

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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Newly Arrived Young People Receive Some Support

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, commends the provision of additional funding to support newly arrived and refugee young people, as announced in the 2010/2011 ACT Government Budget.

The new initiatives include a small amount of recurrent funding to Multicultural Youth Services (MYS), Canberra's only youth specific service in the ACT for refugee, newly arrived and multicultural young people. MYS has been repeatedly recognised for their practice and importance, winning an ACT Early Intervention Award (2006), an ACTCOSS Diversity Award (2008), a Yogie Award for Excellence in Organisational Practice (2008), and a Yogie Award for Collaboration for Change (2009).

'Our consultations for the *ACT Multicultural Strategy 2010 – 2014* found that young refugees and newly arrived young people have very specific needs and are particularly affected by settlement, and identified the lack of programs to support young people,' said Director Emma Robertson.

'This is the sixth budget in which the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, has called on the ACT Government to provide recurrent funding for MYS.'

'The Youth Coalition is pleased at the allocation of funding to MYS. However, we are disappointed with the level of funding, which is only \$25,000 per year over four years.'

The ACT Government has stated that all migrants should be able to gain access to targeted essential services and programs; and committed to providing the full range of essential settlement services, such as housing, transport, education, work experience programs, counselling and orientation assistance for newly arrived migrants.

'MYS is a specialised organisation with a high degree of skill and knowledge in working with multicultural young people.'

'In addition to multicultural young people and their families relying on services such as MYS, other mainstream and multicultural services rely on being able to work with and refer to a service with specialised expertise.'

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