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Call for young people to speak out

The annual Youth Parliament gives young people the opportunity to voice their opinions and directly influence Victorian legislation, says David Koch, Member for Western Victoria.

“Youth Parliament is run by YMCA Victoria in conjunction with the State Government’s Office for Youth and has helped hundreds of young people build leadership, teamwork and communication skills that will assist in later life when enetering the workforce”, said David Koch.

“Participating in Youth Parliament also opens opportunities for a career in politics, government or the public sector.

“Teams of up to six, and individuals aged 16-25 from schools, universities, community and youth groups are invited to take part in a nine day training course that culminates in two days of presenting and debating bills in the Victorian Parliament in September.

“Importantly, participating in Youth Parliament is also a great way of meeting other young people who have a wide range of interests and there is a good mix of participants from country and city areas.

“The Youth Parliament program is politically neutral and encourages young people not only to speak out on issues that concern them but to think about why they hold the opinions they do.

“The program culminates in a week-long residential camp, which includes debating in the chambers, a formal opening and closing ceremony and a reception with the Governor of Victoria at Government House.

“I encourage young people from across Western Victoria to apply for this challenging and exciting program, especailly those with an interest in how our government works and want to see first-hand what life in Parliament is all about.

“Applications for YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament 2008 close on Friday 11 April. More information, including application details, are available from my office or www.victoria.ymca.org.au”, said David Koch.

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