invitation following a meeting you had with them.



## Appendix One: Programme for the Youth Parliament 2025 In-Person Event

MPs were provided with the in-person event programme on Monday 26 May 2025, and advised they were welcome to attend any of the highlighted events to support their Youth MP, and that they would receive formal invitations to the two dinners.

Orientation Day: Monday 30 June 2025		
11.00am–1.00pm	Young people arrive in Wellington and check in to accommodation. Lunch provided	Atura Hotel
By 1.30pm	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
1.40pm–2.00pm	Introductory briefing	Grand Hall
2.00pm–3.15pm	Pōhiri and afternoon tea	Banquet Hall
3.15pm–5.15pm	Tours of the Parliamentary Precinct and/or He Tohu (National Library of New Zealand Exhibition)	Parliament and National Library
5.30pm	Meet back at the Banquet Hall	Banquet Hall
5.45pm–6.00pm	Formal Welcome from the Minister for Youth and MYD	Banquet Hall
6.15pm– 7.15pm	Informal Dinner	Banquet Hall
7.15pm– 8.15pm	MYD-led Whakawhānaungatanga activities	Banquet Hall
8.15pm– 8.30pm	MYD final announcements	Banquet Hall
8.30pm	Travel to hotel	Atura Hotel
8.40pm	Participants begin to make their way to own rooms or spend time together in the conference room	Atura Hotel
9.30pm	All participants in their rooms for the night	Atura Hotel

Youth Parliament Day One: Tuesday 01 July 2025		
From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel
8.00am– 8.25am	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
8.30am– 8.45am	Day One notices	Grand Hall
9.00am–9.45am	Official Opening Ceremony for Youth Parliament 2025	Debating Chamber/LCC
10.00am–10.15am	Official Youth Parliament 2025 photo	Galleria Stairs
10.15am–10.45am	Morning tea	Grand Hall
11.00am–1.00pm	General Debate Part One	Debating Chamber
1.15pm–2.15pm	Lunch	Banquet Hall
2.30pm–4.30pm	Parliamentary Working Groups (PWG) (Note: afternoon tea provided in rooms)	Select Committee Rooms
4.30pm–5.30pm	Preparation Time for PWG Presentations/Reflection Time	Select Committee Rooms
5.45pm–7.30pm	Youth Parliament Formal Dinner	Banquet Hall
7.30pm	Travel to hotel	Atura Hotel
7.40pm	Participants begin to make their way to own rooms, or spend time together in the conference room	Atura Hotel
9.30pm	All participants in their rooms for the night	Atura Hotel

Youth Parliament Day Two: Wednesday 02 July 2025		
From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel
7.55am–8.15am	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
8.20am– 8.35am	Day Two notices	Grand Hall
8.45am– 10.45am	General Debate Part Two	Debating Chamber
11.00am– 11.30am	Morning tea	Grand Hall
11.45am– 12.45pm	Question Time	Debating Chamber
1.00pm–2.00pm	Lunch	Banquet Hall
2.15pm–3.00pm	Presentations on PWGs, including Youth Press Gallery questions	Select Committee Rooms
3:15pm - 3.45pm	Closing comments from the Minister for Youth and MYD Poroporoaki	Theatrette
4.00pm onwards	Transportation home commences	Various



## Appendix Two: Draft Runsheets for Formal Youth Parliament 2025 Events

### Draft Runsheet: Pōhiri and afternoon tea

<b>Pōhiri</b> <b>Grand Hall -&gt; Banquet Hall</b> <b>2.00pm – 3.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
1.20pm	MYD staff positioned to support participants and attendees
1.30pm	Youth participants (manuhiri) arrive at Parliament and make way to Grand Hall. Store bags in cloak room in Grand Hall. Tangata whenua begin to arrive in Banquet Hall (MYD staff, OOC, Parliamentary Services, MPs).
1.40pm	Manuhiri briefing by Nate Rowe in Grand Hall Manuhiri to practice waiata tautoko
1.45pm	Minister for Youth arrives in the Banquet Hall Other MPs arrive in the Banquet Hall
1.50pm	Tangata whenua briefing by Nate Rowe
2.00pm	Pōhiri starts [INSERT] (Parliamentary kaikaranga) to summon manuhiri into Banquet Hall. [INSERT], (kaikaranga – Youth MP for [INSERT]) to respond to karanga. Women to enter first – pause on the carpet while men come to front. Manuhiri to take seats. The front row will hongiri or hariru Nate Rowe to deliver the whaikōrero on behalf of Parliament. Tangata Whenua to perform a waiata [INSERT], Youth MP for [INSERT] will deliver the kaikōrero on behalf of the manuhiri. Manuhiri will perform a waiata [insert waiata] Nate Rowe to close ceremonial rituals with a karakia.
2.30pm (approx.)	Nate Rowe to introduce the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager Welcome speech from Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager Nate Rowe to introduce Youth Parliament participants to [Youth MP Kaikōrero] and [INSERT] to speak on behalf of Manuhiri Speech from [INSERT], Youth MP for [INSERT]. Everyone to sing a waiata [insert waiata] Nate Rowe to close pōhiri with a karakia whakamutunga.
2.45pm	Pōhiri ends
2.47pm	Group gathers for karakia kai (afternoon tea) in Banquet Hall. Karakia to be led by Youth Parliament participant [INSERT]
3.10pm	Participants asked to get into chaperone groups to start Parliament / National Library tours
3.15pm	Minister for Youth departs Exit Banquet Hall



**Draft Runsheet: Informal Dinner**

<b>Informal Dinner</b> <b>Banquet Hall</b> <b>5.30pm – 7.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
5.30pm	Doors open and youth participants start to arrive.
5.40pm	Minister for Youth arrives. MPRG members arrive.
5.45pm	[NAME] starts proceedings and welcomes the Minister for Youth to deliver a welcome address. Minister for Youth speaks, may be joined on stage by MPRG members.
5.55pm	Speeches end. Participants invited to mingle at tables until dinner is served. Minister circulates around guests and may leave at any time.
6.00pm	Other MPs invited to arrive.
6.15pm	Dinner is served.
From 6.15pm	Guests invited to mingle until return to hotel.
7.40pm	Youth participants start staggered return to hotel.

**Draft Runsheet: Official Opening Ceremony**

<b>Official Party for Opening Ceremony</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Sir Ananad Satyanand	Stand-in Governor-General	Government House
Fleur Gaston	Sir Anand's support	Government House
Barbara Kuriger	Deputy Speaker of the House	House of Representatives
Hon James Meager	Minister for Youth	House of Representatives
Members of the MPRG	MPs and Parliamentary Press Gallery Chair	House of Representatives Parliamentary Press Gallery
Sandra (Sandy) McKie	Usher of the Black Rod	New Zealand Defence Force
Guy Bendall	Serjeant-at-Arms	Office of the Clerk
TBC	TBC Clerk of the House	Office of the Clerk

<b>Official Opening Ceremony for Youth Parliament 2025, Official Photo &amp; Morning Tea</b> <b>Grand Hall -&gt; Debating Chamber/LCC -&gt; Galleria Stairs -&gt; Grand Hall</b> <b>9.00am – 10.45am, Tuesday 01 July 2025</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
8.30am	[INSERT – MYD Staff] stationed near the main Parliament reception desk to welcome guests (friends and family) attending Opening Ceremony and walk them through to the Legislative Council Chamber (LCC). Guests to be seated at the back of the LCC.



8.45am	Minister for Youth stationed at Executive Wing Reception to greet Sir Anand Satyanand and his contingency.
8.45am	Youth participants to move from Grand Hall into the Debating Chamber (House of Representatives) and be briefed about Opening Ceremony procedures, housekeeping matters and on the role of Sir Anand Satyanand.
8.50am	<p>Sir Anand Satyanand and his contingency arrive.</p> <p>The Minister for Youth will meet Sir Anand and his group and escort them through to the entrance of the Grand Hall ready for the procession.</p> <p>Usher of the Black Rod meets with Sir Anand Satyanand at entrance to Grand Hall ready for the procession.</p> <p>MPs attending the Opening Ceremony and joining the Official Party to assemble in the Grand Hall, ready to join the rear of the Official Party once it moves from the entrance of the Grand Hall into the LCC.</p>
8.55am	<p>The Deputy Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives will arrive in the Debating Chamber by 8.55am.</p> <p>All guests asked to be seated in the LCC.</p>
9.00am	<p>Procession of Official Party will be marshalled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Rod</li> <li>• Sir Anand Satyanand</li> <li>• Minister for Youth</li> <li>• Members of Parliament, including MPRG.</li> </ul> <p>Black Rod moves to the side and Sir Anand takes his seat on the stage at the front of the LCC. Official Party take their seats.</p> <p>Black Rod then moves in front of Sir Anand and bows. Sir Anand nods back and Black Rod turns about to leave the LCC.</p>
9.10am	<p>Black Rod proceeds to the House of Representatives and knocks three times on the door of the House with the Rod.</p> <p>The Speaker, on hearing Black Rod's knocking on the door of the house, signals (a nod) to the Serjeant-at-Arms who gives the order "Unlock the Door"</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker signals (a nod) to the Serjeant: The Serjeant gives the second order: "Remove the Bar"</p> <p>On admission to the house, Black Rod bows to the Deputy Speaker and says: "Madam Speaker, Sir Anand Satyanand requires the immediate attendance of this Youth Parliament in the Council Chamber".</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker leaves the Chair and follows the Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms in that order. The Clerk follows. Youth Members of the House follow.</p> <p>Youth Press Gallery members move from the Press Gallery in the House of Representatives to the first floor LCC gallery.</p>
9.15am	<p>At the entrance to the LCC, Black Rod moves to the right and the Serjeant-at-Arms to the left to allow the Speaker and the Clerk to enter first.</p> <p>The Speaker of Youth Parliament bows (nod of head) three times, once on entering the Chamber, once when half-way to their place, and once on arriving at their seat. Sir Anand acknowledges each bow (nods his head).</p> <p>Black Rod and the Serjeant-at-Arms follow the Clerk into the Chamber</p> <p>Youth MPs follow and move to their seats on either side of the LCC.</p>
9.25am	<p>When all are in position, Sir Anand addresses participants saying, "Youth Parliament participants, please be seated."</p> <p>Sir Anand reads a speech welcoming members to Youth Parliament 2025, congratulating them on their achievement and participation and wishing them a positive few days at Youth Parliament.</p>



