7th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP)  
1st to 5th November 2015

INFORMATION CIRCULAR FOR CANDIDATES

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Secretariat and the CPA Australian Northern Territory Branch are jointly planning to hold the 7th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, between 1st and 5th November 2015. The CYP is an annual event held in a different country of the Commonwealth each year.

It is anticipated that some 80 to 90 young people from across the Commonwealth will participate in the event which will also be attended by a number of young Members of Parliament under the age of 35 from across the Commonwealth.

The arrival day for the CYP will be Sunday 1st November 2015 and the programme of events will begin that evening. Although the Jersey participant will travel alone to Darwin he or she will be met on arrival by the organizers. The CYP will finish on 4th November and participants will be required to check out of their accommodation on the morning of Thursday 5th November before their return journey home. It is essential that the young person selected is available for the full period of the CYP (allowing time for travel to Australia). The Jersey Branch of the CPA will pay for the participant to travel to Australia (in Economy Class only) and the costs of accommodation and meals during the event will be met by the Northern Territory CPA Branch.

The overall goal of the Youth Parliament is to strengthen the democratic process in the Commonwealth by deepening understanding of parliamentary democracy among the participants and providing a forum for them to express their ideas, concerns and expectations. The Youth Parliament will mirror proceedings in parliament with debates, question time and committee work. All participants will be expected to play an active part and must be confident in public speaking.

The purpose of the CYP is to provide an experience of the parliamentary process and to demonstrate how Parliaments are able to make legislation; to debate matters of national and international concern; to discuss legislation in committee; and to hold the Executive to account through parliamentary questions and in parliamentary committees.

Participants will have the chance to experience life in the parliamentary spotlight and at the same time show how the next generation might approach parliamentary politics. Formal parliamentary practice adapted from several
Commonwealth countries will be followed and the proceedings will take place under the watchful eyes of experienced parliamentary officials. In addition the young Members of Parliament present will act as mentors for the young people participating in the CYP.

The candidate selected to represent Jersey in the Youth Parliament must -

- be in the age range 18-29 years;
- be a citizen of a Commonwealth country and ordinarily resident in Jersey (those in higher education outside the Island who have their home in Jersey meet this requirement);
- be confident and articulate enough to take an active role in debates and other proceedings in the Youth Parliament;
- have an interest in the Commonwealth and political affairs;
- have a good knowledge of how Jersey is governed so that he or she can explain this to colleagues during the event.

Young people from Jersey who wish to apply to participate in this event should send a full CV, a scan of the details page of their passport and a letter of application setting out why they believe they are suitable to represent Jersey to Mr. Michael de la Haye OBE, Honorary Secretary, CPA Jersey Branch, States Greffe, Morier House, St. Helier, JE1 1DD (m.delahaye@gov.je) no later than Monday 13th July 2015.

After an initial selection process a number of shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview in July. Young people who have been shortlisted but who are out of the Island on the day of the interviews may be able to participate in the interview by FaceTime or Skype.

Background information about the Northern Territory is attached.

Useful websites

States Assembly, Jersey www.statesassembly.gov.je

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association www.cphaq.org

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory www.nt.gov.au/lant/
Northern Territory (abbreviated as NT) is a federal Australian territory in the centre and central northern regions. It shares borders with Western Australia to the west, South Australia to the south and Queensland to the east. To the north, the Territory is bordered by the Timor Sea, the Arafura Sea and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Despite its large area - over 1,349,129 square kilometres, making it the third largest Australian federal division - it is sparsely populated. With a population of 233,300 it is the least populous of Australia’s eight major states and territories.

The capital city is Darwin with a population of 136,245. The Territory's population is not concentrated in coastal regions but rather along the Stuart Highway. The other major settlements are Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, and Tennant Creek.

Residents of the Northern Territory are often known simply as 'Territorians' and fully as 'Northern Territorians', or more informally as 'Top Enders' and 'Centralians'.

History

Indigenous Australians have lived in the present area of the Northern Territory for an estimated 80,000 years, and extensive seasonal trade links existed between them and the peoples of what is now Indonesia for at least five centuries.

With the coming of the British, there were four early attempts to settle the harsh environment of the northern coast, of which three failed in starvation and despair. The Northern Territory was part of colonial New South Wales from 1825 to 1863, except for a brief time from February to December 1846, when it was part of the short lived colony of North Australia. It was part of South Australia from 1863 to 1911. Under the administration of colonial South Australia, the overland telegraph was constructed between 1870 and 1872.

A railway was also built between Palmerston and Pine Creek between 1883 and 1889. The economic pattern of cattle raising and mining was established so that by 1911 there were 513,000 cattle. Victoria River Downs was at one time the largest cattle stations in the world. Gold was found at Grove Hill in 1872 and at Pine Creek, Brocks Creek, Burrundi, and copper was found at Daly River.

