



# The Parliament Prize

## Updates for 2026

Since the advent of Parliament Prize, there has been a significant increase in entries received each year. In response to the increased numbers of entries, there have been some changes made to Parliament Prize in 2026. These changes are detailed below, including an explanation as to why the changes have been made.

### Criteria

#### Updates

The 2026 Parliament Prize criteria is as follows:

- A clear message
- Use of diverse perspectives and evidence
- An understanding of why this message is important

#### Previous criteria

The previous criteria were as follows:

- A clearly articulated message
- Interesting insights, ideas and/or perspectives
- A clear understanding of why this issue or idea is important

#### Explanation

The premise of the criteria remains the same, but the language simplified for ease of understanding for both participants and judges.

Some judges noted that there was difficulty discerning between entries, especially during short-listing and finals stages. It was noted that changes to criteria were unlikely to accomplish this, instead multiple judges are assigned to each category during the short-listing and finals stage.

## Prizes

### Student prizes

#### Updates

Expansion of the number of prizes awarded in a category when the number of entries in a category exceed 750 entries:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize trophy and monetary prize
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize certificate and monetary prize
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> prize certificate and gift (monetary value not exceeding \$100)

In the event that there are above 750 entries for a category, 15 entries will be included in the finals judging for the respective category.

#### Previously

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize trophy and monetary prize
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize certificate and monetary prize

10 entries have been included in the finals judging across all categories.

#### Explanation

The number of entries in 2025 in the Grades 5&6 category exceeded the total number of entries across all categories in previous years. To make the prize more equitable, in terms of the ratio of winners to number of entries, it was recommended that additional prizes be awarded when a category reaches a certain threshold of entries.

### School prizes

#### Updates

In 2026, the school monetary prizes will no longer be attached to student winning entries. Instead awards for schools will be related to an expanded Alicia Katz Award. This includes up to four Alicia Katz Awards each year, noting that there may not be in any given year enough schools that meet the eligibility for the Alicia Katz award.

In lieu of monetary prizes for schools with winning entries, the schools will be sent a civics and citizenship resource pack to support the teaching of civics and citizenship and law-related subjects.

## Previously

Schools with students who have won prizes have previously received a monetary prizes.

## Explanation

These changes distinguish between individual or small groups of students' accomplishments and that at a school level.

## Terms and conditions

### Updates

There have been some minor changes made to the terms and conditions. These include:

- that students work should be their own, and not AI generated
- where students have more than one educational facility that they attend, their place of primary enrolment will be considered the school contact
- how information relating to winning entries will be used, specifically relating to the use of information on the Parliament of Victoria website and social media accounts
- clarification of the scope of Parliament of Victoria staff to include Electorate Officers
- clarification of the information relating to student entries that is shared with any member of parliament upon their request.

The process for providing additional student details for group entries has been streamlined to make the entry form easier for the students to fill out in this case.

## Previously

The information above was added to the terms and conditions in 2026 for clarification. There were no additional items added to the terms and conditions.

## Explanation

The terms and conditions are reviewed each year to account for any anomalies from the previous years, and implement any new or emerging information around best practices and/or legislation.

## Privacy and child safe measures

### Updates

There will be no changes to the privacy and child safety measures as such but, in response to the social media ban for young people under 16 years of age, images/videos of winning students will only be used on Parliament of Victoria website, not on any social media platform.

A compilation video of the winning entries will still be available on the Parliament of Victoria's website, and the full videos available via the website, hosted on the Parliament of Victoria's Vimeo page.

### Previously

Prior to the social media ban, winner announcements were made using a compilation video of winning entries, posted to Parliament of Victoria's social media and also published on the Parliament of Victoria's website.

Full winning videos were able to be viewed (not downloaded) on the Parliament of Victoria's Vimeo page.

### Explanation

Parliament of Victoria has taken the position that if students are unable to use social media, then where possible and plausible the Victorian Parliament should refrain from using images and videos of students.

## Information provided to members of parliament

### Updates

A statewide overview of what young people are saying across the different themes will be provided to members of parliament, as well as published on the Parliament of Victoria's Teach and Learn page.

### Previously

Overviews were provided for each electorate, where data was available.

### Explanation

Due to the size of the competition, there are no longer the resources to generate these reports at this level, so a statewide summary will be provided instead.