**18/460: Vulnerable children and their families: Early Intervention by Design policy advice**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * Enhancing early support capacity in the ACT will improve outcomes for Canberrans, with a particular focus on three priority groups including vulnerable children and families (focused on the early years); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families; and families who have experienced domestic and family violence. * Investing in early support will not only have positive social outcomes but also significant economic benefits as more people can contribute to the economy and fewer require costly tertiary services. The fiscal benefit is demonstrated by the cost benefit analysis attached to this submission. Funds that are freed up through this process can then be reinvested into early support services, further leading to a decline in people requiring crisis services and additional money becoming available for reinvestment into the system. * The proposed approach will have positive social and economic impacts and does not have environmental impacts. |

*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral and Green – positive.*

**Social**

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| **Community and individual health** | * Providing early support can rebalance risk and protective factors to shift life trajectories and lead to better individual and family life outcomes, which will have a positive flow on effect to the wider community. * Reforming the service system to focus on social and emotional well-being as opposed to the current deficit focused system will have a positive impact on individual and community health and create more resilient communities, families and children. |
| **Access to services** | * Early support will reduce demand on tertiary services through the creation of additional entry points into the service system for those requiring support. * Service system reform options that are developed through this process will enhance the capacity of Canberrans to access the right service at the right time and prevent people from transitioning into the crisis end of the system. * Through co-design and collaborative work it is anticipated that this will have a positive impact on making services more accessible. |
| **Gender** | * Actions undertaken as part of this work, and in collaboration with the Family Safety Hub, are intended to reduce the occurrence and impact of domestic and family violence. This will have a positive impact on women as they are predominantly the victims of domestic and family violence. |
| **Human rights** | * The proposals advanced in the submission are consistent with and intended to promote the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other minorities under section 27 of the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT).* |
| **Indigenous and multicultural** | * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are one of the priority groups for early support. * An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Practice Co-Design Forum will be established to develop, test and implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led solutions. |
| **Impacts on different age groups** | * Early support naturally leads to a focus on the early life of a child. Intervening early in the life course presents the best opportunity to address social and developmental concerns and avoid or lessen negative impacts and associated social and financial costs. * The proposed *try, test and learn* initiatives will each focus on improving outcomes for younger Canberrans across a range of age groups. Specifically:   + the place based initiative will use a schools as communities approach in Tuggeranong and focus on school aged young people;   + sustained nurse home visiting will focus on the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-2 years; and   + the proposed justice diversion program will focus on young people in the middle years (8-13 years). |
| **Disability** | * Early support has a positive impact on Canberrans with disability. * There is a strong alignment opportunity to develop early support approaches with the Disability Justice Strategy to prevent young people with disability entering the justice system. |
| **Disadvantaged and vulnerable** | * Improving life outcomes for vulnerable children and families (focused on the early years) is one of the primary objectives of this work. * Early investment will deliver enhanced well-being and improved life outcomes for vulnerable Canberrans. * In particular, the Place Based Initiative to establish a schools as communities approach in Tuggeranong is intended to boost existing services to better support disadvantaged Canberrans in the Tuggeranong region. |
| **Justice and crime** | * Through intervening early and changing life trajectories it is anticipated that fewer people will come into contact with the justice system, including the youth justice system. * A potential try, test and learn initiative will be a youth justice diversion program focused at the middle years (8-14 years). Further work will be undertaken to co-design and develop with stakeholders and service users. |

**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * This work seeks to mitigate the escalating cost of crisis and tertiary service provision in the ACT. Without investment in early support to reduce demand in child protection, out of home care, youth and adult justice and community corrections, Territory expenditure in these services is expected to double by 2040. * The cost benefit analysis as part of this submission demonstrates the reinvestment opportunities generated for future Territory budgets through early support. * The place-based initiative will be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and ACT Governments. As part of this initiative the Commonwealth will provide $600,000 per year for three years. The ACT will contribute matched funding from existing services. |
| **Skills and Education** | * This work has links with *ACT Community Services Sector Industry Strategy 2016-26*, and a key priority is building the required skills in the government and non-government sectors. * This work has links with the *Future of Education* *Strategy* and the *Early Childhood Strategy,* noting the recent announcement to develop a model for the introduction of free, universal access to quality early childhood for three year old children. |
| **Procurement** | * Over a ten year span this project is expected to change the way human services are procured, moving to a commissioning for outcomes environment. * Contractual amendments to five human services sub-sector funding agreements are expected to occur from 2019. Further incremental reforms to contracts will be progressed in collaboration with government and non-government sector partners over the ten years. |

**Environmental**

Nil Impact