



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Human Services

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Our ref: 18MCOR/0097
Your ref: 7133891

Ms Nat Cook
Member for Hurtle Vale
PO Box 158
WOODCROFT SA 5162

Sent by email: Tristan.rust@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook

Freedom of information application

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Office of the Minister for Human Services on 17 October 2018 seeking access to:

Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS or Ministerial Paper 18TDHS/833.

Unfortunately, a determination was unable to be made within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, our office has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

Four documents have been identified as falling within the scope of your application and I have determined to release two documents in full and refuse two documents in full.

Documents 3 and 4 are publicly available on the internet and I have determined to refuse these documents in full under section 20 (1)(b) of Schedule 1 of the Act.

Please find enclosed a copy of the documents, and a document schedule containing a brief description of the documents.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at

<http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Amanda Hockings, Office Manager, on telephone 8463 3388 or by email at amanda.hockings2@sa.gov.au. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your FOI application, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman SA. Please contact the Ombudsman directly on (08) 8226 8699.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Hockings
ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER

19 / 3 / 2019

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – MCOR/0097

Freedom of information application from the Ms Nat Cook seeking access to Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS or Ministerial Paper 18TDHS/833.

No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.	Department of Human Services		25/7/2018	Minister Signed Briefing RE: Strategic Youth Policy and Program Directions	Released in Full	
2.				Attachment to Briefing – Background – Office for Youth, Commissioner and YACSA	Released in Full	
3.				Attachment to Briefing – Listening Tour Reflections	Refused in Full	Exempt – Clause 20(1)(b) - Publicly Available
4.				Attachment to Briefing – YACSA Summit Plan 2017-18	Refused in Full	Exempt – Clause 20(1)(b) - Publicly Available

18TDHS/833



Government of South Australia
Department of Human Services

TO MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

RE: STRATEGIC YOUTH POLICY AND PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

Decision/action required by:...../...../.....

Reason:.....

Recommendation	Response
1. That you approve the Community Services Division convening a meeting of key youth sector stakeholders to explore the potential for a three-year youth strategy.	Approved / Not Approved / Noted
Comments: For verbal brief soon pls. re all the programs listed in the attached document	 Hon Michelle Lensink MLC 25/7/2018

KEY POINTS

- In February 2018, you attended the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia's (YACSA's) *Netfest* forum and contributed to a panel discussion about the need for a longer term strategy for young South Australians, developed in collaboration with key youth sector stakeholders and young people, with a focus on young people at greatest risk of exclusion from social and economic participation.
- The Community Services Division (CSD) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) seeks your approval to progress this action by convening a meeting including you and key youth sector representatives, to determine shared priorities and strategic directions around youth issues.

DISCUSSION

There are many agencies and organisations with responsibility for and commitment to improving outcomes for South Australian young people. Under the previous government, CSD developed annual youth strategies to prioritise action around current youth issues. While these strategies provided some opportunities for consultation and collaboration with the youth sector and young people, feedback from the sector highlighted the limitations of the short timeframe.

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Recognising the extensive and diverse contributions to youth-related issues made across many government and non-government agencies, there is value in developing a longer-term strategy that would enable greater collaboration and co-design across government and the broader youth sector, including young people.

You contributed to a panel discussion at the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia's (YACSA's) *Netfest* forum in February 2018, at which the idea of a longer-term strategy was endorsed by panel members and attendees.

With your approval, CSD proposes progressing this action, in the first instance by convening a meeting including you and key representatives from the youth sector to discuss shared priorities and strategic directions, with a particular focus on young people at risk of exclusion from social and economic participation.

Representatives to be invited to this forum would include, but not be limited to, the Chief Executive Officer of YACSA and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, both of whom have indicated their interest in collaborating around shared youth priorities.

Attachments 1-3 summarise the current work of CSD, and the priorities of YACSA and the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Should you approve the development of a longer term youth strategy, CSD will play a lead role in coordinating and facilitating its development and implementation, including:

- planning
- consultation with key representatives from across government sector, youth advocates and young people
- co-designing a framework that will deliver on the actions of a longer term strategy
- co-ordinating the delivery of commitments, which will likely involve multiple delivery partners.

A three-year Youth Strategy is likely to become the major focus of CSD youth affairs resources for its duration.