	At the conclusion of the Speech, Sir Anand sits back in his chair. Deputy Speaker [TBC] moves to lectern to give speech [INSERT], Youth MP for [INSERT] moves to the lectern to respond to Sir Anand and the Deputy Speaker, on behalf of 2025 participants.
9.45am	The Black Rod moves to the centre of the chamber and faces the front. Sir Anand stands and faces the Black Rod. Everyone else in attendance stands. Black Rod bows to Sir Anand, Sir Anand acknowledges the bow. Then the Black Rod turns about and leads Sir Anand out of the LCC. They proceed to the Galleria Steps. Once the Black Rod and Sir Anand have left the Council Chamber, the Serjeant-at-Arms retrieves the Mace and moves to a position in front of the Speaker and acknowledges the Speaker before turning to face the Grand Hall. The Serjeant-at-Arms joins the procession out of the LCC, followed by the Speaker, Clerk, attending MPs and Youth Members (in that order) to the Galleria Steps for the Official Youth Parliament 2025 photo.
10.00am	Official photograph
10.15am	Minister for Youth to escort Sir Anand from Galleria Steps to Grand Hall for morning tea and can introduce Sir Anand to guests and participants with MYD's support as needed.
10.45am	Morning tea concludes. Sir Anand may depart at any time following the official photograph, Minister for Youth to depart any time following Sir Anand's departure.

### Draft Runsheet: Formal Dinner

<b>Formal Dinner</b> <b>Banquet Hall</b> <b>5.30pm – 7.30pm, Tuesday 1 July 2025</b>	
Time	Item
5.30pm – 5.45pm	Doors open and participants start to arrive.
5.45pm	Minister for Youth arrives. All MPs invited to arrive.
5.50pm	All participants in seats
5.50pm	[MC NAME] starts proceedings and welcomes the Chief Children's Commissioner to give an address. Chief Children's Commissioner speaks [5-10 minutes]
6.00pm	MC thanks Chief Children's Commissioner MC invites former Youth MP/Current MPs to stage for panel [15-20 minutes]
6.25pm	MC concludes formalities and announces dinner Karakia kai
6.30pm	Dinner is served
From 6.30pm	Minister circulates around guests and may leave at any time.
7.20pm	Guests invited to mingle until return to hotel.
7.40pm	Youth participants start staggered return to hotel.



## Appendix Three: Draft invitation to MPRG members

### Draft email to invite MPRG members to:

- attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri
- be in the Official Party of Youth Parliament 2025 Opening Ceremony, and
- attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions.

**Recipients:** Arena Williams; Cameron Luxton; Jenny Marcroft; Francisco Hernandez; Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke; Jason Walls

**Subject Line:** Youth Parliament MPRG members: Invitation to formal events

Hi,

As you know, the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event will take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July, with orientation activities for the Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members taking place on Monday 30 June 2025.

MPs have already received a copy of the full two-day programme which highlighted activities you might like to attend to support your Youth MP, if you are in Wellington (reattached to this email).

This email is an invitation to attend the formal events, in your capacity as a member of the Multi-Party Reference Group that has supported me to lead the programme.

### Invitation to attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri

On **Monday 30 June 2025, from 2.00pm to 3.15pm**, I would like to invite you to join me at the **Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri** and following afternoon tea. Youth participants will be formally welcomed to Parliament by representatives from Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui, mana whenua of this rohe and individuals from Parliamentary Services, MYD and Office of the Clerk at the Pōhiri. If you would like to attend, please be in the **Banquet Hall by 1.45pm**.

### Invitation to be a member of the Official Party at the opening ceremony for Youth Parliament 2025

On **Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 8.55am to 10.45am**, I would also like to invite you to join me, as a member of the Official Party at the **opening ceremony for the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event**.

The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ will be formally opening the event, on behalf of the Governor General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, and the ceremony will be based on the State Opening of Parliament process.

At 08:55am, the Official Party will assemble in the Grand Hall just prior to proceedings. From 9.00am to 09.45am, the opening ceremony will take place in the Legislative Council Chamber. Following the ceremony, from 10.00am to 10.15am, you are invited to take part in a Youth Parliament 2025 official photograph on the Galleria Steps, and from 10.15am to 10.45am, attend morning tea in the Grand Hall.

### Invitation to attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions

You are invited to attend the social functions which will be held in the Banquet Hall both evenings during the two-day event:

- **Informal dinner - Monday 30 June 2025, from 5.40pm – 7.15pm:** As MPRG members, I would like to invite you to join me in welcoming the participants, from 5.45pm – 6.00pm, prior to their dinner. During my welcome speech I'll ask you to join me on stage so I can introduce you. The dinner, from 6.00pm – 7.15pm, will allow participants to get to know each other and provide an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants and MPs.



- **Formal dinner – Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 5.45pm – 7.30pm:** a dinner with speeches, and an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants, MPs, and other external guests. (Note: dress code is smart clothing/regular business attire).

Dinner and refreshments, including non-alcoholic beverages, will be available at both events.

If you would like to attend any of the events outlined above, please RSVP directly to the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi via [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz) by **Thursday 19 June 2025** and include any dietary requirements. Note: you do not need to RSVP for any of the other activities in the programme that you plan to attend to support your Youth MP.

If you are attending the opening ceremony as part of the Official Party, the Ministry of Youth Development will send you more detailed information on what this will entail by Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Regards,

Hon James Meager

[Ministerial signature]



## Appendix Four: Draft invitation to all MPs (excluding MPRG and former Youth MPs)

### Draft email to invite MPs to:

- attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Opening Ceremony, and
- attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions.

**Recipients:** All MPs excluding MPs that are MPRG members, or have been Youth MPs previously, as they will receive a separate invite

**Subject Line:** Invitation to Youth Parliament 2025 formal events

Hi,

As you know, the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event will take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July, with orientation activities for the Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members taking place on Monday 30 June 2025.

You have already received a copy of the full two-day programme which highlighted activities you might like to attend to support your Youth MP, if you are in Wellington (reattached to this email).

This email is an invitation to attend some of the more formal events.

### Invitation to attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri

On **Monday 30 June 2025, from 2.00pm to 3.15pm**, I would like to invite you to join me at the **Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri** and following afternoon tea to welcome participants to Parliament. Youth participants will be formally welcomed to Parliament by representatives from Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui, mana whenua of this rohe and individuals from Parliamentary Services. MYD and Office of the Clerk at the Pōhiri. If you would like to attend, please be in the **Banquet Hall by 1.45pm**.

### Invitation to attend the opening ceremony of Youth Parliament 2025

On **Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 9.00am to 9.45am**, you are invited to watch the official opening for the two-day event – an opening ceremony based on the State Opening of Parliament process which will be taking place in the Legislative Council Chamber. The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ will be formally opening the event, on behalf of the Governor General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO. If you would like to watch the ceremony, **please be seated at the back of the LCC by 8.45am**.

Following the opening ceremony, **from 10.00am to 10.45am** you are also invited to take part in the official photograph for Youth Parliament 2025 on the Galleria Steps, and to attend morning tea in the Grand Hall.

### Invitation to attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions

You are invited to attend the social functions which will be held in the Banquet Hall both evenings during the two-day event:

- **Informal dinner - Monday 30 June 2025, from 6.00pm – 7.15pm:** the dinner will allow participants to get to know each other and provide an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants and MPs.
- **Formal dinner - Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 5.45pm – 7.30pm:** a dinner with speeches, and an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants, MPs, and other external guests. (Note: dress code is smart clothing/regular business attire).

Dinner and refreshments, including non-alcoholic beverages, will be available at both functions.



If you would like to attend any of the formal events outlined above, please RSVP directly to the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi via [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz) by **Thursday 19 June 2025** and include any dietary requirements. Note: you do not need to RSVP for any of the other activities in the programme that you plan to attend to support your Youth MP.

Regards,

Hon James Meager  
[Ministerial Signature]



## Appendix Five: Draft invitation to current MPs who were previously Youth MPs

### Draft email to invite current MPs who were previously Youth MPs to:

attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Opening Ceremony, and

attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions and participate in an MP Panel at the formal dinner.

**Recipients:** Catherine Wedd; Tangi Utikere; Hon Ayesha Verrall; Carl Bates; Camilla Belich; Hon Chris Bishop; Tom Rutherford

**Subject Line:** Invitation to attend Youth Parliament 2025 formal events and be part of a Former Youth MP Panel

Hi,

As you know, the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event will take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 July, with orientation activities for the Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members taking place on Monday 30 June 2025.

You have already received a copy of the full two-day programme which highlighted activities you might like to attend to support your Youth MP, if you are in Wellington (reattached to this email).

This email is an invitation to attend some of the more formal events.

#### Invitation to attend the Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri

On **Monday 30 June 2025, from 2.00pm to 3.15pm**, I would like to invite you to join me at the **Youth Parliament 2025 Pōhiri** and following afternoon tea to welcome participants to Parliament. Youth participants will be formally welcomed to Parliament by representatives from Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui, mana whenua of this rohe and individuals from Parliamentary Services, MYD and Office of the Clerk at the Pōhiri. If you would like to attend, please be in the **Banquet Hall by 1.45pm**.

#### Invitation to attend the opening ceremony of Youth Parliament 2025

On **Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 9.00am to 9.45am**, you are invited to watch the official opening for the two-day event – an opening ceremony based on the State Opening of Parliament process which will be taking place in the Legislative Council Chamber. The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ will be formally opening the event, on behalf of the Governor General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO. If you would like to watch the ceremony, **please be seated at the back of the LCC by 8.45am**.

Following the opening ceremony, **from 10.00am to 10.45am** you are also invited to take part in the official photograph for Youth Parliament 2025 on the Galleria Steps, and to attend morning tea in the Grand Hall.

