

TEACHER INFORMATION PACK

Contents

TEACHER INFORMATION PACK	1
CONTENTS	1
IMPORTANT DATES	2
CONTACT DETAILS	2
SAMPLE YOUTH PARLIAMENT PROGRAM	2
OVERVIEW OF DEBATES	3
1: <i>A Vision for Queensland</i>	3
2: <i>Government Motion – Health and wellbeing in schools</i>	3
3: <i>Private Members’ Statements</i>	3
4: <i>Opposition Motion – Environment and tourism measures</i>	4
5: <i>Adjournment Debate</i>	4
TIME ALLOWANCE FOR SPEECHES	5
KEY ROLES	6
<i>Other roles – these roles do not deliver a speech</i>	6
PARLIAMENTARY ETIQUETTE	7

Important dates

ITEM	DUE
Photo consent submitted online Participant Details form emailed	4pm Wednesday 6 May 2026
Guest registration closes	5pm Tuesday 12 May 2026
Youth Parliament <i>Brothers Sports Club, 130 Takalvan Street Bundaberg</i>	Thursday 21 May 2026

Contact details

Maria Mead

Parliamentary Education Officer

P: 07 3553 6415 | Parliament House | Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane QLD 4000

E: parliamentary.education@parliament.qld.gov.au | [Youth Parliament webpage](#)

Sample Youth Parliament Program

	PROGRAM	DETAIL
9.00 – 9.30am	Registration	
9.30 – 9.55am	Student Briefing	
10.00 – 11.00am	Youth Parliament	Introduction and Welcome Government Motion <i>Student speeches</i> Private Members' Statements <i>Student speeches</i>
11.00am – 11.55am		Morning Tea
12.00pm – 12.55pm	Youth Parliament <i>continues</i>	Opposition Motion <i>Student speeches</i> Adjournment Debate <i>Student speeches</i>
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Official Photographs	

**Times are approximate and subject to change on the day.*

Overview of Debates

Seats will be allocated either **Government** or **Opposition** seats.

Students will be allocated places to speak on **one** of the topics below.

1: A Vision for Queensland

The Youth Premier and Youth Leader of the Opposition deliver a speech outlining their vision for the future of Queensland.

2: Government Motion – Health and wellbeing in schools

Introduced by the Youth Minister for Education, this motion will ask the House to support 4 provisions.

Speaker, I move that this Youth Parliament supports the following provisions to improve health and wellbeing at Queensland's primary schools:

1. That all students in Years 5 and 6 be taught how to prepare at least 5 simple and healthy meals for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, as part of their compulsory school learning.
2. That all students be provided with a sit/stand desk in classrooms to support healthy posture and focused learning throughout the day.
3. That primary schools move to a four-day school week, with school days finishing at 4:30pm, to allow more time for creative activities, sport, rest, and family.

Government schools will speak in *support* of this motion.

Opposition schools will speak *against* this motion.

3: Private Members' Statements

During each sitting day, time is allocated for Members to make short statements about matters of concern in their electorates. These are called Private Members' Statements. Members may also make Private Members' Statements on other issues, as long as the matter raised affects their constituents or was brought to them by a constituent.

Speeches should focus on an issue of **local** or **State** interest or concern, e.g. something happening in the student's community, or a State matter such as health, education, sport, mining, agriculture, environmental issues etc. Students should avoid speaking about Federal topics such as immigration and taxation.

4: Opposition Motion – Environment and tourism measures

Introduced by the Youth Shadow Minister for Science, the Environment and Tourism, this motion will ask the House to support 4 provisions.

Speaker, I move that this Parliament supports the following environmental, tourism and innovation measures:

1. That pet dogs are allowed to be walked on a lead, on designated walking trails in State Forests and Reserves, to support dog-friendly tourism and improve physical and mental health for dogs and their owners.
2. That all cats sold or adopted in Queensland must be desexed unless the owner is a registered breeder, to help protect native wildlife.
3. That Queensland introduce a refund scheme where people can return captured cane toads to local councils or wildlife centres and receive a small monetary reward to help control this invasive species.

