

Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2025 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2025–291

made under the

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This explanatory statement relates to the *Children and Young People (Therapeutic Support Panel) Appointment 2025 (No 1)* as made by the Minister for Children, Youth and Families.

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 501H of the *Act*, the Minister must appoint a Deputy Chair of the Panel from the Members appointed under section 501E.

Appointment

In accordance with sections 501E and section 501H of the *Act*, this instrument appoints Dr Bianca Calabria as Member and Deputy Chair of the Panel.

Dr Calabria, Director of the Teal Psychology Space Pty Ltd, has extensive experience as a clinical psychologist, including providing therapeutic support for young people. Her

comprehensive assessment processes aim to answer diagnostic referral questions to develop a holistic understanding of an individual's experiences, co-occurring conditions, and neurodevelopmental disorder. She works with a multidisciplinary team of practitioners to make recommendations and accommodations across settings to meet the individual's current needs.

Dr Calabria has also been an academic researcher for 18 years. Her research has focused on areas that are strongly aligned with experiences and needs of young people who engage in harmful behaviour. This includes family and community safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (FaCtS Study at ANU) and drug and alcohol misuse and community-based interventions for individuals and families (her PhD). Her research has been systems focused and transdisciplinary, including identifying system gaps and working collaboratively with services and communities to address these. Much of her research has been with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and services. Dr Calabria has a Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Clinical Psychology, and Bachelor of Psychology.

The Minister for Children, Youth and Families is satisfied that Dr Calabria has relevant expertise and experience as a clinical psychologist and is suitable for appointment.

Dr Calabria is appointed for a period of 4 years.

Consultation

Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the ***Legislation Act***) applies as Dr Calabria 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 Social Policy 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.