

Model United Nations Assembly 2026

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What is National MUNA

MUNA, the Model United Nations Assembly, is based on a successful project, originally organised by the Rotary Club of Forbes, NSW, which has now been adopted by many Rotary Districts and is enthusiastically supported by the United Nations. Many Rotary Districts conduct their own MUNA event each year. National MUNA brings together winners of District MUNA events and some other teams to debate United Nations related issues in the National Capital.

Each participating team is sponsored by a Rotary Club or District. Teams consist of two or three Year 10, 11 or 12 students, with each team representing a nation at a simulated Model United Nations Assembly. Teams debate topics of international concern such as world peace, environmental issues and human rights over two days.

Before attending, students are expected to familiarise themselves with the nation they represent by studying its history, politics, economics, people, geography, international alignment and real-life stance on world affairs.

Where the nation selected by a team has an Embassy or High Commission in Canberra, students will find in most cases that Embassy/High Commission staff are supportive of the event and assisting the team to understand the represented country and their position on the types of issues debated in MUNA. In recent years some Embassies and High Commissions have been happy to have students visit them and brief them on a range of real-life issues affecting the country and the country's position on particular issues. We encourage teams to make contact with their assigned nation's Embassy, High Commission or Consulate and if they feel inclined to do so, to invite their representatives to attend part of the debate. The MUNA Registrar can assist with the initial introduction in most cases.

The Team Counsellor

Each team is required to have an adult Counsellor available through the weekend. The counsellor **must** be an adult (eg Rotarian or teacher) and must have current “Working with Vulnerable People” credentials or equivalent - he/she cannot be the third student or equivalent.

The Counsellor has primary duty of care and responsibility for the safety of the team throughout the event, including during travel to and from the event.

Counsellors are responsible to ensure that their team adhere to the high standards of behaviour that are expected from those representing their school and the Rotary Club/District. This requires the Counsellor to be present at the primary MUNA activities including the debate and MUNA dinner, and available on-call at all other times throughout the event.

The Main MUNA Venues

Student Accommodation – Discovery Parks Canberra

All students will be accommodated, without exception, at Discovery Parks Canberra. This includes students who normally live in the ACT or surrounding NSW.

Discovery Parks Canberra is purpose-built student accommodation, opened in 2017. It is at the corner of the Federal Highway and Old Well Station Road, Kenny ACT (next to the EPIC showgrounds). More information is available from the Resort website - <https://www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/caravan-parks/australian-capital-territory/canberra/>

Student accommodation is in two large ‘pods’/buildings, with a central common area within the building. The accommodation provides bunk accommodation, with up to 4 students per room and a bathroom in each student room. Bedding and towels are provided. Student rooms are centrally heated.

Internet services are available at Discovery Parks Canberra.

A large kitchen and meal facility is provided on site at Discovery Parks-Canberra. Participants and Counsellors staying at Discovery Parks Canberra will be provided on Friday and Saturday nights with dinner, and Saturday and Sunday morning with breakfasts at Discovery Parks Canberra, with other meals provided at MoAD. Saturday night dinner (see below) is a formal event with a guest speaker and provides the opportunity for parents/supporters to attend to join the students, counsellors and Rotarians.

During periods when participants are at Discovery Parks Canberra, participants are not permitted to leave the premises.

A number of Rotarians and other authorised adults, including some Counsellors, will be at the student accommodation whenever students are on site. The Resort also has a 24/7 on call security presence.

Counsellors may stay either at Discovery Parks Canberra in shared rooms (2 per room) or alternatively may make their own accommodation arrangements.

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD)

The MUNA debates are held at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD), formerly known as Old Parliament House. This is a very auspicious venue, full of character, and the chambers present a wonderful atmosphere for the MUNA debate. Visit the MOAD website for more information: <http://moadoph.gov.au/>.

Chamber Protocols at MoAD

MoAD is a heritage building, and subject to strict protocols, particularly within the chambers. These restrictions are important in preserving the rooms in the best possible state. MoAD security staff and our MUNA officials will be monitoring proceedings and ensure compliance with the restrictions. Your assistance in following these guidelines is greatly appreciated.

The following constraints apply within the Chamber at MoAD:

1. Each team will be allowed ONLY one iPad or laptop computer in the chamber. This item must at all times be located on the provided carpet square to protect the furniture.
2. There are no electrical charging options in the chamber – ensure laptops are fully charged at the start of each day.
3. No food or drink is permitted in the Chamber - this includes bottles of water, chocolates, snacks chewing gum etc. A water station is provided nearby outside the Chamber.
4. No bags, backpacks, handbags or similar are allowed in the chamber. A lockable container will be provided at the rear of the building to accommodate these during sessions. Access to the locked containers is restricted to break periods. Please assist by minimising the number of these items brought into MOAD.
5. No ink pens are to be used in the Chamber. Pencils will be provided by Rotary.
6. No items can be placed on any chairs, desks or benches.
7. People are to sit in designated seats only. Those seats that are sectioned off are not to be used. Seating is therefore strictly limited in the chamber and we cannot guarantee its availability.
8. Please look after the furniture. Do not lean on furniture, put feet on furniture or stand on furniture.
9. Note that there is a maximum number of people allowed in the chamber at any time.

MUNA team members and Counsellors will be provided with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Saturday and morning tea on Sunday at MoAD. If others wish to have access to these meals, booking with the Registrar and full payment prior to the event is required.

Please ensure any dietary restrictions for team members and counsellors are included on the registration form.

A café is available near the chambers for snacks and meals for people observing the debate.

