



“ This was truly an
unforgettable
experience ”

the Y Northern Territory

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

2025 Impact Report



highlights from the 2025 NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARLIAMENT

About Youth Parliament

Youth Parliament is a non-partisan advocacy and leadership program run by young people, for young people. Youth Parliament is the Y's Flagship Youth Program, delivered across Australia, since the first Youth Parliament in Brisbane in 1963.

The program supports young people to grow their confidence, build connections with other young people, increase their leadership and teamwork capabilities, and increase their knowledge and future participation in civic engagement and democracy.

The 2025 Northern Territory Youth Parliament offered the opportunity for young people to represent their local school, council or organisation as a Youth Parliamentarian. Young Territorians worked together to develop a bill or petition on an issue that affects them and their community in the Northern Territory which they debated over the week of Youth Parliament.

When not at Parliament House, Youth Parliamentarians stayed at the Michael Long Leadership and Learning Centre and engaged in holistic and experiential personal, leadership and community development sessions.

The program was facilitated by a team of dedicated volunteers and the Y's Youth Leadership team.

Bills and Petitions

We are pleased to share that all Bills passed the 2025 Youth Parliament and all Petitions were successfully tabled.

National Matter of Public
Importance: Women's Healthcare

Youth Homelessness and Housing
Act 2025

Young Carers Identification
Act 2025

Criminal Code Amendment (Age of
Criminal Responsibility) Act 2025

Youth Justice Reform
Act 2025

Petition: Access to Safe
Drinking Water

Senior Student Wellbeing
Act 2025

Petition: Tennant Creek
Youth Hostel

Youth Scrutiny Committee
Act 2025

“

Actually realising how powerful my voice is and learning how to speak with conviction, especially when talking about something I am passionate about.

I realised that I can push past the nerves of public speaking and control my voice and how people perceive my words. It made me feel powerful and confident, and like I could really push for change using my voice.

”

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29 Youth
Parliamentarians

20 Volunteers &
Program Staff

09 Bills,
Petitions
+ Motions

03 Youth Press
Gallery

10 Months
program
length

“

A huge change for me was sharing my opinions and beliefs publicly whilst being supported and heard from those around me.

It was amazing raising awareness on issues special to me and hearing those share theirs. This was something I had never experienced before and am overjoyed from the experience.

”



Representation of diverse identities

The following demographics were recorded from self identification. Permission received to share this.



9%

LGBTQIASB+



50%

Culturally and/or
Linguistically
Diverse



16%

Aboriginal
and/or Torres
Strait Islander



9%

Have a disability
or chronic
condition

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Regional and geographical representation

12%

Barkly

7%

Palmerston

7%

Regional
Darwin

65%

Darwin

9%

Central
(Mparntwe
Alice Springs)



13 of the 25 electorates represented

ARALUEN

PORT DARWIN

WANGURI

BRAITLING

FONG LIM

JOHNSTON

NELSON

BARKLY

KARAMA

CASUARINA

SANDERSON

DRYSDALE

NIGHTCLIFF

highlights from the 2025 NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Stand out moments from #YP25



“

The youth is the future of Australia and without them, we are nothing but a stagnant society. This is why we must change. Because no essay, no exam, no number on a page should ever worth more than a young person's life.

”

- Adjournment Speech by Ash, on the topic of academic pressure and suicide

“

This is not us asking for special treatment. We are simply asking for fairness. We are asking for the same respect that other groups in society get when legislation is made about them. Speaker, we will look back on this moment and ask whether we succeeded in building a voice for the future, or whether we failed, whether we ignored it. Pass this bill. Give young people the power to shape the Territory they will inherit. And to our MLAs - to truly govern for the future, you must let the future speak.

”

- Closing argument by Nokthor in the Youth Scrutiny Committee bill debate

“

No teenager should have to fear eviction, hunger, or exhaustion while keeping up with school. No teenager should have to choose survival over their childhood, over opportunities, over their own growth. By acknowledging and acting on this reality, we protect the vulnerable and invest in a generation that deserves the chance to thrive. I urge the Assembly to consider policies and initiatives that recognise the unique challenges faced by financially independent and neglected youth. Let us ensure that young people are supported, not abandoned, in the pursuit of their futures.

