

# **Coordinating Committee: ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance**

## **MINUTES**

1:30 – 3pm, Tuesday 9 September 2025

Online via Teams

Chair: Rebecca McIntyre

### Attendance:

- Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Billieann Bambrick, Grand Pacific Health (proxy for Vikki Radford)
- Cass Tinning, Health and Community Services Directorate (Youth at Risk Project) (Co-Chair)
- Eleanor Reardon, Education Directorate (proxy for Emily Brown)
- Rebecca McIntyre, Health and Community Services Directorate (Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing) (Co-Chair)
- Ryan McLaughlan, Health and Community Services Directorate (CYFSP)
- Samantha Gill, Marymead CatholicCare
- Sam Thomas, Youth Lived Experience
- Shannon Lanza, Youth Lived Experience
- Stephanie Lentern, Capital Health Network

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Rebecca welcomed members and provided an Acknowledgement of Country and Acknowledgement of Lived Experience.
- Refresh on the Framing Statement.
- Both the April and July Minutes were endorsed.
- Members introduced themselves.
- Apologies: Vikki Radford, Emily Brown, Lisa Kelly, Joey Brogden.

### **Alliance Strategic Priorities**

- Erin provided an update and sought feedback on the Alliance's upcoming activities, which will inform the workplan due to HCSD on 1 November. The due date for the workplan is delayed in the 2025-26 financial year due to a delay in the contract execution for the Alliance. The activities are outlined below.
- Key priorities that had resonated the most at the previous meeting included:
  - Continued support of YRG and need for consultation with young people
  - Social determinants of child/youth mental health and non/preclinical interventions
  - Reducing siloes across the service system
  - Evaluation for new / existing services – what does 'good' look like? Embedding youth lived experience into evaluation
  - System navigation, including continuity of care, transition of information, how do MOST and MindMap support access and navigation?

- Informing the next National Agreement.
- Erin noted that these priorities had informed decisions made by the lead agencies about short-term activities undertaken by the Alliance. As the National Agreement is still a long way off, this will be 'parked' for a future discussion.
- Community of Practice Initiatives in 2025-26:
  - Trial – Collaboration between the Alliance and 'Joint Case Review' Program with Families ACT.
    - JCRs are structured learning sessions led by trained facilitators, designed to strengthen reflective and collaborative practice.
    - The Alliance will sponsor 3-5 facilitator positions, and 5 places at each of the 4 JCR sessions during 2025-26.
  - Webinar on System Navigation, MOST + MindMap: 23 October
    - Presentations from MOST and MindMap as system support mechanisms
    - Panel: Youth lived experience and sector representation
    - Heidi Prowse has been engaged to design and MC the Webinar.
  - OMHW-led activity related to ACTing Upstream: Promotion and Prevention (2026)
- Working Group Projects:
  - Collecting and using client feedback for service improvement:
    - First literature review on best practice and principles for collecting feedback from young people is [available online](#).
    - Second scoping review on high-quality experience measures nearing completion
    - Scoping potential next steps:
      - Strategies to seek feedback from young people who disengaged or are not satisfied with their service experience
      - Working with HCSD to embed in commissioning process
      - Scoping experience measures for parents and carers
      - Developing practical guidance documents for services to embed processes into practice
  - Info-sharing of young people's health information, privacy and consent:
    - Literature review on young people's preferences for processes related to informed consent to share information is [available online](#).
    - Scoping review of relevant legislation is nearing completion.
    - Scoping potential next steps:
      - Advocacy re clarification on unclear terminology
      - Recorded Webinar with presentation of findings and potential additional findings resources
      - Development of informed consent processes / guidelines to support services to have conversations with young people about info-sharing decisions.
  - Scoping on future activities is currently occurring and will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- Next Alliance Forum scheduled for 3 December
- Updating the Issues Register (contractual requirement)