#### Invitation to attend Youth Parliament 2025 social functions

You are invited to attend the social functions which will be held in the Banquet Hall both evenings during the two-day event:

- **Informal dinner - Monday 30 June 2025, from 6.00pm – 7.15pm:** the dinner will allow participants to get to know each other and provide an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants and MPs.
- **Formal dinner - Tuesday 1 July 2025, from 5.45pm – 7.30pm:** a dinner with speeches, and an opportunity for informal networking for Youth Parliament 2025 participants, MPs, and other external guests. (Note: dress code is smart clothing/regular business attire).

Dinner and refreshments, including non-alcoholic beverages, will be available at both functions.



During the **formal dinner** we are planning to have a Q and A panel session comprising MPs that have previously participated in the Youth Parliament programme. **As you are a former Youth MP**, you are invited to participate in the panel to share how Youth Parliament has influenced your career pathways. I'm sure this is something the Youth MPs will really appreciate hearing about as they move forward after their tenure, so it'd be great if you're able to participate.

If you would like to attend any of the formal events outlined above, and to be a member of the former Youth MP panel at the formal dinner, please RSVP directly to the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi via [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz) by **Thursday 19 June 2025** and include any dietary requirements. Note: you do not need to RSVP for any of the other activities in the programme that you plan to attend to support your Youth MP.

If you are participating in the MP panel, the Ministry of Youth Development will send you more detailed information on what this will entail by Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Regards,

Hon James Meager

[Ministerial signature]



## Appendix Six: Draft invitation to the Chief Children's Commissioner

### Draft letter of invitation to the Chief Children's Commissioner to:

- attend the Youth Parliament 2025 formal dinner

**Recipient:** Dr Claire Achmad, Chief Children's Commissioner

**Subject Line:** Invitation to the Youth Parliament 2025 formal dinner

Hi Claire,

### Invitation to attend and speak at the Youth Parliament 2025 formal dinner on Tuesday 1 July 2025

As you may be aware, 2025 marks the eleventh Youth Parliament.

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the formal dinner which will take place in the Banquet Hall, Parliament from **5.45pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 July 2025**. I would also like to invite you to speak at the event, if possible, to celebrate youth voice being heard, inspire the young people to make the most of their Youth Parliament participation and encourage them to think about what they can aspire to beyond their tenure.

Youth Parliament is a non-partisan youth development programme led by the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi and supported by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai and other government partners. It provides an opportunity for young people in New Zealand to learn first-hand about our democracy, develop leadership skills, influence government decision-making, and have their voices heard. A total of 123 Youth members of Parliament (MPs) and 20 Youth Press Gallery members are participating in 2025.

Tenure for the 143 Youth Parliament participants (123 Youth Members of Parliament and 20 Youth Press Gallery members) commenced on Monday 28 April 2025 and will conclude on Friday 29 August 2025. The Youth Parliament 2025 orientation day and two-day event will take place at Parliament in Wellington from Monday 30 June to Wednesday 2 July.

The dinner will include speeches and time for informal networking with Youth Parliament 2025 participants, MPs, and other invited guests. Other invited guests include the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Public Service chief executives, youth organisation representatives, and members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. Dinner and refreshments, including non-alcoholic beverages, will be served. The dress code is smart clothing/regular business attire.

### Next steps

Please RSVP to MYD at [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz) by **Thursday 19 June 2025** if you are able to attend. Please let them know if you would like to invite others from Mana Mokopuna to attend as well.

If you agree to be a speaker, MYD will be in touch to discuss the outline of the event and to answer any questions you may have. If you are unavailable, you may wish to pass this invitation to someone else within your organisation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request to contribute to a critical part of the Youth Parliament 2025 programme and enhance the experience for the young people.

I look forward to our upcoming meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June where we can discuss this further if you wish.

Regards,

Hon James Meager

[Ministerial Signature]



## Appendix Seven: Draft invitation to ‘other guests’ (e.g., agency CEs, Youth Sector Stakeholders – refer Paragraph 28 of the Report)

Dear [name],

The Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager, is pleased to invite you to attend the Youth Parliament 2025 formal dinner which is being held in the Banquet Hall in Parliament on **Tuesday 1 July 2025 from 5.45pm to 7.30pm**.

Youth Parliament is a non-partisan youth development programme led by the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi and supported by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives – Te Tari o te Manahautū o te Whare Māngai and other government partners. It is an opportunity for young people in New Zealand to learn first-hand about our democracy, develop leadership skills, influence government decision-making, and have their voices heard. A total of 123 Youth members of Parliament (MPs) and 20 Youth Press Gallery members are participating in 2025.

Dinner and refreshments, including non-alcoholic beverages, will be available at this event.

Please allow an extra 20 minutes to pass through Parliament security before the start of the event.

We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of speeches and time for informal networking with Youth Parliament 2025 participants, MPs, and other invited guests.



Hon James Meager

Minister for Youth

Invites

[Name]

to

Youth Parliament 2025 formal dinner

in the



Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington  
at 5:45pm

on

Tuesday 1 July 2025

*in association with the*  
Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

***RSVP to [beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz](mailto:beheard@youthparliament.govt.nz)  
by Thursday 19 June 2025***







**MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAO TAIOHI  
*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*

<b>Date:</b>	30 June 2025	<b>Security level:</b>	IN CONFIDENCE
<b>For:</b>	Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth		
<b>Reference:</b>	REP/25/06/456		

**Event details**

**Purpose:** You are hosting the Youth Parliament 2025 in-person event at Parliament Buildings from Monday 30 June to Wednesday 2 July 2025.

**Dates/Times/Locations:** Attached as **Appendix One** is an overview of the in-person programme. This highlights events you have agreed to attend (highlighted in green), and those you’ve indicated you may drop-in to (highlighted in orange).

A run-sheet, including venues and expected attendees, for each of the events you are confirmed to attend is provided at **Appendices Two to Nine**.

**Speeches:** You have agreed to speak at the Pōhiri, Informal Dinner, and during the closing of Youth Parliament 2025. The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi has provided your office with talking points for each of these events separately.

You have also agreed to be the MC at the Formal Dinner on Tuesday 1 July 2025. Further detail on your role is included in the run-sheet.

You have also agreed to host a ‘Post-cabinet’ style press conference with the Youth Press Gallery. This is a new addition to the programme and is reflected in Appendix One, taking place from 1.45pm on Tuesday 1 July. The Youth Press Gallery will be provided a Sample ‘Briefing to the Incoming Minister’ document which is a short BIM based off what you received in January 2025 as the incoming Minister for Youth. The Youth Press Gallery will ask you questions based on the Sample BIM as if you have just been appointed the new Minister for Youth.

For Mock Question Time, 19 Youth MPs are asking oral questions of Five attending Ministers. You have received six questions relating to your Youth portfolio, noting one is yet to be finalised by the Youth MP (as at 30 June 2025). MYD will support your office to prepare draft responses to each of these questions.

Key messages regarding Youth Parliament 2025 are attached as **Appendix Ten**.

<b>Youth Parliament Programme 2025</b>	Your office has been provided with a copy of the Youth Parliament 2025 'Mega Programme' which includes a finer level of detail than contained in the run sheets attached to this aide-mémoire (e.g., chaperone details for
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	<p>youth participants, locations for PWGs, and the schedule of General Debates).</p> <p>MPs have all been provided with updated information on the programme, schedule of Youth MPs speaking in the general debate and during question time, and the venues for the Parliamentary Working Group sessions. They've also been provided with run sheets and seating maps for the Pōhiri and Opening Ceremony.</p> <p>MYD has provided the Prime Minister's office with a draft speech and run sheet to support his opening address at the formal dinner.</p> <p>Questions for mock Question Time have been sent to participating Ministers from your office, ahead of the mock event on Wednesday 2 July 2025.</p>
<b>Media</b>	<p>MYD has received requests from media wanting to interview participants during the event. We have allocated time during both lunchtimes where Youth MPs can be made available to participate in interviews, when it won't impact on the programme and staff will be available to support them.</p> <p>Your office has also put time aside in your diary should you receive any requests to participate in these interviews, as well as the 'Post-cabinet' style press conference on Tuesday 1 July.</p> <p>We have also added time into the programme, from 12.45pm- 1.00pm on Wednesday 2 July, after Question Time, for the Youth Press Gallery to ask questions of Youth MPs on the Black and White Tiles.</p>
<b>Risks</b>	<p>Youth Parliament participants have all agreed to the Youth Parliament 2025 Code of Conduct and are aware it is an apolitical programme. You have supported this messaging with your MP colleagues via emails and guidance, as well as through your Multi-Party Reference Group.</p> <p>We have catered for additional guests for all mealtimes, anticipating that more may arrive than have RSVP'd. Alcoholic beverages will not be available at any of the events.</p> <p>All of the officials supporting the programme, from MYD, MSD, the Daytime and Nighttime Wellbeing Teams, and those supporting the Parliamentary Working Groups, have been briefed on their roles and have been advised to escalate any matters of concern to the MYD Youth Parliament 2025 Project Team in accordance with the Pastoral Care Plan (for example, if a guest's behaviour is inappropriate or if a Youth Parliament 2025 participant is in distress).</p> <p>Throughout the duration of the event, chaperones are assigned to groups of participants to support and guide them through the activities. There will be different support staff overnight to allow daytime chaperones to rest. The 'Mega Programme' provided to your office contains further detail on escalation processes.</p>

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Author: Emily Mather, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Responsible Manager: Keith Newton, Director, Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi



## Appendix One: High-level programme: Youth Parliament 2025

Key:	
	Minister for Youth confirmed to attend
	Minister for Youth may drop-in
	All MPs invited to attend