”

- Adjournment Speech by Patricia, on the topic of financially independent youth

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“

Joining the Youth Parliament Program has taught me the importance of being a good listener, not only a good speaker.

Because everyone had the chance to share their ideas, and I truly enjoyed supporting and cheering for the voices and values they stood for. Hear, Hear!

”

Why is Youth Parliament needed?

Young people in the Northern Territory are underrepresented in electoral and political representation, both statistically and when compared to national benchmarks. While 16 to 24 year olds make up approximately 7% of the Northern Territory's population, this is not represented in the average age of local councillors or the Legislative Assembly.

16 - 24 = 13% of the Northern Territory's population
year olds

Young people in the NT are underrepresented in electoral and political representation, both statistically and when compared to national benchmarks.

Data accessed from: Northern Territory Youth Strategy 2023 to 2033; 'Reporting on the Electoral Roll', September Quarter 2023 - Australian Electoral Commission; 'Voter enrolment and participation', Interim Report, 2019; Story of our Children and Young People - Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, 2021, Northern Territory Electoral Commission - Annual Report 2023-2024

95%

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) enrolment benchmark

NT's youngest sitting member is **33**

NT enrolment

91.9%

16 to 24 years enrolment rate for NT

79.8%

90.2%

National Youth Enrolment rate

97%

Other states and territories average

This data identifies a need for more meaningful programs that engage young Territorians in civics and citizenship in a way that is relevant locally and individually, whilst providing opportunities and pathways for young people to excel as independent, community-minded and healthy adults.

Northern Territory's Youth Strategy 2023 to 2033 provides a framework for the Northern Territory Youth Parliament to set goals year-on-year to contribute to improving the lived realities and statistics for young Territorians to meaningfully contribute to decision making, now and for generations to come.

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Stand out moments from #YP25



“ How many more children must we lose to generational cycles because we have failed to give them the support they need? In the wise words of an African proverb: When children don't feel the warmth of a village, they will burn it down to feel it. Just in case you don't know, children in Tennant Creek burnt down our local IGA supermarket a few years back. I think that says enough. ”

- Petition Speech by Shakina, for the Tennant Creek Youth Hostel Petition



highlights from the **2025 NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

Program Outcomes

A feedback survey was conducted before and after the program covering three key topics:

- Civic Knowledge
- Sense of Belonging and Connection
- Voice and Leadership

Participants answered questions on a scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

23 of the 32 young participants completed the impact survey.

The following pages have a comparison of pre and post program survey results. Highlighted below are some of the highlights that demonstrate the positive impact of Youth Parliament.

92%

of Youth Parliamentarians feel supported by those around them to be who they are

91%

of Youth Parliamentarians believe their experiences and identity matter when it comes to shaping decisions in society

95%

of Youth Parliamentarians believe young people should have more say in decisions that affect them

