

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

End of Term Report

Commitment 2: Youth Parliament

Lead agency: Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Objective: To improve understanding among rangatahi of how Parliament works and to highlight topics that matter to rangatahi, the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi will work with the Office of the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives to deliver a successful Youth Parliament in 2019.

Ambition: Through delivering the Youth Parliament 2019 programme, MYD aims to fulfil the following five objectives:

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

To allow rangatahi the opportunity to shape what is discussed at the two-day Youth Parliament event, the rangatahi selected to be Youth MPs will submit potential topics for Youth Parliament select committee hearings, and potential topics for a mock bill.

OGP values: Public Participation, Technology and Innovation.

Summary of what was achieved:

Milestones		Progress
1	Widely promote the opportunity to submit to the Youth Parliament select committee hearings ahead of the two-day Youth Parliament event to a diverse range of rangatahi. <i>Start/End dates: April 2019-June 2019</i>	
2	Hold two-day Youth Parliament event <i>Start/End dates: 16 July 2019-17 July 2019</i>	
3	Explore (with the Ministry of Education) how footage of Youth MPs speaking in the debating chamber of the New Zealand House of Representatives could be utilised as part of a civics or citizenship educational resource for schools. <i>Start/End dates: October 2018-June 2020</i>	
4	With the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, maximise opportunities to profile Youth Parliament via social media channels, including promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Youth MP and Youth Press Gallery selection period• the final Select Committee and mock bill topics• the work of Youth MPs in their communities during their tenure• activities occurring during the two-day Youth Parliament event.	

	<i>Start/End dates: October 2018-October 2019</i>	
5	Circulate the Youth Parliament select committee reports to the actual Parliament Select Committees and appropriate policy agencies relevant to the topics discussed and publish a link to them on the MYD website as soon as they are available after the Youth Parliament event. <i>Start/End dates: July 2019-October 2019</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

What we achieved

Milestone 1 - promote the opportunity to submit to the Youth Parliament select committee hearings

Ten select committee topics were chosen and an online public submission process undertaken during April 2019. Rangatahi (aged 12-24 years) were encouraged to submit their thoughts on the ten topics that the Youth MPs chose to be considered in Select Committee hearings at the two-day Youth Parliament event in July 2019.

A total of 48 submissions were received, more than twice the number of submissions received for Youth Parliament 2016.

The online public submission process was promoted on the MYD Facebook page and the Youth Parliament 2019 twitter account. MYD partnered with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives to have posts shared and the public submission process promoted on New Zealand Parliament's Facebook, twitter, and Instagram accounts. The total reach (Facebook and Instagram) and impressions (twitter) for posts promoting the public submission process was 88,032.

The Office of the Clerk administered the public submission process for the ten Youth Parliament Select Committee hearings.

Milestone 2 - hold two-day Youth Parliament

The Youth Parliament 2019 involved 140 rangatahi (120 Youth MPs and 20 Youth Press Gallery members). The 01 March to 31 August 2019 Youth Parliament programme, including the 16 and 17 July Youth Parliament 2019 event, was the ninth Aotearoa New Zealand Youth Parliament.

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

As part of the two-day event, ten Youth Parliament Select Committee hearings were undertaken on topics chosen by the Youth MPs. Rangatahi were invited to make submissions to the Select Committees who considered the topics and reported back to the Youth Parliament. Those reports were published on the Parliamentary website and subsequently referred to the actual Parliament Select Committees and appropriate policy agencies.

Milestone 3 - Explore (with the Ministry of Education) how footage of Youth MPs s debating could be utilised as part of a civics or citizenship educational resource for schools.

MYD provided the following resources to the Civics or Citizenship strand of the Ministry of Education's School Leaver's Toolkit online resource:

- the link to the New Zealand Youth Parliament [youtube channel](#), which contains approximately 150 videos of Youth Parliament 2019 activities that occurred in the debating chamber at

Parliament, including Youth MPs debating, asking questions of Ministers, and presenting their final select committee reports

- links to the ten Youth Parliament [2019 select committee reports](#), detailing findings and recommendations from the inquiry each committee carried out during the Youth Parliament 2019 two-day event at Parliament.

Milestone 4 - With the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, maximise opportunities to profile Youth Parliament via social media channels

As indicated above (Milestone 1), MYD and the Office of the Clerk used their respective digital communications channels to support the work of the Youth Parliament and to make the Youth Parliament event accessible.