Orientation Day: Monday 30 June 2025		
11.00am–1.00pm	Young people arrive in Wellington and check in to accommodation. Lunch provided	Atura Hotel
By 1.30pm	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
1.40pm–2.00pm	Introductory briefing	Grand Hall
<b>2.00pm–3.15pm</b>	<b>Pōhiri and afternoon tea</b>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
3.15pm–5.15pm	Tours of the Parliamentary Precinct and/or He Tohu (National Library of New Zealand Exhibition)	Parliament and National Library
5.30pm	Meet back at the Banquet Hall	Banquet Hall
<b>5.45pm–6.00pm</b>	<b>Formal Welcome from the Minister for Youth and MYD</b>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
<b>6.15pm–7.15pm</b>	<b>Informal Dinner</b>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
7.15pm–8.15pm	MYD-led Whakawhānaungatanga activities	Banquet Hall
8.15pm–8.30pm	MYD final announcements	Banquet Hall
8.30pm	Travel to hotel	Atura Hotel
8.40pm	Participants begin to make their way to own rooms or spend time together in the conference room	Atura Hotel
9.30pm	All participants in their rooms for the night	Atura Hotel

Youth Parliament Day One: Tuesday 01 July 2025		
From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel
8.00am–8.25am	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
8.30am–8.45am	Day One notices	Grand Hall
<b>9.00am–9.45am</b>	<b>Formal Opening of Youth Parliament 2025</b>	<b>Debating Chamber/LCC</b>
<b>10.00am–10.15am</b>	<b>Official photo</b>	<b>Executive Wing Stairs</b>
<b>10.15am–10.45am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	<b>Grand Hall</b>
11.00am–1.00pm	General Debate - Part One	Debating Chamber
1.15pm–2.15pm <i>1.45pm–2.15pm TBC: Media interviews</i>	Lunch	Banquet Hall
1.45pm–2.00pm	<b>'Post-cabinet' style press conference with Minister for Youth and Youth Press Gallery</b>	<b>Theatrette</b>
2.30pm–4.30pm	Parliamentary Working Groups (PWG) (Note: afternoon tea provided in rooms)	Select Committee Rooms
4.30pm–5.30pm	Preparation Time for PWG Presentations/Reflection Time	Select Committee Rooms
<b>5.45pm–7.30pm</b>	<b>Formal Dinner</b>	<b>Banquet Hall</b>
7.30pm	Travel to hotel	Atura Hotel
7.40pm	Participants begin to make their way to own rooms, or spend time together in the conference room	Atura Hotel
9.30pm	All participants in their rooms for the night	Atura Hotel

Youth Parliament Day Two: Wednesday 02 July 2025		
From 7.00am	Breakfast	Atura Hotel
7.55am–8.15am	Arrival at Parliament	Through security to the Grand Hall
8.20am–8.35am	Day Two notices	Grand Hall
8.45am–10.45am	General Debate - Part Two	Debating Chamber
11.00am–11.30am	Morning tea	Grand Hall
<b>11.45am–12.45pm</b>	<b>Question Time</b>	<b>Debating Chamber</b>
12.45pm–1.00pm	Youth Press Gallery interviews with Youth MPs	Black and White tiles
1.00pm–2.00pm <i>1.30pm–2.00pm TBC: Media interviews</i>	Lunch	Banquet Hall
<b>2.15pm–3.00pm</b>	<b>Presentations on PWGs, including Youth Press Gallery questions</b>	<b>Select Committee Rooms</b>
<b>3:15pm – 3.45pm</b>	<b>Closing comments from the Minister for Youth and MYD Poroporoaki</b>	<b>Theatrette</b>
4.00pm onwards	Travel home	Various



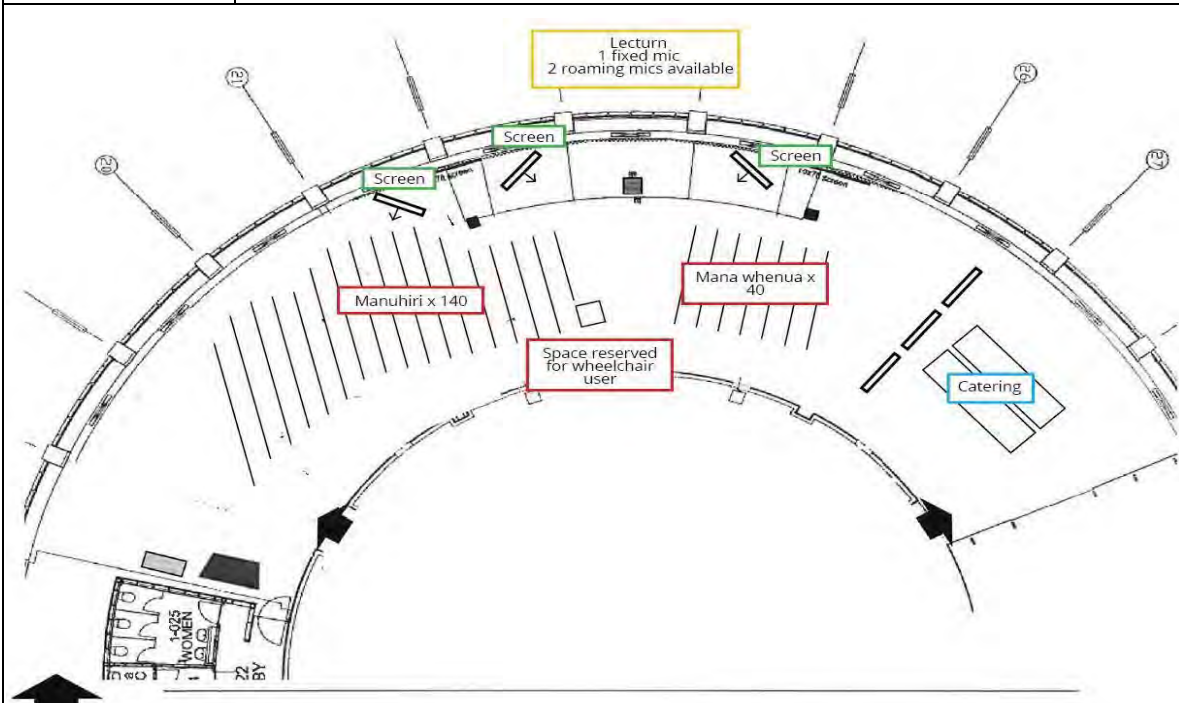
## Appendix Two: Pōhiri and afternoon tea

Attendees:	
Name/ Group	Role
143 Youth participants	Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery
Nate Rowe	Lead Te Ati Awa Representative / Speaker
Te Ati Awa Representatives	
Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth	Speaker
MYD and MSD staff	Tangata Whenua / Youth Parliament organisers / Chaperones
Parliamentary Services and Office of the Clerk Staff	Tangata Whenua
MP RSVPs (as at 26 June 2025)	
Tom Rutherford, Catherine Wedd, Greg O'Connor, Hon Casey Costello, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, Lan Pham, David MacLeod, Scott Willis, Cushla Tangaere-Manuel, Kahurangi Carter, Hon Melissa Lee, Benjamin Doyle, Francisco Hernandez, Hon Jo Luxton, Nancy Lu.	

Runsheets:	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pōhiri</b>  <b>Grand Hall -&gt; Banquet Hall</b>  <b>2.00pm – 3.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025</b></p>	
Time	Item
1.10pm	MYD staff positioned to support participants and attendees
1.10pm - 1.30pm	Youth participants (manuhiri) arrive at Parliament and make way to Grand Hall. Store bags in cloak room in Grand Hall. Tangata whenua begin to arrive in Banquet Hall (MYD staff, OOC, Parliamentary Services, MPs).
1.40pm	Manuhiri briefing by Nate Rowe in Grand Hall Manuhiri to practice waiata tautoko
1.45pm	<b>Minister for Youth arrives in the Banquet Hall</b> Other MPs arrive in the Banquet Hall
1.50pm	Tangata whenua briefing by Nate Rowe in Banquet Hall
2.00pm	Pōhiri starts Parliamentary kaikaranga to summon manuhiri into Banquet Hall. Moerangi Falaoa-Rakaupai, (MSD staff member) to respond to karanga on behalf of Youth participants. Women to enter first – pause on the carpet while men come to front. Manuhiri to take seats. The front row will hongiri or hariru. Nate Rowe to deliver the whaikōrero on behalf of Parliament. Te Ati Awa to perform a waiata to support Nate's whaikōrero. Elite Reti, Youth MP for Hon Peeni Henare, will deliver a kaikōrero on behalf of the manuhiri. Manuhiri will perform a waiata [Te Aroha] Terangitukiwaho Edwards, Youth MP for Mariameno Kapa-Kingi, will deliver a second kaikōrero on behalf of the manuhiri.



	<p>Manuhiri will perform a waiata [He Honore]</p> <p>Nate Rowe to close ceremonial rituals with a karakia.</p>
2.30pm (approx.)	<p>Nate Rowe to introduce the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</p> <p><b>Welcome speech from Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</b></p> <p>Everyone to sing a waiata [Te Aroha Verse 2]</p> <p>Nate Rowe to introduce Maevi Fleming, Youth MP for Hon James Meager to deliver welcome speech.</p> <p>Everyone to sing a waiata [Tūtira mai ngā iwi]</p> <p>Nate Rowe to close pōhiri with a karakaia whakamutunga.</p>
2.45pm	Pōhiri ends
2.47pm	Group gathers for karakia kai (afternoon tea) in Banquet Hall. Karakia to be led by Youth Parliament participant Oscar Duffy, Youth MP for Hon Melissa Lee.
3.00pm	Participants asked to get into chaperone groups to start Parliament / National Library tours
3.15pm	<p><b>Minister for Youth departs</b></p> <p>Exit Banquet Hall</p>



Pōhiri layout in Banquet Hall



## Pōhiri Waiata:

### **Waiata One:**

Te Ati Awa will sing a waiata following Nate's whaikōrero.

### **Waiata Two: Te Aroha**

Te Aroha	<i>Love</i>
Te whakaponono	<i>Faith</i>
Me te rangimārie	<i>And peace</i>
Tātou tatou e	<i>All of us, all of us.</i>
Sing it all a second time.	