BUDGET

Are there financial implications

No

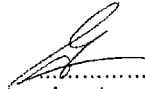


MEDIA/SENSITIVE:

Yes

Following strategic youth direction discussions at *Netfest* in early 2018, it is likely that the youth sector has an expectation that you will announce your priorities for the youth portfolio or your plans to work with the sector, advocates and young people to develop these priorities. CSD continues to field enquiries of this nature from the youth sector.

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Division	Community Services		
Manager Strategic Policy	Gillian Britton	 signature	6.7.18 date
A/Director	Paul Tsoundarou	 signature	9.7.18 date
Chief Executive	Tony Harrison	 signature	10.7.18 date

ATTACHMENT

1. Background - Office for Youth, Commissioner and YACSA
2. Listening Tour Reflections
3. YACSA Summit Plan 2017-18

Contact Officer:	Gillian Britton, Manager - Strategic Policy 8415 4350 / gillian.britton@sa.gov.au
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Community Services Division

A snapshot of youth-related priorities, programs and initiatives

The Office for Youth (OFY) sits within the Community Services Division of the Department of Human Services. While we support positive outcomes for all young South Australians, our priority focus is on strengthening opportunities for young people experiencing complex issues and barriers to social and economic participation.

Many complex factors shape young people, their families and communities, and many government departments, including health, education, and employment and training, contribute to these outcomes. OFY plays an important role in building linkages to coordinate efforts across government and the youth sector for maximum benefit to young people, their families and communities.

Collaboration is fundamental to the Community Services Division's way of working and to the outcomes we are able to achieve. The following examples highlight the different ways in which OFY and the Community Services Division work with the sector and community to strengthen the potential impact of funding, policy and programs for young people.

Youth homelessness – prevention and early intervention

In 2015, OFY engaged the Service to Youth Council (SYC) to form the SA Youth Homelessness Working Group, which included representatives from South Australian Government and leaders in sectors including property development, real estate, education and training, industry and social services. The White Paper authored by this group made recommendations for the most effective ways to stop young people moving into homelessness and also to support them to move out of it. Two OFY initiatives are a direct result of this work.

1. Early identification and support is crucial to preventing at-risk young people from moving into unstable and unpredictable living situations. In 2017, the University of South Australia and partners, Uniting Communities and the Service to Youth Council, began the two-year **Community of Schools and Youth Services pilot program** in Mount Gambier. The pilot operates across local high schools, using a whole-of-school survey to identify students at risk and offer them and their families a range of supports to prevent disengagement and homelessness.
2. In early 2018, OFY released the ***Youth Safety Strategy: a framework for action specifically for young South Australians***. Co-designed with government, the community sector and young people, this Strategy highlights the disproportionate vulnerability of young people as both victims and perpetrators of domestic, family and sexual violence and aims to develop the service, system and societal responses necessary to support them. The Strategy builds on the significant achievements of the women's sector in preventing and responding to violence against women. OFY is working closely with the Office for Women to develop issue-specific action plans, which will be implemented in collaboration with the sector and young people.

Employment pathways

The **Successful Transitions** program supports young people aged 17-24 to take the leap into work experience, volunteering, further education/training or secure employment. In 2017-18, the program has been delivered in partnership with the Department of Industry and Skills to further support potential outcomes, particularly around strengthening pathways to employment. The program will conclude in September, 2018. OFY is undertaking a review to inform future programs and decisions.

The **Be a Job Maker** program helps to build the entrepreneurial skills and experience young people need to thrive as the business leaders of tomorrow. Delivered by Flinders New Venture Institute, Career BluePrint, the Sammy D Foundation and Kiikstart, since piloted in 2016 it has been delivered in southern and northern Adelaide and Whyalla. In 2018 it will be delivered in southern and central Adelaide.

Other OFY employment pathways priorities for 2018 include researching and scoping potential future models to help young people develop social entrepreneurial skills and networks, and to get and keep a driver's licence, particularly in regional areas, where this has particular implications for social participation and employment.

Young multicultural people tell their stories

Mainstream media portrayals of young people from multicultural backgrounds are not always positive or accurate, particularly those from new and emerging communities. There are limited opportunities in South Australia for young people to develop free, basic skills to generate their own media content. Access to such opportunities can help young people to share their own multicultural or migration story, or the story of their communities.

As South Australia's only multi-art form organisation dedicated to outcomes by and for people aged 26 and under, in 2018 OFY is funding Carclew to support several groups of young people from diverse multicultural backgrounds to develop their storytelling skills, and build their capacity to generate their own media, by producing their chosen migration or multicultural story to share with wider audiences.

