



MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

No 3

5 May 2010

Beyond the Revolving Door

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, is concerned about lack of investment in services and supports for young people who are transitioning from Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

We commend the ACT Government in allocating \$7.1million (over four years) to ensure that appropriate supports are provided whilst incarcerated. In particular we highlight the ACT Government's commitment to ensuring compliance with the human rights framework. However, we believe that this will only go some way in addressing the significant challenges facing young people returning to the community from detention, and ultimately, in reducing their future criminality.

'Research tells us that unless programs are put in place to help young people transition from detention, positive outcomes are not sustainable', said Director Emma Robertson.

'Young people often revolve through the doors at Bimberi because the level of support that they require to reconnect to their communities, to re engage with schools and to continue with their alcohol and other drug treatments fall away once they are released. We would argue that every dollar spent on young people in detention needs to be matched on their release.'

The Youth Coalition continues to be concerned about the number of young people incarcerated at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and calls on the ACT Government to invest in evidence based diversionary programs.

'In addition to increasing the staffing and building and maintenance costs at Bimberi we would call on the ACT government to recognise the value of programs to keep our young people out of the system. Once in detention young people are more likely to reoffend and have a long list of negative outcomes.'

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