



# Duncan Pegg MP

Member for Stretton

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## Nominations open for YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament

Young people who want to make their voices heard can apply to participate in the 2017 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament offers young Queenslanders aged 15 to 25 years the opportunity to speak up for their communities and learn first-hand about parliamentary processes.

Member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg said since 1996, YMCA Queensland had brought young people together to learn about our democracy, connect with their peers and have a say about important issues facing our state.

“I encourage young people to nominate for this program to assist them to build their leadership skills and learn about influencing change,” he said.

“Each year the program brings together 93 young people representing each electorate in the state along with four Indigenous representatives.

“It has a strong history of empowering young people to take up challenges to become leaders of the future.”

Mr Pegg praised YMCA Queensland for continuing to successfully steer the landmark youth program.

“It is a testament to YMCA Queensland’s commitment that the program continues to challenge young people and provide an opportunity for them to share their ideas of change with the government,” he said.

“Participants in Years 11 and 12 are also able to receive one point towards their Queensland Certificate of Education after completing the program as YMCA is now accredited by the Queensland Studies Authority.”

Each year the program brings together participants in Brisbane in April to form committees and discuss ideas, and again in September for a residential program and the opportunity to debate their bills at Parliament House.

Between April and September committees will connect in person, via phone, or internet to write their bills, and to design and implement community action plans.

The Queensland Government provides annual funding of \$60,000 to YMCA Queensland to run the program.

Nominations opened Monday 30 January 2017 and will close on Monday 27 February 2017.

For more information about the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, email [gypcoordinator@ymcabrisbane.org](mailto:gypcoordinator@ymcabrisbane.org) or go to [www.ymcaqyp.org](http://www.ymcaqyp.org)

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