

Committee on Children and Young People – Hearing for the Inquiry into the Child Protection and Social Services System (August 2022)

Questions Taken on Notice

Question: “I am curious as to whether any of the children that you spoke to had been through the process of having an independent children’s lawyer appointed. Were any of those children in that category?”

ACYP does not have data on the number of children and young people that participated in our Out-Of-Home-Care (OOHC) consultations that had been through the process of having an independent children’s lawyer appointed. However, a recurring theme throughout ACYP’s interviews with children and young people in OOHC was that they were given little or no say in decision making processes. Children and young people reported having no say in where they lived, contact with their birth family, where they went to school and how they could spend their allowance. Being left out of important decisions left children and young people feeling powerless and angry.

Children and young people also reported often not even being physically present when decisions were being made about them. They reported that they were often left out of court proceedings and case meetings only to find out the outcome after the fact.