



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

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: Youth Engagement

In hearings, Ms Murray mentioned that the government seeks to obtain input from young people outside of the ACT Youth Advisory Council and the Youth Assembly, and specifically from youth in the justice system, those in alternative schooling programs, and those at risk. Can the minister please provide more detail about how input is obtained from these and similar categories of young people, including what that input includes?

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring that the voices and opinions of all young people are heard and presented across government consultations and policy development that directly impacts young people. Youth consultation on issues that affect young people involves creating opportunities for all young people to share their views and opinions.

The following strategies are used to ensure that young people, including those in the youth justice system, those in alternative schooling programs, and those at risk, have the opportunity to have their opinions voiced on important youth issues:

- Building partnerships between agencies and youth programs that specifically target audiences of young people across a wide section of cohorts including, “at risk youth”, youth in the justice system, those in alternative schooling programs, young people with disabilities, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, LGBTIQ, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) youth;
- Partnering with agencies that work directly with at risk youth (i.e. Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, Youth Refuges, CREATE and ACT Flexible Education programs such as Muliyan and the Cottage)
- Ensuring that consultation mechanisms are suitable/relatable for each cohort;
- Hosting face-to-face consultations on “young people’s turf” such as youth centres, at support and social groups through youth services and community centres;
- Ensuring consultations are held at times that young people can attend, at accessible venues that are close to public transport and town centres;
- Promote directly to services who work with “at risk groups” and encourage them to participate in consultation opportunities; and