



# **ACT Budget: Some Gains, But Do They Balance Savings?**

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2013 / 14

Part 2 of 2

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works

June 2013

[www.youthcoalition.net](http://www.youthcoalition.net)

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors.

We acknowledge that the effect of forced removal of Indigenous children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that the Indigenous people hold distinctive rights as the original people of modern day Australia including the right to a distinct status and culture, self-determination and land. The Youth Coalition of the ACT celebrates Ngunnawal culture and the invaluable contribution it makes to our community

The Youth Coalition of the ACT (Youth Coalition) is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests of people aged between 12 and 25 years of age and those who work with them. The Youth Coalition works to actively promote the well being and aspirations of young people in the ACT with particular respect to their political, cultural, economic and social development. The Youth Coalition is represented on many ACT advisory structures and provides advice to the ACT Government on a range of issues related to young people and youth services. For more information phone the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 or email [info@youthcoalition.net](mailto:info@youthcoalition.net)

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June 2013

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Thank you to the Youth Coalition staff team for their support. The Youth Coalition would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support and input of the ACT Peaks network, in particular our partnership work with Families ACT, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, and the ACT Council of Social Services.

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## Budget Analysis Overview

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, acknowledges the challenges faced by the ACT Government in developing the ACT Budget 2013 / 14, and welcomes the announcement of funding for some key initiatives.

While the promising spending initiatives are welcomed, much of the detail is still to come. It is essential the ACT Government develop services in an informed way, utilising the evidence about what is needed and what works in providing key supports to young members of our community. The Youth Coalition calls on the ACT Government to include the views of young people and frontline community service workers in identifying the best ways in which these resources can be utilised moving forward.

The ACT Budget 2013 / 14 contains a number of promising gains for young people, in particular that the ACT Government's election commitment to additional funding for youth engagement services has been realised. The Budget also recognises the ACT sign on to the National Plan for School Improvement (Gonski reforms), increases funding for community based mental health services, and invests in the establishment of a Trauma Recovery and Research Centre.

The Youth Coalition highlights concern however that the new initiatives, when viewed in the context of savings (cuts to services), indicate that the ACT Government is still far from approaching the provision of services and supports for young people and their families in a 'whole of government' planned way.

The Youth Coalition's 2013 /14 ACT Budget Analysis provides a summary of and comment on the initiatives that will have most impact on young people and youth services in the ACT community.

Consideration of the 2012 election commitments and the commitments under the ACT Greens / ACT Labor Parliamentary Agreement (the Parliamentary Agreement) has been included in providing comment and analysis of the Budget.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT's ACT Budget 2013 / 14 Analysis is divided into two parts:

Part 1: Overview and Media Releases

Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works (this document)

Each part can be downloaded from [www.youthcoalition.net](http://www.youthcoalition.net) or accessed in hardcopy by calling (02) 6247 3540.

Below is an analysis of the ACT Budget 2013 / 14 Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works, as outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 for the following Directorates:

- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Chief Ministry and Treasury Directorate
- Community Services Directorate
- Economic Development Directorate
- Education and Training Directorate
- Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
- Health Directorate
- Housing ACT
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

## Canberra Institute of Technology

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Canberra Institute of Technology are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Improved VET Provision in South Canberra (Feasibility Study)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
144	This initiative will support activities to promote Canberra as Australia's study destination of choice for local, national and international students. It aims to increase the capacity of ACT tertiary education for research and innovation and to promote the contribution of education to the ACT economy.	2013 / 14	\$180,000	It is important that education is available and accessible across regions. A feasibility study should include consulting on the needs of young people who will be targeted, along with transport and accommodation availability in potential locations for the institution.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Canberra Institute of Technology are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Study Canberra

