

Supplementary questions

Youth Off The Streets

Answers provided 17 March 2025

- The Committee heard that service providers in some communities are well-funded but operate independently, creating gaps in wraparound service provision. Are you aware of this issue, and how do you think it could be addressed?
 - *Based on observations in some regional areas, there are occasionally well-funded services working in isolation, which causes fragmentation and gaps in service provision.*
 - *From the perspective of Aboriginal communities, it is important to encourage collaboration between services because of the collective way they experience and navigate challenges. Culturally safe, coordinated service delivery that recognises family and community connections is critical.*

- The Committee heard that younger children (9-12 year olds) are involved in offending behaviour and there needs to be early intervention and diversion programs in place for children under the age of 12. What are your thoughts on this and are you aware of any existing programs that meet this need?
 - *Early intervention and diversion programs are critical for children aged 9-12, as this is a crucial stage where positive support can significantly change life trajectories.*
 - *Programs for children under 12 years are generally operated through Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) providers. These programs are predominately focused on the 0-5 and 6-10 year old age cohorts, meaning that children aged between 10-12 years do not have access to any structured programs in regional communities.*
 - *We are not aware of any significant regional or rural programs for 10-12 year old children in the areas in which we operate.*
 - *From an Aboriginal community perspective, it is essential that programs are culturally appropriate, grounded in community connection, and focused on strengthening identity, belonging, and family ties.*