



MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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Funding for Young People with Disabilities

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, commends the ACT Government for providing funding for a number of initiatives to support young people with disabilities in the ACT, including:

- Funding the Home and Community Care Program an additional \$2.2 million, which will include supports for young people with disabilities to be more independent and to prevent their early or inappropriate admission to long term residential care;
- 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 \$70,000 to Warehouse Circus Community Program, which offers training and performance opportunities to young people with disabilities; and
- Feasibility study of options for the replacement of four centre-based respite houses for people with a disability, incorporating best practice approaches for the provision of respite services for children, young people and adults.

'Young people with disability make up 10% of the ACT's population aged between 12 and 25 years old,' said Director Emma Robertson. 'The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Government has recognised young people in the ACT with disabilities as a priority.'

'It's very important that these initiatives are aligned with the ACT Government's *Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014 – the next ACT Government Disability Policy Framework*, and that supports for young people with disabilities remain on the agenda.'

'We will be particularly keen to see the ACT Government's response to the Legislative Assembly's *Inquiry into the Needs of Students With A Disability*.'

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