

MYAN ACT

Minutes

Date: 4th November 2022

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)
Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)
Kilian O'Donnell (Education ACT Gov)
Jeremy Leala (WCS)
Tanya Gupta (Humanitarian Resettlement - Red Cross)
Les Seniscal (Barnardos)
Nicola Clarke- Your Story Disability Legal Support
Suheir Gedeon
Luana Kirwan (Conflict Resolution Service)
Ivapene Seiuli (Health Care Consumers)
Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)
Sam Chrzczonowicz (ACT Education Directorate)
Darren Singn (Lion Wellness)
Penny Stott (Woden Community Services)
Pat Whitfield (Barnados)

Agenda Items

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

Thomas 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. **Kilian O'Donnell (Education ACT Gov)**

i. On placement and helping students reengage with school

b. **Ivapene Seiuli (Health Care Consumers)**

i. We recently engaged and connected with My Mind, My Voice program, to build the mental health capacity and skills of our community. They recently launch a range of resources. There are resources specially for

multicultural young people.

c. Luana Kirwan (Conflict Resolution Service)

- i. We run the Safe & Connected Youth Program and the Family Support Program. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions

d. Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)

- i. Have been really busy. Have a lot of referrals for case management and mental health support from schools.
- ii. Running a number of programs at the moment. Seat at the Table is a program in partnership with the Centre for Multicultural Youth designed for multicultural young people, 18 – 30 experience and understand of Governance. Over 12 months they participate in training one a month and also link into organisations boards. Feel free to contact me if you have anyone who might be interested.
- iii. We are also running writing workshops, One Day One Canberra, working with young people 12 – 18. They work with published authors to create a short story that will be compiled into a book.
- iv. In our school program we are doing working around cultural identity that was entirely run by young people. At Erindale College the students involved wanted to do cultural showcase and did a 2.5 hours presentation to 350 parents and community members. They choreographed their own dances, sang songs in language and ran the entire event themselves. It was incredible outcome.

e. Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)

- i. Currently wrapping up toward the end of the semester.
- ii. We do a lot of career advising as well as support for students.
- iii. Have a lot of connections with schools to assist with the transition from schools to CIT
- iv.

f. Jeremy Leala - WCS - Youth Engagement Team

- i. Partnering with YWCA and MHUB for our holiday program.
- ii. We are planning our studio launch in October.
- iii. Working with RAW potential.
- iv. There is a dental rescue day every 2 months where young people can get free dental care.

g. Cindy Young - Conflict Resolution Service

- i. We had the launch of the Safe & Connected Youth Program this week with the opening of our Ruby's House. This is a new service that is taking referrals for young people who are experiencing family conflict and may be at risk of homelessness. There is capacity but it's filling up.

h. Mrad El-Syoufi rad - Care Financial Services

- i. We are wrapping up a number of our community initiatives.
- ii. Running a range of workshops. In particular for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Working to ensure the workshops are culturally appropriate.

i. Tanya Gupta – Red Cross

- i. Business as usual.
- ii. Very busy, continuing to get referrals.
- iii. We have a number of Afghan and Ukrainian Refugees. The range of services they can access has to fit within home affairs policy.
- iv. We continue to run a range of activities such as our connected women's program. Encourage them to get out of the house with their kids and have some fun.

j. Hongsar Channaibanya – Companion House

- i. We have young people from the Afghan crisis.
- ii. In the next 6 months it would be good to look at targeted strategies for multicultural young people. They need employment, integration with the community.

3. Youth Co Update

- a. 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. The directory recently received a large update and a number of additional features have been added. <https://www.cnct.directory>
- b. Our latest sector bulletin can be found here: <https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=ec1042f577c6c93180e2387e5&id=2899947147>
- c. To stay up to date with what we doing subscribe to our sector bulletin here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/>

4. Raise the Age Discussion

- a. Justin Barker continued a conversation regarding the move to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the ACT from 10 to 14. Members discussed the implications for the service sector. Further updates will be provided as it progresses.
- b. A number of services were concerned that there isn't currently a specific service response for these kids in the ACT.
- c. There are large service gaps within this age range.
- d. There were questions around the expectations of parents and families.
- e. Justin discussed how the panel that will be implemented to make services work with this these kids.
- f. Sam discussed how teachers are engaging with these kids every day. We know that if we can intervene early, these kids will have better outcomes. Teachers are crying out for youth support services to support them. Justin mentioned the Geelong project and how it was able to identify young people early within schools.
- g. Wellbeing teams within schools are currently overwhelmed. It's increasingly difficult to get into the school psychologist.
- h. Justin discussed how there are only a small amount kids within this cohort.
- i. Bryan discussed how forcing people rarely works. While services are supportive of the change, there are concerns on how to mandate young people and parents to participate in services and programs.
- j. Justin talked about how the Police are concerned with how the new system will work, but brought up the point that the current system doesn't work. With the

panel will allow us to do a wrap around response with parent involvement, where currently there isn't the capability to do that.

- k. Justin talked about how the government is going to need to fund something new, so we are going to have to agree with what that is. We are also going to have to optimise our existing funding to work with these young people and families.