

Question on Notice

No. 687

Asked on 12 June 2018

MR S O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland Youth Reference Group announced last year and given that it is almost a year since nominations closed for this Group—

Will the Minister advise (a) the status of the selection process for this Group and (b) why so much time has been taken to conclude this process?

ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing opportunities for young Queenslanders to have a strong voice and a meaningful, ongoing engagement with public policy making. As the Minister for Youth, I am dedicated to continuing the government's strong youth engagement focus as outlined in the Queensland Youth Strategy.

Our government's youth engagement efforts have advanced significantly since we launched the Queensland Youth Strategy and a dedicated youth engagement hub (eHub), which was a key focus during this year's Queensland Youth Week. The eHub provides a safe, online space where young people can have their say about issues impacting them, and have a voice in shaping relevant government policies, projects and services. The eHub has already hosted 14 projects and activities led by various government agencies.

The government is also listening to the priorities and proposals of emerging leaders through the annual YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament and the Queensland Indigenous Young Leaders Program.

In 2017-18, the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) established a Youth Advisory Council, comprising a core group of six youth champions to represent the voices of children and young people and provide youth perspectives and leadership to the QFCC. Additionally, the Minister for Education established the 2018 Ministerial Student Advisory Council, comprising 16 secondary students from schools across Queensland, who have been appointed to provide a student's perspective on key education matters.

In light of the existing forums, and use of the eHub, I have re-shaped our approach. We are in the process of establishing an effective youth engagement mechanism that will bring together young leaders and achievers to represent their peers and networks and share their ideas and insights with the government. Nominations from the youth reference group process and other existing forums will be considered.

I look forward to continuing to drive the Palaszczuk Government's strong youth engagement focus, and involving young people in this exciting work going forward.