

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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ACT Budget and Young People

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, acknowledges the challenges faced by the ACT Government in developing the 2010/11 ACT Budget, and welcomes many of the new initiatives.

However, the Youth Coalition is disappointed that the implementation of the goals of the *ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014* has not been identified as a priority for the 2010/11 financial year.

'For a Government that is aiming to invest in the growth of Canberra, and develop a sustainable footing for the future, it is essential that investment in young people continues to be seen as a priority,' said Director Emma Robertson.

The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government for:

- Funding of \$5.7 million over four years to support out-of-home care;
- Funding of \$105,000 over four years to Multicultural Youth Services to provide support to multicultural, newly arrived and refugee young people;
- Funding of \$7.1 million over four years to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, of which part will go towards ensuring human rights compliance;
- Funding of \$785,000 over four years to the Youth Law Centre to increase capacity;
- Funding the Home and Community Care Program an additional \$2.2 million, which will include supports for young people with disabilities;
- Funding of \$1.6 million over four years to provide further supports to young people with disabilities in schools;
- Funding of \$2.4 million over two years into disability support services;
- Funding of \$425,000 over four years to employ a community-based family support worker to support families who have a child with autism;
- Funding of \$4.1 million over four years towards mental health growth, with a focus on promotion, prevention and early intervention;
- Funding of \$2 million over four years to provide further support to women and children experiencing violence, including early intervention for children and young people experiencing violence in their family relationships;
- Funding of \$1.1 million over four years to support the Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership by increasing the engagement of young people in education, training and employment;
- Funding of \$200,000 over four years for an Indigenous Liaison Officer in the Legal Aid Commission;

- One-off funding of \$70,000 to Warehouse Circus Community Program; and,
- Funding for regional infrastructure, including CIT Vocational Education in Gungahlin, a new Gungahlin Library, and a Gungahlin Health Centre.

'While the Youth Coalition welcomes these initiatives, further information will need to be provided on how they will be implemented.'

'It is vital that these initiatives are further progressed in consultation with key stakeholders, including young people and youth services.'

'We look forward to working with the ACT Government on the further development of these initiatives.'

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