

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The Blueprint for Youth Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) will provide governance and direction on the development of the next steps for the *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22* (the Blueprint).

The next steps of the Blueprint will remain focussed on achieving better outcomes for young people in the ACT youth justice system. To achieve this the Taskforce will:

- identify issues relating to youth justice in the ACT;
- develop next steps with renewed focus on reducing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people at all stages of the youth justice system; and
- report to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth.

The Taskforce will be the key governance mechanism to oversee development of the next steps for the Blueprint.

Taskforce members will:

- be ambassadors for the Blueprint and provide strategic direction for the development of the next steps;
- provide leadership and strategic advice;
- identify and prioritise key issues to be addressed;
- provide policy and program advice to inform the development of next steps;
- report to the ACT Government through the Director-General, Community Services Directorate on progress of the Taskforce; and
- facilitate the engagement of Directorates, relevant government representatives and community organisations to contribute to the next steps for the Blueprint.

Membership

Co-Chairs:

Executive Director – Children, Youth and Families
ACT Children and Young People Commissioner and Public Advocate

Membership:

ACT Human Rights Commission
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
Aboriginal Legal Service
Youth Coalition of the ACT
Canberra Police Citizen's Youth Club
YWCA
Anglicare
Belconnen Community Service
Northside Community Service
Woden Community Service
Youth Law Centre ACT
Legal Aid ACT

Disability Reference Group
ACT Policing
Justice and Community Services Directorate
Health Directorate (including Justice Health Services)
Education Directorate
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Community Services Directorate

Secretariat: Business Support - Children, Youth and Families (CSD)

Community representatives will be invited as expert individuals, representing the views of their relevant sector rather than the views of their independent services. Additional expertise may be sourced as required.

The Taskforce may also seek attendance of other subject matter experts. Attendance will be discussed and agreed at meetings.

Governance

The Taskforce will report directly to the Director-General, Community Services Directorate who will report progress to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth.

The work of the Taskforce will link strongly with the CSD Business Plan, whole of government justice projects and relevant governance groups, including CSD's Strategic Policy and Reform Committee.

Procedure

Meetings will be scheduled monthly, noting that more frequent meetings may be required from time to time. Meetings will be held at the Community Services Directorate, 11 Moore Street, Canberra.

The agenda for the Taskforce will be set by the Co-Chairs. Items for the agenda will be advised through the Secretariat to the Co-Chairs. The agenda and papers will be circulated prior to the meeting. Minutes will be circulated within one week following the meeting.

Attendance may be delegated with the support of the Co-Chair.

A quorum of two government representatives, two community representatives and 1 statutory representative must be present for meetings to go ahead and decisions to be made.

Taskforce members may be required to comment on documents and issues out of session.

Interdependencies

The work of the Taskforce will interact with existing whole of directorate and government reform efforts and reporting obligations.

These include:

- *A Step Up for Our Kids: Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020*
 - *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015-18*
 - *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-18*
 - *Disability Justice Strategy*
 - *Justice Reinvestment project*
 - *Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly, including reducing recidivism by 25% by 2025*
 - *ACT Children and Young People Commitment 2015-2025*
 - *Safer families statement*
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- Relevant outcomes of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* and *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*.
 - Australian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA).
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Conflict of Interest

A member must disclose to the Co-Chairs any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest, a potential conflict of interest, or a potential perceived conflict of interest. The Co-Chairs will determine whether there are adequate grounds for excluding a member from any discussion or decision making due to a conflict of interest issue.