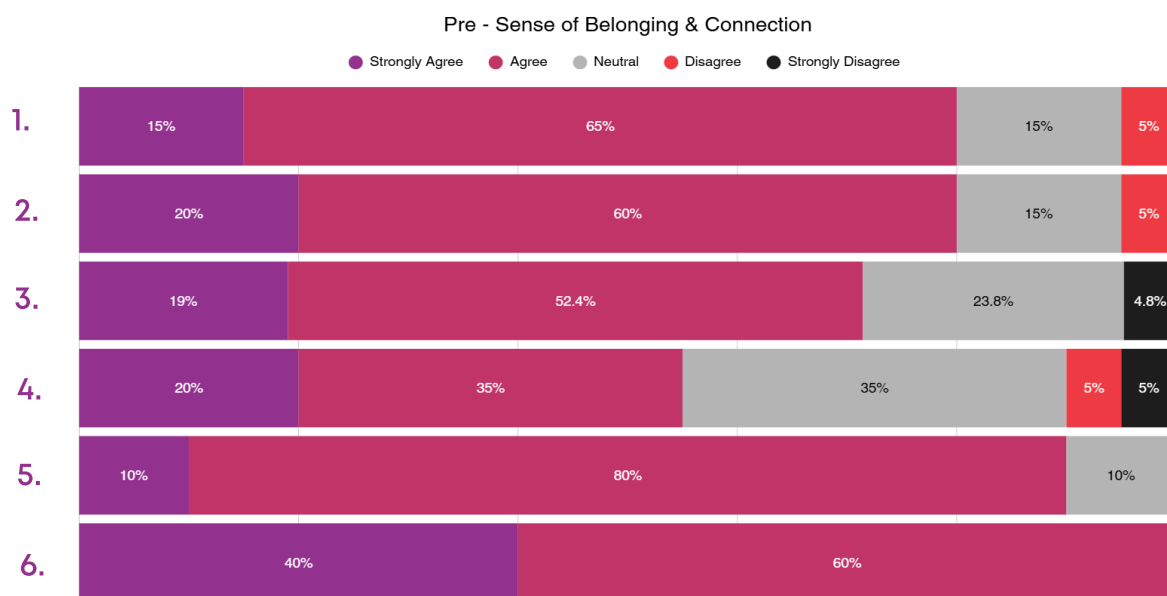
highlights from the 2025 NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Sense of belonging and connection

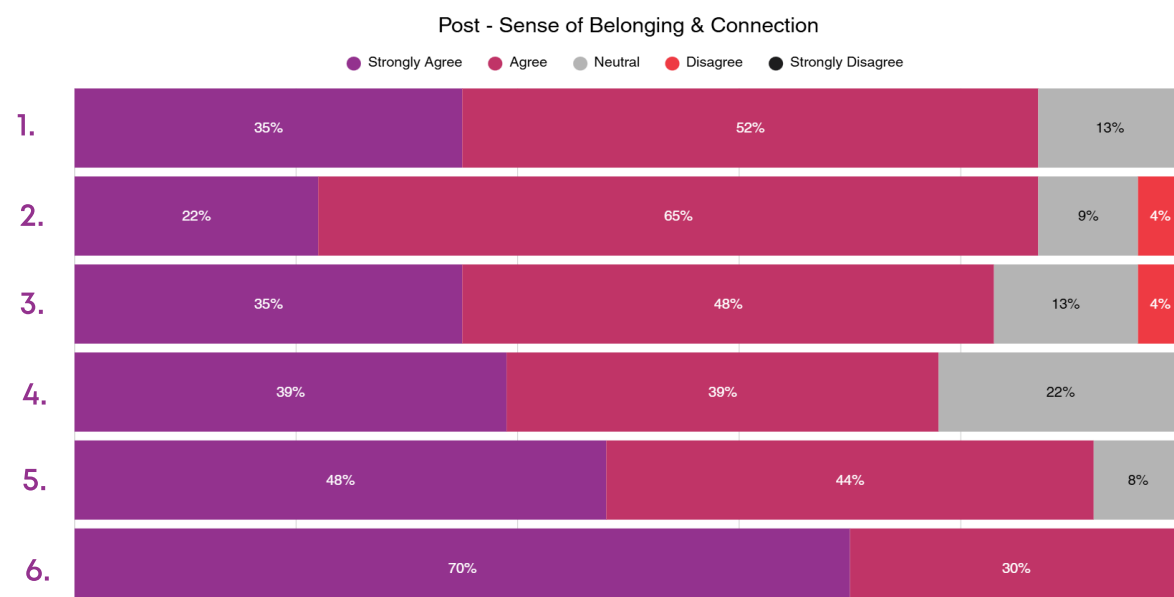
Participants were asked to answer the following questions on a scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree:

1. I feel connected to my community
2. I feel safe to express who I am and my opinions
3. I feel like I belong in spaces where decisions are made
4. I feel close and connected to the other people on the program
5. I feel supported by those around me to be who I am
6. I know other young people who are passionate about change

