

Australian Capital Territory

Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel Chair) Appointment 2024 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2024–31

made under the

Children and Young People Act 2008, Section 501F (Appointment of chair of panel)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This explanatory statement relates to the *Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel Chair) Appointment 2024 (No 1)* as made by the Minister for Families and Community Services.

Overview

The *Children and Young People Act 2008* (the *Act*) among other things, governs the establishment, functions and membership of the Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People (the Panel).

Under section 501F of the *Act*, the Minister must appoint a Chair of the Panel. This appointment is in addition to the appointment of Members under section 501E (Appointment of panel members).

In appointing the Chair, the Minister must be satisfied of their relevant expertise or experience. The Minister also must be satisfied of their suitability to be the Chair, including considering relevant information of the kind mentioned in the *Act* in section 65 (1), definition of suitability information, paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) about the person.

Appointment

In accordance with section 501F of the *Act*, this instrument appoints Dr Justin Barker as the Chair of the Panel for a period of 5 years.

Dr Justin Barker, Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Coalition of the ACT, has extensive experience in the child, youth and family sector as a worker, academic, evaluator and advocate. Dr Barker has conducted nationally and internationally recognised research with marginalised populations and community service providers in the areas of child and youth studies, domestic and family violence, youth and

family homelessness, child protection, alcohol and other drugs, service use by vulnerable population groups and program evaluation. Dr Barker has a PhD in Anthropology and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology.

The Minister for Families and Community Services is satisfied that Dr Justin Barker has relevant expertise and experience and is suitable for appointment.

Commencement

This instrument commences 4 March 2024.

The *Legislation Act 2001*, section 81 (6) applies to this instrument.

Note: The Legislation Act 2001, s 81 provides for the exercise of a power given by a law if the law, or amending law, has been notified but has not yet commenced.

Dr Justin Barker commences on 4 March 2024, prior to formal commencement of the Panel, to enable sufficient time to establish operational procedures and processes for the Panel to commence 27 March 2024.

Consultation

Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the ***Legislation Act***) applies as Dr Justin Barker is not a public servant, is appointed for longer than 6 months, and will have functions beyond advising the Minister.

In accordance with section 228 of the *Legislation Act*, the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing has been consulted and noted the appointment.

Section 229 of the *Legislation Act* states that the instrument making an appointment to which division 19.3.3 applies is a disallowable instrument.