

ACT Government Response
to the
ACT Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Community Services and Social Equity
Report No. 5

No Longer Just a Number
Youth Services Provided at the Adolescent Day Unit

Circulated by Authority of
Katy Gallagher
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Children, Youth and Family Support

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INTRODUCTION

Following the release of the "Report of a review of the provision of alternative settings in the ACT Government Education System" (Conway Report) and a visit by members of the Standing Committee on Community Services and Social Equity to the Adolescent Day Unit (ADU), the Standing Committee resolved to inquire into and report on the youth services provided at the Adolescent Day Unit.

The terms of reference of the inquiry were:

"To inquire into and report on the youth services provided at the Adolescent Day Unit and any other related matter."

This Standing Committee on Community Services and Social Equity inquiry was chaired by Mr John Hargreaves MLA. Membership also included Ms Roslyn Dundas MLA, Mrs Cross MLA and Mr Cornwell MLA.

On 25 March 2004, the Standing Committee on Community Services and Social Equity tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly Report 5, titled "No longer just a number – Youth services provided at the Adolescent Day Unit".

The report made three recommendations and these are agreed to by Government.

The Government welcomes the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Community Services and Social Equity and has responded in a manner that demonstrates the Government's commitment to improving the provision of services to young people in ACT. This has been recently demonstrated through the release of documents including the Blue Print for Young People at Risk 2004-2008, The ACT Young People's Plan 2004-2008, 2004-2005 Action Plan for Young People and ACT Government Commitment to Young People 2004-2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee recommends that the Government continue to support the Adolescent Day Unit (ADU) as a discreet program.

Agreed.

The Government is committed to enhancing the services currently offered at the ADU and given its uniqueness, this will remain a discreet service.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee recommends that the Government commit to the ADU remaining under the management of the Youth Services section of the Department of Education, Youth and Family Services.

Agreed.

The ADU has transferred to the newly established Office for Children, Youth and Family Support within Youth Services section.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee recommends that Government investigate whether a similar program to the ADU ought to be established on the north side of Canberra.

Agreed.