Pre-program



Post-program

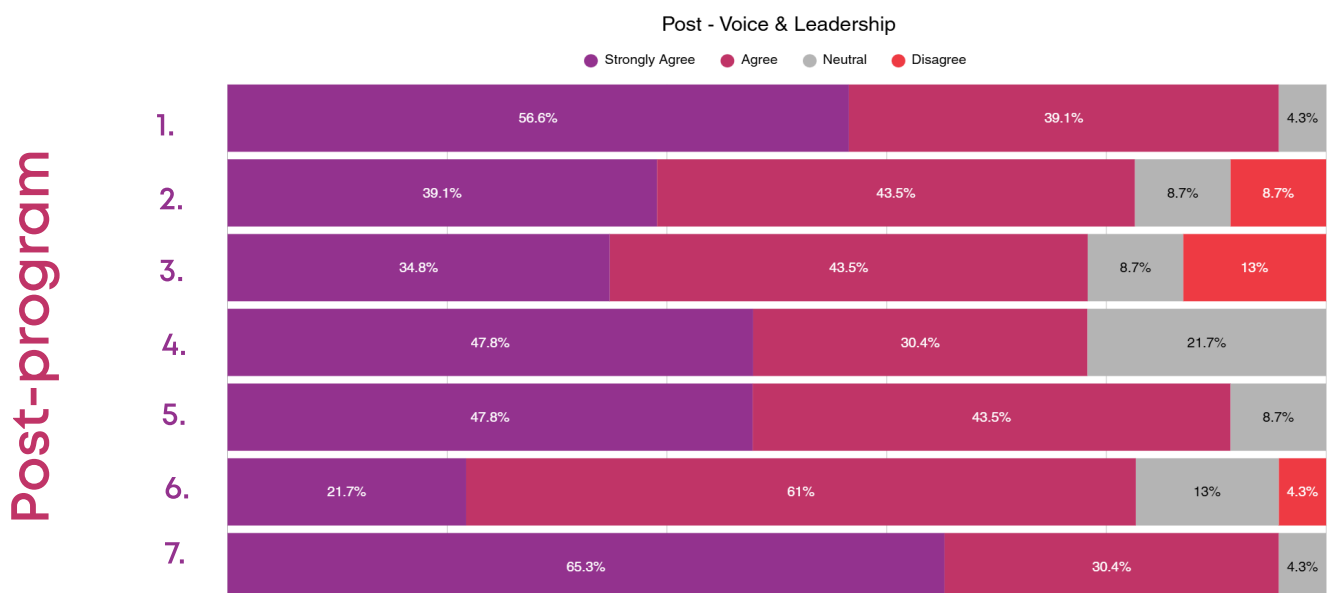
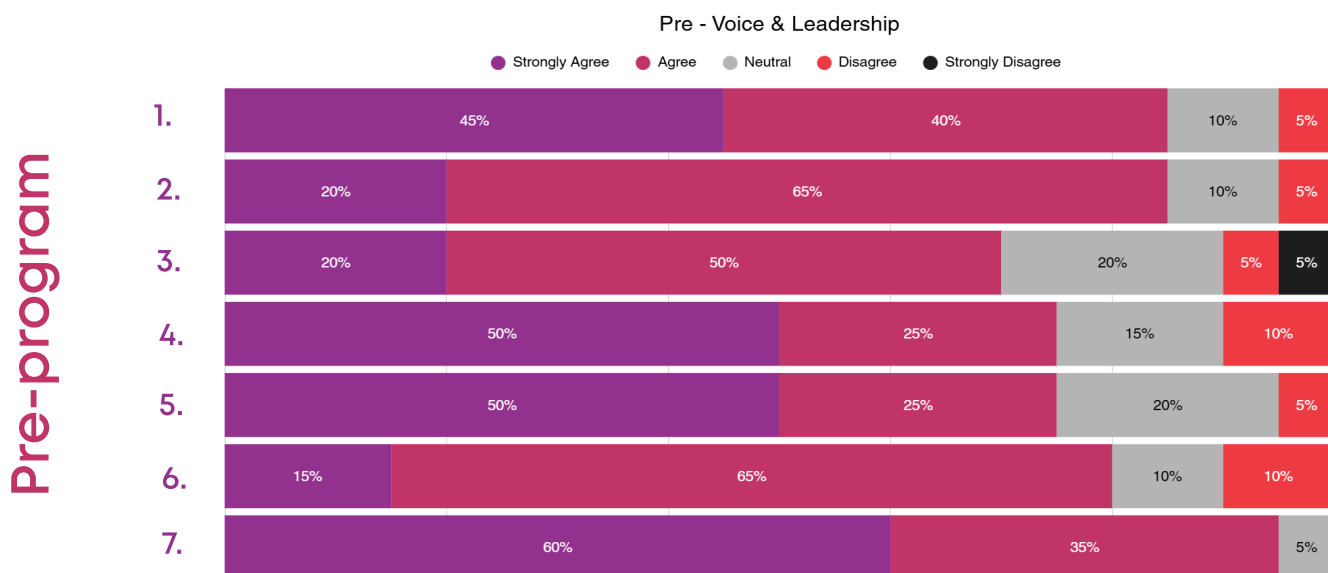