### **Waiata Three: He Honore**

He hōnora, he korōria	<i>Honour, glory and</i>
Maungārongo ki te whenua.	<i>peace to the land.</i>
Whakaaro pai e	<i>May good thoughts come</i>
Ki ngā tangata katoa	<i>to all men</i>
Ake ake, ake ake.	<i>for ever and ever, for ever and ever</i>
Āmine	<i>Amen.</i>
Te Atua, te piringa,	<i>The Lord is the refuge</i>
Toku oranga.	<i>and my life.</i>
Repeat last two lines	

### **Waiata Four: Te Aroha Verse 2**

Me honoa	<i>Connected</i>
ki te Atua	<i>to the Lord</i>
Ka puta ka ora e	<i>We shall survive and thrive</i>
Tātou Tātou e	<i>All of us, All of us</i>
Repeat	
Ka puta ka ora e	<i>We shall survive and thrive</i>
Tātou Tātou e	<i>All of us, All of us</i>

### **Waiata Five: Tūtira mai ngā iwi**

Tūtira mai ngā iwi	<i>Line up together, people</i>
Tātou tātou e	<i>All of us, all of us</i>
Tūtira mai ngā iwi	<i>Stand in rows, people</i>
Tātou tātou e	<i>All of us, all of us</i>
Whai-a te marama-tanga	<i>Seek after knowledge</i>
me te aroha -e ngā iwi!	<i>and love of others – everybody!</i>
Ki-a tapa-tahi	<i>Be really virtuous</i>
Ki-a Kotahi rā.	<i>and stay united.</i>
Tātou tātou e.	<i>All of us, all of us.</i>
Sing it all a second time.	
Then finish with...	
Tā - tou, tā – tou E!!	<i>All of us, all of us!!</i>
Hi aue hei!!	<i>Hi aue hei</i>



## Appendix Three: Informal Dinner

Attendees:	
Name/ Group	Role
143 Youth Participants	Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery
Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth	Speaker
Cameron Luxton, Francisco Hernandez	MPs – MPRG
Debbie Power	Chief Executive, MSD
Marama Edwards	Deputy Chief Executive, MSD
MYD and MSD staff	Youth Parliament Organisers / Chaperones
MP RSVPs (as at 26 June 2025)	
Hon Scott Simpson, Ingrid Leary, Dana Kirkpatrick, Suze Redmayne, Hon Rachel Brooking, Hon Deborah Russell, Tim Costley, Tom Rutherford, Greg O'Connor, Hon Casey Costello, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, Kahurangi Carter, Hon Melissa Lee, Benjamin Doyle, Nancy Lu, Grant McCallum, Hon Jo Luxton, Mike Butterick, Reuben Davidson, Catherine Wedd.	

Runsheets:	
Informal Dinner Banquet Hall 5.30pm – 7.15pm, Monday 30 June 2025	
Time	Item
5.30pm	Doors open and youth participants start to arrive.
5.40pm	<b>Minister for Youth arrives.</b> MPRG members arrive.
5.45pm	Keith Newton, Director - Strategy, Performance and Evaluation, MYD, and Benji Moorhouse, Project Manager – Youth Parliament, MYD to start proceedings and welcome the Minister for Youth to deliver his welcome address. <b>Minister for Youth speaks, asks MPRG members (Francisco, Cameron, Jason) to join him on stage.</b>
5.55pm	Speeches end. Participants invited to mingle at tables until dinner is served. <b>Minister circulates around guests and may leave at any time.</b>
6.00pm	Other MPs invited to arrive.
6.15pm	Dinner is served. Guests invited to mingle until start of MYD-led whakawhanaungatanga activities with participants.
7.15pm	Keith Newton / Benji Moorhouse advises activities about to begin. Ministers, MPs, and CE MSD to depart.
7.15pm	MYD-led whakawhanaungatanga activities with participants.
7.40pm	Youth participants start staggered return to hotel.



## Appendix Four: Official Opening Ceremony

Attendees:	
Name/ Group	Role
Sir Ananad Satyanand	Stand-in Governor-General
Fleur Gaston	Sir Anand's support
Barbara Kuriger	Deputy Speaker of the House
Hon James Meager	Minister for Youth
Rt Hon Chris Hipkins	Leader of the Opposition – Official Party
Cameron Luxton Francisco Hernandez	MPRG Representatives
Sandra (Sandy) McKie	Usher of the Black Rod
FLT LT Olivia Landau	Aide-de-Camp
Guy Bendall	Serjeant-at-Arms
TBC	Clerk of the House
MP RSVPs (as at 26 June 2025)	
Carl Bates, Stuart Smith, Catherine Wedd, Lan Pham, David MacLeod, Scott Willis, Barbara Kuriger, Dana Kirkpatrick, Tom Rutherford, Greg O'Connor, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, Kahurangi Carter, Hon Melissa Lee, Benjamin Doyle, Nancy Lu.	

Runsheets:	
<b>Official Opening Ceremony for Youth Parliament 2025, Official Photo &amp; Morning Tea</b> <b>Grand Hall -&gt; Debating Chamber/LCC -&gt; Main -&gt; Grand Hall</b> <b>9.00am – 10.45am, Tuesday 01 July 2025</b>	
Time	Item
8.30am	MYD Staff / Parliament Staff stationed near the main Parliament reception desk to welcome guests (friends and family) attending Opening Ceremony and walk them through to the Legislative Council Chamber (LCC). Guests to be seated at the back of the LCC.
8.45am	Any MPs who would like to watch the Opening Ceremony are asked to make their way to sit in the back seats of the LCC.
8.45am	Minister for Youth stationed at Executive Wing Reception to greet Sir Anand Satyanand, Lady Susan, FLT LT Olivia Landau (Aide-de-Camp) and Fleur Gaston (Official secretary).
8.45am	Youth participants to move from Grand Hall into the Debating Chamber (House of Representatives) and be briefed about Opening Ceremony procedures, housekeeping matters and on the role of Sir Anand Satyanand.
8.50am	<p>Sir Anand Satyanand, Lady Susan and Fleur Gaston arrive.</p> <p>The Minister for Youth will meet Sir Anand and his group and escort them through to the entrance of the Grand Hall ready for the procession (use the lift to black &amp; white tiles).</p> <p>Usher of the Black Rod meets with Sir Anand Satyanand at entrance to Grand Hall ready for the procession.</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition and MPRG members attending the Opening Ceremony and joining the Official Party are to assemble in the Grand Hall, ready to join the rear of the Official Party once it moves from the entrance of the Grand Hall into the LCC.</p>

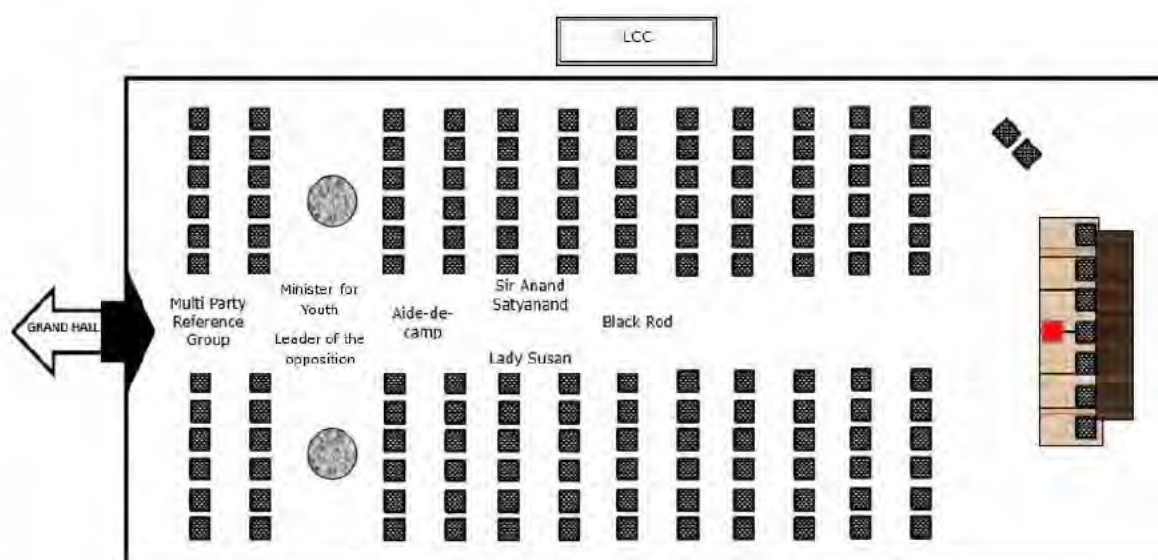


	MYD staff can now move to the gallery above the LCC to view the Opening Ceremony.
8.55am	<p><b>Chamber Procession</b></p> <p>As this is the first event in the Debating Chamber for this day, there will be a procession including the Serjeant-at-Arms, and The Speaker in the Chamber.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives will arrive ready for the Procession for the day Debating Chamber by 8.55am.</p> <p>All guests asked to be seated in the LCC.</p>
9.00am	<p>Procession of Official Party will be marshalled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Rod</li> <li>• Sir Anand Satyanand</li> <li>• Aide de Camp</li> <li>• Minister for Youth</li> <li>• Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>• MPRG Members of Parliament.</li> </ul> <p>Black Rod moves to the side and Sir Anand takes his seat on the stage at the front of the LCC. Official Party take their seats.</p> <p>Black Rod then moves in front of Sir Anand and bows. Sir Anand nods back and Black Rod turns about to leave the LCC.</p>
9.10am	<p>Black Rod proceeds to the House of Representatives and knocks three times on the door of the House with the Rod.</p> <p>The Speaker, on hearing Black Rod's knocking on the door of the house, signals (a nod) to the Serjeant-at-Arms who gives the order "Unlock the Door"</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker signals (a nod) to the Serjeant: The Serjeant gives the second order: "Remove the Bar"</p> <p>On admission to the house, Black Rod bows to the Deputy Speaker and says: "Madam Speaker, Sir Anand Satyanand requires the immediate attendance of this Youth Parliament in the Council Chamber".</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker leaves the Chair and follows the Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms in that order. The Clerk follows. Youth Members of the House follow.</p> <p>Youth Press Gallery members move from the Press Gallery in the House of Representatives to the first floor LCC gallery.</p>
9.15am	<p>At the entrance to the LCC, Black Rod moves to the right and the Serjeant-at-Arms to the left to allow the Speaker and the Clerk to enter first.</p> <p>The Speaker of Youth Parliament bows (nod of head) three times, once on entering the Chamber, once when half-way to their place, and once on arriving at their seat. Sir Anand acknowledges each bow (nods his head).</p> <p>Black Rod and the Serjeant-at-Arms follow the Clerk into the Chamber</p> <p>Youth MPs follow and move to their seats on either side of the LCC.</p>
9.25am	<p>When all are in position, Sir Anand addresses participants saying, "Youth Parliament participants, please be seated."</p> <p>Sir Anand moves to lectern to read speech welcoming members to Youth Parliament 2025, congratulating them on their achievement and participation and wishing them a positive few days at Youth Parliament.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the Speech, Sir Anand sits back in his chair.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker, Barbara Kuriger moves to lectern to give speech</p> <p>Josh Henderson, Youth MP for the Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee moves to the lectern to respond to Sir Anand and the Deputy Speaker, on behalf of 2025 participants.</p> <p>At conclusion of speeches. All participants stand to sing Tūtira mai ngā iwi.</p>



