

MYAN ACT

Minutes

Date: 10th February 2023

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Location: In person & online

Attendance

Thomas Stevens (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Dr Justin Barker (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Erin Barry (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)
Jeremy Leala (WCS)
Jamie Williams (ACT Policing)
Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)
Penny Stott (Woden Community Services)
Jackie Patrick (ACT Education)
Marni Payne (ACT Education)
Katherine Cumming (ACT Education)
Hongsar Channaibanya (Companion House)

Agenda Items

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

Justin opened the meeting by acknowledging the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT, and paid respect to the past, present and future Elders, families and ancestors.

2. **Service Update**

a. **Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)**

- i. Jeremy from WCS organised an excellent school holiday program which involved 7 different services. It was really a wonderful program that involved over 35 young people.
- ii. We are planning our youth conference in Bega with around 80 people across multiple regions which will be happening in June.
- iii. We are currently in about 5 schools and actively doing outreach programs.
- iv. A program we piloted last year called 'Seat at the Table' aims to work with young multicultural women looking to gain training and experience working with boards. The program is designed to give them governance

experience. MHub is going to hire a young person as a part of the program as a paid traineeship.

- v. We have started planning for Youth Week coming up in April.

b. Jeremy Leala (Youth Engagement Team at Woden Community Services)

- i. The holiday program was excellent. We enjoyed working together with 7 services across Canberra.
- ii. There is a drop-in service available three days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-5 PM, as well as a dinner club on Fridays.
- iii. The pre-learner course will be returning for individuals aged 16-25.
- iv. The Sunset festival is approaching.

c. Jackie Patrick (Education ACT Government)

- i. We also have Marni Payne here, who has joined us from the EALD space in Charnwood Dunlop.
- ii. All our introductory English centres across Canberra have reopened.
- iii. We are conducting an EALD census in schools to assess students' English proficiency.
- iv. We have seen an increase in migration, and our centres are currently being filled with CALD students.
- v. It can take up to seven years for students to reach a consolidating phase in their English language learning.
- vi. Our funding is based on students' English proficiency and their needs. Students who require more assistance are given greater funding to provide them with extra support.
- vii. Students are encouraged to complete tasks using both English and their home language.

d. Jamie Williams (ACT Policing)

- i. I attended several holiday programs.
- ii. Our team is trying to attend and interact with as many programs as possible.

e. Hongsar Channaibanya (Companion House)

- i. I have been attending MYAN ACT for 13 years.
- ii. This year, we are focusing on establishing relationships with the University of Canberra (UC), Australian National University (ANU), and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). Our primary objective is to connect with career pathways and foster those relationships.
- iii. We are also considering exploring new approaches for engaging young refugee students in sports and potentially facilitating their entry into the university sector.

f. Penny Stott (Network Coordinator)

- i. The Parenting Peer Support program is starting in term 3. We are currently discussing whether this program could be tailored to support multicultural young people as well.
- ii. The Southside initiative aims to support children aged 0-8 and their parents by improving their access to services. We have identified an issue with childcare subsidies, where those who are not permanent

residents are eligible. We are working on finding solutions to this problem.

g. Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)

- i. Almost anyone can enroll as a domestic student at CIT, regardless of their visa status. However, some services are only available to those with permanent visas.
- ii. Fee-free training is available to people on almost any visa, and covers a wide range of subjects.
- iii. We work closely with universities, career advisors, and CIT to provide pathways for students to pursue their chosen careers.

3. Youth Co Update

- a. Our latest sector bulletin can be found here: [The Youth Coalition of the ACT \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://www.youthcoalition.net/campaign-archive.com)
- b. To stay up to date with what we are doing subscribe to our sector bulletin here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/>
- c. Mental Health Network - The Office for Mental Health was established in early 2018 with a focus on mental health work. MYAN has been previously engaged with the Mind Map youth navigation portal and modelling tool, as well as the Missing Middle project. There is a need to develop a network that can strategically bring together people from different sectors to address issues. Currently, we are deciding on key priorities for the future of the network and want to ensure that there are linkages between that and MYAN. The Youth at Risk program addresses difficulties in accessing services through current programs, and it has received new funding. We are considering whether we want to facilitate discussions about the impact of coming to MYAN and how those services have impacted people.
- d. Gambling Harm Prevention - This year it's expected that several regulations will be implemented to reduce gambling harm in the ACT. Cashless gaming is something that's not been committed to but could be implemented particularly if NSW implements cashless gaming. This would be one of the largest reforms in Australia's history.
- e. CNCT - is a directory of services in the ACT that has been developed in order for young people to connect with the services they need in the ACT. <https://www.cnct.directory>

4. Racism Forum Discussion

- a. Justin: The Youth Coalition previously organised forums for the youth sector, which served as a connection point for individuals working with young people. These forums were based on a specific theme and involved the youth sector as a whole. In the first half of this year, we are considering organising a forum to discuss the findings of the racism survey. It is important to involve everyone in this conversation and discuss how we plan to address the issue beyond just MYAN.
- b. Zakia: Justin mentioned that last year, we worked on a project in partnership with Karijo and the Human Rights Commission. We received a lot of feedback from schools about racism happening in schools. To gather information, we

consulted with young people in primary and high schools, as well as conducted an online survey. We got responses from 146 students in person and a lot online. The survey revealed that young people want to talk about racism and the most common experiences they had were in schools and public transport. We asked participants if they would report racism formally and only 9% said they would, while 46% said they would talk to their parents or peers about it. We also asked what they would do about it. The results are being compiled into a report. Schools are putting together real-life scenarios and discussing how to react and respond appropriately. We have started an anti-racism group in a school run by students, and we hope to pilot something that can be implemented across all schools.

- c. Justin: If we plan to conduct a forum to discuss the findings, it would be ideal to start thinking about what else we want to include. We should consider whether we want a panel or involve young people in the discussion. It would also be beneficial to have Transport Canberra participate in the forum.
- d. There was a discussion about having young people involved and tell their stories. There were safety concerns so we discussed the possibility of utilising video or other means to ensure it's safe for young people.
- e. Erin: It would be beneficial to think about what next, rather than just raising awareness. It may be helpful to include key education personnel and focus on practical solutions, such as how workers can respond to incidents of racism.
- f. Justin: We need to decide which Ministers should be involved.
- g. Justin: We will co-host the event with the Human Rights Commission
- h. At the next MYAN we will discuss the forum further.
- i. There was a discussion about how Safe and Supportive School Officers are available in each school who are responsible for dealing with incidents of racism. We discussed about the need to ensure students are aware of and accessing those officers but also how we need multiple options for young people.

Action Items

- Invite to be involved in the Racism forum: Human Rights Commission, Kurijo, The YAN, Gagan Gulwan, ACT Multicultural Ministerial Advisory Council, Transport ACT, ACT Policing, Education.