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Voice and leadership

Participants were asked to answer the following questions on a scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree:

1. I feel confident speaking up about issues that matter to me
2. I feel confident to ask for help if needed
3. When I speak up or share an opinion, I feel heard
4. I feel confident to be a leader
5. I feel confident working in a team or leading a group
6. I feel like I can be my true self
7. I believe young people should have more say in decisions that affect them

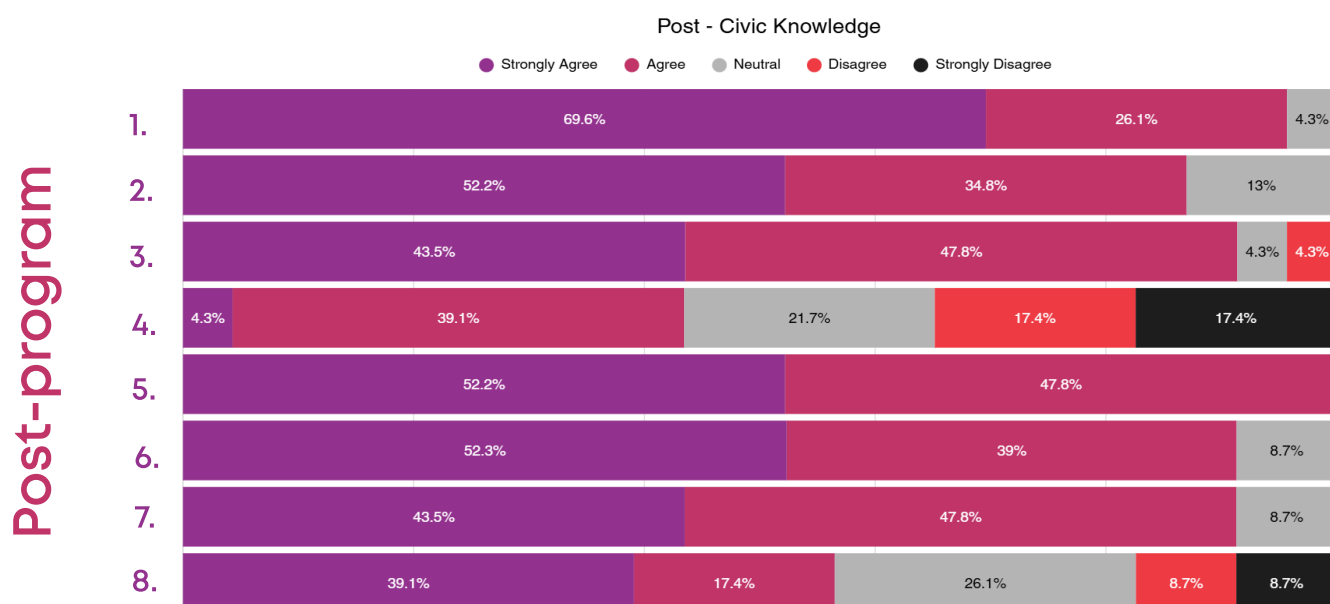
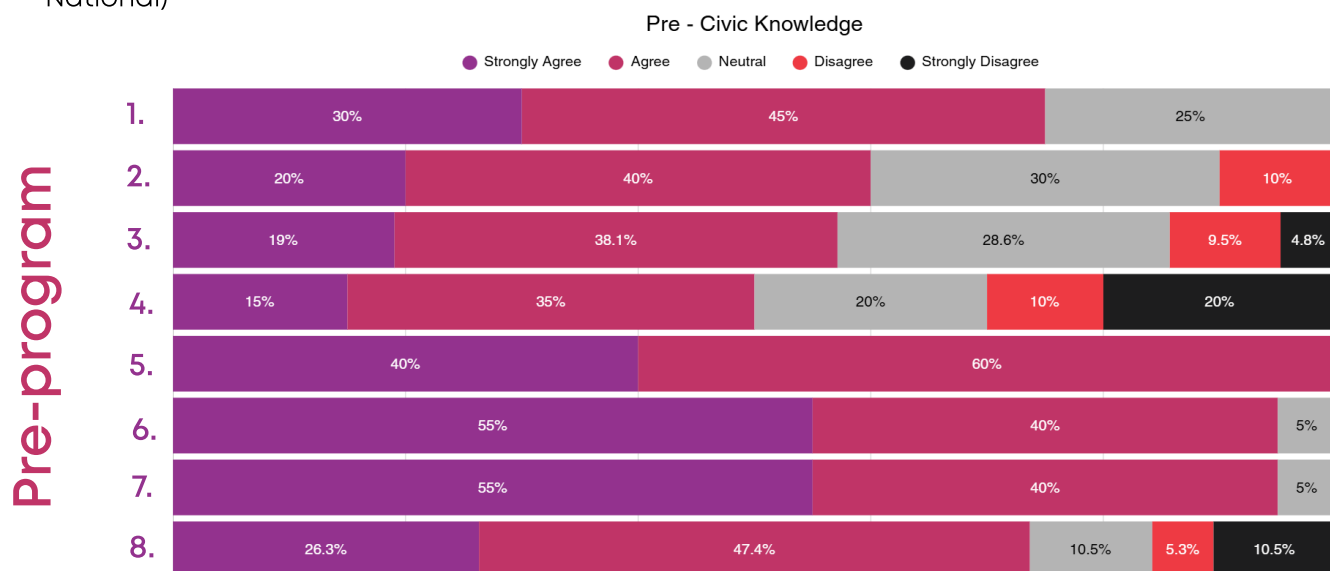