9.45am	<p>Sir Anand Satyanand stands to leave. As Sir Anand reaches the Deputy Speaker, he stops, acknowledges Madam Speaker and hands her the Speech.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker bows to Sir Anand, who acknowledges the bow, and Black Rod then turns around and leads Sir Anand out of the Legislative Council Chamber.</p> <p>Once the Black Rod and Sir Anand have left the Council Chamber, the Serjeant-at-Arms retrieves the Mace and moves to a position in front of the Speaker and acknowledges the Speaker before turning to face the Grand Hall. The Serjeant-at-Arms joins the procession out of the LCC, followed by the Speaker, Minister for Youth, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, MPRG members, the Clerk, attending MPs and Youth Members (in that order) to the Executive Wing Steps for the Official Youth Parliament 2025 photo.</p> <p>Note: you may wait in the West Foyer (behind the EW Reception) with Sir Anand while the Youth participants file in for the photo.</p>
10.00am	Official photograph, Executive Wing Steps
10.15am	Minister for Youth to escort Sir Anand from Executive Wing Steps to the Grand Hall for morning tea and can introduce Sir Anand to guests and participants with MYD's support as needed.
10.45am	<p>Morning tea concludes.</p> <p>Sir Anand may depart at any time following the official photograph, Minister for Youth to depart any time following Sir Anand's departure.</p>

*Visual Diagram: Procession of the Official Party:*





## Appendix Five: 'Post-cabinet' style press conference with Minister for Youth and Youth Press Gallery

Runsheet:	
<b>Mock Press Conference</b> <b>Theatrette</b> <b>1.45pm – 2.00pm, Tuesday 1 July 2025</b>	
Time	Item
1:38pm	Youth Press Gallery meets outside Banquet Hall
1.40pm	Youth Press Gallery members arrive in Theatrette
1:45pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> arrives and delivers welcome acknowledgement. <i>Talking points:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome to the Youth Press Gallery members.</li> <li>- Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions about the Youth portfolio.</li> <li>- I understand you have been provided with a copy of the briefing I have received on the Youth Portfolio.</li> <li>- I am looking forward to providing answers to any questions you have about my role as Minister for Youth.</li> </ul>
1.47pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> to answer questions from YPG members
1.56pm	Brenda (MYD staff member) to advise that this will be the last question
2.00pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> to thank Youth Press Gallery for their time and depart
2.03pm	Youth Press Gallery to move back to Banquet Hall



## Appendix Six: Formal Dinner

Guest list		
Name/ Group		Role
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon		Prime Minister and speaker
Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth		MC
Dr Clare Achmad		Children’s Commissioner and speaker
Carl Bates		MP Panellist: Former Youth MP, current MP
Catherine Wedd		MP Panellist: Former Youth MP, current MP
Camilla Belich		MP Panellist: Former Youth MP, current MP <sup>1</sup>
MPs		
Hon Carmel Sepuloni		Barbara Kuriger
Simon Court		Cameron Luxton (MPRG)
Ryan Hamilton		Greg O'Connor
Stuart Smith		Debbie Ngarewa-Packer
Lan Pham		Kahurangi Carter
David MacLeod		Hon Melissa Lee
Scott Willis		Benjamin Doyle
Francisco Hernandez (MPRG)		Hūhana Lyndon
Teanau Tuiono		
Youth Sector		
Rod Baxter		The King's Trust New Zealand
Michelle Huang		Multiethnic Young Leaders
Kauri Tearaura		Multiethnic Young Leaders
VIP		
His Excellency Lawrence Meredith		Ambassador of the European Union
Agency/CE Representative		
John Allen	Chief Ombudsman	Ombudsman NZ
Michael Webster	Acting Privacy Commissioner	Office of the Privacy Commissioner
Karl Le Quesne	Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Executive	Electoral Commission
Anna Whyte	Deputy Chair	Parliamentary Press Gallery
Paula Tesoriero	Chief Executive	Whaikaha
Kellie Coombes	Chief Executive	Ministry for Women
Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
Ellen MacGregor-Reid	Acting Secretary for Education	Ministry of Education
Paul James	Secretary for Internal Affairs and Chief Executive	Department of Internal Affairs
Jane Wrightson	Retirement Commissioner	Retirement Commission
Marama Edwards	Deputy Chief Executive	MCP DCE, Ministry of Social Development
John Robertson	General Manager	Ministry of Youth Development
Keith Newton	Director	Ministry of Youth Development
Nazarene Garmonsway	Principal Advisor Lived Experience	Clinical, Community & Mental Health
Caroline Flora	Chief Censor	Classification Office
Andy Coster	Secretary for Social Investment and Chief Executive	Social Investment Agency

<sup>1</sup> Note: Tom Rutherford, MP had RSVP'd to be on the former Youth MP panel but is no longer attending.



Runsheets:	
Formal Dinner Banquet Hall 5.30pm – 7.30pm, Tuesday 1 July 2025	
Time	Item
5.30pm – 5.45pm	Doors open and participants start to arrive.
5.40pm	<b>Minister for Youth arrives.</b>
5.45pm	<b>Prime Minister arrives, is met by Minister for Youth.</b> All MPs invited to arrive.
5.50pm	All participants in seats. Unallocated seating, MPs encourages to sit with Youth MPs. One reserved table for: Prime Minister + Youth MP, Minister for Youth + Youth MP, His Excellency Lawrence Meredith, MSD CE, and Chief Children's Commissioner.
5.50pm	<b>Minister Meager starts proceedings and welcomes the Prime Minister to give an address.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Welcome to the Formal Dinner for Youth Parliament 2025.</i></li> <li>- <i>I hope all our participants had a great first full day.</i></li> <li>- <i>I'm your MC for the night, and have the privilege of welcoming some very important people to the stage soon!</i></li> <li>- <i>Thank you to all the MPs that have joined us this evening, and are showing support to their Youth MPs.</i></li> <li>- <i>One very special MP we have here today is the Prime Minister! I'd like to welcome him to the stage to give an opening address.</i></li> </ul>
5.53pm	Prime Minister speaks [5-10 minutes].
6.00pm	<b>Minister Meager thanks Prime Minister and invites the Chief Children's Commissioner to give an address.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Thank you, Prime Minister.</i></li> <li>- <i>As well as MPs, we have some other very important guests here this evening.</i></li> <li>- <i>Thank you to the Youth Sector Leaders, and Government Department Chief Executives for coming along to this event.</i></li> <li>- <i>You have shown great commitment to our future leaders by showing up this evening.</i></li> <li>- <i>I'd also like to acknowledge the Ambassador to the European Union, His Excellency Lawrence Meredith, who has joined us tonight. Thank you, Ambassador.</i></li> <li>- <i>Our second speech today will be from Dr Claire Achmad, who is the Chief Children's Commissioner. Her agency's role is to advocate for children's rights to be recognised and upheld, provide advice and guidance to government and other agencies, advocate for system-level changes, and ensure children's voices are heard in decisions that affect them, as well as monitoring places where young people are detained.</i></li> <li>- <i>Please welcome to the stage, Dr Claire Achmad.</i></li> </ul>
6.03pm	Chief Children's Commissioner speaks [5-10 minutes].
6.10pm	<b>Minister Meager thanks Chief Children's Commissioner and invites former Youth MP/Current MPs to stage for panel [15 minutes].</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Thank you, Dr Achmad.</i></li> <li>- <i>Our next set of speakers will be a bit of fun!</i></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>As you'll all know, this is the 11<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament. Over these 11 Parliaments, at least 10 Youth MPs have gone on to become MPs. In this current Parliament, we have 7.</i></li> <li>- <i>We've asked some of these MPs to join us in a panel this evening, to answer a series of questions that our participants have submitted today, and to share a bit about what Youth Parliament has meant for them and their careers to date. I would like to give a warm welcome to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Carl Bates, Member for Whanganui</i></li> <li>o <i>Catherine Wedd, Member for Tukituki and</i></li> <li>o <i>Camilla Belich, MP based in Epsom.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.12pm	<p>Carl, Catherine and Camilla are seated on the Banquet Hall stage with a floating microphone.</p> <p><b>MC Minister Meager</b> will allow a few minutes for each member to introduce themselves briefly to the audience.</p> <p><b>MC Minister Meager</b> will then ask a few questions that have been submitted by youth participants (and vetted by MYD). Questions will focus on their experience of Youth Parliament, how they became an MP, life as an MP, etc. Note: MPs will receive the list of questions via email in the afternoon of the event. Any earlier is not possible as the question box will be open for Youth MPs until 2.30pm.</p>
6.25pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> wraps up Panel.
6.25pm	<p><b>Minister for Youth</b> concludes formalities and announces dinner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Thanks to the MPs for participating in that panel, and well done to our Youth Parliamentarians for submitting such great questions.</i></li> <li>- <i>The panel concludes the formalities, so we'll soon begin dinner.</i></li> <li>- <i>Before that happens, would a Youth MP or Youth Press Gallery member like to bless our kai?</i></li> <li>- <i>Thanks again to our guests for joining us tonight.</i></li> <li>- <i>To our Youth Parliamentarians – please make the most of having these very important people in the room. Mingling and making connections is an important part of being an MP – and that's what this time is for!</i></li> <li>- <i>Ka Kite.</i></li> </ul>
6.30pm	Youth Parliamentarian - Karakia kai
6.30pm	Dinner is served.
From 6.30pm	<b>Minister</b> circulates around guests and may leave at any time.
7.20pm	Guests invited to mingle until return to hotel.
7.40pm	Youth participants start staggered return to hotel.