Opposition schools will speak in support of this motion.

Government schools will speak against this motion.

5: Adjournment Debate

At the conclusion of the day's sitting, time is allocated for Members from all sides of the House to speak on any matter of their choice. This is called the Adjournment Debate.

Speeches for the Adjournment Debate should focus on an issue of **local** or **state** interest or concern, e.g. something happening in the student's community, or a state matter such as health, education, sport, mining, agriculture, environmental issues etc. Students should avoid speaking about Federal topics such as immigration and taxation.

As well as focusing on issues of concern, Adjournment Debate speeches can also be celebratory, raising awareness of positive events and achievements within the community.

Students should not revisit any of the issues raised in the debate on the two motions – it is better to bring in new ideas at this point in the day.

Time Allowance for Speeches

1. **A vision for Queensland - Leaders' Statements**
 - 2 minutes (max) Premier
 - 2 minutes (max) Leader of the Opposition

2. **Debate on Government Motion – Health and wellbeing in schools**
 - Moved by Youth Minister for Education
 - 1 minute (max) for all speakers

3. **Private Members' Statements**
 - 1 minute (max) for all speakers

4. **Debate on Opposition Motion – Environment and tourism**
 - Moved by Youth Shadow Minister for Science, the Environment and Tourism
 - 1 minute (max) for all speakers

5. **Adjournment Debate**
 - 1 minute (max) speech for each speaker

Key Roles

Government

Government Whip:	Counts government votes in the Division (formal vote) and reports results to Speaker.
Leader of the House:	Moves motion for the House to adjourn – reads from script. Delivers Vote of Thanks – reads from script.
Minister for Education:	Moves government (first) motion from script and delivers a speech addressing reasons for the motion.
Premier:	Delivers two-minute speech - A Vision for Queensland.

Opposition

Leader of the Opposition:	Delivers two-minute speech - A Vision for Queensland.
Opposition Whip:	Counts opposition votes in the Division and reports results to Speaker.
Shadow Minister for Science, the Environment and Tourism:	Moves opposition (second) motion from script and delivers speech addressing reasons for the motion. Calls 'Divide' in the Division.

Other roles – *these roles do not deliver a speech*

Sergeant-at-Arms:	Carries the Mace, leads the Speaker into the Chamber, announces the Speaker, places the Mace on the hooks, and, carrying the Mace, escorts the Speaker from the Chamber following the session.
Clerk of Parliament:	Non-speaking role. Operates the timer and bell.
Parliamentary Attendants:	At the conclusion of each speech, an attendant collects a copy of the speech and puts it into a folder.
Press Gallery:	Observes proceedings, conducts interviews, creates news snippet, tweets or social media posts.

Parliamentary Etiquette

As in any other forum for debate, there are certain rules which each participant must follow in Parliament.

All Parliamentary Staff and Youth Parliamentarians must adhere to this code at all times while in the Chamber.

- Address the Presiding Officer (Speaker or Deputy Speaker) by their title “Speaker”.
- Show respect (bow) to the Presiding Officer when entering or leaving the Chamber.
- Rise when the Presiding Officer enters or leaves the Chamber.
- Sit down or remain seated when the Presiding Officer speaks or is speaking.
- Do not turn your back on the Presiding Officer except when leaving the Chamber.
- Do not pass between the Presiding Officer and the Youth Member speaking when moving within the Chamber.
- Those elected to leadership positions are to be referred to as the *Honourable Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Sport*. All other Members are referred to by the name of their electorate (e.g. *the Member for Daintree*).
- Any interjections must be respectful and not personally offensive.
- All language must be respectful and dignified.
- Applause is not permitted in the Chamber or Gallery. Instead, say ‘Hear, hear!’.
- Observe decorum in the Chamber at all times.
- Speeches and interjections must be made from the Youth Member’s own seat.