Dress Code for the Debate Sessions

Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for the event, preferably in clothing representative of their nation's national dress. Please note that this does **not** mean 'fancy dress', or caricatures of famous people from the country. Fancy dress detracts from the visual aesthetics of MUNA and can distract from the debate.

All dress worn throughout the event is to be modest. Students who dress immodestly will be asked to change their outfit.

If in doubt, ask yourself: "Would this type of dress be acceptable by the Embassy of the represented nation, and is it representative of the nation?"

Students may be able to obtain advice on appropriate costumes by approaching the Embassy of the country that they are representing.

If unable to wear appropriate national dress, students should wear business attire.

Remember that it can be very cold in Canberra in August. Bring warm jackets or coats to keep warm when travelling between venues.

Transport

Bus transport is provided for MUNA participants between all MUNA venues. All participants are to travel in the provided buses, including Canberra based participants that may have their own car.

Counsellors staying at Discovery Parks Canberra may also use the buses, subject to seat availability.

The MUNA Activities – What to Expect

Registration at Discovery Parks-Canberra

Registration will be open at Discovery Parks Canberra on arrival day from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. If your team is unable to arrive within that timeframe, please arrange this ahead of time through the MUNA Registrar.

Registration will take place at the entrance to the student accommodation block at Discovery Parks Canberra. MUNA signs will be provided from the car parks to this location.

Dinner on Friday evening will be served at Discovery Parks Canberra for participants and counsellors staying at the Resort between 6pm and 7pm.

The Debating Sessions

Six debate sessions will be conducted over the MUNA weekend, each approximately 1½ hours.

Participation in MUNA is intended to be a rewarding and educational experience for every team member, and an opportunity for all those taking part to develop their skills as debaters. The sessions are designed to enable each participant to practice public speaking skills, to contribute as a member of a debating team and to learn about the procedures of formal debate in a situation that replicates 'real world' debating as far as possible.

A feature of all debating is that there is no single optimal approach which guarantees 'success'. Debates in democratic institutions of governance are opportunities to persuade others to your point of view. There are many aspects of being persuasive, including credibility of arguments, their logical consistency, fluency and eloquence, teamwork, understanding of the institutional rules of debate, and capacity to find constructive solutions through understanding of the points of view of others, whether they are adversaries or supporters.

Each team speaking in the debate will be scored by a panel of adjudicators. The adjudicators will score each session and then these scores will be combined to obtain a consensus view about which teams produce the best overall debating performances throughout the weekend and which team is most deserving of an encouragement award. Inevitably, some people will have views that are different from the collective consensus view of the adjudicators. Remember the aim of the weekend is to learn from a real life-style UN debating session, not necessarily to win prizes.

The Totenhofer Peace Prize is a perpetual trophy awarded each year to the delegation participating in MUNA which makes the best contribution to world peace. The advancement of world peace will be considered to be demonstrated through the building of positions which allow the General Assembly to achieve the broadest possible base of support for the resolutions which it debates, or the broadest possible base for rejection of resolutions which are considered inimical to world peace.

Delegations can demonstrate their influence in favour of world peace by:

- Displaying negotiating skill in ensuring that the resolutions which are debated are ones which advance world peace, either in their selection or by advancing proposals that resolutions be amended which make them more amenable to a broader number of members;
- Negotiating between blocks and ensuring that the strongest arguments are developed to create consensus;
- Advancing strong arguments at a substantive level, displaying detailed knowledge and understanding – less attention will be paid to style of delivery in judging the Totenhofer Peace Prize; and
- Demonstrating through debate that the point of view of others is fully understood even when not agreed by the team.

Members of the Totenhofer Peace Prize winning team will receive a trophy in acknowledgement of winning the perpetual Totenhofer Peace Prize for display at their school with the name of the team being recorded on the perpetual trophy, as well as gift vouchers for each student

The MUNA Dinner

The primary social event of MUNA is the MUNA dinner, to be held at Discovery Parks Canberra on the Saturday evening commencing at 6.30pm. This is a celebration of the MUNA event and is a compulsory event for MUNA participants. The cost for MUNA participants and one Counsellor is included in the MUNA registration fee.

As the MUNA dinner is deemed a formal function, a formal dress code is encouraged – jackets for the young men and a smart dress for young ladies.

Please remember that it can be very cold in Canberra in winter, so you are advised to bring a coat or shawl/wrap or jacket to dinner.

Guests or supporters attending the MUNA dinner are welcome to attend the function at own cost, although seating may be limited and will be allocated on a first-paid, first in basis.

Photography and Video

The Rotary Club of Canberra Sunrise will have members taking photographs of elements of the debate throughout the event. These are intended to be used in various online and other media, including the Club website and MUNA Facebook page.

Use of Social Media

The following social media options are expected to be officially used in the lead-up to, during and for a short period after the National MUNA event:

- a. The D9705 National MUNA Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/D9705NationalMuna/>;
- b. The Rotary Club of Canberra Sunrise Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofcanberrasunrise/>;
- c. Instagram, and
- d. X.

The following social media guidelines are listed below:

- MUNA social media channels **will not be used by any person located within the chamber** at the Museum of Australian Democracy **during any debating session** except for the official MUNA PR and social media teams.
- MUNA social media users **will comply with the following guidelines** when using MUNA social media channels – all posts will:
 - focus on the MUNA event,
 - provide a positive outlook,
 - be fair and respectful to all,
 - do not use any false, defamatory, inflammatory, rude or offending material, and
 - do not use photographs without explicit approval of the parent/guardian of those in the photograph (refer to the Social Media Managers if unsure),
 - do not use the full name of any individual, instead referring to those participating by their first name and country represented (e.g. Peter (Sweden)).

Further Information

If you have any queries, please contact the Registrar: email

MUNARegistrar@gmail.com.