



Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce

Meeting – 28 March 2018

The Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) held their sixth meeting on 28 March 2018 to progress the refresh of the ACT Government's 10-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 ACT Human Rights Commission, the Community Services Directorate (CSD), Aboriginal Legal Services, PCYC, Youth Coalition, Woden Community Services, Education Directorate, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Policing and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

The Taskforce contracted consultants, Mentally Friendly, to develop two policy papers on behalf of the Taskforce: a policy paper on the 'intergenerational transmission of criminal offending'; and a second policy paper on 'Interventions for young people in early adolescence at risk of offending'. Drafts of the policy papers were discussed and final input was received from the Taskforce. When finished, findings from the policy papers will inform the Taskforce in setting priorities for the second five years of the *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22*.

The Taskforce considered a high-level summary paper on themes from the Northern Territory Royal Commission. The paper highlighted the importance of addressing systemic issues of poverty and disadvantage; improving early intervention and prevention; fostering a safe, culturally appropriate and rehabilitative youth justice system; implementing a whole of government and community public health approach to supporting families; and engaging and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Taskforce noted that the ACT had already addressed many themes in the Northern Territory Royal Commission report and indicated that the final report from the Taskforce should consider how we maintain the momentum for change across these themes. The Taskforce will consider these themes as it sets priorities for the *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22*.

The Taskforce was provided with an update on consultations with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, being undertaken by the Chief of Police and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. The Taskforce considered how outcomes from this work will be included in the work of the Taskforce.

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be a workshop to consider information received by the Taskforce to date and how this information can be used to develop priorities for the *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22* over the next five years. The workshop is scheduled for May 2018.

Communiqué



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