

Australian Capital Territory

Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2024 (No 3)

Disallowable instrument DI2024–46

made under the

Children and Young People Act 2008, Section 501E (Appointment of panel members)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This explanatory statement relates to the *Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2024 (No 3)* as made by the Minister for Children, Youth and Family 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 501E of the *Act*, the Minister must appoint at least 10, but not more than 12, members to the Panel.

In appointing a Member, the Minister must be satisfied of their relevant expertise or experience and must ensure the Panel membership represents a diversity of experience and expertise.

The Minister must also be satisfied of their suitability to be a Member, 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.

Under Section 501E (4) of the *Act*, the Minister must appoint as Members of the Panel:

- At least 1 person to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
- At least 1 person who is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person.

Appointment

In accordance with section 501E and section 501E (4) of the *Act*, this instrument appoints Ms Selina Walker as Member of the Panel and as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person, representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Ms Selina Walker is a proud Ngunnawal leader in the ACT and advocates across ACT Government to ensure a cultural lens is applied in the best interest of the people services are looking to support. Ms Walker has been a kinship carer for over 13 years and has extensive knowledge and firsthand experience of the challenges facing children in out of home care, as well as systemic issues that impact parents, families, carers, Elders and communities. Most recently, Ms Walker was named the 2024 ACT Australian of the Year Local Hero, recognised for her integrity in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reconciliation across the ACT.

The Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services is satisfied that Ms Selina Walker is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and has relevant expertise and experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and is suitable for appointment.

Ms Selina Walker is appointed for a period of 4 years.

Consultation

Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the *Legislation Act*) applies as Ms Selina Walker 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.