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
144	This initiative will support activities to promote Canberra as Australia's study destination of choice for local, national and international students. It aims to increase the capacity of ACT tertiary education for research and innovation and to promote the contribution of education to the ACT economy.	2013 / 14	\$2,005,000	The Youth Coalition recognises the importance of the education industry to the ACT. It is important that there is affordable, safe and accessible accommodation available to students coming to study in Canberra.
		2014 / 15	\$1,618,000	
		2015 / 16	\$1,164,000	
		2016 / 17	\$504,000	

## Community Services Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Community Services Directorate are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Intervention Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
161	This initiative establishes a Trauma Recovery and Research Centre that will provide a best practice service aimed at facilitating healing and recovery, therapeutic intervention and improving positive life outcomes for children and young people who have experienced abuse, neglect and other trauma.	2013 / 14	\$297,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative. Our understanding is this will provide 4-5 FTE specialist psychologists and child psychologists working to address the after effects of early childhood trauma.</p> <p>Therapeutic services are an essential component of a service system that seeks to address the support needs of vulnerable young people and their families. The risk factors which contribute to increased vulnerability and require a therapeutic response include family breakdown, intergenerational trauma, sexual abuse, family violence, neglect, family drug and alcohol use, and a history of failure of support systems.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$790,000	
		2015 / 16	\$874,000	
		2016 / 17	\$896,000	
		Capital Associated	\$200,000	

## Youth Engagement and Family Support for Youth

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
162	This initiative will augment current services that support young people who seek assistance in transitioning from care, and expand youth engagement and family support for youth services by providing additional frontline service supports including youth centre activity, outreach and youth engagement. This will also increase services and supports for targeted at-risk groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, culturally and linguistically diverse families such as new migrants and refugees, and – through Diversity ACT – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex young people and their families. As part of this initiative Diversity ACT will receive \$120,000 per annum in recurrent costs. There is also one off funding of \$70,000 in 2013-14 to construct additional facilities for Diversity ACT.	2013 / 14	\$1,130,000	First year breakdown of funding: \$898,000 - CYFSP \$112,000 - Community Based Transition Worker \$120,000 - Diversity ACT (+\$70,000 Capital - Diversity ACT)
		2014 / 15	\$1,230,000	
		2015 / 16	\$1,279,000	
		2016 / 17	\$1,293,000	
		Capital Associated	\$70,000	<p><i>CYFSP</i> The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Government's election commitment to additional funding for youth engagement services has been realised. It is essential to see this money bolster existing services, which have seen a reduction in funding over the past 18 months. The Directorate is encouraged to use the Youth Engagement Research Paper (soon to be released by the Youth Coalition and FACT) to inform the expenditure of these funds.</p> <p><i>Community Based Transition Worker</i> The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative which partially meets the Parliamentary Agreement to fund a community based service for young people transitioning from care. The Youth Coalition is keen to hear detail on how his initiative will complement the work of the current transition team within Care and Protection Services.</p> <p><i>Diversity ACT</i> The Youth Coalition welcomes initiatives providing additional support to LGBTI communities. The Youth Coalition is concerned at the inclusion of this funding here, rather than in a separate initiative, as our understanding is this funding to Diversity ACT is not youth specific, but rather to work with the broader LGBTI community, which includes young people.</p>

## Micro-credit Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
162	This initiative will establish a micro-credit program and advice and support service for eligible people from a range of target groups including migrants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people and women. The program will provide interest and fee-free loans to eligible low income earners who wish to establish or expand a small business activity.	2013 / 14	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the inclusion of young people as a key target group of this initiative.
		2014 / 15	\$103,000	
		2015 / 16	\$105,000	
		2016 / 17	\$108,000	

## Community Helping Aboriginal Australians to Negotiate Choices Leading to Employment and Success (CHANCES)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
162	This initiative will continue the CHANCES pilot program established in 2012. CHANCES provides nationally accredited training to members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, particularly those who are deemed to be at risk of homelessness, re-offending or facing long term unemployment.	2013 / 14	\$220,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the continuation of funding to this initiative, which provides accredited job-ready training to members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.  Employment, be it part-time, casual or full-time, is a major issue for young people and affects many aspects of their lives. The Youth Coalition supports the provision of training as collaboration between various stakeholders, including the ACT Indigenous Elected Body.
		2014 / 15	\$220,000	
		2015 / 16	\$220,000	
		2016 / 17	\$220,000	



