

# MYAN ACT

## Minutes

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**Date:** 29 April 2024

**Time:** 10:00-11:30am

**Location:** In person & online

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### Attendance

Joel Artup – Youth Coalition of the ACT  
Erin Barry – Youth Coalition of the ACT  
Zakia Patel – Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW  
Lulu Hou – Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW  
Caroline Titus – Reconnect, Marymead CatholicCare  
Ben Langan – Lake Tuggeranong College  
Hannah Watts – Education Directorate  
Bailey Jones – headspace Tuggeranong  
Heidii Burgess – Galilee  
Tim Clement – Galilee  
Ethan Nardi – Galilee  
Smriti Raj – Hepatitis ACT

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### Agenda Items

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

Joel 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. Youth Coalition of the ACT

- i. Former CEO Justin Barker recently finished at the Youth Coalition after 6 years. He has been appointed as the Chair of the new Therapeutic Support Panel for raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility.
- ii. Joel is the interim CEO, working two days per week (Mon & Tues). Joel is progressing the recruitment of the permanent CEO. This position is currently advertised and due to close on Friday 3 May.
- iii. CYFSP Commissioning update: The draft Strategic Investment Plan was recently released for feedback. The Plan lays the foundation for what the CYFSP will look like over the next 8 years. The Youth Coalition provided a submission outlining the

strengths, questions and areas for further improvement. Subsequently, the Youth Coalition also sought funding for a small upcoming project, to develop an online resource that supports services to access and use evidence to inform service design and delivery.

- iv. Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance: The Alliance is led by Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Capital Health Network and Youth Coalition, and 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. The Alliance deliver a Community of Practice, Forums, Working Groups, and a Youth Reference Group.

The YRG has developed a new resource for service providers, outlining their responses to “Frequently Asked Questions”:

<https://cymhalliance.com.au/alliance-activities/youth-reference-group/>

To join the mailing list, contact [erin@youthcoalition.net](mailto:erin@youthcoalition.net). More information is available at <https://cymhalliance.com.au/>

- v. ‘Talk to Them’ DFV and Youth Work training: There are two sessions remaining for this popular training. To be notified of upcoming sessions, please subscribe to the Youth Coalition eBulletin or contact [thomas@youthcoalition.net](mailto:thomas@youthcoalition.net).
- vi. Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum: Commissioning in the youth housing and homelessness sector has led to significant changes in this sector. The coming months will be a challenging transition period, as some services transition/wind down, other services commence, and there are workforce changes. This may lead to new service gaps, which we won’t be aware of until the new service system is established.
- vii. ACT Budget Submission 2024-25: The Youth Coalition provided a submission to the 2024/25 ACT Budget consultation and is currently engaging in additional advocacy outside of this process. The Budget will be released in late June, and we will provide an analysis.
- viii. Anti-Racism Project (contribution from Zakia): In 2022, MHub, Human Rights Commission and Curijo partnered to deliver a project to hear children and young people’s experiences of racism. Over 2000 children and young people participated. Three key areas were identified, where young people reported most often experiencing racism: schools, public transport and sports. One of the key issues identified was that when young people report racism, there is no adequate response. The subsequent report, [It Really Stabs Me](#), was released last year.

The three organisations, in partnership with the Youth Coalition, have been working on developing a pilot project, which will go into schools and services, and help them to develop an anti-racism pledge; alongside young people and school staff. Young people have been involved in aspects of the project, including what they would like to see in the pledge and how they would like to see schools respond. These organisations are currently seeking funding to deliver the Pilot.

- ix. Youth Worker Practice Network: The YWPN has been on pause, while we are looking at structures moving forward. However, we will be holding a special YWPN event related to 'MACR', Justin Barker as the guest speaker, to talk about the Therapeutic Support Panel.

**b. Multicultural Hub**

- i. MHub delivers the Multicultural Youth Service, through CYFSP funding.
- ii. MHub has just finished two weeks of delivering a School Holiday Program, including the Kooky Olympics in Gungahlin, and the Woden Sunset Festival.
- iii. A local street artist was engaged to support a group of 10 students at Erindale School to create a Pacifica artwork on the school buildings.
- iv. MHub has engaged with St Vinnies to establish a new multicultural youth reference group, with 13 members. The first meeting will be held next week. The term of the YRG will be 2 years, and include young people from a range of local communities.
- v. The Multicultural Youth Conference, StandOut, will be held at Jindabyne in early May. Young people from all five MHub centres (ACT and regional) convene to hear from and meet with speakers from a range of industries, as well as to discuss topics such as cultural inclusion, safety and racism.
- vi. Co-facilitating play-groups in the Tuggeranong and West Belconnen child and family centres.
- vii. Still delivering programs in schools and in Bimberi, on a fortnightly rather than weekly basis to increase coverage of schools.
- viii. Collaborating with Belconnen Arts Centre to seek entries for the 'Over Seas' exhibition, an open exhibition for Canberra's migrant communities. Entries close 4 August. <https://www.belcoarts.com.au/over-seas/>
- ix. Received funding from Mental Health Australia for the Embrace project, which is focused on identifying barriers to mental health supports for culturally diverse communities. 10 specific groups have been identified for consultation, who experience barriers to accessing mainstream services.
- x. Family Connections program in partnership with Conflict Resolution Service, working with young people aged 15 and up who may be at risk of homelessness, and their families.
- xi. Active Beginnings Program – for multicultural women who are pregnant, to encourage them to stay physically active. This two-year project starts today, and is a six-week program with activities around Canberra.
- xii. Developed pocket-size resources, for multicultural women in Canberra for services they can access, including DFV services. These are available in 25 languages, and are available for services to take for distribution. Playing cards for

