

Question on Notice

No. 92

Asked on 23 February 2023

MR J LANGBROEK asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Federal Labor Government cuts to the Safer Communities Fund in October 2022, specifically the funding for the Early Intervention stream—

Will the Minister advise what assistance will now be given in place of this funding to multicultural organisations working with high risk youth to run education, job seeking, mentoring, wellbeing, counselling and sporting programs to divert young people from the justice system?

ANSWER

The Safer Communities Fund is a Federal Government program and is not linked with services provided by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA).

DCYJMA funds a broad range of youth justice programs in the community, from early intervention and diversion through to intensive support for serious repeat offenders.

DCYJMA also delivers the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program that provides funding towards multicultural events and projects that help build an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland.

Under this program, a Youth and Community Connection Projects category supports youth-led and delivered projects that assist with breaking down the barriers facing young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and disengagement or disconnection with community.

Some examples of projects currently being delivered include:

- The Brisbane Broncos Rugby League Club delivering the 'Broncos Multicultural Youth Sports Leadership Program' providing young men with the opportunity to develop skills, build resilience, connect with role models, and become leaders in their community. They are being supported with job preparation, referrals to employers with local vacancies, and connections to further education;
- The Queensland African Communities Councils is engaging with young people to break the cycle of youth offending, including equipping young offenders with critical life-skills to ensure their transition back into the community;
- The Western Districts Netball Association is aiming to integrate young people, including young women aged 12-18 years, from migrant and refugee backgrounds into their netball competition to promote effective social integration through the use of sport.
- Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, in partnership with Multicultural Australia, is delivering a Community Arts Project for young people from Yazidi backgrounds in the Toowoomba region where they are participating in community-building activities, story-telling workshops, and small performances that aim to support them through their settlement journey.

Further, DCYJMA partners with non-government organisations including 13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations across Queensland to provide the following diversionary support to young people in the youth justice system:

- Community Youth Response and Diversion is a multi-faceted approach that comprises diversion services with after-hours support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring, bridging to education programs and intensive case management for young people aged 10–15 years at high risk of offending.
- Youth Justice Family Led Decision Making invites families and community to problem solve, lead discussions, and make decisions as the cultural authority for young people.
- Community Partnership Innovation Grants for short-term projects that support young people to change their behaviours and improve community connection. They are designed to support local communities, businesses and organisations in the trial of new ideas and projects that address youth offending.
- Bail support and Legal Advocacy Services are delivered by community organisations to assist young people to meet bail conditions and connect young people to housing, education, health and family supports to reduce offending.
- The On Country Program, based in Cairns, Mt Isa and Townsville, provides culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations peoples under the supervision of senior First Nations leaders.
- Intensive Bail Support provides intensive support to high-risk young people on bail and their families to support compliance with bail.
- Murri Watch offers a youth focused and cultural support service for young people in watchhouses.

DCYJMA also provides programs with cultural safety and connection central to the support provided to young people from a diverse range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Programs include:

- Conditional Bail Program;
- Restorative Justice Program;
- Mount Isa Transitional Hub;
- Transition 2 Success;
- Multi-Agency Collaborative Panels; and
- Youth Co-Responder Program in partnership with Queensland Police Service.

At a local level, DCYJMA staff participate in community-led consultations to work collaboratively in providing early diversion, such as the Queensland African Communities Council to develop policy and practice approaches to working with high-risk young people from African communities and families.