## Indigenous Scholarship Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
162	This initiative will support members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who wish to study or train to gain qualifications. Support can include transport, childcare, materials, equipment, meals allowance, textbooks and other learning aids.	2013 / 14	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative. The Directorate is encouraged to consult with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and elected body around the implementation of this program.
		2014 / 15	\$100,000	
		2015 / 16	\$100,000	
		2016 / 17	\$100,000	

## Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme (CAYPELS)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
163	This initiative will provide funding for the operational costs required for the CAYPELS, such as repairs, maintenance and replacement of equipment.	2013 / 14	\$104,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this one-off funding to support the Therapy ACT therapeutic aids and equipment program for children and young people. This initiative provides for equipment upgrades and replacement to ensure the continuation of this vital program.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Fourth Unit at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
163	This initiative provides funding to continue the fourth unit at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. This unit provides intensive and targeted programs to young people to assist with moving from custody to the community while in detention at the Centre. The programs have had positive impacts on transition outcomes for young people leaving custody and on improved safety and security impacts across the whole Centre.	2013 / 14	\$973,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this throughcare initiative as a positive continuation of last year's investment in the Bendora Transition Unit at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. Our understanding is this has been promising transitional program with good outcomes in its first year.  While this initiative is welcome the Youth Coalition is concerned there are no additional initiatives outlined to implement the ACT Blueprint for Youth Justice.
		2014 / 15	\$989,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Out of Home Care Strategy

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
163	This initiative will develop a strategy and operational framework that will reform the delivery of out of home care services in the ACT. The objectives of the strategy will be to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care.	2013 / 14	\$200,000	This initiative is a one-year allocation to develop an out of home care strategy. It is essential the Directorate meaningfully engage with the community sector, young people, families and the broader community in the development of this strategy.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Children and Young People Death Review Committee

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
163	This initiative will continue the activities of the Children and Young People Death Review Committee for a further two years. The Committee has responsibility for establishing a Register of deaths of children and young people in accordance with the Children and Young People Act 2008, identifying patterns and trends in relation to the deaths of children and young people and identifying information that may be used to avoid preventable deaths in the future.	2013 / 14	\$218,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative and notes the funding is only for a two-year period.
		2014 / 15	\$221,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### DisabilityCare – Additional Support for Post-school Options

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
163	This initiative will provide drop-in support services for people with a core profound disability in the ACT. MACES supports the use of environmental aids and equipment by providing personal assistance when required outside normal business hours. This initiative will enable persons with a disability to live more independently and reduce the impact of their personal care needs on their families.	2013 / 14	\$245,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative to support young people with a disability. The Youth Coalition believes all possible efforts should be made to ensure young people with disabilities are afforded adequate support and equitable access to programs, services and opportunities that allow them to have a 'full and decent life'.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Community Language School (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
164	This initiative provides additional support for the Community Language School enabling the provision of more training for language other than English teachers and trainers; community consultation on the implementation of the ACT Language Policy; benchmarking of completion and graduation figures for language courses; and an audit of student numbers and community language gaps.	2013 / 14	\$25,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, which can assist young people in maintaining cultural links.
		2014 / 15	\$26,000	
		2015 / 16	\$26,000	
		2016 / 17	\$27,000	

### Interpreter Scholarships (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
164	This initiative will provide 10 scholarships for members of emerging community groups to train as Interpreters and Translators through the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.	2013 / 14	\$12,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative, which was part of the Parliamentary Agreement.
		2014 / 15	\$12,000	
		2015 / 16	\$12,000	The Youth Coalition notes the use of qualified interpreters is best practice in supporting people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds. There can be significant cost associated for organisations in engaging the services of interpreters. The Government is urged to allocate further funding in future years to support organisations to engage interpreters.
		2016 / 17	\$12,000	

## Children and Young People System Upgrade

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
214	This project will scope and implement enhancements and upgrades to the Children and Young People System. In addition, a scoping study will be undertaken into a longer-term replacement system for the Children and Young People System.	2013 / 14	\$200,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative.
		2014 / 15	\$50,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### General Comments:

The Youth Coalition welcomes the range of initiatives in the budget supporting vulnerable young people. It is noted this expenditure is coupled with a number of savings that have been made in expenditure over the coming financial year, including cuts to some programs previously supporting vulnerable young people.

