



Duncan Pegg MP

Member for Stretton

Media Release

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Local Queenslander provides voice for Stretton young people at Youth Parliament

Local young trailblazer Kelly Sibanda will take to the floor of Parliament House after being selected to represent Stretton at the 2017 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.

Member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg said Kelly was one of 93 young Queenslanders who will take part in the 22nd youth parliament and contribute to positive changes in their communities.

“The YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament is a unique opportunity for young people like Kelly to be a voice for their community, learn about Queensland’s democratic process, share ideas and debate bills,” he said.

“Youth Members will also build their skills to influence community and public decision making, gain an understanding of parliamentary processes and engage directly with government.

“This year, the YMCA received a record 302 nominations from young Queenslanders to take part, including 23 nominations from young people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, which is a wonderful reflection that Queensland’s next generation of leaders are eager to have their voices heard.

“I would like to congratulate Kelly on being selected as the Youth Member for Stretton and I look forward to hearing the recommendations they make to help shape the future for themselves, their communities and Queensland.”

The Youth Parliament brings together representatives aged 15-25 from each of Queensland’s 89 state electorates, with four additional seats available specifically to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives, ensuring the Parliament has a strong Indigenous voice.

Youth Members will come together in April to form committees and discuss ideas, and return to Brisbane in September for a residential program and the opportunity to debate their Bills at Parliament House.

Mr Pegg said the Queensland Government has provided more than \$63,000 towards this year’s YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.

“It is essential that young people receive the support they need to achieve their goals,” he said.

“It is our aim to create a state where young people’s voices are heard, respected and acknowledged.

“The Queensland Youth Parliament provides the State Government with the ideal platform to engage with young people and hear their ideas for the future.

“We understand it is young leaders like those involved in the Queensland Youth Parliament that are vital to our state’s growth and inclusiveness.”

For more information on the 2017 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament visit or www.ymcaqyp.org

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