

MYAN ACT

Minutes

Date: 16th June 2023

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Location: In person & online

Attendance

Tom Stevens (Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Erin Barry (Youth Coalition of the ACT)
Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)
Alicia Twohill (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Hannah Watts (ACT Education – Senior Youth Work Team)
Joel Artup (Woden Community Service)
Nehad Shaaban (Women’s Centre for Health Matters)
Anushe Khan (Women’s Centre for Health Matters)
Fauzia Jabeen (Women’s Centre for Health Matters)
Beth Jones (headspace Tuggeranong)
Jamie Williams, ACT Policing, Cultural Liaison
Danielle Sweetman (HSP, Red Cross)
Brenton Connelly (CatholicCare)
Ivapene Seiuli (HCCA)
Lumi Ricardi (headspace Canberra)
Beth Jones (headspace Tuggeranong)

Agenda Items

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

Tom 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. **Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)**

- i. CIT are currently offering a range of free courses through the Fee-Free TAFE program, with broad eligibility criteria, including for young people aged 17-24, and people who are eligible VISA holders (including those who hold an ACT Services Access Card). Next semester starts in mid-late July and information sessions are coming up. Any enquiries regarding migrant and refugee students can be directed to Lesley. For

more information: https://cit.edu.au/study/fee_free_tafe

b. Joel Artup (WCS)

- i. Woden Community Services provides youth engagement services in the Woden region.

c. Anushe Khan, Fauzia Jabeen and Nehad Shaaban (Women's Centre for Health Matters)

- i. WCHM has established the 'Health in My Language' project, which provides bilingual health promotion and information sessions. This was originally developed for COVID-19 but has expanded into broader topics. Sessions provided to community groups are free and can be delivered in 7 different languages, to people aged 18 and over.

d. Lumi Ricardi (headspace Canberra)

- i. Headspace Canberra provides mental health support to young people aged 12-25. They recently partnered with MHub for a youth engagement activity; and are interested in learning how they can engage more with other services.

e. Beth Jones (headspace Tuggeranong)

- i. Headspace Tuggeranong provides mental health support to young people aged 12-25. Their Youth Reference Group have identified that they would like to look at how headspace can better engage with young people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

f. Alicia Twohill and Hannah Watts (Senior Youth Work Team, Education)

- i. The Senior Youth Work Team was established within the Education Directorate earlier this year to support school-based youth workers. They are continuing with build community connections, in order to pass information on to youth workers within schools.

g. Danielle Sweetman (Red Cross - Humanitarian Settlement Program)

- i. The HSP provides support to people who are very newly arrived within Australia; including support to young people. They often partner with other local organisations, such as MHub.

h. Brenton Connelly (Youth Housing and Homelessness Service & Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare)

- i. The YHHS supports young people aged 15-25 with a main focus on housing. The program has 3 case managers and can take referrals through OneLink or directly. They can work with any level of complexity.
- ii. The Sobering-up Shelter is for people aged 18 and over and provide a safe place overnight for people who are intoxicated. Referrals often come through from police or emergency services.

i. Ivapene Seiuli (Health Care Consumers Association)

- i. HCCA conducts a range of policy, advocacy and consultation activities. Pene's position provides a cultural lens to health policy consultation processes.

- ii. HCCA is supports the community to access, navigate and receive information about the health system (.e.g MyDHR). This includes working with Companion House.

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

- i. Anti-racism projects at the schools are going well, we have been asked to come and run something similar in another school, so we will be actively delivering programs in 5 schools next term, as well as Bimberi.
- ii. The Migrant and Refugee Swimming Project, founded by ANU, who we now partner with, is having a new group of 20 to commence from next Saturday for 8 weeks.
- iii. Our upcoming school holiday program is now out, with an additional two day program in collaboration with Vinnies, Red Cross and ACT Libraries. If anyone wants a copy they can send me an email.
- iv. We are working in collaboration with MYAN Australia to host two consultations next week on the 21st. One will be with workers in the sector and another one with young people. An email has been sent out but if anyone has missed it then please get in touch with Zakia.
- v. The LDAT program has been progressing well, with a session for parents scheduled for early July. This is in collaboration with Ted Noffs, Conflict Resolution Service, ACT Police and Barnardos.
- vi. Our Stand Up Youth Conference is scheduled for the 30th of June in Eden, with young people coming from across Canberra, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Goulburn and Bega. We have a great group of speakers lined up and a number of interactive workshops.
- vii. The Seat at The Table project - supporting young CALD women in governance roles is going really well. We are about halfway through the program and getting great feedback.

