

MYAN ACT

Minutes

Date: 14th April 2023

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Location: In person & online

Attendance

Dr Justin Barker (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Erin Barry (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)
Penny Stott (Woden Community Services – Network Coordinator)
Michelle Colebourne (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Ciara Duggan (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Alicia Twohill (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Ollie Daroza (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Sam Chrzczonowicz (ACT Education – EALD)
Kerri Godkin (Conflict Resolution Service)
Hakim Mahmoud (Humanitarian Settlement Program, Red Cross)

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. Penny Stott (Network Coordinator, Woden)

- i. Penny noted that the ACT is going backwards in the AECD data, and also has the highest rates of bullying in the country.

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

- i. The Children and Young People's Experiences of Racism report, developed by the Human Rights Commission, MHub and Curijo has been released, and is available at:
<https://hrc.act.gov.au/childrenyoungpeople/position-statements/>
- ii. MHub has been supporting anti-racism programs in schools, at young people's request; and have been asked by principals to work with teachers within their schools.
- iii. MHub are also working with young people in Bimberi and working with CYPs to support young people and families.

- iv. Running school holiday program during Youth Week in collaboration with other programs.
 - v. Working with parents in different community groups, including writing a program with an advisory group which will be delivered to parents in May.
 - vi. The Stand-Up Youth Conference will be held in Bega in May, with 80 young people attending, including 20 places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.
 - vii. Have attended several multicultural festivals over the last month.
- c. Senior Youth Work Team, ACT Education**
- i. The Senior Youth Work Team is a newly established team employed with the ACT Education Directorate, to support the over 55 youth workers are employed across ACT public schools.
 - ii. The Team is currently hearing about youth workers' experiences within schools, and have also been approached by schools that are employing youth workers for the first time and seeking advice.
- d. Sam Chrzczonowicz (EALD, ACT Education)**
- i. Sam's team is working with teachers, professional learning and introductory English centres to support students.
 - ii. The IELCs are currently full, as there are many new migrants in schools and more students with limited English proficiencies.
- e. Kerri Godkin (Conflict Resolution Service)**
- i. CRS provides the 'Safe and Connected Youth Program', which supports young people under the age of 16 who are affected by family conflict, one of the key contributors of homelessness.
 - ii. The S&CY Program includes an outreach stream, and also a therapeutic residential program for young people, Ruby's.
- f. Hakim Mahmoud (Humanitarian Settlement Program, Red Cross)**
- i. The HSP works with newly arrived refugees, from day 1 of their arrival up to around 12-18 months. They provide intensive case management and support to access health services, employment and education.
 - ii. The HSP works with other local services, and will often refer to MARSS or MHub after exiting.

3. Youth Coalition Update

- a. The Youth Coalition is currently working with the Office for Mental Health & Wellbeing, and Capital Health Network, to establish a new Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Network. Strategic Planning days have been held with the sector and we are developing a Terms of Reference for the Network. For more information or to get involved contact Erin at erin@youthcoalition.net.
- b. We are also writing our submission to the ACT Budget 2023-24, which will seek funding across a range of areas, including: (1) continued funding for the WOKE Program (a youth self-harm and suicide prevention program); (2) service system enhancements to support raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility; (3) funding for youth and community supports in Gungahlin; (4) a housing model for

young people not engaged in education, employment or training, and (5) establishment funding for a Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Network.

- c. The Youth Coalition has recently changed our Constitution to state that we work with young people under the age of 30, to recognise the transitions of youthhood.
- d. There are several training opportunities coming up: We have collaboration with social work researchers and Families ACT to develop and pilot reflective supervision training. We are also holding 'train the trainer' workshops for the DFV and Youth Work training that was developed last year. There will be an EOJ process to take park. AOD training with ATODA is also being delivered by Annie Bleeker.
- e. Commissioning for the CYFSP is about to commence, and other sectors are already ahead. OOHC commissioning will be commencing soon.
- f. To stay up to date with what we are doing subscribe to our sector bulletin here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/>

4. FUSE Conference

- a. This year's FUSE Conference, led by MYAN Australia, will be held in Canberra in November / December. We will need to consider what the role of MYAN ACT, the youth sector and multicultural services should be.

Action: Justin to follow-up with Rana from MYAN Australia out of session regarding FUSE Conference.

5. Racism in schools

- a. This has been a topic of discussion at MYAN Australia, as it is emerging that there are very similar themes across states and territories. MYAN Australia is discussing how to respond to and better inform education and schools to respond to racism at a national and state/territory level.
- b. STAN meetings last year formed a sub-committee to look at national anti-racism work.
- c. The MYAN Australia Executive was asked to collect and collate all the different reports from states and territories.

6. Youth Sector Forum

- a. Discussed possibility of a second launch of the Children and Young People's Experience of Racism report within the community sector, through a youth sector forum.
- b. A sub-committee will be established to determine when, how and what this might look like. Justin, Penny, Zakia and Michelle expressed an interest. Sam also suggested writing to the Education Minister to ask for an Education representative. Discussed approaching Companion House and also Curijo.

- c. Discussed the need to consider the differences between primary schools, high schools and universities.

Action: Youth Coalition to establish and arrange a time for the sub-committee to meet to progress a youth sector forum.

Action Items

- Justin to follow-up with Rana from MYAN Australia out of session regarding FUSE Conference.
- Youth Coalition to establish and arrange a time for the sub-committee to meet to progress a youth sector forum.