



The Parliament Prize 2024

Student guide



Preparing your Member's Statement

Each sitting day, any day that parliament meets, Members of Parliament (MPs) can make a Member's Statement. This is a 90-second speech on any topic or issue they consider important.



MPs often use this time to speak about individual constituents (voters or people in the area that the MP represents) or organisations in their electorate. Sometimes the topics might relate to something happening in other parts of Australia or the world.

One of the great things about Members' Statements is the range of topics and issues that MPs speak about. These statements, therefore, vary a lot depending on who the MP is, what area they represent, and what they are interested in.

The Parliament Prize is a chance to think about what's going on in your own community, the issues or topics that you want to draw attention to, and the reasons why they matter.

What would you say to parliament if you were an MP?

Important things to think about

- There is no set structure to a Member's Statement. The only requirement is that the speech is a maximum of 90 seconds long and on a topic or issue you think is important.
- 90 seconds is around 240-250 words, so you're not going to be able to include everything. Think about:
 - Why did you choose this topic or why is it important to you?
 - What was the most interesting thing you found out in your research?
 - What are the key things that you want to speak about?
- Members' Statements are spoken not written, so while you might plan and write your statement, make sure when you film it, it sounds like you are speaking to people not reading something out loud.
- Members of Parliament must keep their language appropriate, so you can use language to exaggerate (hyperbole) or to get an emotional reaction (emotive language), or any other language techniques to get your desired effect, but it must be respectful (for example, no swearing).
- If you would like more examples of Members' Statements, you can search [the Hansard page on the Parliament of Victoria website](#) (type 'Members' Statements' into the Hansard search bar).