Rangatahi could keep up to date with Youth Parliament 2019 by following the twitter feed [<https://twitter.com/NZYP19>], liking MYD's Facebook page, and through using the #NZYouthParliament hashtag.

Milestone 5 - Circulate the Youth Parliament select committee reports

Circulate the Youth Parliament select committee reports to the actual Parliament Select Committees and appropriate policy agencies relevant to the topics discussed and publish a link to them on the MYD website as soon as they are available after the Youth Parliament event.

The Select Committee reports were provided to the actual Parliament Select Committees and the appropriate policy agencies, and can be found here: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/youth-parliament/youth-parliament-select-committee-reports/>.

How we included diverse voices and engaged diverse communities:

As well as using MYD and Parliamentary social media to publicise the event and its activities, MYD published three newsletters (which showcased articles written by Youth Press Gallery members) which were distributed to a diverse range of stakeholder groups and organisations. Youth Press Gallery members were also supported to publish their articles in mainstream media.

Commitment links:

- The [Youth Parliament Summary A3 document](#)
- All footage of Youth Parliament 2019 activities that occurred in the debating chamber is available on the Youth Parliament **youtube channel**.
- The ten Youth Parliament 2019 select committee reports are available on the **Parliament website**.
- The live stream of the report back to the Parliamentary Health select committee on the Youth Parliament 2019 inquiry titled *what can we do to lower the rate of suicide in New Zealand* can be viewed on the **Parliamentary Health select committee's Facebook page**.
- The October 2019 Youth Parliament electronic newsletter is available online **here**.

Impacts:

A survey completed by participants of the 2019 Youth Parliament showed increased youth engagement within their communities, including an increased feeling of being connected and a greater sense of belonging. High percentages of rangatahi also reported an increased number of strong healthy relationships with peers and/or trusted adults since participating in the programme and held optimistic views about their future. More impacts can be accessed from:

<https://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/youth-parliament-2019/final-youth-parliament-2019-a3.pdf>

What we learned:

Youth Parliament is an opportunity for rangatahi to experience the Aotearoa New Zealand political process. Overall, the 2019 Youth Parliament experience was life-changing for some rangatahi, both due to what they learnt and the connections they made. The table below summarises how the Youth Parliament objectives were met and opportunities for development.

Aim	Summary of evaluation findings	Opportunities to develop the Youth Parliament programme
Replicate the Parliamentary process	Stakeholders felt the two-day event accurately replicated most aspects of the Parliamentary process well with the exception of being an apolitical event. The six-month portion of the programme gave many Youth MPs an insight into the role of being an MP.	The selection process could be made more consistent across regions with a focus on ensuring equity of opportunity to participate for rangatahi.
Involve as many rangatahi as possible (before and after the event)	Although Youth MPs engaged their communities through speaking at schools and completing community projects, stakeholders and rangatahi felt the main impact was on the 140 rangatahi involved in the programme.	Look for opportunities to increase the incentives for Youth MPs to engage their communities through their community projects and other ways.
Enhance Parliamentary public relations	Most stakeholders felt Youth Parliament helped enhance Parliamentary public relations with those directly involved and their personal networks but had limited impact outside of that. Media coverage and Youth Press Gallery Members articles were seen as a good way to promote Parliament and make it more accessible for people but the evaluation was not able to assess its impact.	Aim to increase the number of Youth MPs completing community projects. Continue to increase media coverage of the event. Look for more opportunities for Youth Press Gallery members disseminating their writing in addition to the existing newsletter, this could increase the reach of Youth Parliament and add more value to the participants experience.

Aim	Summary of evaluation findings	Opportunities to develop the Youth Parliament programme
Maximise the educational opportunities of the event	The two-day event was packed with learning opportunities and many rangatahi said they now understood how Parliament worked. The learning opportunities from the six-month programme varied by individual. Some were heavily engaged with their MPs and learnt a lot from them and their community project, while others had very little involvement over the six months.	Consider whether it is feasible to extend the two-day event to slow the pace of the programme and give rangatahi time to acclimatise.
Make known the views expressed by rangatahi to appropriate policy agencies	Youth MPs were able to share their views about what was important to them to MPs and to policy agencies through their select committee reports and presentations. However, it is unclear how much impact this made or how widely reports were spread.	Communicate to Youth MPs what policy agencies did with their reports could show rangatahi their voices have been heard.

Where to from here:

The next Youth Parliament event is scheduled for 19-20 July 2022. The Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and MYD have begun planning the delivery of the event, including measures to provide participants with pastoral care and community connections. The participant selection process will commence on 12 August 2021.