MEDIA RELEASE
Youth Coalition 2010/11 Budget Analysis

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More Support for Young People in Out of Home Care

The Youth Coalition is pleased with the ACT Government's further increase in support of young people in Out Of Home Care in 2010/11 ACT Budget.

Children and young people in care are a diverse group who share a common experience of not being able to live with their parents and are cared for by someone else. Many have experienced a number of placements and disruptions to their connections with family, friends, school, community and culture.

The key issues faced by young people in care remain to be relocation, continuity of care, the disruption of key connections, poorer educational outcomes, and poorer physical and mental health.

The CREATE Foundation highlights the key improvements needed, including:
- Early commencement of transition planning (at 15 years);
- Continuity of support until the young person reaches 25;
- Better integration between Departments to support young people;
- Planning in collaboration with young people and carers (youth participation);
- High representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in care; and;
- Acquisition of life skills.

Every young person in care has a right to be safe, actively participate in decisions that affect their lives, and to be fully supported in the care system and through their transition from Out Of Home Care.

'The ACT Government funds a range of non-government agencies to provide support to young people who have been in Care or are planning to leave Care in the future. However the Youth Coalition calls on the ACT Government to guarantee that no young people will exit Care into homelessness,' said Director Emma Robertson.

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