



Youth Sexuality and Gender Diversity Network

Terms of Reference

August 2009

1. Aim

The aim of the Youth Sexuality and Gender Diversity Network (the Network) is to strengthen supports and services for young people aged 12 – 25 in the ACT, who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and/or queer (GLBTIQ); and raise the profile of GLBTIQ youth issues in the ACT.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Network are to:

1. Identify, examine and raise the profile of issues affecting GLBTIQ young people in the ACT.
2. Improve the capacity of the youth, schools, AOD, mental health, family support, accommodation and community sectors to better support and engage GLBTIQ young people in the ACT.
3. Provide opportunities for workers in these sectors to be informed of GLBTIQ youth issues.
4. Provide networking and collaboration opportunities for individuals with a shared interest in progressing GLBTIQ youth issues.

NB: Strategies developed for each objective can be viewed in the accompanying Network Workplan.

3. Network Function

The function of the Network is to:

- Meet bi-monthly;
- Determine the direction of the Network;
- Identify activities for inclusion in the Workplan;
- Implement the Workplan;
- Work towards being accountable to the GLBTIQ youth community.

4. Network Membership

Membership of the Network is open to any individuals and services who are able to:

- Attend bi-monthly meetings;
- Subscribe to the aim and objectives of the Network; and,
- Actively participate in the development and implementation of the Workplan.

To become a member of the Network, please contact the Youth Coalition of the ACT, which provides Secretariat (See Section 5). The Youth Coalition also maintains a broader mailing list, of individuals and services who are interested in the activities of the Network but are unable to participate as members.

5. Governance Structure

5.1 Funding Support and Secretariat

The Youth Coalition, as secretariat to the Network, is responsible for and accountable to the funds allocated to Network activities. The Youth Coalition will seek to consult with the Network on matters relating to the allocation of funds.

The Youth Coalition's duties as Secretariat include:

- Providing a venue for Network meetings;
- Compiling and distributing agendas for Network meetings;
- Producing and distributing minutes from Network meetings within three weeks following the meeting, to the Network;
- Updating and maintaining the Network Membership list and Mailing List;
- Updating when necessary the Network Workplan and Terms of Reference;
- Developing and maintaining a Network page on the Youth Coalition website; and,
- Promoting Network opportunities to the broader youth and community sector through existing resources such as the Training and Professional Development Calendar and weekly Youth Coalition eBulletin.

5.2 Steering Committee Chair

The role of the Chair is to facilitate Network meetings. This includes:

- Liaising with the Secretariat prior to each meeting, to discuss the agenda;
- Being responsible for directing the meeting and ensuring it meets its objectives;
- Monitoring decision-making processes;
- Time-keeping at Network meetings;
- Ensuring all agenda items are completed; and,
- Ensuring all members' views are heard and considered; and members have the opportunity to participate – particularly members who identify as GLBTIQ or GLBTIQ young people.

The Chair of the Network will be a rotational position, occupied by a Network member for the period of 12 months. The position is appointed by the Network through consensus. The position of Chair is open to all members of the Network, but GLBTIQ members are encouraged to nominate for this role.

6. Decision-Making

Decision-making processes will aim to ensure fairness within the Network, acknowledging the disadvantage often experienced by individuals based on sexuality and gender, age, and cultural backgrounds. The Network will aim to reach consensus on all major decisions. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, a decision will be made by majority vote. Decision-making by members should be made with consideration to *Section 7: Accountability and Consultation with Stakeholders*.

7. Accountability and Consultation with Stakeholders

The Network will aim to ensure that the voice of young GLBTIQ members of the Network are heard and respected; and that young GLBTIQ people outside of the Network are provided with opportunities to contribute to the direction and actions of the Network.

Where appropriate, the Network will consult with key stakeholders regarding the direction and actions of the Network. Key stakeholders may include, but are not limited to; GLBTIQ young people, health professionals and services, education professionals, and GLBTIQ youth services and programs outside of the ACT.

8. Meeting Dates

Steering Committee meetings will be held bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the month from 3 – 5pm at the Youth Coalition office (46 Clianthus Street, O'Connor).

9. More Information

For further information about the Network, contact Erin Barry at the Youth Coalition of the ACT:

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