- Communications activities ongoing: eBulletins, website review and maintenance
- Members provided feedback on the activities:
  - Positive feedback on plans, particularly the trial of JCRs as an opportunity to reduce siloes, and extension from project findings to implementation.
  - Querying whether service updates will still feature in community of practice, or whether that is covered by the newsletter – there is still an interest in this occurring.
  - Sam noted that the further activities relating to the ‘collecting and using service experience feedback’ project will require further consultation with services to understand their challenges to implementing these processes, and how this would work for different service modalities (e.g. services implementing a limited number of clinical sessions, versus services that engage with young people in other ways).
- Members were invited to propose, discuss and ‘vote’ on key priorities for the next Alliance Forum, to be held on 3 December; through use of Menti. Responses included:
  - A ‘deep-dive’ into a YRG-led topic (7 votes)
  - Social media ban (4 votes)
  - Presentation of findings from Alyssa re PREMs and feedback processes (3 votes)
  - Ongoing status of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing (3 votes)
  - Understanding how we might structure/support collaboration with pre/non clinical interventions in mental health care in the ACT (for a more holistic response) (3 votes)
  - Guest speaker from Federal Dept Health (2 votes)
  - Presentation from Connect Up (non-clinical intervention on reducing loneliness in young adults through social connection) (2 votes)
  - Reducing silos - Mapping services for information sharing; but interactive (1 vote)
  - Use of AI within service delivery - case noting, etc (1 vote)
  - Mental Health Act Review (1 vote)
  - CAMHS reporting back on their final process for young people turning 18 (0 votes)
- Members discussed the ‘social media ban’ in more detail, including longitudinal research that Alison has been involved in led by the Black Dog Institute looking at predictors of self-harm and suicide among young people. This has found that social media is not a strong predictor. Members discussed that the Forum may provide an opportunity to explore the ban ahead of its implementation on 10 December, including concerns and opportunities.
- Erin also proposed a ‘deep dive’ into a YRG-led topic. Previous Forum feedback surveys had noted that of all intended outcomes, participants did not tend to rate ‘improved understanding of the lived experience of children, young people and families’ as highly as other outcomes. It was proposed that the Forum could offer a spot to the YRG not only to provide an update on activities; but also to share their reflections on a topic of their choice and interest, with Forum members. This could also include focusing on an item presented in the Our Say publication.

*Action:* Lead Agencies to continue to progress Alliance workplan and explore the feasibility of proposed Forum topics, prior to the next meeting.

Alliance Processes:

- Sam and Shannon proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and YRG governance. These will be discussed at the next YRG meeting for consideration by other members. Proposed changes included:
  - Enabling both the YRG Coordinator and youth lived experience members to represent the views of the YRG (with their permission) – this enables youth representatives to represent both their own and others’ opinions; in a way that they have authorised.
  - Youth lived experience representatives provide a ‘listening ear’ to other members, improving opportunities for members to comfortably raise concerns.
  - The YRG determines the appointment processes for members to the Coordinating Committee, including being able to recall those members, or choosing not to send anyone.
  - The Coordinating Committee consider taking a role in dispute resolution and the governance of the YRG; and taking feedback from the YRG about potential problems with current processes. They noted that the Alliance is not a formal institution and does not have authorising or regulatory influence over its members, however, felt that the Coordinating Committee taking on this role may support the OMHW to improve their processes.
  - These changes were proposed in the interests of preserving the unique and special nature of the YRG and supporting the sustainability of its membership.
- Further context for proposed changes included:
  - The YRG operates as the Alliance’s youth lived experience advisory group, and acts as a public consultation body whilst also leading its own projects and agendas. They are youth-led and may decline to participate in consultation if it is not aligned with or impinges on other YRG activities.
  - The YRG values accessibility and inclusiveness, ensuring that the widest range of young people can attend, including young people who may be struggling; to enable a wide view of the system. Members are reimbursed through the OMHW, who also pay for a Coordinator position.
  - The OMHW is funded by the ACT Government, and there may be times when the interests of the OMHW do not align with those of the YRG. In the future, this may impact the YRG’s ability to produce its own publications.
  - Currently, the YRG Coordinator position has authority over membership processes and outputs of the YRG.
- Cass and Erin thanked Sam and Shannon for sharing their proposed changes, and for bringing this discussion to the attention of the Committee. They noted that raising this issue speaks to the ‘Framing Statement’ of the Alliance, which acknowledges that tensions may arise between stakeholder groups, and that we all commit to working through those tensions.
- Cass noted that the Committee members will need time to sit with and consider the proposed changes, and that it would be valuable to hear at the next meeting, the outcomes of the YRG meeting.

*Action:* Secretariat to circulate the Terms of Reference document with Sam and Shannon’s proposed changes out of session, for discussion at the next meeting.

*Action:* Sam, Shannon and Joey to progress discussions with the YRG about the proposed changes.



**Other Business**

- No other business was raised.
- The next meeting will be held in mid-November.

**Meeting Close**