



## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021** **QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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

Ref: Youth Affairs, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 52

In relation to: Representation on Youth Advisory Council

1. During the reporting period, how many of the 15 members of the Youth Advisory Council had had lived experience within the youth justice system?
2. How many had had lived experience within the out-of-home care system?
3. When the council has vacancies to be filled, are any targeted steps taken to seek nominations from young people who have lived experience within either youth justice or out-of-home care? If so, please provide details?

**MINISTER BERRY-** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The collection, use or disclosure of personal information on young people aged 12 to 25 on the ACT Youth Advisory Council (the Council) is not available for public record. Under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, the collection, use or disclosure of the personal information of young people in the youth justice system is not available for public record.
2. The collection, use or disclosure of personal information on young people aged 12 to 25 on the Council is not available for public record. Under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, the collection, use or disclosure of personal information of young people in the out-of-home care system is not available for public record.
3. When seeking to fill vacancies on the Council the Community Services Directorate (CSD) actively seeks to encourage nominations and selection of young people that reflects the diversity of young people residing in the ACT, including a gender balance, disabilities, representation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities and a range of young people of various ages, backgrounds, lived experiences, cultures, and abilities.

To support diversity on the Council, including to ensure young people with lived experience within either youth justice or out-of-home care have the opportunity to apply for the Council, CSD:

- a. undertakes advertising that specifically welcomes nominations from young people from diverse backgrounds and experiences;
- b. encourages Council members to engage through their networks to seek out young people with diverse backgrounds to apply;
- c. undertakes targeted advertising to ACT Youth Services and CREATE, a support group for the out-of-home care system; and
- d. advertises through the Diversity Register;
- e. promotes nominations heavily through ACT schools (public, private, independent, and specialised) and tertiary institutions;
- f. highlight and promote nominations at Youth Week events;
- g. consults on proposed appointments, including their diversity, through the ACT Diversity Register and seeks endorsement by Cabinet; and
- h. ensures that the recruitment process is inclusive and supports all young people, including through engaging with the Youth Coalition on designing the recruitment approach, offering young people the opportunity to meet with the Council Secretariat with their youth worker or support worker before the interview to discuss the role of Council and the recruitment process. Support workers/people can also attend the formal recruitment interview to provide additional support, if required.

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

Signature:

Date: 16/03/22

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