

MYAN ACT

Minutes

Date: 8 Feb 2024

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Location: In person & online

Attendance

Thomas Stevens - The Youth Coalition of the ACT
Zakia Patel - Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW
Alicia Twohill - Education Directorate
Michelle Colebourne - Education Directorate
Ciára Duggan - Education Directorate
Hongsar Channaibanya - Companion House
Katherin Gilks - Marymead CatholicCare
Brenton Connelly - Marymead CatholicCare
Lesley Cioccarelli - CIT

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. **Thomas Stevens - Youth Coalition of the ACT**

- i. Justin is leaving end of the fortnight
- ii. Youth Co will appoint an interim CEO whilst conducting recruitment process

b. **Hongsar Channaibanya - Companion House**

- i. We recently launched a Framework for Safe and Ethical Work with Asylum Seekers in the ACT
- ii. Youth Coalition developed a Multicultural Young People Framework 12 years ago
- iii. We recently released a series of videos reflecting on the impact of alcohol which was undertaken with experts. You can view it on our youtube channel here
<https://www.youtube.com/@companionhouse6103>
- iv. We run an Afghan Asylum group - anti-stress activities for young women (including yoga)

- v. We respond case by case to individuals/newly arrived asylum seeker who are struggling
- vi. We are seeing increased numbers because of Palestine, Ukraine

c. Zakia Patel – (Mhub)

- i. We are running a collaborative schools program and seeing a lot of new young people
- ii. We are running a Multicultural Youth conference on 31 May 2024 in Jindabyne – we have spots for First Nations young people – registrations just opened
- iii. We ran a school workers PD day – we spoke to schools about cultural awareness within the workplace
- iv. We have had a few principals reach out
- v. We are back in Bimberi from this term running a weekly program
- vi. Gunners Place officially launched on the 21st Feb. We have already had groups book in. We are now open for drop ins. There is a migrant women’s art group on Thursdays (last year was about 15 women)
- vii. We launched the Family Connections Program in November – it’s a program for young people at risk of homelessness due to family conflict
- viii. We are running the Kooky Olympics again this year – it’s a fun day full of challenges for young people, activities like pie eating, egg and spoon races, sumo wrestling – last year 11 services came and collaborated – changing slightly this year to be more multiculturally focussed
- ix. We are re-running a youth leadership program (Multicultural Youth Engagement and Participation Program) – probably in April/May
- x. We are running a mental health program – scoping to understand mental health barriers in community, and then come up with solutions with a co-design group, and also find/produce resources
- xi. We are seeing an increase in case management referrals. A bit concerning this early in the year (bit too early to know implications)
- xii. We are currently recruiting youth worker at present

d. Ciara Duggan/ Alicia/ Michelle – Education Directorate (Senior Youth Worker)

- i. We are a new team, providing support for school based youth workers
- ii. We gather information about community sector programs and feed back to schools
- iii. We also run PD days for school youth workers
- iv. We are doing a few programs – social and emotional learning groups – always open to collaboration with community sector programs

e. Catherine / Brenton– Marymead CatholicCare

- i. We have an active case load of 50/60
- ii. We have new workers so we have increased capacity
- iii. We are getting good wins with homelessness
- iv. We are now located in Narrabundah
- v. We accept referrals from any source
- vi. For something that is urgent – will try fit in even if ‘full’
- vii. Call reception or the team

f. Lesley- CIT

- i. Fee free courses are still available at CIT
- ii. If you missed out on fee free place – you can still get a concession which is 50% if on Centrelink or Health Care card
- iii. Asylum seekers on visa's can get fee free placements but not concession placements
- iv. We will be advertising May/June for next semester
- v. We will have a stall at multicultural festival on Sunday
- vi. Harmony Day is coming up – global marketplace – invite students to have a stall – can cook, sell, perform. Can make available to services if they would like a place – held at Reid campus

3. Youth Co Update

- a. **Anti-racism working group:** Was formed after the “It really stabs me” report released last year. We are putting together a proposal to develop a workshop and resources.
- b. **Child and Young Person’s Act:** There have been changes to the act recently. Bill 1 has passed with minor changes. Bill 2 is going to be passed soon. We’ve asked them to do a session with the community sector to explain the changes. They said they might do that after the changes have been made. It will be important for workers to understand what it means for them working with young people.
- c. **ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance:** Launched last year. The Alliance is led by Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Capital Health Network and us, with support from a Coordinating Committee of key stakeholders. The Alliance aims to provide a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, the private sector and people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving mental health service system responses for children and young people. If you are interested in being part of that
- d. Our latest sector bulletin can be found here: [The Youth Coalition of the ACT \(campaign-archive.com\)](http://www.youthcoalition.net/campaign-archive.com)
- e. To stay up to date with what we are doing subscribe to our sector bulletin here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/>