young people are also available.

- xiii. Refugee Week in June – Working with other local services to deliver workshops in schools about what it means to be a refugee in Australia, and how we can be more inclusive. Five schools are lined up to participate.

**c. Reconnect, Marymead CatholicCare**

- i. Support young people aged 12-18 to reconcile within the family and reduce risk of homelessness – an early intervention service.
- ii. Delivering groups – RAGE and Seasons for Life / Growth.

**d. Lake Tuggeranong College**

- i. The college is hosting a services' expo next week to improve students' access to services.
- ii. Youth workers and some teachers will be undertaking training to be designated REDCO Officer (Respect, Equity, Diversity Contact Officers).

**e. Senior Youth Work Team, Education Directorate**

- i. The Senior Youth Work team is a team of five who support the youth workers in schools, overseen by Hannah. Currently supporting recruitment and induction of new staff. There are over 70 youth workers across 55 schools in the ACT.
- ii. Some schools received small amounts of federal funding and are employing wellbeing officers, who will be included in these supports. Many of these roles will deliver group work and other supports to students.
- iii. Recent professional learning day in the school holidays was focused on child safety.
- iv. For matters relating to school youth workers, please contact Hannah on [hannah.watts@act.gov.au](mailto:hannah.watts@act.gov.au).

**f. headspace Tuggeranong**

- i. Wait times for intake are currently 2 weeks; with 6-8 weeks for sessions. The Orygen MOST program provides online support while young people are waiting for clinical sessions, as well as throughout and after their involvement.
- ii. Currently have a near-full staff team, including two GPs, who can provide mental health care plans and support management of physical health alongside mental health. Currently recruiting for a AOD clinician and Youth Care Coordinator. Recently recruited 3 vocational specialists for the work and study team. Staff are underdoing single-session and brief intervention training.
- iii. Headspace Tuggeranong YRG: The YRG led the delivery of the Com-Con event for young people, which included representation from MHub, Onelink, Care Financial

and other services. They also developed a RecipeZine – low-cost recipes for young people to make at home, with a list food pantries on the southside. The YRG also met with other Grand Pacific Health YRG for a camp in Berry.

**g. Galilee School:**

- i. Galilee has its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. There are three sections in the school: Year 7-9; Year 10, and College (accredited package). Each section has two youth workers. There is also a Senior Youth Worker, and a Family and Community Support Worker.
- ii. Hold a full Social and Emotional Learning Session each week. Have delivered programs including Love Bites, Think U Know, RAGE, Seasons for Growth, trialing Embrace. Teen Mental Health First Aid is available as an elective. Also tapped into Fearless Women last year and had a good uptake of young women as mentees. Hold a parents' morning tea once a week.
- iii. Planning for a community market day in October at the Kambah campus. The new food studies building will be finished around that time.
- iv. Planning for a potential rainbow group bus tour of services later in the year.

**h. Hepatitis ACT**

- i. Hepatitis ACT is a community organisation focused on reducing impact of hepatitis in the ACT region. They can provide testing for people aged over 18, with no appointment necessary.
- ii. Providing community education and awareness to multicultural communities, promoting vaccines, Hepatitis awareness, and risk reduction strategies.
- iii. Hepatitis B vaccines are available for anyone who is eligible, free of charge, including for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

**i. MYAN Australia**

- i. MYAN Australia is the national peak body for multicultural young people, providing policy, advocacy and capacity building. Justin was previously on the Governance Group, and Zakia participated on the State and Territory Advisory Network (STAN).
- ii. Currently changing internal structures of the STAN and setting up a new alliance for working on policy and advocacy. MYAN often works closely with AYAC, the national youth peak.
- iii. Anti-racism in schools, and the raise the age campaign are current priorities.
- iv. Deliver the Youth Ambassador Network, which has also recently had changes.

### **3. Other Business**

A workplan will be developed for MYAN moving forward. If you would like to contribute to the workplan or future direction of MYAN, please reach out to Tom, Zakia or Joel. The draft workplan will come back to the group for discussion, with priority areas; and the YRG will be involved in informing the workplan.

Members discussed whether resources are available to support schools and services to support young people targeted by online extremism.