#### *Therapeutic services*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for further investment in therapeutic services. While the Trauma Recovery and Research Centre is most welcome, the Youth Coalition notes this investment is in one service and we believe there still needs to be a range of other complementary community based therapeutic services.

Therapeutic services are an essential component of a service system that seeks to address the support needs of vulnerable young people and their families. The risk factors which contribute to increased vulnerability and require a therapeutic response include; family breakdown, intergenerational trauma, sexual abuse, family violence, neglect, family drug and alcohol use, and a history of failure of support systems.

#### *Respectful relationships*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for on-going investment in the delivery and evaluation of respectful relationships programs for young people in schools and other settings. Stakeholders identified this critical area of early intervention and prevention during consultation as a key strategy to eliminate violence against women in the ACT community. This remains an outstanding issue.

#### *Youth Justice*

While the fourth unit at Bimberi is welcome, the Youth Coalition is concerned there are no additional initiatives outlined to implement the ACT Blueprint for Youth Justice. It is noted some funds have been rolled over from the previous year. (*See also comments on Justice Reinvestment under JACS*)

## Economic Development Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Economic Development Directorate outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### University of Canberra Sports Commons

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
	This initiative provides for a grant to the University of Canberra for the development of a Sports Hub at its Belconnen campus to support community-sporting organisations and to enhance student learning.	2013 / 14	\$1,000,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative.
		2014 / 15	\$1,500,000	
		2015 / 16	\$1,500,000	
		2016 / 17	\$1,000,000	

### Multicultural Sports Grants (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
	This initiative will provide grants for multicultural specific sporting programs and support the Global Cricket Challenge, a one-day event that aims to build relationships between different communities and provide a positive environment for multicultural young people to participate in healthy activities.	2013 / 14	\$25,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports this initiative. Multicultural specific sporting programs are an important way to integrate newly arrived and migrant young people and allow them to build community and connect with other young people.  Sport provides a number of physical and mental wellbeing benefits, which may be particularly beneficial for multicultural young people who are at increased risk of mental health issues and often experience barriers to accessing primary health services.
		2014 / 15	\$26,000	
		2015 / 16	\$26,000	
		2016 / 17	\$27,000	

## Woden Bus Interchange Redevelopment (Finalisation of Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
	<p>This project provides for the design of a new integrated and modern bus interchange at Woden which will improve public safety and public transport infrastructure and support urban redevelopment opportunities in Woden.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$2,000,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports this initiative. Access to affordable, safe and reliable public transport is essential to participate economically and a key socio-economic determinant of health and wellbeing for young people. Ensuring safety in public spaces is a particularly crucial given the important role public space plays in the lives of young people.</p> <p>The Youth Coalition urges the Directorate to consult with young people and community services during the finalisation of the design. The Youth Coalition looks forward to seeing how the final design of the Woden Bus Interchange addresses young people's requirements and provides youth friendly spaces.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$500,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Capital Works – Sports Investment

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the investment into a number of capital initiatives for sports facilities such as the Lyneham Sports Precinct – Central Amenities (Design); Greenway Oval Improvements, Netball Infrastructure Upgrades; Melrose Synthetic Football Facility; and the Narrabundah Velodrome Upgrade.</p>	2013 / 14	\$ various	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes these initiatives.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$ various	
		2015 / 16	\$ various	
		2016 / 17	\$ various	

