

## TAB B

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### Questions on Notice

1. *Can you provide the Committee of the video and PowerPoint highlighting the youth work? (Page 13)*

#### Response

A copy of the video and PowerPoint presentation highlighting the work of ACYP for the reporting period 2015-16 will be forwarded to the Committee via the Secretariat.

2. *Can you provide the Committee with an in-depth view on digital age authentication as modelled in the UK? (Page 15-16)*

#### Response

ACYP thanks the Committee for raising the UK's digital age authentication initiative. We commend the efforts of the UK Government to prevent children and young people from being exposed to online pornography.

ACYP understands that the *Digital Economy Bill* ('the Bill') is currently before the UK Parliament and provides that it is a requirement for any person that makes pornographic material available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom on a commercial basis to secure the material so that at any given time it is not normally accessible by persons under the age of 18.

We are happy to continue to monitor these developments in the UK and report back to the Committee at a later date on how the implementation of the age-verification scheme has progressed and how it is working.

3. *Do you intend to do seminars on brain development and the impact on pornography or sexualisation on children? (Page 18-19)*

#### Response

The brain development round table held by ACYP, on 22 March 2017, is part of the Young Thinking program of events to be rolled out in 2017. These Young Thinking Round Tables form part of the monitoring, evaluation and learning of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

As part of ACYP's response to the recommendations of the Committee from its inquiry into the sexualisation of children and young people, ACYP is in discussions with key stakeholders in this area, such as the eSafety Commissioner, the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services to identify appropriate sources of information and the best methods for its promotion.

*4. Does the Youth Advisory Council have a suggested topic for the Committee's next inquiry? (Page 21)*

Response

The following two topics are suggested to the Committee for its next inquiry: i) The impact of violence perpetrated against children and young people by adults and (ii) Best ways to empower Aboriginal children and young people

**Supplementary Questions**

*1. Have you worked with the Ombudsman on child friendly complaints standards?*

Response

ACYP has a strong working relationship with the NSW Ombudsman and meets regularly with the office to progress joint work and to work collaboratively on a range of issues that pertain to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people.

ACYP notes that the NSW Ombudsman has developed information and resources tailored for young people about its role and how to make a complaint. This information can be accessed at: <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/youth>. These resources were developed with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the statutory entity which pre-dated the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People.

In addition, one of the key initiatives in the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People is supporting children and young people to make a complaint if they are unhappy about the way they have been treated by a NSW Government agency or a community service organisation. ACYP will be following up with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and other relevant NSW Government agencies to discuss how to monitor and improve upon young people's access to and experience with NSW Government agencies.

*2. When do you use on-line surveys? What do you do with the data collected?*

Response

ACYP uses a number of methods to engage with children and young people to promote their participation in making decisions that affect their lives. It includes but is not limited to: classroom consultations, facilitated consultations, panels and forums, citizen's juries, survey pools, polling and on-line surveys.

The method selected to engage with children and young people is largely dependent on the purpose of the consultation and the issue being explored.

ACYP often utilises focus groups using open ended questions, facilitated by the Advocate and staff to consult with children and young people. To date, ACYP has utilised focus groups in a number of settings, including but not limited to: schools, youth services, and youth events. Results from these focus groups are then often tested using quantitative polling to gain better understanding of the salience of these issues.

Focus groups and polling have been used to gather insights from children and young people for the Strategic Plan and on a range of topics on behalf of Government agencies and departments.

Following all ACYP consultations the data is collated analysed and an internal report is produced. Feedback is provided to the children and young people that have participated in the consultations in a visual and child-friendly format.

The findings from the consultations are used in a number of ways that includes but is not limited to: forming the basis of our advice to Government and other stakeholders, informing the strategic direction of the office, sharing with Youth Advisory Council and sharing with the general public.

*3. Can you provide further details of the collaboration being undertaken with the National eSafety Commissioner to explore opportunities to reduce children and young people's exposure to online pornography?*

Response

The Advocate met with the new National eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant ('the Commissioner'), to discuss opportunities for collaboration several days after she assumed the role in February 2017.

In the discussions, the Commissioner was informed of the NSW Parliamentary Joint Committee's report on the sexualisation of children. It was noted in the meeting that the Commonwealth Government's response to the Senate Committee inquiry into *Harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the internet* was forthcoming, and will have an impact on the work of the Commissioner's office.

The Advocate will be meeting with the Commissioner shortly to discuss the opportunities between the two offices arising from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments' responses to its respective inquiries.

*4. Has the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People considered and adopted a position regarding opt-in internet filtering to assist in minimising the exposure of children and young people to online pornography?*

Response

ACYP is supportive of efforts to provide family-friendly network-level filtering services as part of a multi pronged approach to reducing children and young people's exposure to pornography.

*5. Has the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People undertaken any research work into the impact on children and young people of being exposed to violence in video games or on the internet?*

## Response

ACYP notes that exposure to violence has a significant impact on children and young people. In our consultations with children and young people they have said that violence perpetrated against them is a major issue. Experiencing emotional, sexual or physical violence or witnessing it severely impacts a child of their potential and affects their health, wellbeing and future.

In response to the concerns raised by children and young people, ACYP is currently developing initiatives to prevent violence against children and young people, in order to reduce its impacts on them.