



Queensland Parliament
Education and Liaison

Legal Studies Youth Parliament

Teacher Briefing



About the *event*.



Legal Studies Youth Parliament, 2024, Brisbane.
Parliamentary Service Collection.

The Legal Studies Youth Parliament gives your students the opportunity to experience Queensland's legislative process first-hand.

Youth Members will either:

- give a Leaders' Statement,
- debate a (mock) Bill, or
- provide a Private Members' Statement or speak in an adjournment debate.

Some students will have a non-speaking or scripted role.

The *mock* Bill.

The Electoral Laws Amendment (Mock) Bill 2026 seeks to:

- lower the voting age to 16,
- prohibits the publication of inaccurate and misleading statements and the sharing of digitally altered content by parties, candidates and elected officials,
- increases the maximum penalty for failing to vote, and
- ensures all donors who donate over \$1 are published.

The *mock* amendments.

There will also be two amendments. These seek to:

- wavier failure to vote penalties for those aged 16 and 17 (Amendment No. 1),
and
- make voting in local government elections non-compulsory (Amendment No. 2).

Youth Parliament *program.*

Brisbane Legal Studies Youth Parliament
Friday 15 May 2026
Parliament House, Brisbane
8.30am for a 9.00am start to 1.30pm

- 8.30am to 9.00am—Registration opens
- 9.00am to 9.25am—Student briefing
- 9.30am to 1.00pm—Legal Studies Youth Parliament (including Morning Tea)
- 1.00pm to 1.30pm—Official photographs

Visit our *Plan your excursion* webpage for information on getting here, resources etc.



The Government

The Government is made up of party who has the support of the **majority** of members elected to the Legislative Assembly.

- Aquinas College
- Australian Christian College (Distance Education and Moreton Campus)
- Cannon Hill Anglican College
- Fraser Coast Anglican College
- Grace Lutheran College (Caboolture and Rothwell Campus)
- Hillcrest Christian College
- Iona College
- James Nash State High School

- Kedron State High School
- Kimberly College
- Marymount College
- Mt Alvernia College
- Padua College
- Pine Rivers State High School
- Redlynch State College
- Sheldon College
- Somerville House
- Southport State High School

Key roles—the Government

- Youth Premier gives a Leaders' Statement—Marymount College
- Youth Attorney-General introduces the (mock) Bill—Padua College
- Youth Minister for Young People introduces Amendment No. 1—James Nash State High School
- Youth Minister for Local Government responds to Amendment No. 2—Aquinas College
- Youth Leader of the House adjourns the House—Pine Rivers State High School
- Youth Government Whip provides the result of a division—Grace Lutheran College (Rothwell)
- Youth Government Deputy Whip provides the result of a division—Iona College

The Opposition

The Opposition is the next largest party that does not form the government.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bellbird Park State Secondary College• Bundaberg State High School• Brisbane School of Distance Education• Brisbane State High School• Canterbury College• Centenary Heights State High School• Our Lady's College• Pacific Lutheran College | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parklands Christian College• Pimpama State Secondary College• Rochedale State High School• St James College• St Joseph's College, Coomera• St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace• Wavell State High School |
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Key roles—the Opposition

- **Youth Leader of the Opposition** gives a Leaders' Statement—Bundaberg State High School
- **Youth Shadow Attorney-General** gives a Second reading speech—Rochedale State High School
- **Youth Shadow Minister for Young People** responds to Amendment No. 1—St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace
- **Youth Shadow Minister for Local Government** introduces Amendment No. 2—Brisbane School of Distance Education
- **Youth Opposition Whip** provides the result of a division—St James College
- **Youth Opposition Deputy Whip** provides the result of a division—Brisbane State High School

Other *Key* roles

These are either scripted or non-speaking roles (no prior preparation required).

- **Youth Sergeant-at-Arms**—Parklands Christian College
- **Youth Clerk**—Hillcrest Christian College
- **Youth Deputy Clerk**—Grace Lutheran College (Rothwell)
- **Youth Attendants (Government)**—Kimberly College, Iona College
- **Youth Attendants (Opposition)**—Bellbird Park State Secondary College, Pacific Lutheran College
- **Youth Press Gallery**—Sheldon College, Somerville House, Our Lady's College (Annerley), Mt Alvernia College

Speech information

Speech length

- Maximum 2 minutes (Youth Premier, Youth Leader of the Opposition, Youth Attorney-General and Youth Shadow Attorney-General).
- Maximum 1 minute (everyone else).

Generic structure

- Persuasive for Leaders' Statements, Second reading and Consideration in Detail
- Persuasive or informative for Private Members' Statements and Adjournment Debate

Preparation tips

- Do not use palm cards.
- Print on A4 paper—use large, easy-to-read font.
- Write the seat name at the top (i.e. Member for Tully).

Top tips to share with your students

- Use the **explanatory notes** and **statement of compatibility** as a source—they highlight the reasons for (and against) a proposed law.
- Apply the **analysis** and **evaluation skills** developed in Legal Studies to the mock Bill. For example—
 - examine associated viewpoints and their consequences, or
 - use legal criteria to justify the mock Bill or amendment.
- Focus on **one** clause.

- Assigned the second reading debate? Think about—
 - Will lowering the voting age **encourage civic engagement**, or **lead to more informal voting**?
 - Will prohibiting inaccurate and misleading statements and the use of AI by parties, candidates and elected officials **build trust**, or **be difficult to enforce** and **limit freedom of speech**?
 - Will increasing the penalty for failing to vote **reinforce the importance of voting**, or **create resentment**?
 - Will amending laws around donations **reduce undue influence** or **breach people's privacy**?

- Assigned consideration in detail? Think about—
 - Will not penalising 16- and 17-year-olds for failing to vote **lower pressure** or **reinforce bad habits**?
 - Will making voting in local government elections **reduce participation** or **recognise genuine civic engagement comes from having a choice**?

Roles and responsibilities

	You	Your student(s)
Prior to Youth Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select student(s) to participate.• Assign each student a role.• Return Student Participant Form and provide Photo Consent Form (online).• Assist with speech writing and editing (if required).• Provide parents or legal guardian a link to book a free ticket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Photo Consent Form (online).• Research, write and practice speech.• Print out a copy of the speech.
Youth Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervise student(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver speech and/or fulfil role requirements.

Due dates.

What?	Due date
Return participant detail form (MS Word) to the Parliamentary Education team. (1 per school)	COB Monday 30 March 2026 (Week 10, Term 1)
Return photo consent form (online) to the Parliamentary Education team. (1 per student and teacher)	COB Monday 30 March 2026 (Week 10, Term 1)
Parent, caregiver and guest tickets close.	COB Friday 30 April 2026 (Week 2, Term 2)