## **General comments:**

### *Sport and Recreation*

Sport plays a prominent role in the lives of young people. The Youth Coalition's 'Rate Canberra' 2012 survey found sport was one of the top three organised activities participated in by young people. It remains an important way young people can engage with and contribute to their community. In addition to community engagement, physical recreation carries a number of health benefits including reducing obesity, high blood pressure and Type 2 Diabetes and improving mental wellbeing. However, young people's participation in sport and recreational activities often depends on their ability to access affordable facilities and programs. In addition to affordability, access issues include; availability of services and facilities, transport, and public space. Therefore the Youth Coalition supports initiatives that invest in sporting facilities to ensure their safety, quality and accessibility.

### *Public Space*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for the ACT Government to realise its commitment to becoming a 'Child and Youth Friendly City', include the provision of public space and transport options which meet the needs of young people in all Canberra planning. This remains an outstanding issue. Further investment in public transport and city planning is required to realise the ACT Government's commitment.



## Education and Training Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Education and Training Directorate are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Secondary Bursary Scheme

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
158	This initiative increases the Secondary Bursary payment for eligible students from \$500 to \$750 per year. This initiative financially supports students from low socio-economic families reducing disadvantage in accessing education.	2013 / 14	\$77,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative targeting low socio-economic families. We are awaiting clarification about who can receive this bursary. While we are aware parents and carers can apply, the Youth Coalition would advocate this bursary also be available directly to young people who are experiencing homelessness or caring for themselves.
		2014 / 15	\$158,000	
		2015 / 16	\$162,000	
		2016 / 17	\$162,000	

### Special Needs Transport

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative supports the transport of students with disabilities ensuring access to ACT Public Schools.	2013 / 14	\$1,579,000	Transport is a significant issue for young people with disability and initiatives ensuring access to education are most welcome. We note with concern this initiative is only funded for one year.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## ACT Base Funding Adjustment – National Schools Reform

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative provides the ACT Government's contribution to the Gonski reforms.	2013 / 14	\$0	The Youth Coalition supports the provision of funding for the Gonski reforms. Excellent education is one of the most significant investments that can be made in maximising happiness, health, civic cohesion and political participation. The Youth Coalition looks forward to working with the Education and Training Directorate as the details of the implementation are developed.
		2014 / 15	\$930,000	
		2015 / 16	\$11,799,000	
		2016 / 17	\$17,568,000	

## Savings Reinvestment to Transition to Gonski

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative assists transition arrangements of the Gonski reforms through a partial reinvestment of prior year saving targets.	2013 / 14	\$4,325,000	The Youth Coalition supports the provision of significant funding for transitioning to Gonski. The Youth Coalition looks forward to working with the Education and Training Directorate in this transition process.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Support for Students with Disabilities (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative provides additional support for students with complex learning needs in ACT public schools.	2013 / 14	\$1,250,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative. Our understanding is, for the purpose of this initiative, those with 'complex learning needs' are those students who have a disability including students with learning difficulties and/or developmental delay.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Scholarship Program (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative expands the existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers' scholarships for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students who wish to pursue a career in health.	2013 / 14	\$25,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative. The Directorate is encouraged to consult with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and elected body around the implementation of this program.
		2014 / 15	\$25,000	
		2015 / 16	\$25,000	
		2016 / 17	\$25,000	

### Investing in Our Teachers (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
159	This initiative provides support to experienced teachers to increase their professional qualifications and undertake research during their careers.	2013 / 14	\$500,000	The Youth Coalition supports the investment in teachers that this initiative provides. The Youth Coalition notes that the provision is for 'experienced teachers'. This begins to address the Youth Coalition's recommendation to increase funding for the provision of professional development for teachers. The Youth Coalition encourages the Education and Training Directorate allocate future investment to a broader section of teaching staff. The Youth Coalition is pleased to see funding for teachers to conduct research with a view that such research will help to provide an evidence base for their work.
		2014 / 15	\$1,000,000	
		2015 / 16	\$1,000,000	
		2016 / 17	\$1,000,000	

