



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services

Redirection:

Reference: Children, Youth and Family Services

Hearing Date: 02/08/2024

In relation to: Supporting Young People to Independence

Question Lodgement Date: 02/08/2024

Date Answer Due: 08/08/2024

(1) Youth Development Coaches:

- Does the government seek to support the provision of youth development coaches to young people aged 15 years and over in the child protection system?
- How will the effectiveness of youth development coaches be measured in terms of improving housing, education, and employment outcomes for young people?

(4) Priority Population Status:

- What specific support systems will be prioritised for young people within and exiting the out-of-home care system?
- How will the government ensure these young people have priority access to health care and housing?

(7) Youth Foyers:

- What is the status of the construction of the Youth Foyer at the Woden CIT campus?
- Are there plans for additional Youth Foyers in the ACT? If so, what is the timeline and proposed locations for these projects?

(10) Homelessness Prevention:

- What strategies are being implemented to prevent homelessness among young people exiting out-of-home care?
- How will the government support young people at risk of homelessness to engage in education and employment through programs like the Youth Foyers?

Rachel Stephen-Smith: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) Youth Development Coaches:

- a. Does the government seek to support the provision of youth development coaches to young people aged 15 years and over in the child protection system?

Youth Coaches are not currently being considered by ACT Government.

- b. How will the effectiveness of youth development coaches be measured in terms of improving housing, education, and employment outcomes for young people?

A response to this question cannot be provided as Youth Development Coaches are not a component of the CSD service offer.

(4) Priority Population Status:

- a. What specific support systems will be prioritised for young people within and exiting the out-of-home care system?

An extension of After Care supports in line with the *Next Steps for Our Kids Strategy 2022-2030* will support young people through an extension of After Care supports available for young adults aged from 18 to 21 years which will include:

- improved transition planning and access to support services for young people from 15 years of age;
- improved pathways and support for young people to access appropriate housing and accommodation;
- connection to significant people including workers and carers who can provide the young person with reassurance, warm referrals to services and problem-solving support as they develop the skills and confidence to live independently; and
- improved connection to community, family and culture.

Key Services may include but are not limited to housing – access and subsidy; mental health and wellbeing support; trauma counselling; medical and dental; developing aspirations and opportunities to achieve; living skills, including support to live independently and find employment; strengthened relationships with family and informal supports; assistance transitioning from out of home care /youth services to adult services; and access to a carer subsidy should young people remain living with their foster or kinship carer.

- b. How will the government ensure these young people have priority access to health care and housing?

Allocation of support packages will be based on assessment of need with decisions made on a case-by-case basis and determined through a joint Children, Youth and Families and service provider/s process.

(7) Youth Foyers

- a. What is the status of the construction of the Youth Foyer at the Woden CIT campus?

Construction of the Youth Foyer on the Woden CIT site is expected to be completed in mid-2025.

- b. Are there plans for additional Youth Foyers in the ACT? If so, what is the timeline and proposed locations for these projects?

The Government has not announced any plans for additional Youth Foyers.

(10) Homelessness Prevention:

- a. What strategies are being implemented to prevent homelessness among young people exiting out-of-home care?

Children, Youth and Family Support work with young people to plan their transition from care. This transition looks different for every young person, and includes consideration of their housing needs. Many young people exiting out of home care are able to continue living with their foster or kinship carers. For those young people who are already living in residential care or who are unable to remain with their carers, CYFS will work to plan appropriate accommodation for the young person. Please also refer to the response to question 4.

- b. How will the government support young people at risk of homelessness to engage in education and employment through programs like the Youth Foyers?

Please also refer to part (a) and the response to question (4) above.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Children Youth and Families, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith