

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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Earn or Learn

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, is working closely with The Department of Education and Training around the new legislation changes concerning educational attainment, which require a young person to be engaged with employment, education or training until they are 17 years old, or complete Year 12.

'We welcome DET's commitment to engagement with the community youth sector regarding these major new changes,' said Director Emma Robertson.

The ACT Budget 2010/11 outlines an investment of \$1.1 million dollars over four years to support the implementation funding provided by the Australian Government for the ACT Youth Commitment and Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership.

Funding for support for young people with disability in education, a new teacher quality institute for pre teacher accreditation, and funding for the newly constructed schools in Harrison, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin, were amongst other initiatives announced.

'We will be interested to find out more details about the productivity places program, which aims to reduce shortages in the workforce by offering more training places, and how the department will engage young people regarding this initiative.'

'It is clear that the ACT Government has committed to increase our retention rates, which are already higher than the national average, in a comprehensive manner, however we have some concerns about how this will be achieved.'

In light of the recent legislative changes, we call for clear support from the ACT Government to the alternative education providers, who can reasonably expect to be working with greater numbers of young people. Unfortunately, despite recognition of the need for greater options for young people to continue study or engage in training for the work force, this has not translated in financial terms.'

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