### Supporting Non Government Schools Students (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
160	This initiative provides funding to non-government schools to better support student needs in the following areas: students with disabilities; students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background; students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and students with a low level of English language proficiency. This initiative is funded through utilising unallocated funds from the Interest Subsidy Scheme.	2013 / 14	\$2,701,000	Our understanding is that this will predominantly go to schools that do not meet the national benchmark of spending per student. This funding will be targeted at bringing these schools up to the national standard.
		2014 / 15	\$2,768,000	
		2015 / 16	\$2,836,000	
		2016 / 17	\$2,906,000	

### Supporting Non Government Schools ICT (Agency Funded Initiative)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
160	This initiative provides additional funding to support non-government school students' access to high quality ICT infrastructure that meets their need now and into the future. This initiative is funded through utilising unallocated funds from the Interest Subsidy Scheme.	2013 / 14	\$625,000	The Youth Coalition supports the provision of funding for ICT in all Canberra schools. The Youth Coalition encourages the Directorate and schools to ensure students experiencing disadvantage are particularly supported to ensure they have access to ICT.
		2014 / 15	\$625,000	
		2015 / 16	\$625,000	
		2016 / 17	\$625,000	

### Canberra College Cares – New Building at Phillip Campus

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
211	This project will construct a new purpose-built facility for the Canberra College Cares (CC Cares) program at the Canberra College Woden campus. The new facility will provide learning spaces and facilities to support young pregnant and parenting students and their children.  <i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i>	2013 / 14	\$5,000,000	The Youth Coalition supports the Canberra College Cares program and the work it does with young people who want to engage with education while being a parent. It is important that capital works are used in this way to assist successful programs in providing their services.
		2014 / 15	\$9,000,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## School Infrastructure for the Future

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
211	This project provides for repairs, maintenance and upgrades to ACT public schools, addressing ageing building fabric and changes to education services delivery. <i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i>	2013 / 14	\$3,345,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Tuggeranong Introductory English Centre

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
211	This project provides for the establishment of a new introductory English centre at the Wanniasa Hills Primary School. The new facility will give students with limited or no English speaking background, who have recently arrived in Australia and Canberra, the opportunity for intensive language tuition before settling into a mainstream school in the Tuggeranong school network. <i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i>	2013 / 14	\$800,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the establishment of an Introductory English Centre in Tuggeranong we note this initiative targets primary school students.
		2014 / 15	\$1,000,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Sustaining Smart Schools

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
212	<p>This project provides funding to maintain a modern and reliable schools ICT network. The project will enable the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure as well as the refresh of hardware including computers, interactive whiteboards and wireless access points.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14 2014 / 15 2015 / 16 2017 / 18	\$7,100,000 \$1,500,000 \$1,500,000 \$0	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the provision of ICT infrastructure across the ACT Education System. The Youth Coalition encourages the Directorate and schools to particularly support young people experiencing disadvantage to ensure they have access to ICT.</p>

### General Comments:

#### *Investment in Education and Gonski*

The Youth Coalition recognises that Education is a major investment of the ACT Government each year. This investment is important, as low education attainment rates have been linked to many negative outcomes, from mental health issues to cardiovascular disease.<sup>1</sup> The Youth Coalition supports the provision of funding to the Gonski reforms with a view that it will boost educational attainment rates by targeting extra funding for those students most in need of support. The full implementation of Gonski is expected to provide particular funding for students with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, low Socioeconomic Status (SES) students and students with English as a Second Language. The Youth Coalition expects that the full implementation of Gonski reforms will include provision for the items of recommendation 6 in the Youth Coalition's 2013/2014 ACT Budget Submission, specifically a two-tiered model of funding; and, funding for schools to address disadvantage.

