From: DCJ Parliament

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Subject: Responses to questions taken on notice - loneliness inquiry

Attachments: TRANSCRIPT - Social Issues - Loneliness - 12 December 2024 - HIGHLIGHTED FOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.pdf

Good morning Teneale and team,

Thank you for the extension. Please see below ACYP's response to the questions taken on notice.

Question

ZOË ROBINSON: Yes. I think lifting up that work and recognising that it's not difficult to engage young people in the design of that, it's really possible, and seeing some of it. I think, obviously, investment in local communities to be able to design that, so that it's not necessarily attached to sport or a particular thing in that region, but that it's given that freedom to say, "What is it that our young people actually want? What does a hub look like in our community? How do we make that work?" I think those investments and grants that exist are incredibly important, but making them not so specific—if you don't want to build a netball court, for example, because that's not the predominant sport in your area but creativity is, or, again, in the Northern Rivers, marine work is one of the big things up there—giving people freedom to design what it is that will benefit the young people in that community.

The CHAIR: Following on from Dr Cohn's question, would you be prepared, on notice, to perhaps provide us with a bit more detail and a few of the best examples?

ZOË ROBINSON: Yes. We have a showcase online, in fact. That wasn't me spruiking that, but it has come to my memory that actually we've done a piece of work about highlighting great work that's been done by other organisations and councils. So, on notice, I can provide more, yes.

The CHAIR: Maybe to wind up, is there anything else, Maddi, that you think that we should consider, from a young person's point of view, as we think about the impacts of loneliness and what we might do to alleviate it?

MADDISON ELWINE-WILSON: Am I able to take that one on notice?

Proposed Response

The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People developed the 'Participation in Practice Case Studies' to showcase the value and positive outcomes of co-design with children and young people. These case studies illustrate how inclusion and participation in decision-making processes helps to shape practice, and benefits both the organisations and young people involved.

To see the video case studies, access the showcase here: https://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation

In particular, some example I would draw your attention to are the:

- Julia Reserve Youth Precinct Camden Council, which is a community hub for young people aged 12-24.
- Coonamble High School, which is a series of projects based in a school.
- Uniting Care Burnside, which involves codesign and inclusion practices in a long daycare centre.

I do not have much to add as I do think a lot of it has already been addressed however there is one main consideration when looking at loneliness that specifically affects young people. This consideration from my point of view is the wealth disparity that can so often impact loneliness, young people who can afford extracurricular activities or even transportation to free events are much less likely to suffer from the effects of loneliness compared to someone who may not even have the means or resources to get on a bus.

Kind regards,

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Youth Justice, Housing, Homelessness, Youth and Veterans portfolios Law Reform and Legal Services

Department of Communities and Justice



Communities and Justice

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