## Appendix Seven: Mock Oral Question Time

Ministers attending:	
Name	Portfolios
Hon James Meager	Hunting and Fishing, Youth, South Island, Associate Transport
Hon Christopher Bishop	Housing, Infrastructure, RMA Reform, Transport, Associate Finance, Associate Sport and Recreation
Hon Louise Upston	Community and Voluntary Sector, Disability Issues, Social Development and Employment, Tourism and Hospitality, Child Poverty Reduction
Hon Casey Costello	Customs, Seniors, Associate Health, Associate Immigration, Associate Police
Hon Penny Simmonds	Environment, Vocational Education, Associate Social Development and Employment

*Note: Hon Mark Patterson is no longer able to attend. Youth MPs were advised he was attending, but have since been notified he is unable to attend during the time allocated for them to submit their questions.*

*Note: Hon Chris Penk did not receive any questions, but has been invited to join from the seats behind the Speaker to spectate.*

Runsheets:	
Mock Question Time The Chamber 11.45am – 12.45pm, Wednesday 2 July 2025	
Time	Item
<i>Note: No procession or parliamentary prayer/Karakia for Question Time – these will be done earlier in the day for General Debates / Official Opening Ceremony. Bells to ring to remind members to arrive by 11.45am.</i>	
From 11.40am	Youth Participants arrive.
By 11.45am	<b>Ministers arrive.</b> <b>Minister to gather in the benches behind the Speaker's seat.</b>
At 11.45am	The Deputy Speaker arrives
11.46am	All participants in seats. <b>Ministers sit in the benches behind the Speaker's seat.</b>
11.46am	Deputy Speaker: <i>"The House comes to questions for oral answer. Members, I remind you that the rules for questions to Ministers are set out in Youth Parliament House Standing Orders."</i>
11.46am	Question Time commences, 19 primary questions only. Ministers to move to the Clerk's table when it is time to answer their question.
	<b>Q1. Mele Akoteu, Youth MP for Arena Williams to the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</b> <b><i>How is the Minister involving Māori and Pacific youth in the design and delivery of education and employment initiatives intended to support their success?</i></b>  Q2. Holly Timmins, Youth MP for Hon Andrew Bayly to the Minister of Social Development and Employment, Hon Louise Upston <i>What steps is the Minister taking to provide young New Zealanders with workplace opportunities to encourage them off the benefit?</i>



	<p>Q3. Madina Sayed, Youth MP for Hon Casey Costello to the Minister of Housing, Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p><i>What steps is the Government taking to address the housing affordability crisis, particularly for first home buyers, and what policies are in place to ensure that young New Zealanders like us can realistically aspire to home ownership in the near future?</i></p> <p>Q4. Tamorangi Clayton-Lake, Youth MP for Barbara Kuriger to the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</p> <p><b><i>Why is the Government prioritising punitive measures for non-attendance, like prosecuting parents, rather than addressing the deeper, systemic drivers of truancy — like poverty, mental distress, racism, housing instability, and disconnection from the curriculum?</i></b></p> <p>Q5. Vashika Singh, Youth MP for Helen White to the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p><i>How does the Minister plan to incorporate Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Aotearoa's founding document and a key part of our constitution, into his proposed Planning Act and Natural Environment Act, and can he commit to these pieces of legislation including provisions that bind decision makers to take Te Tiriti into account, as Section 8 of the Resource Management Act currently does?</i></p> <p>Q6. Hineātea Alexander, Youth MP for Hon Dr Duncan Webb to the Associate Minister of Social Development and Employment, Hon Penny Simmonds</p> <p><i>How are young people who are facing unemployment and insecure work being supported by the government, as opposed to having to move overseas?</i></p> <p>Q7. Esha Ram, Youth MP for Steve Abel to the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Casey Costello</p> <p><i>What actions has the Minister taken to address the underlying factors that drive young people to addiction and harmful behaviours such as vaping?</i></p> <p>Q8. Bede McCullough, Youth MP for Hon Kieran McAnulty to the Minister of Housing, Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p><i>What specific targets has the Government set for increasing the supply of affordable housing in the next 12 months, and how will progress be measured?</i></p> <p>Q9. Enya O'Donnell, Youth MP for Miles Anderson to the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</p> <p><b><i>What steps is the Government currently taking to reduce tall poppy culture in New Zealand, particularly for youth?</i></b></p> <p>Q10. Ryder Miller, Youth MP for Hon Louise Upston to the Minister for Disability Issues, Hon Louise Upston</p> <p><i>What specific steps is the Ministry currently taking to ensure that rangatahi with disabilities in rural and underdeveloped areas have equal access to education, employment, and community opportunities and how is the success of these initiatives being measured?</i></p> <p>Q11. Faith Heke, Youth MP for Hon Willow-Jean Prime to the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</p> <p><b><i>Why has the Government stopped funding Māori language courses for teachers, limited or removed the use of te reo Māori within the public sector, and supported the Treaty Principles Bill through its first reading, and what impact does the Minister think this will have on rangatahi Māori learning te reo Māori?</i></b></p>
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	<p>Q12. Archie Crayford, Youth MP for Vanushi Walters to the Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p><i>Why has urgency been used for multiple pieces of legislation under the Infrastructure portfolio, and how has this recurring use of urgency that skips parts of the democratic process been necessary for New Zealand?</i></p> <p><b>Q13. Elite Reti, Youth MP for Hon Peeni Henare</b></p> <p><b><i>[Final question not yet submitted], TBC (likely Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager)</i></b></p> <p>Q14. Benjamin Kingsford, Youth MP for Hon Jan Tinetti to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, Hon Louise Upston</p> <p><i>Does the Minister agree with the auditor general who concluded the government "lack[s an adequately] robust plan" to reduce child poverty, inequity-based programs must be "strengthened", and communities have dubbed the government's inequity policies as "insufficient," and if the minister disagrees, does that mean this government opposes equity?</i></p> <p>Q15. Aiden Mill, Youth MP for Hon Jo Luxton to Hon Penny Simmonds, on behalf of the Minister for Rural Communities, Hon Mark Patterson</p> <p><i>How does he intend to address the growing number of rural communities that are becoming depopulated, and does he believe the depopulation of rural towns is being exacerbated by the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme where many productive farms are being sold and converted into pine plantations?</i></p> <p>Q16. Louis McSporran, Youth MP for Jenny Marcroft to the Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p><i>What plans does the Minister have to incentivise and support the revitalisation of rural areas through infrastructure where the effects of depopulation have led to school closures, business losses and a shrinking workforce?</i></p> <p>Q17. Chelsea Reti, Youth MP for Huhana Lyndon to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, Hon Louise Upston</p> <p><i>Is the Minister aware of research that shows that lifting tamariki out of poverty requires a holistic approach that addresses systemic barriers, and how is the Government responding to this research to ensure families are receiving the support they need?</i></p> <p>Q18. Gayle Bain, Youth MP for Hon Dr Deborah Russell to the Associate Minister of Social Development and Employment, Hon Penny Simmonds</p> <p><i>What is the Government doing to support vulnerable rangatahi that want to work, but are unable to due to difficult circumstances outside of their control such as precarious housing or mental health issues, and how do the sanctions recently introduced by the government support these young people to begin their journeys into adulthood?</i></p> <p><b>Q19. Lucy Trenberth, Youth MP for Hon Chris Bishop to the Minister for Youth, Hon James Meager</b></p> <p><b><i>What work is the Government doing to increase youth engagement in civic decision-making given the youth response rates to government consultations are often low?</i></b></p>
12.44pm	<p>Madame Speaker: "That concludes oral questions.</p> <p>The House stands adjourned and I declare the Youth Parliament for 2025 closed."</p>
12.45pm	<p><b>Ministers may depart at any time following the conclusion their set of questions within mock Question Time.</b></p>



## Appendix Eight: Presentations on Parliamentary Working Groups (PWGs)

Attendees:		
Name/ Group	Role	Decision-Makers attending
Philanthropic Giving – DIA	2.25 (Level 2)	Michael Lovett, Deputy Secretary Policy and Te Tiriti, DIA Gillian Ferguson, General Manager Policy Group, DIA
Biodiversity credits – MfE	Rainbow Room	Anne Haira, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships, Investment and Enablement, Ministry for the Environment Natasha Lewis - Deputy Secretary, Strategy Stewardship and Performance, Ministry for the Environment Hayden Johnston, Ministry for the Environment
Gene Tech – MPI	Ministerial Meeting Room (Level 2)	Barry Wards, Principal Advisor, Office of the Science Adviser, MPI
Carers – MSD	Matangireia Room	Harry Fenton, General Manager, International Disability and Generational Policy, MSD
Sport and Rec – Sport NZ	Select committee Room 3	Julie Morrison, Group Manager, Strategy, Policy, and Investment, Sport NZ Jack Lane, Acting Group Policy Manager, Sport NZ
Gambling Harm – MoH	Select committee Room 4	Michael Woodside, Acting Associate Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Health Kiri Richard, Deputy Director-General – Clinical, Community & Mental Health, Ministry of Health
Disabled Learners – MoE/Whaikaha	Select committee Room 5	Ben O’Mera, Deputy Chief Executive Policy and Insights, Whaikaha Helen Walter, Policy Group Manager, Whaikaha
Te Reo – TPK	Select committee Room 6	Via Video Link: Hon Tama Potaka, Minister for Māori Development Nadia Ward, GM Policy Development, TPK
Online Safety – MoJ/MoH	Select committee Room 7	Alida Mercuri, General Manager, Criminal Justice Unit, MoJ Fleur Keys, Chief Advisor, Criminal Justice Unit, MoJ Jamie Kendrick, MoJ Pip Swaney, Policy Manager, National Security Team, MoJ John Zonneville, System Design Manager for Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health, Te Whatu Ora
Housing- HUD	Select committee Room 8	Brad Ward, Chief Executive, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Retirement Income – RC	Select committee Room 9	Dr Patrick Nolan, Director Policy and Research, Retirement Commission Diana Cook, Deputy Chief Economic Advisor, Treasury
Pacific Learners – MPP/MoE	Beehive Meeting Room 2.24 (Level 2)	Lu Avia, Chief Advisor to the CE, MPP Florence Malama (chief title is Mata’afa), Acting Executive Leader Commissioning and Partnerships, MPP



Runsheets:	
Time / Item	Detail
<b>2.15pm – 2.17pm</b> Opening and welcome	Session opened by PWG Co-chairs and the decision-makers welcomed.
<b>2.17pm – 2.25pm</b> Whakawhanaungatanga	Brief round of introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PWG:</b> Who you are and what community you are representing?</li> </ul> <b>Decision-makers:</b> Who you are and what your role is?
<b>2.25pm – 2.45pm</b> Report back on key findings and recommendations	PWG Co-chairs and members (optional) will present back on the topic, key findings, and recommendations using a slide deck.
<b>2.45pm – 2.59pm</b> Discussion / Q&A	Opportunity for the PWG and decision-makers to discuss the findings and recommendations and ask any questions they have.
<b>2.59pm – 3.00pm</b> Closing	PWG Co-chairs thank decision-makers for their attendance and close the session.