#### *Integrated preventative and frontline health provision in schools*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for increased support for preventative and frontline health, mental health and social support programs in schools such as the work undertaken by: school nurses; school based youth workers; and, pastoral care teams. This remains an outstanding issue. Schools are recognised as a first to know agency regarding many aspects of young people's lives. The co-location of services such as health professionals, youth workers, social workers and psychologists within schools has the potential for more efficient and effective service delivery. Further, provision of these services within schools makes them more accessible for young people and their families. In order to be supportive of the general health needs of young people, teaching staff require ongoing professional development to identify and respond to issues that may arise.

*Programs targeting support and improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for the ACT Government to provide resources for existing and new successful programs targeting support and improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. This remains an outstanding issue. The Youth Coalition is concerned that there remains a significant gap in retention rates and educational attainment between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the rest of the population. Those who are less engaged in education have costly outcomes for their health, employment and housing prospects. These issues are closely interlinked and such links suggest that investment in any of the associated areas means better outcomes in the other. The Youth Coalition notes that there were no specific new funding initiatives for closing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students from the rest of the population in the 2013/2014 ACT Budget.

*Respectful Relationships Program*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for on-going investment in the delivery and evaluation of respectful relationships programs for young people in schools and other settings. Stakeholders identified this critical area of early intervention and prevention during consultation as a key strategy to eliminate violence against women in the ACT community. This remains an outstanding issue

*Transitional Supports and Education Pathways for Multicultural Young People in the ACT*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for the ACT Government to improve transitional supports and education pathways for multicultural young people in the ACT, including newly arrived or refugee young people who are too young or too old to access current programs. While there has been funding for a new Introductory English Centre in Tuggeranong this initiative is for primary school students. The Youth Coalition identified that there are particular issues for those who are newly arrived or from a refugee background who may have experienced limited formal schooling, or gaps in their education. Services that work with young people from CALD backgrounds have highlighted the need to provide additional resources to English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. These services report that young people who are under the age of 16, and who are not eligible to participate in the Dickson College Program, often experience a range of challenges in maintaining attendance at school. Further, young people are in particular need of additional support when making transitions between schools, including from intensive English centres to mainstream high schools. If not supported during these transitions, students risk become disengaged from education before they reach the age that they could access support.



## Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

### ACT Light Rail Master Plan (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
191	<p>This project is for a master planning process which will investigate and identify issues for a future Canberra-wide light rail and assess its feasibility. The project will also guide strategic transport and land use planning associated with any future expansion of light rail and identify network issues.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$400,000	<p>Public transport is often a young person's primary means of transportation. ACT public transport services need to be affordable, safe and timely in order to facilitate young people's participation in their community through employment, education, recreation and social activities.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$1,000,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Greenfields Planning for Affordable Housing (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
191	<p>This project will allow for continued planning and infrastructure investigations in greenfields areas to support Government priorities, land supply and land release related to the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$200,000	<p>The Youth Coalition recognises the importance of increasing affordable housing options for young people in the ACT.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$150,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## **General Comments:**

### *Transport*

Young people frequently identify limited transport accessibility in the ACT as a barrier to employment, education, and recreational activities, in addition to the lack of affordable housing options in the Territory.

Additionally, the Youth Coalition advocates for the immediate investment in affordable, safe and reliable public transport to allow young people maximum access to employment and education.

### *Affordable Housing*

While this budget outlines some measures to address housing affordability in Canberra, the Youth Coalition argues that more work needs to be done by the ACT Government to provide immediate affordable housing options that allow young people to rent privately. In coming years, we urge Government to allocate more funding for affordable housing initiatives for young people.

