



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

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

QTON No. - xx

Asked by MR CAIN on 29 October 2021 MS BERRY took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 October PAGE 61

In relation to:

I note that a drop in youth centre finally opened earlier this year in the Gungahlin Marketplace. But my understanding is, this is temporary and a bigger, more permanent location, appears to be needed. So what are the plans to ensure that this community run drop in centre—drop in centre for youth and others like it can be properly accommodated as Canberra’s population increases, particularly on the northside?

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

The Marketplace Gungahlin, Northside Community Services, Barnardo’s and Multicultural Hub Canberra have collaborated to create Gunner’s Place, a Youth Centre in the Gungahlin Town Centre. While Gunner’s Place has been a very successful community driven enterprise, imminent redevelopment at Marketplace Gungahlin means that new accommodation needs to be identified. ACT Government agencies are working with Barnardo’s to try and secure new leased accommodation, however longer term, more permanent facilities are needed.

The ACT Government has committed to increase community facilities and build a new community centre for Gungahlin. The 2021-22 budget follows through on this commitment by allocating \$300,000 to complete project feasibility and develop the business case for future funding consideration. \$150,000 is allocated in 2021-22 and a further \$150,000 in 2022-23.

It is anticipated the community engagement will begin in early 2022 and will run for about 12 months, to inform uses and concept design options for the centre. The outcome of the process will be a community centre design that responds to the community’s aspirations to develop and run programs and activities that help enrich Gungahlin’s social and cultural life.

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.