

## Questions on Notice (QoN) for witnesses – Mr Billy Bofinger

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Dr Amanda Cohn: From the end of that term to now, it has been nearly a year. Do you think they're listening to you? Has anything changed because of what you've told them?

One of the key lessons we learnt while on the YAC was how long the advocacy process can take. I recognise that it is important for the projects that YAC work on must be acted upon. However, this process can take some time.

For example, our major project as a YAC on student voice began more than a year ago as we began to pinpoint our area of change and it is only just recently that we have presented our research to change-makers.

However, we have still had a number of other smaller projects that the YAC have worked on and given feedback on being finalised and acted upon.

The YAC gave a lot of feedback to the ACYP on topics including, Youth Week 2023, Children's Week 2023, YAC recruitment, the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, Vaping, Cost of Living, the YAC Annual Report as well as our experience on the YAC.

The feedback given on all of these topics was sent directly to the Advocate and the ACYP team and the necessary changes made.

The YAC also did a lot of work for external agencies and stakeholders including making changes to the "School is for Everyone" video, pointing out ways that young people can be more involved with NESAs, as well as giving feedback on the newly developed syllabus for the NSW Department of Education. The YAC also worked to review the department's complaint website and the processes involved. Another example is the changes made to the patient factsheet for vaping and e-cigarettes for the NSW Ministry of Health.

Overall the YAC has made large changes including those as a result of the Student Voice Report as well as a number of smaller additions and changes to other external projects as a result of many consultations.