

Question on Notice

No. 1847

Asked on 26 November 2019

MR D PEGG asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)-

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what action the Palaszczuk Government is taking to listen to young people and actively involve them more in government business?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government has pledged to listen to young people and actively involve them in government business. We recognise young people have a significant role to play in shaping our economic, social and cultural success, now and in the future.

The *Queensland Youth Strategy: Building young Queenslanders for a global future* committed to three key initiatives to help realise this goal, all of which have now been delivered – the development of the Youth eHub; the establishment of the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel; and the delivery of the Queensland Youth Engagement Charter (the Charter). Together these initiatives provide a solid platform to ensure young people's views are incorporated into government policy, programs and services.

Released on 25 November 2019, the Charter extends on the Government's commitment to engage young people, outlining best practice principles which now underpin all engagement and ensure government policy, programs and services are designed in partnership with and for young people. The Charter, which was endorsed by all Queensland Government agencies was shaped by significant input from young Queenslanders and numerous sector and government stakeholders.

The Charter builds on the successes of two other initiatives already helping ensure young people's views and ideas are incorporated into government business including:

- the Youth eHub, which provides a safe online platform where young people can have their say on issues that affect them through forums, polls and surveys; and
- the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel, which is a group of 11 remarkable young leaders from across the state, who meet three times a year to share their views and help guide youth informed policy.

During 2018-19, the Youth eHub received more than 88,000 unique page visits, hosted 16 projects and activities, and had nearly 1300 registered users aged 13 – 25 years.

The Queensland Youth Engagement panel has been instrumental in shaping the Charter; and provided advice to inform a number of initiatives including strategies to tackle cyberbullying, a campaign on the dangers of child-grooming online, and the Sexual Violence Prevention Framework Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence.

Two recent examples of where the voices of young people have been a priority are:

- CONVO 2019 - an Australian first event where young people aged 12-25 years came together with social media influencers to understand more about cyberbullying, and workshop ideas, with their views informing campaigns to raise awareness of and address cyberbullying.

- Transition to Adulthood month, where the views of young people with a care experience have been actively sought to inform government business. Hosted by CREATE, the national body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience, young people are invited to share their insights and stories so we can learn more about the issues facing them and how we can step up and make a difference to their lives as they transition to adulthood.

The Charter ensures that all departments are aware of the government's commitment to genuinely engage with young people on policies relevant to them and empowers young people and the organisations working with them to expect and seek engagement.

Involving young people in the development of policy, programs and services results in better outcomes for young people and the community as a whole and I am excited to see how Queensland's young people can help shape a better future for all Queenslanders.