Listening to and working with young LGBTIQ people

It is important that services supporting young people are inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) young people, especially in regional areas where LGBTIQ young people are unlikely to have access to LGBTIQ-specific services and are at higher risk of negative health impacts from potential discrimination and isolation.

In 2018, we will offer subsidised access to Shine SA's accredited **How2** training program that supports organisations to achieve inclusive LGBTIQ services for staff and volunteers. The subsidy will be made available for up to ten youth-oriented organisations, with an additional subsidy for travel for up to six regional organisations.

A limited number of groups and organisations in South Australian provide safe places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) young people to access support, connect with others and express their views in a safe environment. In 2017, CSD began **an engagement process with LGBTIQ young people and the organisations that work with them**, in partnership with the Queer Youth Network, a network of professionals, organisations, groups and queer community members who provide services to support queer young people in South Australia, with the aim of producing a report that will inform the 'state of play' for LGBTIQ young people in South Australia. In 2018, we will continue the engagement process with the support of the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia.

A place-based approach to improving outcomes for young people

Place-based support focuses on strengthening the impact of funding, programs and policy by building partnerships with local business, industry, and NGOs and co-designing tailored responses that coordinate local effort around local issues and shared agendas.

The **Community Services Support Program** has a focus in metropolitan and regional areas of disadvantage. The Youth Support and Development stream of this program provides a range of services that aim to improve young people's participation in education, employment, training and volunteering, and to decrease the number of young people offending and/or in conflict with families, peers and community.

The Community Services Division also provides place-based responses to youth-related issues through other programs and initiatives, including collaborative and innovative initiatives that generate entrepreneurial and other social and economic opportunities for young people in metropolitan and regional areas including northern and southern Adelaide and Peterborough. Work with the Peterborough community has focused on identifying ways to connect local young people to social and employment opportunities, including the refurbishment of the Peterborough youth centre, leadership programs and volunteer-supervised driver programs for young people. Programs in metropolitan Adelaide include the HIP HUB collective impact initiative in southern Adelaide, which engages local business and young people to foster youth entrepreneurialism; Hoops for Life in southern, western and northern Adelaide, which engages young people through sport and connects them to other supports such as homework and food clubs; Wheels in Motion in northern Adelaide, supporting young people to obtain their driver's licence, including a specific program for Aboriginal young people, and a program in partnership with

Habitat for Humanity, linking young people in northern Adelaide to work experience and employment opportunities in the construction industry.

Place-based responses to improving outcomes for Aboriginal young people

The **Services to Aboriginal Youth (STAY) program** aims to support better outcomes for young people from Aboriginal communities in remote or regional areas of South Australia, including Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Koonibba, Meningie, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Raukkan, Riverland, Whyalla, and Yalata. Using a positive development and empowerment approach, services funded through the STAY program deliver programs and activities that are culturally appropriate and specific to the needs of the community, and that actively encourage partnerships and collaborations with Aboriginal community, including Elders, Aboriginal leaders, service providers and other stakeholders. The program has a focus on early intervention, providing a range of services and activities that support young Aboriginal people to achieve their goals, strengthen their cultural and community connection, and develop long-term resilience.

The **Making an Impact: Northern Adelaide** initiative aims to reduce Aboriginal young people's contact with the youth justice system through an exemplar place-based approach that applies collective impact and justice reinvestment principles in northern Adelaide. Led by the Community Services Division, other primary partners include SAPOL, Youth Justice Directorate and the Department for Education, with strong Aboriginal engagement at both the community and operational level. A number of promising activities are either in development or in pilot phase, including the Yunga Nungas pilot, which provides a response to high-risk young Aboriginal offenders that actively involves young people and families in co-design and decision-making.

Positive participation opportunities for young people at risk of extremism

Young people experiencing social exclusion and inequality, disenfranchisement and geographic isolation, often face barriers to participation in the social, economic, political and cultural systems that connect them to the community. They may be more likely to engage with antisocial and extreme behaviours and are at greater risk of exposure to the push and pull factors that can lead to violent extremism. Where concerns about young people have been reported by police or other government agencies, the **Youth Inclusion Intervention Program** provides tailored intervention activities that aim to provide positive engagement in education, employment or other hobbies,

sports and activities. The Youth Inclusion Program also funds community development and mentoring programs aimed to build community resilience and provide young people with opportunities for positive participation in their communities.