



Assisting Care Leavers: Time for Action

Monday 13th June 2022, 09:00 – 11.00 CEST

Zoom access information

Please ensure you download the latest Zoom version from <https://zoom.us/support/download>. You can access the panel using the login link sent directly to your email. Please check your account for a message sent by Zoom. **Please connect to the Zoom call 20 minutes before the start (08:40 CEST). Please note that the event will be live and recorded.**

Agenda

09:00-09:05

WELCOME REMARKS

Monika Queisser, Head of Social Policy Division, **OECD**

09:05-09:15

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Signe Riisalo, Social Protection Minister, **Estonia**

09:15-09:25

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

Dorothy Adams, Social Policy Division, **OECD**

Emeritus Professor Robbie Gilligan, School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin, **Ireland**

09:25-10:55

PANEL DISCUSSION

Discussion moderated by Monika Queisser, Head of Social Policy Division, **OECD**

- Philip Mendes, Professor, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Medicine at Monash University, **Australia**
- Robert Macpherson, Department for Education (DfE), **United Kingdom**
- Elise Skarsaune, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, **Norway**
- Care leaver, **Lithuania**

10:55-11:00

CLOSING REMARKS

Monika Queisser, Head of Social Policy Division, **OECD**

Biographies

Monika Queisser, Head of Social Policy Division, OECD

Monika Queisser is Senior Counsellor to the Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate and the Head of Social Policy Division at the OECD, where she supervises and coordinates the work on social protection, social indicators, pensions, affordable housing, family and LGBTI+ policies. She has been working at the OECD since 1997. In 2007-8, she worked as an adviser to the OECD Secretary-General. Prior to joining the OECD, Ms. Queisser worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She was a member of the pensions and insurance group in the Financial Sector Development Department. Her first employment was with the German Ifo Institute for economic research in Munich. Her professional experience also includes employment as a journalist at daily newspapers and broadcasting in Germany.

Emeritus Professor Robbie Gilligan, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

Robbie Gilligan is Emeritus Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin. Over his career, his research has had a strong focus on young people growing up in state care, and young adults negotiating life after reaching the care leaving age (age 18 in most countries). Drawing heavily on lived experience and life course perspectives, he investigates barriers and supports in the work, educational and wider progress of young people and adults with current or past experience of living in care systems. He aims to make his research relevant for policy issues, and for the frontline practice of carers, social workers and other professionals in systems of foster and residential care.

Professor Gilligan is a member of the Board of the European Scientific Association for Residential and Family Care, and of INTRAC - The International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care. He is a registered social worker, and earlier in his career, has been a youth worker and foster carer.

Philip Mendes, Professor, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Medicine at Monash University, Australia

Professor Philip Mendes teaches Social Policy and the Welfare State, and is the Director of the Social Inclusion and Social Policy Research Unit (SISPRU) in the Department of Social Work at Monash University in Victoria, Australia. He has been researching young people leaving state care for 20 plus years, and has completed major studies pertaining to youth justice, employment and mentoring programs, disability, and Indigenous care leavers. He is the author or co-author of 13 books including *Young people transitioning from out-of-home care: International research, policy and practice* co-edited with Pamela Snow (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Robert Macpherson, Department for Education (DfE), United Kingdom

Rob Macpherson joined the Children's Social Care Group in the Department for Education (DfE) in October 2014 and leads the team responsible for care leaver policy. He led on drafting the 2016 cross-Government care leaver strategy - 'Keep on Caring' - and subsequently led on implementing the commitments included in it, including: launching the care leaver covenant, piloting care leaver social impact bonds and piloting Staying Close. Prior to this he worked in a range of policy roles in DfE, including: leading on the Government's 5-year report to the UN on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; leading on the Children's Commissioner reforms in the Children & Families Bill 2014; working on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy; and developing the Connexions Service. Prior to working in central Government, Rob had 10 years' experience working in operational posts in the Employment Service in London, latterly as manager of Deptford Jobcentre.

Elise Skarsaune, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Norway

Elise Skarsaune (Ms) is Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs. Her work focuses on quality enhancement of assistance measures delivered by child welfare services to children, youth and their families. She has previously participated in the drafting and follow-up of the Council of Europe strategy on child rights. On behalf of the Directorate, Elise is currently facilitating the development and testing of a "basic model for assistance measures by child welfare services" which includes aftercare support to young people with child welfare experience.