



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Children and Youth health programs and FASD responses **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **Hearing – 2 November 2021**

Asked by MR PETTERSSON:

QToN 4 asked at hearing on 2 Nov 2021 - Page 30 of Proof *Hansard*

In relation to:

I was hoping that the committee could get an update on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People 2020-2030.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The *National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People 2020-2030* (the NAP) is a Commonwealth Government plan and was not developed or endorsed by state and territory health ministers.

The NAP consists of five priority areas, each underpinned by multiple actions. The priority areas are:

1. Improve health equity across populations;
2. empower parents and caregivers to maximise healthy development;
3. tackle mental health and risky behaviours;
4. address chronic conditions and preventive health; and
5. strengthen the workforce.

While the Commonwealth has not requested that states and territories report against the NAP, the ACT Government is implementing initiatives and programs that align with the five priority areas and actions of the NAP, including those outlined in the ACT Government Response to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing's inquiry into ACT health programs for children and young people.

Examples of these initiatives and programs include:

- Development of a Paediatric Liaison and Navigation Service to support families whose children require specialised interstate medical treatment, many of which relate to chronic conditions.
- *Healthy Canberra – ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025*, a whole of government plan aimed at preventing chronic disease by supporting healthy lifestyle choices to reduce the burden of disease via the modification of behavioural risk factors.
- Support for healthier communities through a range of evidence-based health promotion programs to improve student health. In 2020-21 these programs were delivered to more than 100 ACT schools and early childhood settings, reaching more than 42,000 students.
- The First 1000 Days Strategy and Action Plan will be developed and co-designed with lived experience stakeholders. One focus area of this work is to improve health literacy for families with children from conception to two years of age. Input will be sought from families of young children on ways to improve health service accessibility and appropriate models of care.
- Funding the Health Care Consumers' Association for the Community Health Literacy Project, which has launched a health literacy website, conducted health literacy training for community workers, conducted research into health literacy in the ACT, and delivered a draft ACT Health Literacy Framework.
- Implementation of the recommendations from the LGBTIQ+ Health Scoping Study to improve health service delivery and remove barriers to accessing health services for LGBTIQ+ Canberrans, including children and young people.
- Development of a Territory-wide Health Services Plan (TwHSP) that supports the ACT Government's vision for a public health system in the ACT that is *Accessible*, *Accountable* and *Sustainable*. Alongside the development of the TwHSP, the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services have been undertaking more detailed planning for child and adolescent health services.
- A range of significant mental health initiatives including:
 - Continuing work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to develop the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy, which is expected to be finalised by the end of the year. This National Strategy will assist with developing the workforce's capacity and capabilities for trauma informed practice and for suicide prevention.
 - Launch of MindMap in October 2021 – an online navigation portal, to help young Canberrans, their families and carers to better navigate mental health services and resources.

- The provision of \$7.5 million in funding for implementation of the Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST) program, operated by Orygen Digital. MOST is an evidence-based online support platform for young people aged 12 to 25.
- The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) Program – developed to promote mental health and address suicidal behaviour in young people. This program is being delivered to year 9 students in high schools across the ACT and as at November 2021, 24 schools and over 4,200 Year 9 students have completed the YAM program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

3/12/21

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA – Minister for Health