



Supplementary questions – Advocate for Children and Young People

1) How many children and young people participated in consultations during the 2020-2021 reporting period?

During the 2020-2021 reporting period the Advocate consulted with approximately 3,805 children and young people. This was through a variety of activities, including face-to-face consultations, online consultations, training, events, competitions, and polling.

2) What internal capacity or expertise does the ACYP currently possess for conducting research and consultations, and does the Advocate have plans to use external research consultants for future projects?

The majority of ACYP’s research and consultation work are conducted internally by ACYP staff. ACYP staff are an expert team of professionals who specialise in child and youth centered consultation, policy and project development. The ACYP team are also trained in youth mental health first aid.

Consultations with children and young people are led by a dedicated ACYP Participation Team. Members of this team have extensive facilitation experience as well as tertiary qualifications to support a trauma-informed approach, including psychology and social work. The team has authored multiple resources to promote and support the participation of, and engagement with, children and young people. For example, a publication outlining best practice for “Engaging children and young people in your organisation” which can be found on the ACYP website:

<https://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation-guide>.

ACYP also conducts representative, quantitative research with the support of specialised market and social research firms. Recent quantitative research has been conducted with SEC Newgate Research, which is a member of The Research Society and the Australian Polling Council. SEC Newgate Research partnered with ACYP in a benchmarking survey to measure the success of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024 and are due to provide services to track progress annually.

ACYP has also previously participated in joint research initiatives with specialist organisations such as The Smith Family and the University of NSW and has recently agreed to partner with the University of Sydney and the University of Newcastle on upcoming projects in an advisory capacity.





3) Have you received any formal or informal responses from government as to the recommendations you made in the Unintentional Injury Prevention report?

The *NSW child and young person unintentional injury prevention* report was produced by the Children and Young People Injury Prevention Working Group (CYPIP). The report reflected current research and best practice with respect to childhood injury prevention as well as opportunities to improve childhood injury prevention practice in NSW. This report was intended to be used as a resource for any agency, organisation or individual to draw on and utilise for continued research in this area and was received positively by key stakeholders.

The Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services at the time received the report and noted that the NSW Department of Communities and Justice was in the process of addressing some issues raised through a number of initiatives and programs.

While the CYPIP working group no longer meets, the Advocate remains committed to the reduction of injuries to children and young people in NSW as a member of the NSW Child Death Review Team and through ongoing relationships with agencies such as NSW Health and SafeWork NSW.

4) Does the Advocate for Children and Young People have the necessary funding and resources to promote their education and training programs?

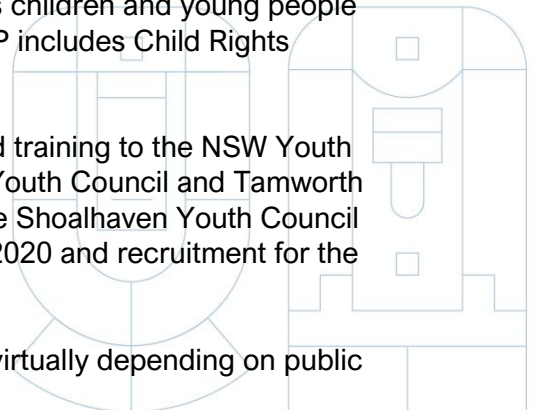
a) How many workshops and training sessions did the ACYP conduct in the reporting period, and were these in-person or virtual?

Each year, the Advocate's budget is negotiated and allocated within the NSW Department of Communities and Justice funding pool, and ACYP continues to operate within the allocated envelope of funding.

ACYP has allocated a portion of this funding towards developing and delivering training and educational programs aimed at upskilling services and organisation that work with and for children and young people, as well as children and young people themselves. Current training programs offered by ACYP includes Child Rights Training, Advocacy Training.

During the 2020/2021 reporting period, ACYP delivered training to the NSW Youth Advisory Council, Regional Youth Taskforce, Camden Youth Council and Tamworth Youth Council. Training was also provided as part of the Shoalhaven Youth Council Local Government Week Event, Children's Parliament 2020 and recruitment for the next Youth Advisory Council.

These trainings were conducted either face-to-face or virtually depending on public health orders in place at the time.





5) Can you outline the evaluation, feedback or ongoing monitoring that you conduct to assess the impacts of ACYP programs and initiatives?

ACYP's responsibility is to seek out the voices of children and young people and actively listen to their concerns, needs and opinions. ACYP's projects, reports, advocacy and consultation topics are directly informed by what children and young people tell us is important to them.

One of the ways that ACYP measures impact is by monitoring the number of children and young people we hear from. Another is the diversity of locations, educational institutions, support services and communities we visit. During the 2020-2021 reporting period, ACYP consulted with approximately 3,805 children and young people. ACYP heard from children and young people across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW in a range of different settings, including schools, community groups, Youth Justice centres, service providers and those in OOHHC.

ACYP is also pleased that, as a result of ongoing advocacy and promotion of our programs and initiatives, requests for ongoing support from key stakeholders continue to grow.

In addition, ACYP also ensures that it asks for feedback about its own performance. For example, a key component of ACYP's evaluation of its work is via the feedback ACYP is given by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) each year. For example, in March 2021 the YAC gave feedback on topics including:

- What ACYP should and should not do to represent children and young people in NSW?
- What is important to children and young people in NSW?
- What barriers does ACYP need to overcome to achieve its goals?
- What groups of children and young people should ACYP focus on?
- Where should ACYP go to hear from children and young people?
- How can ACYP reach every child and young person in NSW?

The responses of the YAC to these questions directly influence our everyday efforts to more effectively engage with NSW children and young people.

While not a direct evaluation of ACYP's projects and initiatives, ACYP is tracking impact of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024 through an annual tracking survey.





6) Does the ACYP have a roadmap or strategy for developing its capabilities in information and communication technologies (ICT)?

COVID-19 saw ACYP pivot its work to a more flexible model using ICT technologies. This included using web-based platforms to conduct consultations, recruit the Youth Advisory Council and conduct some Youth Advisory Meetings.

As we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, this flexible model of work will be continued where appropriate.

ACYP has an experienced digital and communications team, which continues to explore and develop their capabilities to share the work of the Office and reach a greater number of children and young people.

The Advocate has also worked with the Department of Communities and Justice to prioritise much needed IT upgrades for their Office.

7) Are there plans to continue providing information to children and young people via Our Local, or by developing an alternate resource hosted by the ACYP?

Our Local was an online platform designed to provide information to children and young people about activities, services and events around NSW. Unfortunately, due to resourcing constraints, ACYP was unable to facilitate Our Local in the 2020-21 reporting period. Despite ACYP's attempts to seek out alternate platforms for the resource to continue functioning, no other agency had capacity to accept hosting responsibilities.

Due to the resourcing requirements of Our Local, ACYP does not have plans to reinstate this or a similar resource at this time.

