



Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce

Meeting – 27 October 2017

The Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) held their third meeting on 27 October 2017 to progress the refresh of the ACT Government's ten-year *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22*.

Co-chairs Jodie Griffiths-Cook, ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, and Mark Collis, Executive Director, Children, Youth and Families, Community Services Directorate led the meeting. Organisations represented at the meeting were: the Human Rights Commission, the Community Services Directorate, Aboriginal Legal Services, Legal Aid, Youth Coalition of the ACT, Woden Community Services, ACT Policing, Education Directorate, Health Directorate and Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

The Coordinator-General for Family Safety, Ms Jo Wood spoke to members about the intersection between family safety and children and young people, in the context of the co-design work for the Family Safety Innovation Hub.

Ms Griffiths-Cook provided feedback on recent roundtable discussions regarding throughcare in youth justice facilitated by the ACT Human Rights Commission in October 2017. The outcomes from the roundtable are being analysed alongside research already conducted to produce a report. This report will be tabled with the Taskforce for consideration.

Members discussed key areas identified for action and agreed that the following strategies be undertaken to further understand issues and seek community feedback:

- A community forum will be held before the end of the year to discuss the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system and strategies for addressing this issue.
- A second forum will be facilitated by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, with the support of the Children and Young People Commissioner and PCYC, to engage with children and young people about issues affecting them and their lived experience.
- The Community Services Directorate will commission a discussion paper on interventions for young people in early adolescence at risk of offending behaviour.
- Work will also be undertaken to further understand restorative practice and its benefits for young justice and young people as victims of crime; young people with disability and/or mental health concerns; and the intergenerational transmission of offending.

The next meeting of the Taskforce is scheduled for Friday, 1 December 2017.

For more information, contact the Community Services Directorate on 133 427 or OCYFS@act.gov.au.

Communiqué



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