



## Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce

### First meeting – 8 August 2017

The Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) held its first meeting on 8 August 2017 to lead the refresh of the ACT Government's ten-year *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22* (the Blueprint).

The Taskforce comprises key community groups, organisations and government agencies, led by 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.

The meeting discussed the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce and emerging trends in youth justice data. Members agreed the Taskforce will:

- Consider achievements over the first five years and the current state of youth justice in the ACT.
- Provide independent advice from the respective knowledge and experiences of Taskforce members.
- Recommend priorities for the next five years with renewed focus on reducing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people at all stages of the youth justice system.

The Taskforce acknowledged the achievements made over the first five years of implementation of the Blueprint and discussed areas for continued focus of reform. The Taskforce discussed the importance of exploring how to better address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and young people with disability. Other areas discussed included through-care and the supports required to transition young people from youth justice supervision, as well as early intervention initiatives to target support to high-risk young people not yet in the youth justice system.

The importance of ensuring that young people are provided the opportunity to contribute their views to the work of the Taskforce was identified as a priority. Consultation with young people will be progressed through the leadership of agencies including Youth Coalition of the ACT and with support from the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner. It is anticipated that other agencies supporting young people will also be involved in this work.

The Taskforce will oversee a series of focus groups and targeted engagements with stakeholders in youth justice and community members, including young people, and anticipates reporting on priorities in December 2017. The Taskforce will report to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth through the Director-General, Community Services Directorate.

**For more information, contact the Community Services Directorate on 133 427 or [OCYFS@act.gov.au](mailto:OCYFS@act.gov.au).**

# Communiqué



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