



Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Ref: Youth Affairs, Budget Outlook, p. 77, output class CSD 1.1 Inclusion and Participation (Youth); output 1, output 2 (Education)

In relation to: community space for youth

1. What is the ACT Government's strategy for ensuring that the youth sector has adequate access to community space for the delivery of services to youth, such as drop-in centres, diversion programs, etc.?
2. What formal role does the ACT Government play in ensuring that the youth sector has adequate access to community space for the delivery of services to youth? (For example, does the government provide free or subsidised space in government-owned facilities?)
3. What youth-specific services or spaces are designed into the new ACT Government-owned community centre in Gungahlin?
4. What is the long-term funding plan to make sure that youth services and youth spaces keep up with demand as Canberra's youth population grows?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Community Services Directorate (CSD) currently provides funding to organisations supporting Young Canberrans through Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP). This program is designed to support vulnerable children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) and their families by focusing on early intervention and holistic, wrap-around services. The CYFSP works to improve coordination, collaboration and integration between service providers and across the service system, with the service mix extending across a broad range of services. Service access is prioritised across the Territory through four regional networks to manage demand.

A number of Youth Engagement services funding through CYFSP operate youth drop-in centres. These include:

- Capital Region Community Services who operate from Belconnen Youth Centre;
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation who operate from Gugan Gulwan Youth Centre;
- Northside Community Service who utilise community space at Margaret Hendry School, Taylor and have partnered with Barnados and Multicultural Youth Services to open their own youth space in Gungahlin Town Centre;
- Woden Community Service who operate the Woden Youth Centre; and
- YWCA who operate the Mura Lanyon Youth Centre

There are other organisations funded through CYFSP that operate youth spaces. For example, Anglicare operates 12/25 in Civic, Multicultural Youth Services in Civic and PCYC operate the PCYC centre at Erindale.

2. There are a number of regional community spaces across Canberra providing facilities for organisations to use to deliver programs and services, managed by ACT Property Group.

The ACT Government works closely with our community partners such as Capital Region Community Service, Woden Community Service, YWCA and Northside Community Service to ensure that funded youth services are available within each region of the ACT. These services operate from free and/or subsidised space in government owned facilities, also managed by ACT Property Group.

3. The desire for a permanent youth presence in the new Gungahlin community centre has been raised and will be considered with all the feedback arising from community engagement. The design of the centre is expected to begin in early 2022 and will involve a community reference panel to provide advice about services and programs and to work with the architects to ensure the building and spaces meet the community's needs. Youth group representatives will be invited to be part of the reference panel.
4. Over the longer term, the ACT Government will continue to review data from a range of sources, including that provided by our funded Community Organisations who best know the trends and needs they have in providing services to their clients.

The Sector Sustainability Review will also inform longer term policy development regarding Community Services, and the ACT Government will continue to work collaboratively with community partners to develop and deliver programs such as the Children, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

18/11/21

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA.