

Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum

Minutes

Date: 10th February 2023

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: In person & online

Attendance

Justin Barker – The Youth Coalition of the ACT
Thomas Stevens – The Youth Coalition of the ACT
Stacey Bright – RAW Potential
Nicolee Clisdell – ACT Housing
Kelly McGrath- ACT Government
Bryan Duke – Ted Noffs, Take Hold Program
Winnie Thaug – CYRS
Annie Perkins – Centrelink
Kim Griffiths – ACT Housing
Lillian Mende – WCS
Joel Caskie – Onelink
Lyntan Sheehan – Housing and Homelessness Services WCS
Andrew Rich – YEAN
Hayley Parker – YEAN
Rosie Cragg – CatholicCare
Paul Sarnacki – CatholicCare
Renea Moriarty – Barnados
Kerri Godkin – Safe and Connected Youth Program
Rachael Jackson – Ted Noffs

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. Lyntan Sheehan (Housing and Homelessness Services WCS)

- i. Lyntan Sheehan runs the onelink central intake service and supporting tenancy service
- ii. Over the last few years, there have been changes in the service, and many people have contributed to its success. There have been a lot of vacancies, and supported accommodations have been freed up. They

are excited to continue working with everyone this year, and there are some interesting conversations happening for the YHHF space.

b. Andrew Rich (YEAN)

- i. Part of a partnership that runs the YEAN, a 7-day crisis support service with 24 beds across Canberra and 3 transitional houses.
- ii. They are currently advertising for a psychologist to work with YEAN and community clients. They are at capacity at the moment.

c. Stacey Bright (RAW Potential)

- i. Part of the RAW potential team within Woden Community that provides case management for 12-25 year olds
- ii. They have training opportunities this year and a strong dentist rescue program.

d. Annie Perkins

- i. works at Centrelink's Belconnen office and assists clients in accessing funds.

e. Renea Moriarty (Barnados)

- i. Barnados YHS and oversees 3 homelessness programs: Our Place for 16-25 year olds, Friendly Landlord with 30 properties across Canberra, and YIS for supported accommodation with a family or friend, which includes financial support

f. Rachael Jackson (Ted Noffs 350 Program)

- i. Part of the Ted Noffs 350 program for 2 years, which has a 6-bedroom house on the Ted Noffs site with vacancies
- ii. Applicants need to be working or studying up to 20 hours a week and be between 16-21 years old.

g. Kerri Godkin (Safe & Connected Youth Program)

- i. S&CY is a coordinated service response for children and young people aged 8 to 15 years old who are experiencing family conflict and who may be at risk of homelessness.

3. Youth Co Update

- a. Our latest sector bulletin can be found here: [The Youth Coalition of the ACT \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://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. 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.

- d. Hannah Watts our Director. Policy and Development is moving into a new position within the ACT Education Directorate overseeing youth workers within schools
- 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. Onelink Update (Lyntan Sheehan)

- a. Recently, there has been media coverage about a total of \$2.6 million funding provided to homelessness services. \$800,000 has been allocated to the Client Support Fund program and the remaining \$1.8 million to the Transition Housing program to broker support based on the complexity of the clients' needs. Over 85 individuals have been supported through the supportive accommodation program and have gone on to take private tenancies or with Housing ACT. The program has a maximum duration of one year to manage tenancy but not limited, and the criteria include signing own occupancy agreement with clients aged 18 or above normally, but 16 is possible. The brokerage can support up to \$15,000 per client per year. The bulk of the funding goes to support emergency crisis accommodation, which is essentially hotels. During COVID, the number of people in hotels was 190, and now there are an average of 20-40 clients in hotels, with many seeking that support, particularly families with young children. Clients aged 18 and over can be placed in a hotel, but it is not an ideal model, especially for clients facing difficult challenges in their lives. For clients aged 16-18, a hotel cannot be funded, and the organization is open to ideas on how to provide crisis accommodation for this age group. Onelink has some capacity to fund these ideas, and the money is earmarked for this financial year, with a possibility of rolling it over to next year.
- b. Last year, Onelink implemented a new phone system. While acknowledging significant issues, with the new system, we will now be able to answer the majority of calls. People can request call backs, wait on hold, or leave a phone message, and the system automatically calls back in order. If anyone is having issues, they can contact us to have them fixed. Thanks to everyone for their patience while we dealt with these issues.
- c. We have supported 110 young people across Canberra, with clients staying with clients longer with the support program but are hamstrung with no exit points.
- d. We want to acknowledge that we are only as good as our ability to work with clients and encourage anyone with issues or concerns to reach out to us.

Action Items

- i. Reach out to someone for the next YHHF to talk about commissioning