

# NORTHERN TERRITORY 2024 YOUTH PARLIAMENT

## IMPACT REPORT

26 young Territorians took over Parliament House in June as part of the Northern Territory Youth Parliament and Youth Press Gallery program.



**NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

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# Northern Territory Youth Parliament Impact Report 2024

## Overview

The Northern Territory Youth Parliament is an annual youth-led civics engagement program led by the Y Northern Territory in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of the Legislative Assembly.

For one week during the school holidays each year, 25 Youth Parliamentarians representing the geographic and demographic representation of the Northern Territory, discuss and debate Bills in the Legislative Assembly - proposed legislation they developed on solutions for issues that matter to them.

At the same time, 10 Youth Press Gallery Journalists report on the debates in the Chambers, with the aim of producing, pitching and publishing content on issues that matter to young people, by young people.

While not in Chambers, the young Territorians stay for six nights at the Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre, meeting others from across the Territory and taking part in leadership development programs.



## Program Objectives

1. Increase knowledge of local, Territory and national civics
2. Increase the likelihood and interest of participation in civics, such as responsible voting, running for political positions, engaging in non-traditional citizenship activities such as issues-based community organising or art
3. Increase young people's personal sense of leadership, teamwork and self-esteem
4. Provide avenues for young people to be heard by decision-makers
5. Connect young people to a community of people striving to make a better world
6. Showcase excellence in young people to the broader community



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Youth Parliament  
expanded my horizons  
and allowed me to meet  
a lot of passionate  
young people.

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# Northern Territory Youth Parliament Impact Report 2024



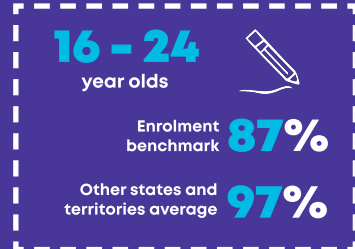
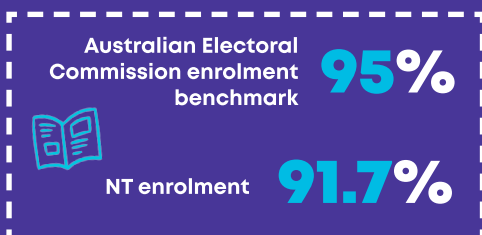
## Why Youth Parliament is needed

Young people in the Northern Territory are underrepresented in electoral and political representation, both statistically and when compared to national benchmarks. While 16 to 24 year olds make up approximately 7% of the Northern Territory's population, this is not represented in the average age of local councillors, the Legislative Assembly (the youngest sitting Member is 33), or Federal representatives



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Data accessed in 2023 from: Northern Territory Youth Strategy 2023 to 2033; 'Reporting on the Electoral Roll, September Quarter 2023 - Australian Electoral Commission; 'Voter enrolment and participation', Interim Report, 2019; Story of our Children and Young People - Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, 2021



This data (sourced late 2023), identifies a need for more meaningful programs that engage young Territorians in civics and citizenship in a way that is relevant locally and individually, whilst providing opportunities and pathways for young people to excel as independent, community-minded and healthy adults.

Northern Territory's Youth Strategy 2023 to 2033 provides a framework for the Northern Territory Youth Parliament to set goals year-on-year to contribute to improving the lived realities and statistics for young Territorians to meaningfully contribute to decision making, now and for generations to come.

## Youth Parliamentarians and Youth Press Gallery

There were a total of 16 Youth Parliamentarians and 10 Youth Press Gallery Journalists who participated in the Northern Territory Youth Parliament in June 2024.



# Northern Territory Youth Parliament Impact Report 2024

## Youth Bills

16 Youth Parliamentarians represented 5 groups from across the Northern Territory and produced and debated 7 bills

**Police Administration  
Amendment (Anti-Racism  
Initiatives) Bill 2024**

Coalition Two

**Education Regulations  
Amendment (Essential  
Wellbeing Curriculum)  
Bill 2024**

Garamilla Darwin  
Youth Group

**Public Holidays  
Amendment (Historic Dates  
for Aboriginal Territorians)  
Bill 2024**

Coalition One

**Investing in the Future  
Northern Territory  
Workforce Bill 2024**

Katherine High School

**Investing in Youth Programs and  
Spaces Bill 2024**

Clontarf Foundation Palmerston

**Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Prevention Bill 2024**

Jurnkurrakurr Tennant Creek  
High School

**Restoring the Rights of the  
Terminally Ill Bill 2024**

Mparntwe Alice Springs  
Regional Youth Group



## Representation

17 of the 26 young people completed the impact survey.

The following demographics were recorded from self identification. Permission received to publish in report.



**15%**

LGBTQIASB+



**74%**

Culturally and/or  
Linguistically  
Diverse



**54%**

Aboriginal  
and/or Torres  
Strait Islander



**12%**

Have a disability  
or chronic  
condition

## Regional/Geographical Make-up

Barkly  
(Tennant  
Creek)

**15%**

Palmerston

**23%**

Katherine

**7%**

Darwin

**19%**

Central  
(Mparntwe Alice  
Springs)

**26%**

Regional Darwin  
**3%**

East Arnhem  
**3%**



# Northern Territory Youth Parliament Impact Report 2024

## Program Outcomes

A feedback survey was conducted following the program covering four key topics: civic knowledge, teamwork and leadership, belonging in the program, and self-esteem with participants answering on a scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

*'As a result of Youth Parliament, I...'*



85% of young people said as a result of Youth Parliament that they could express their authentic selves in this group



59% agree and 23% strongly agree that they feel confident in their ability to be a leader

95% said they feel confident in their ability to work in a team

85% said they know the avenues available to them to have their say in parliament

23% agree and 70% strongly agree that they feel connected with the other young people of the program

85% said they are confident in understanding in how parliament makes decisions

17% agree and 58% strongly agree they would be confident if they were to vote in an upcoming election

When asked if they wanted to run for parliament or local council..

24% said strongly agree

11% agree

18% strongly disagree

6% disagree

29% said they were unsure



# Northern Territory Youth Parliament Impact Report 2024

"Attending Parliament House during Youth Parliament was a profound moment for me, filled with pride and excitement. It was a unique opportunity to step into the heart of Australia's democratic process, engage in debates, and meet with ministers and officials.

The experience of debating in such a historic and significant venue was incredibly inspiring. It not only elevated the discussions but also underscored the importance of civic engagement and the impact of legislative decisions on the nation. Meeting with ministers provided invaluable insights into policymaking and governance, further deepening my understanding of the responsibilities and challenges faced by leaders in shaping the country's future.

Overall, being at Parliament House during Youth Parliament was a highlight of my participation. It symbolized a tangible connection to the democratic ideals I admire and reinforced my passion for contributing meaningfully to public discourse and policymaking." - Shadman Shakib Aditto 2024 Youth Parliamentarian

"Being able to meet amazing people and have such an amazing experience makes this program so incredibly worth it" - Addison Perris 2024 Youth Parliamentarian



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Youth Parliament is such a special opportunity. It's a week of learning and growing both individually and as a team. The debates are all fun and games but ultimately it's the strong sense of team spirit that makes the program unlike anything else. It's just amazing to see everyone working towards a common goal, and working as hard as they possibly can, to develop initiatives for our shared future. - 2024 Youth Parliamentarian

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