Note: at 3.00pm, four youth participants (Hana Davis - Youth MP for Tākuta Ferris, Ryder Miller – Youth MP for Hon Louise Upston, Pererika Bennett – Youth MP for Hon Todd McClay, and Kupa Poihipi – Youth MP for Rawiri Waititi) are departing early due to flight scheduling. Your office has arranged for you to meet them at the main exit of Parliament to say goodbye, prior to heading to the closing ceremony.



## Appendix Nine: Closing Ceremony

Attendees:	
Name/ Group	Role
143 Youth Participants	Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery
Minister for Youth	Speaker
MYD & MSD Staff	Organisers / Chaperones

Runsheets:	
Poroaki   Closing Ceremony Theatrette 3.15pm – 3.45pm, Wednesday 2 July 2025	
Time	Item
3.15pm	Nate to provide opening remarks
3.20pm	Cerys Ginny, Youth Press Gallery Member to speak on behalf of participants
3.25pm	Nate to thank Cerys and welcome MYD staff to speak
3.26pm	John to speak, Keith & Benji join him. Following speech, John to pass to the <b>Minister for Youth</b> to give closing speech
3.30pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> to give closing speech
3.35pm	Nate officially closes Youth Parliament with karakia
3.40pm	Participants move into departure phase
3.45pm	<b>Minister for Youth</b> may depart at any time



## Appendix Ten: Key messages: Youth Parliament 2025

Question	Answer
<b>What is Youth Parliament?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Parliament has been held every three years (once every Parliament term) since 1994 and gives young people living in Aotearoa New Zealand the opportunity to learn first-hand about our democracy, develop leadership skills, influence government decision-making, and have their voices heard.</li> <li>It is also a unique opportunity for members of Parliament (MPs) to learn about the important issues affecting young people today as well as understand their aspirations and ideas for Aotearoa New Zealand.</li> <li>The Youth Parliament programme is an investment in youth development through providing a high-quality programme that encourages and supports young people to develop, alongside gaining new knowledge, skills, and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Who organises Youth Parliament</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Parliament 2025 is organised by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, with support from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (OoC).</li> <li>Other government agencies are supporting the delivery of Youth Parliament 2025 as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Who is participating in Youth Parliament?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 123 Youth MPs and 20 Youth Press Gallery members are participating in Youth Parliament 2025.</li> <li>Every current MP selected a Youth MP to represent them and their community.</li> <li>A total of 20 Youth Press Gallery members were selected by a selection panel which included input from the Parliamentary Press Gallery Chair (Jason Walls).</li> </ul>
<b>What will Youth MPs do at Youth Parliament?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 123 Youth MPs are participating in Youth Parliament 2025 as representatives of themselves and their community. The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity to hear from young people from around Aotearoa New Zealand on what is important to them, and for Youth MPs to actively work on topics and issues they are passionate about.</li> <li>Youth MPs are experiencing a four-month tenure from Monday 28 April to Friday 29 August 2025. During this period, they are undertaking training, engaging with their peers and selecting MP, and undertaking community engagement.</li> <li>During the Youth Parliament two-day event, Youth MPs will take part in Parliamentary processes and have the opportunity to meet various MPs and learn more about the role of an MP within Parliament.</li> <li>The two-day programme will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth MPs will make 80 speeches during the general debate.</li> <li>Youth MPs will ask 19 oral questions of Ministers during question time.</li> <li>All Youth MPs will participate in 12 Parliamentary Working Groups (PWG) focused on topics of interest which will be co-chaired by 24 Youth MPs (two for each PWG).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>What will the Youth Press Gallery members do at Youth Parliament?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 20 Youth Press Gallery members are experiencing a four-month tenure from Monday 28 April to Friday 29 August 2025. Each Youth Press Gallery member has been allocated a group of Youth MPs to work with so that they can cover their activities during their four-month tenure and the two-day event, and work towards having their articles published in the media. They are being supported in this regard by MYD/MSD.</li> <li>To gain an understanding of how the Parliamentary Press Gallery operates while the House is sitting, the Youth Press Gallery members will sit in the Press Gallery seats while observing the debates and will also attend PWG sessions. They will then put together articles related</li> </ul>



Question	Answer
	<p>to these events so that the concerns and recommendations of Youth MPs are made available to other young people, key decision-makers, and the general public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A tour of the Press Gallery and Q&amp;A session with Jason Walls and members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG) members will be held for Youth Press Gallery members where the young people will have the opportunity to hear about a 'day in the life of a Parliamentary Press Gallery member' and their journey to becoming a Parliamentary Press Gallery member; as well as ask questions of the members. TBC</li> <li>• A mock press conference will also be held in the Theaterette for Youth Press Gallery members which will provide them with an opportunity to ask questions of the Minister for Youth. TBC</li> </ul>
<b>When will Youth Parliament 2025 be held?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Parliament 2025 programme is running from Monday 28 April to Friday 29 August 2025 with the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event taking place on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025 in the Parliamentary precinct in Wellington. Orientation day will take place on Monday 30 June 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>What will Orientation Day entail?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Parliament 2025 orientation day will involve an introductory briefing, a pōhiri, tours of the Parliamentary precinct and He Tohu (National Library of New Zealand Exhibition), a formal welcome from the Minister for Youth, and MYD-led whakawhānaungatanga activities. This will ensure all participants are briefed and prepared to participate fully in the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event.</li> </ul>
<b>How will Youth Parliament 2025 be funded?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The costs associated with Youth Parliament 2025 will be met by the MYD within existing baselines.</li> <li>• MYD organises and funds the Youth Parliament event, including provision of travel, meals, and accommodation for all Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members attending from outside the Wellington region.</li> </ul>
<b>How will MYD accommodate those participants who aren't from Wellington?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with previous Youth Parliaments, youth participants are being accommodated together at a local hotel. In 2025, the venue is the Atura Hotel, Thorndon, Wellington. A combination of MYD/MSD staff are chaperoning participants during this time.</li> </ul>
<b>Who could apply for Youth Parliament 2025?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people aged between 16 and 18 years (as at Friday 28 February 2025) could apply to become a Youth MP. Each MP put in place a selection process which works for their community to select a young person able to seek the views, opinions, and ideas of their peers and represent these at Youth Parliament.</li> <li>• Young people aged between 16 and 24 years (as at Friday 28 February 2025) were invited to apply to become a Youth Press Gallery member. A Youth Press Gallery member was required to be either a current student studying journalism, media studies, or communications, completing an internship or working at a media outlet, or a secondary school student with a strong and active interest in media.</li> <li>• All applicants needed to be available to attend the four-month tenure, including the Youth Parliament 2025 two-day event on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 July 2025, preceded by orientation day on Monday 30 June 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>What was the process for selecting Youth MPs?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth MPs were selected by electorate and list MPs. Each MP ran their own selection process to recruit their Youth MP. MPs tend to use a range of methods for selecting their Youth MP, such as an essay or speech competition. Young people interested in applying for Youth Parliament 2025 were advised to contact their local MP's office.</li> <li>• Applications for Youth MPs opened on Monday 03 February 2025 and closed on Friday 28 February 2025. MPs then selected their Youth MP.</li> </ul>



Question	Answer
<b>What was the process for selecting Youth Press Gallery members?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people interested in applying to be part of the Youth Press Gallery were advised to contact MYD for further information. The application process included applicants providing a written piece and examples of their previous work.</li> <li>• Journalism schools and university magazine editors were contacted to advertise the opportunity.</li> <li>• All applications for Youth Press Gallery members opened on Monday 03 February 2025 and closed on Friday 28 February 2025. A selection panel, which included input from the Parliamentary Press Gallery Chair, selected the final group of Youth Press Gallery members.</li> </ul>
<b>How long will the young people serve as a Youth MP or Youth Press Gallery member?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members will hold their role from Monday 28 April to Friday 29 August 2025.</li> <li>• During this time Youth MPs will actively engage with their community to gain an understanding of the ideas and concerns of young people in the area. Youth Press Gallery members will keep up to date with the Youth MPs' activities during their tenure and write up stories to be published.</li> </ul>
<b>How are participants supported during the Youth Parliament 2025 tenure?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MYD, with the support of OoC, held online training over the Youth Parliament 2025 tenure period to prepare Youth MPs and Youth Press Gallery members for their roles and provided pastoral care guidance and protocols for all participants.</li> <li>• MYD provided Youth MPs with information and resources to help prepare them for their leadership roles, including advice on how best to connect with their communities.</li> <li>• Youth Press Gallery members are being supported by MYD/MSD to write and publish their articles.</li> <li>• All accessibility needs have been co-ordinated by MYD, with support from Parliamentary Services and OoC. This includes accommodating support people, providing NZSL interpretation, wheelchair access, and quiet breakout rooms, where necessary.</li> </ul>