



MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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Community Sector Workforce Development

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, is disappointed that the ACT Government Budget 2010/11 did not include funding to support sector viability or workforce development initiatives for the community sector.

'The Budget clearly articulates its commitment to working with the community sector to build their sustainability and industrial relations capacity, under the 2010/11 priorities for the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services,' said Director Emma Robertson.

'However, no specific funding has been allocated towards resourcing this commitment.'

Like many sections of the community sector, community based youth services continue to experience significant challenges with regard to workforce development, recruitment and retention of workers, while also facing increased demand for service provision.

The increasingly complex nature of the issues youth services and workers are supporting young people with also highlights the challenge of skill development in a sector that must be both pre-emptive and responsive to the changing needs of young people, and have such a broad range of response knowledge.

'The viability of the ACT youth and community sectors is important, to ensure that the service system is set up to support young people, able to further develop to address emerging issues and provide targeted support to young people.'

'The Youth Coalition continues to call on the ACT Government to implement the recommendations of the 2008 ACTCOSS report, *Finding Solutions, Towards Long Term Community Sector Viability*, and to commit resources to implement a workforce development strategy for the youth sector.'

For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests of people aged 12 to 25 years, and those who work with them.

www.youthcoalition.net