

Ministerial Youth Advisory Group

Information for young people

#### What is the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group?

This is an advisory group for young people:

* aged 15 to 25 years
* with experience living away from their families in the Victorian care system. By this we mean kinship, foster, permanent and residential care.

The diverse group of young Victorians will give advice on:

* different experiences young people can have living in child protection and care
* what works well and how to improve child protection and care services.

The advisory group will have 2 co-chairs and up to 15 members. The Minister for Children will be one of the chairs.

#### How is it different to the Transitions from Care Youth Expert Advisory Group and Victorian Youth Congress?

The *Transitions from Care Youth Expert Advisory Group* is for young people who have lived in care. They give advice and feedback on how Better Futures and Home Stretch is run.

The *Victorian Youth Congress* works with the Office for Youth to talk about issues affecting young Victorians.

#### Who can apply for MYAG?

You can apply if you are:

* aged 15 to 25 years
* currently living or have recently left child protection and care services in Victoria.

If you have questions, you can contact Lauren Brain in the MYAG support team by phone at 0459 483 524 or email [MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au). Lauren is available between 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Young people from a range of backgrounds can apply, including:

* First Nations
* people with disability
* people from multicultural communities
* LGBTIQA+ people
* People living metropolitan Melbourne, as well as regional and rural Victoria.

You will need to live in Victoria and be able to attend meetings in Melbourne.

More information is available on the [Join a Public Board webpage](https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/ministerial-youth-advisory-group-vgb/1823442).

#### How many people will be in MYAG?

There will be 2 co-chairs and up to 15 members. One of the chairs will be the Minister for Children.

#### What does MYAG do? What topics will I be advising on? How will the Minister take my advice into account?

As a member, you will meet with the Minister for Children 4 times each year.

Topics could be:

* Therapeutic care (e.g.,
* Gender identity and LGBTIQ+ rights
* Family reunions
* Funding for carers.

The MYAG support team will meet you before the meeting with the Minister. At this pre-meeting, the support team will talk through the topics that will be discussed.

At the meeting with the Minister, she will listen and look at ways to include your feedback and advice into decisions

#### How many meetings do I need to attend?

There are 4 meetings each year.

Meetings will occur after 5pm during the week and will run for 2 hours.

#### Where will the meetings be located?

Meetings will be held at 50 Lonsdale Street in Melbourne.

If you live in regional Victoria and need help with booking travel and accommodation, the MYAG support team will help you.

Should you need help accessing the building, please include this on your application form.

#### Will I be paid for my time?

Yes. MYAG members will be paid sessional rates as outlined in the Victorian Government’s *Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines* for a Group C, Band 2(b) organisation.

These guidelines are available at: [www.vic.gov.au/guidelines-appointment-remuneration](http://www.vic.gov.au/guidelines-appointment-remuneration)

You can read more about what you will be paid at [Join a Public Board webpage](https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/ministerial-youth-advisory-group-vgb/1823442). See ‘payment schedule’ document for information.

#### Will I receive any other support?

Yes. The MYAG support team will be available to answer questions. The team will meet members before and after meetings with the Minister.

An independent counsellor will be available to support members.

Want to chat, or have more questions? Email [MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au)

#### How long will the role be for?

The role is for 2 years. You can leave at any time before your 2-year term ends.

#### I have been a member before. Can I re-apply?

Yes, you can but you still need to be between 15 and 25 years.

#### I am a member of another group; can I still apply for MYAG?

Yes, you can.

When completing the application form, you need to tell us of any conflict of interests you might have.

A conflict of interest is when you have a personal or other interest that could affect the advice you give as a MYAG member.

#### How do you select MYAG members?

You will need to complete the application form and response to the key selection criteria in the form.

More information is available on the Join a Public Board website: [www.boards.vic.gov.au](http://www.boards.vic.gov.au/).

#### How do I apply?

Tell us who you are and why you want to join.

There are different ways to apply. You can do so:

* [via the Join the Board website](https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/ministerial-youth-advisory-group-vgb/1823442).
* call the MYAG Support Team on 0459 483 524 and apply over the phone
* or email their application to [MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au).

For more information visit the [Join a Public Board website](https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/ministerial-youth-advisory-group-vgb/1823442).

#### How will I know if I am successful or not?

Someone from the MYAG support team will contact you about your application.

#### What if I have a criminal conviction?

Applicants who are on the shortlist will need to complete a National Police Check.

If you have a criminal record, you might be wondering whether it will be possible for you to apply for MYAG.

Contact the MYAG support team for a chat about your application.

Contact Lauren Brain by phone or text at 0459 483 524. Lauren will be available between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday until Sunday 20 October 2024.

#### I need help with my application. Who can I contact?

The MYAG support team can help.

* Email: [MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:MYAG@dffh.vic.gov.au), or
* Phone Lauren Brain on 0459 483 524 between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

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