k. 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 hosts two other networks: The Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN), and the Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum. More information about these forums are available at www.youthcoalition.net. The YWPN will be hosting a presentation and discussion from the Eating Disorders Clinic.
- b. A range of training opportunities are available:
 - i. Alcohol and Other Drug training with Annie Bleeker, in partnership with ATODA
 - ii. 'Talk to Them' training, in supporting young people impacted by domestic and family violence
 - iii. Reflective supervision training

- iv. For more information about upcoming training opportunities, subscribe to the Youth Coalition eBulletin at www.youthcoalition.net or contact thomas@youthcoalition.net.
- c. The Youth Coalition has established a Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance in partnership with the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Capital Health Network. The Alliance includes forums, working groups and a community of practice. For more information or to get involved, contact erin@youthcoalition.net.
- d. During June, the Youth Coalition is currently conducting consultations with young people and parents/caregivers who have had experiences with CAMHS. For more information, visit: www.youthcoalition.net/camhs
- e. The ACT Budget will be released on 27 June. The Youth Coalition will develop a summary and response outlining what initiatives have been funded for young people and families.

4. Update: Racism in Schools Forum

- a. The 'It Really Stabs Me- Children and Young People's Experiences of Racism in the ACT' report by the ACT Children and Young People's Commissioner, Multicultural Hub and Curijo was released earlier this year. (https://hrc.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/It-really-stabs-me_2023.pdf)
- b. Following the release of the report, MYAN ACT expressed an interest in hosting a sector forum focused on racism in schools.
- c. A sub-committee has been developed to progress the forum, including the agencies that developed the report, members of MYAN ACT, and Barb Causon, who is the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Advocate.
- d. The sub-committee is interested in broadening the issue into a larger campaign, and are considering a pledge to ask schools and other services to sign on to, to address racism.
- e. MYAN ACT members were asked what might need to be considered to develop a Pledge. Feedback included:
 - i. Following the recent Code of Ethics for Youth Work, it could be useful to have a set of standards or competencies that services are held accountable to.
 - ii. There is a need to look at how a pledge could act as a shared commitment across staff teams within schools and organisations, not just one 'champion'.
 - iii. A pledge would need to consider how schools or services would be held accountable to doing it, and what the consequences would be if young people still don't feel safe.
 - iv. A renewal mechanisms or continual improvement, especially to address the risk of staff turnover.

- v. Considering how to create a safe and inclusive environment more broadly, in addition to addressing and responding to specific incidents.
- vi. Considering how to supports schools and services to understand and respond to microaggressions – who do young people reach out to if they are uncertain or are seeking support?
- vii. Combining a pledge with training to provide focused opportunities for workers / services to engage with the key issues.
- viii. Opportunities to link in with other initiatives, such as work to progress an ACT Government Trauma-Informed Practice Position Statement, progress institutional responses to child safety, and the Voice for Parliament referendum.
- ix. Supporting young people to participate in or facilitate discussions and groups at the forum – linking in with MIEACT’s My Mind My Voice, which engaged culturally diverse young people in a participatory project to talk about mental health within communities. Young people were trained and prepared for their roles.
- x. Considering the definition of racism – sometimes racism can be implicit, not only explicit – e.g. informal exclusion of young people in social spaces. There is a need for the Forum to consider different forms of racism and how it can be expressed.

5. Other Business

- a. The MYAN Australia Conference will be held in Canberra on November 28th, 2023.

Action Items

1. Youth Coalition to do an ebulletin to promote the CIT fee-free training program.
2. Youth Coalition to reconvene the Sub-Committee to progress the forum and report back at the next meeting.
3. Youth Coalition to seek more information from MYAN Australia about the national conference in November.