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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT YOUTH ADVISORY

The Australian Government Youth Advisory Groups will bring 40 young people together to work across five different groups on a specific policy or program to influence its development or implementation. There are five advisory groups that young people can apply for:

First Nations

The group will work with the National Indigenous Australians Agency on the design, including implementation plan, of the new Early Years and Education Capacity and Innovation Fund. The fund is being set up to help First Nations organisations and communities to support capability/capacity building and innovative activities that aim to contribute to better early years and education outcomes. This advisory group is only open to First Nations young people.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The group will work with the National Mental Health Commission and provide advice on the impacts of digital technology and social media on young people. This advice will inform recommendations, policies and programs that support young people in navigating digital technology and social media to improve their health and wellbeing. The group will also work with the Department of Health and Aged Care to design better and more accessible support mechanisms for young people. The group will discuss how to best integrate services across the community to support the mental health of young people and how to use new technologies to complement face-to-face services. The group will also support the National Suicide Prevention Office to provide views and advice on the development of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, particularly as it relates to the diverse issues that are important to, and impact, young Australians.

Promotion of STEM

The group will work on national exhibitions, run by Questacon, that are related to science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) and STEM career pathways. The group will also help to support the inclusion of young people from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds in STEM. The group will advise the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) on the ethical and social concerns young people have about science and technology. They will help the department understand how they can inspire the next generation of young people in STEM, and how they can redesign programs to reflect young people's perspectives.

Climate Change and Conference of the Parties (COP)

The group will be engaged by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in the lead up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 in Dubai, in November 2023. This engagement will help to shape the Australian pavilion events program, inform Australia's joint COP31 hosting bid with the Pacific and mainstream young people's perspectives into work leading into COP28. The group will also be consulted to ensure there is diverse youth participation from Australia at COP28.

Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-31

The group will provide advice on actions under Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-31, including strategies and programs that improve access to services that contribute to the safety, wellbeing and outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. The group will also advise the Department of Social Services on other programs, which may include supports for families and communities, disability programs, housing and homelessness policy, and working with young men as part of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2022-32. This work may include consideration of matters where governments can work more closely on responses to improve life outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. This advisory group is only open to First Nations young people and young people with disability who have experienced disadvantage or vulnerability, young people who have experienced abuse and/or neglect, and young people with an experience of out-of-home care or leaving care.

Who can apply?

Any young person aged between 16 and 25 can apply. The Office of Youth are seeking a diverse group of people from across the country with no previous experience required. 8 young people will be appointed to each group, and will be paid an honorarium to recognise contributions made over the advisory group term.

When is the first meeting?

The first meeting of the advisory groups will occur in Canberra from Wednesday 29 March to Friday 31 March, with the costs of travel, accommodation and food covered by the Office for Youth. **Please note** all applicants must be available for this meeting.

Applications are open until Sunday 12 February. Please share this with your members and to encourage young people aged between 16 and 25 to apply.

Please contact Trish Manten at trish@girlguides.org.au if you require further information.