

Australian Capital Territory

# Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2024 (No 8)

Disallowable instrument DI2024–50

made under the

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

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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This explanatory statement relates to the *Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2024 (No 8)* 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 Zakia Patel as Member of the Panel.

Ms Zakia Patel, Regional Managing Director of the Multicultural Hub Canberra and Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre, has over a decade of experience working with young people and the community, much of this time as a front-line youth worker. Ms Patel worked extensively with Aboriginal young people and their families and with multicultural communities, their young people and families, including young people in Bimberi Youth Detention Centre. Currently Ms Patel works closely with

communities, families and other service providers to ensure that young people are supported in a safe and culturally appropriate way and that cultural norms are taken into consideration when trying to understand why young people may be engaging in harmful behaviour. With a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws, Ms Patel is also experienced in legal practise.

The Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services is satisfied that Ms Zakia Patel has relevant expertise and experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse children and young people and is suitable for appointment.

Ms Zakia Patel is appointed for a period of 4 years.

### **Consultation**

Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the ***Legislation Act***) applies as Ms Zakia Patel 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.