

**Committee on Children and Young People**  
Public hearing – 14 May 2021

**Responses to questions taken on notice**  
NSW Office of the Children's Guardian

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN’S GUARDIAN**

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – 2021 Review of the annual reports and other matters of the Office of the Children’s Guardian**

1. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, could you provide the Committee with a copy of the agenda for that meeting please?  
(Transcript page 22)

2. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, could you please go back and check whether or not A Gender Agenda was presenting at that meeting?  
(Transcript page 22)

3. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** Would you have taken notes in regard to that meeting?  
(Transcript page 22)

4. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, could you please provide a copy of those notes to the Committee? Was there any documentation in regards to this presentation by A Gender Agenda? Were there any documents, slides or pieces of information provided to you by A Gender Agenda?  
(Transcript page 23)

5. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, can you check that? If there are any slides, documents or briefing papers, could you please provide them?  
(Transcript page 23)

**ANSWER (to Q1-Q5)**

The Communique from the 13-14 May 2019 Australian and New Zealand Children’s Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG) meeting is available at <https://accg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Communique-2019-May.pdf>.

I was only in attendance for day one of this meeting. The presentation from A Gender Agenda was on day two. No papers or slides were circulated in relation to this agenda item.

The minutes indicate ANZCCG members present heard from a panel of four trans and non-binary young people engaged with A Gender Agenda. A Gender Agenda gave an introduction to the service which provides peer support, education and advocacy to support the intersex, trans and gender diverse community in the ACT. Panellists discussed their experiences and the importance of good support at home, school and with community organisations. Their parents also answered questions about their experiences and support needs.

6. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** You said normally that the organisation Australian and New Zealand Children’s Commissioners and Guardians [ANZCCG] gets together twice a year.  
(Transcript page 23)

7. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** Have there been any face-to-face meetings since May 2019?  
(Transcript page 23)

8. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, could you check if there was a meeting?  
(Transcript page 23)

9. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice, could you provide the Committee with a copy of the agenda for that meeting? Do you have a recollection whether the matter of gender dysphoria or gender fluidity was covered at the meeting?  
(Transcript page 23)

10. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** Okay. If there were any documents provided at that meeting in regard to the coverage of the subject, I ask that they also be provided to the Committee. With respect to the meetings that have taken place since, which have been remote meetings, has the matter of gender dysphoria or gender fluidity been discussed at any of the meetings?  
(Transcript page 23)

#### **ANSWER (Q6-10)**

The ANZCCG last met in person, in Brisbane, on 11-12 November 2019.

The Communique from that meeting is publicly available at <https://accg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Communique-ANZCCG-November-2019.pdf>.

The item on supporting LGBTIQ+ children and young people related to the inclusion of data about sexuality and gender by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the 2021 Australian Census. No papers were circulated in relation to this agenda item.

The Advocate for Children and Young People raised the issue of gender dysphoria at the ANZCCG meeting on 18 August 2020. Members were provided with a copy of the correspondence the Honourable Greg Donnelly MLC sent the Advocate. Members were advised that the Advocate was providing Mr Donnelly with a response.

All meetings since November 2019 have been online and of a shorter nature. They have mainly focused on response to the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people. Gender dysphoria or gender fluidity have not been on the agenda since August 2020.

11. **The ACTING CHAIR:** Noting that the Children's Guardian has recently surveyed a broad range of organisations that are implementing the Child Safe Standards, can I ask if you could update the Committee on any issues that have been raised by stakeholders in the consultations or in your survey?  
(Transcript page 26)

#### **ANSWER**

The OCG developed the Child Safe Survey to prompt organisations to consider their current child safe practice and where there are opportunities for improvement.

The Survey Summary is available at [https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/838/CS\\_SurveyReport.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y](https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/838/CS_SurveyReport.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y).

12. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** Following the consultation which has been completed, did I mishear you earlier that there is a report that has been produced in regard to the consultation?  
(Transcript page 28)

**ANSWER**

The OCG undertook consultation on the Exposure Draft of the Children’s Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill from December 2020 to February 2021. A Consultation Summary is available at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/165/ConsultationSummaryDraftBill.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y>.

13. **The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** On notice can you please let us know when it was provided—or sent to the Minister?  
(Transcript page 28)

**ANSWER**

April 2021.

14. **Ms JODIE HARRISON:** Back to the exposure draft Child Safe Standards bill, you said there were about 100 submissions to the draft.  
(Transcript page 29)

**ANSWER**

The OCG received 61 written submissions providing feedback on the Exposure Draft from a broad range of stakeholders. We also received 48 responses to a survey seeking views on the core components of the Child Safe Scheme.

15. **Ms JODIE HARRISON:** Were there any particular groups that more actively engaged or any particular kinds of sectors? What kinds of feedback were given to the exposure draft?  
(Transcript page 29)

**ANSWER**

Please refer to the answer to question 12.