On 1 January 1911, a decade after federation, the Northern Territory was separated from South Australia and transferred to Commonwealth control. Alfred Deakin opined at this time "To me the question has been not so much commercial as national, first, second, third and last. Either we must accomplish the peopling of the northern territory or submit to its transfer to some other nation".

In late 1912 there was growing sentiment that the name "Northern Territory" was unsatisfactory. The names "Kingsland" (after King George V and to correspond with Queensland), "Centralia" and "Territoria" were proposed with Kingsland becoming the preferred choice in 1913. However, the name change never went ahead.

For a brief time between 1927 and 1931 the Northern Territory was divided into North Australia and Central Australia at the 20th parallel of south latitude.

During World War II, most of the Top End was placed under military administration. This is the only time since Federation that part of an Australian state or territory has been under military control. After the war, control for the entire area was handed back to the Commonwealth.

In 1978 the Territory was granted responsible government, with a Legislative Assembly headed by a Chief Minister. The Administrator of the Northern Territory is an official acting as the Queen's indirect representative in the Territory.

Geography

There are many very small settlements scattered across the Territory, but the larger population centres are located on the single paved road that links Darwin to southern Australia, the Stuart Highway, known to locals simply as "the track".

The Northern Territory is also home to two spectacular natural
rock formations, Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), which are sacred to the local Aboriginal peoples and which have become major tourist attractions.

In the northern part of the Territory lies Kakadu National Park, to the north of that lies the Arafura Sea, and to the east lies Arnhem Land. There is an extensive series of river systems in the Northern Territory. These rivers include: the Alligator Rivers, Daly River, Finke River, McArthur River, Roper River, Todd River and Victoria River.

Climate

The Northern Territory has two distinctive climate zones.

The northern end, including Darwin, has a tropical climate with high humidity and two seasons, the wet (October to April) and dry season (May to September). During the dry season nearly every day is warm and sunny, and afternoon humidity averages around 30%. There is very little rainfall between May and September. In the coolest months of June and July, the daily minimum temperature may dip as low as 14C (57F), but very rarely lower, and frost has never been recorded.

The wet season is associated with tropical cyclones and monsoon rains. The majority of rainfall occurs between December and March (the southern hemisphere summer), when thunderstorms are common and afternoon relative humidity averages over 70% during the wettest months. On average more than 1,570mm of rain falls in the north. Rainfall is highest in north-west coastal areas, where rainfall averages from 1,800 - 2,100mm.

The central region is the desert centre of the country, which includes Alice Springs and Uluru, and is semi-arid with little rain usually falling during the hottest months from October to March. Central Australia receives less than 250mm of rain per year.

The highest temperature recorded in the territory was 48.3C (118.9F) at Finke on 1 and 2 January 1960. The lowest temperature was −7.5C (18.5F) at Alice Springs on 12 July 1976.

Governance

Parliament. The Northern Territory Parliament is one of the three unicameral parliaments in the country. Based on the Westminster System, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly which was created in 1974, replacing the Northern Territory Legislative Council.

The Northern Territory Legislative Council was the partly elected governing body from 1947 until its replacement by the fully elected Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 1974. The total enrolment for the 1947 election was 4,443, all of whom were white. The Northern Territory was split into five electorates: Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Batchelor, and Stuart.

Whilst this Assembly exercises similar powers as the governments of the states of Australia, it does so by legislated delegation of powers from the Commonwealth Government, rather than by any constitutional right. The Monarch is represented by the Administrator of the Northern Territory which is similar to that of State Governors.

Twenty-five members of the Legislative Assembly are elected to four-year terms from single-member electorates.

For several years there has been agitation for full statehood. A referendum was held on the issue in 1998, which resulted in a ‘no’ vote. This was a shock to both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments, for opinion polls showed most Territorians supported statehood. However, under the Australian Constitution, the Federal Government may set the terms of entry to full statehood. The Northern Territory was offered two Senators, rather than the twelve guaranteed to original states.

Chief Minister and Cabinet. The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory is the head of government of a self-governing territory, while the head of government of a state is a Premier. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, who in normal circumstances will appoint the leader of whichever party holds the majority of seats in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. The current Chief Minister of the Northern Territory is Adam Giles of the Country Liberal Party.

Administrator. The Northern Territory received self-government on 1 July 1978 under its own Administrator of the Northern Territory is appointed by the Governor-General of Australia. The Commonwealth Government, not the Government of the Northern Territory, advises the Governor-General on appointment of the Administrator, but by convention, consults first with the Territory Government. The current Administrator is His Honour, the Honourable John Hardy, OAM.