



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 44

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by MS CAROLINE LE COUTEUR:

Community Services Directorate, Participation and Early Intervention, Output Class 3

In relation to Children and Youth Protective Services (CYPS):

- 1) Do staff at CYPS undertake diversity and inclusion training?
 - a) Is there specific training regarding issues for children and young people in care who are questioning their sexuality or gender?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) The Respect, Equity and Diversity Framework training is one of eight staff Core Capabilities of the Community Services Directorate. In this training, discussion takes place about how a positive workplace culture can be created through respectful, courteous and fair behaviour that values individual differences.

At the end of this training, participants are able to:

- Describe how the Respect, Equity and Diversity Framework promotes respect, equity and diversity;
- Explain the importance of relevant legislative and policy documents in relation to workplace diversity and inclusion;
- Explain the role of the Respect, Equity and Diversity Contact Officer;
- Reflect on their own values and beliefs about diversity; and
- Describe the benefits and positive value of diversity in interactions with clients and co-workers.

The Community Services Directorate has developed a network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer staff and allies, this is called the Community Services Directorate Pride Network. Child and Youth Protection staff are able to participate in the Network.

- a. There is no specific training for CYPS staff regarding issues for children and young people in care who are questioning their sexuality or gender. In the context of casework, staff are able to seek advice and information from services such as the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer Health Alliance, the AIDS Action Council of the ACT and ACT Health in order to support children, young people and their carers. Care teams for children and young people seek expert council on a case by case basis to address individual need.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date:

19/12/17

By the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA