

Australian Capital Territory

Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2024 (No 6)

Disallowable instrument DI2024–48

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 6)* 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.

Appointment

In accordance with section 501E of the *Act*, this instrument appoints Ms Cara Jacobs as Member of the Panel.

Ms Cara Jacobs, Chief Operating Officer of YWCA Canberra, has a 27-year career in human services including working in therapeutic child, youth and family service delivery, sector reform, policy and advocacy, systems and service improvements, stakeholder relationship development and sector leadership. Ms Jacobs is experienced in delivering diverse child, youth and family programs, including previously as Director of Client Services at Marymead Child and Family Centre.

Ms Jacobs' diverse work with children, young people and families in Ngunnawal, Ngambri, Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi Countries includes child protection, disability, homelessness, education and training, employment, health, disaster recovery, ex-offender, Aboriginal, refugee and therapeutic services and community development work. Ms Jacobs is currently completing a Master of Social Work.

The Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services is satisfied that Ms Cara Jacobs has relevant expertise and experience in social work and is suitable for appointment.

Ms Cara Jacobs is appointed for a period of 4 years.

Consultation

Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the ***Legislation Act***) applies as Ms Cara Jacobs 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.