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Civic knowledge

Participants were asked to answer the following questions on a scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree:

1. I know how to vote and understand how elections work
2. I am aware of how local, Territory and National Governments work
3. I know how to create change through community action eg. art, social media, events
4. I believe adults and decision-makers take young people seriously
5. I care about sustainability and protecting Country for future generations
6. Participating in Youth Parliament will help me develop skills I can use in study or work
7. I believe my experiences and identity matter when it comes to shaping decisions in society
8. I can see myself running for a leadership or political position in the future (Local, Territory or National)



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Thank you to our sponsors and supporters

Program Sponsors and Supporters:

The Northern Territory Government - Office of Youth Affairs, The Phillips Foundation, Qantas Regional Grants, Co-Ground, and the Airport Development Group, Department of the Legislative Assembly

Participant Sponsors:

On the Same Page Consulting, Carers NT, Department of Education and Training, Laurie Zio MLA, Justine Davis MLA, Kat McNamara MLA

Patron:

His Honour Professor The Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM

MLAs who chaired sessions or gave speeches during the Youth Sitting Week:

The Hon. Robyn Lambley, Speaker of the House, Member for Araluen, Hon. Jinson Charls, Minister for Youth, Seniors and Equality, Member for Sanderson, Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay, Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain, Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston, Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly, Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff, Hon. Jo Hersey, Minister for Education and Training, Member for Katherine, Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri, Selena Uibo, Leader of the Opposition, Gerard Maley, Deputy Chief Minister (spoke at Opening Ceremony)

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