

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Early Childhood Development

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 1

4 December 2020

Question No. 13

MRS KIKKERT: To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development:

- (1) Noting the Parliamentary and Government Agreement between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens includes a commitment to ‘develop youth specific social housing services, such as the Government’s previously announced commitment to a youth foyer at CIT Woden’, can the Minister provide detailed plans for this ‘youth foyer’, including its design, operation, intended function, cost to build, and cost to operate.
- (2) What other youth-specific social housing services are included in this commitment, including possible location, intended users, costs, and etc.

MINISTER BERRY: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The Youth Foyer planned for the CIT Campus-Woden development is currently proposed to include 20 rooms for young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or who are otherwise eligible to utilise the accommodation.

The co-location of the Youth Foyer on the new CIT campus is intended to provide occupants with a ready pathway to education opportunities that will range from life skills to formal vocational education and training qualifications.



The location of the Youth Foyer will afford access to public transport, which will be available in the new Woden transport interchange on Callam Street which adjoins the CIT Campus site. It will similarly provide occupants with convenient access to shops and services outlets through being located in the Woden Town Centre.

The detailed design of the Youth Foyer is currently being developed by Major Projects Canberra in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Community Services Directorate. The design will provide for a safe and secure living environment for each occupant.

The Youth Foyer will incorporate dedicated bedrooms providing independent living accommodation for each occupant as well as communal functional areas such as a shared foyer; communal kitchen; laundry; dining, living and activity areas; administration and interview rooms and an external recreation courtyard. The cost to build the youth foyer is integrated within the total cost of the CIT Woden campus, which is subject to a procurement process commencing in 2021.

Community Services Directorate through Housing ACT is supporting Major Projects Canberra (MPC) in relation to the inclusion of the Youth Foyer model at the new CIT Woden Campus site, particularly to develop the functional requirements of the model. Housing ACT will be responsible for establishment of the Youth Foyer accommodation model, and service funding arrangements will be made separately by Housing ACT for the ongoing funding of the model. This is expected to occur in 2022-23.

- (2) Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) in partnership with Housing ACT, is progressing the Co-design Therapeutic Residential Build project in Canberra's North. The project will involve a design and construct process for a purpose built therapeutic residential care house for young people who are unable to live at home with their families. The five-bedroom accommodation will cater for children with alternate caregivers on a short or long-term basis, with twenty four hour live-in support. The model is focused on providing children with safety, stability, and a sense of security, in a group-home setting. CYPS is leading the project, facilitating consultation activities with the sector and engaging with young people with lived experience in out of home care to take part in the co-design of the new homes. Housing ACT is responsible for managing the detailed design phase, procurement of a builder, and construction project management.

CSD Strategic Policy and Housing ACT, in partnership with the Youth Coalition ACT (YouthCo) and Community Partners is also delivering the Safe and Connected Youth project, as part of the COVID Support Packages. Based on the successful Ruby's Re-unification Model from South Australia, an existing Housing ACT owned property in Canberra's South will be refurbished to provide crisis, transitional and respite accommodation for young people who are either

experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness due to family conflict and/or breakdown. The refurbishment will provide a fit for purpose six-bedroom residence with counselling and overnight rooms for carers. The project is scheduled to be tendered early 2021. Community Services Directorate was granted \$1 million in 2020-21 through the ACT Government Fast-Track (Screwdriver Ready) Program for the refurbishment, and \$840,000 through COVID Support Packages for the current Safe and Connect Youth services and accommodation brokerage.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development**

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