## Health Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Health Directorate are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Establish an Outpatient Service for Drug and Alcohol Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
145	This initiative will enable the establishment of a new outpatient service within the Canberra Hospital and Health Services for drug and alcohol services.	2013 / 14	\$180,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes the establishment of an Outpatient Service for Drug and Alcohol Services within the Canberra Hospital. Problematic alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use have a significant impact on young people's physical and mental health, social development, educational achievement and contact with the criminal justice system.</p> <p>We strongly support the provision of holistic, evidence based and evaluated ATOD treatment services, and call for services that are accessible and responsive to the particular needs of young people. The unique social, physiological and developmental stages of young people need to be considered in treatment approaches. Involving young people in design, planning and evaluating this new service will be vital to its success in meeting the specific needs of young people.</p> <p>We seek clarification on how this Outpatient Service will respond to comorbidity of ATOD use and mental health problems. Young people are at high risk of poor treatment outcomes as a result of comorbidity. We call for this outpatient treatment service to take a flexible and collaborative approach, reflecting the complexities of comorbid presentations.</p> <p>It appears that no funding has been allocated to non-government providers of ATOD treatment services. We call on the ACT Government to collaborate with the sector to identify how best to utilise limited funding.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$184,000	
		2015 / 16	\$188,000	
		2016 / 17	\$192,000	

## Enhancement of Services for Women, Youth and Children

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
146	This initiative will enhance the level of health services provided for women, youth and children through additional community based care, expansion of outpatient services and improved transfer of care between the Emergency Department and paediatric inpatient services at the Canberra Hospital.	2013 / 14	\$781,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes improved provision of community, outpatient and hospital health services for young people. Young people can experience particular barriers to accessing health care, including cost, discrimination, long waiting times, opening times, and limited 'youth-friendly' practitioners.
		2014 / 15	\$797,000	
		2015 / 16	\$814,000	
		2016 / 17	\$831,000	

## Growth in Community Mental Health Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
146	This initiative will expand community mental health services to provide short term psychosocial support to people with a mental illness upon exiting the Alexander Maconochie Centre; antenatal and postnatal mental health support; suicide research; return to work support and expansion of the forensic mental health service.	2013 / 14	\$1,000,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes injection of resources into community mental health services. We encourage allocation of funds to services directly supporting young people. One in four young people experience a mental health issue in any given year. Existing services can only provide support to a fraction of these young people. Growth in Community Mental Health Services may go some way to meeting this demand.  Young people report cost and appointment limits as significant barriers to seeking help with mental health problems. The Youth Coalition supports the provision of mental health services that are affordable and accessible for young people, and that respond early in the life of mental health problem and of a young person. The Youth Coalition calls for work to ensure Community Mental Health Services are well equipped to meet young people's specific needs.
		2014 / 15	\$1,021,000	
		2015 / 16	\$1,042,000	
		2016 / 17	\$1,064,000	

## Enhanced Belconnen Health Centre and Walk-in Centre

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
146	This initiative will expand services provided from the new Belconnen Health Centre to include high quality health services, including a walk-in centre, breast screening, aged care and rehabilitation services, a pathology collection service and community mental health services.	2013 / 14	\$1,650,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes the expansion of affordable, accessible and coordinated primary health care provision and the co-location of a range of health services, including community mental health. These initiatives have the potential to improve young people's access to 'youth friendly' health care.</p> <p>Cost is a significant barrier to young people accessing primary health care. Therefore, we strongly support provision of free health care through Walk-in Centres. Further, the development of Walk-in Centres may improve accessibility for young people if they have flexible booking arrangements and extended opening hours.</p> <p>It is vital young people, including vulnerable young people, receive access to appropriate and affordable health services to meet their unique needs. The Youth Coalition calls for training and support for frontline healthcare workers such as GP's and psychologists to target their services to young people and provide more youth-friendly practice within these services.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$2,391,000	
		2015 / 16	\$2,441,000	
		2016 / 17	\$2,492,000	

### Belconnen and Tuggeranong Walk-in Centres

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
197	This project provides the design and construction (fit-out) of new Walk-in Centres at the Tuggeranong Health Centre and the Belconnen Health Centre. <i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i>	2013 / 14	\$951,000	See comments above.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Smoking Cessation Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
197	This initiative will enable continued implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy.	2013 / 14	\$200,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports allocation of resources to implement the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy. The Youth Coalition encourages further allocation of funding to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.
		2014 / 15	\$204,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Mobile Dental Clinic

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
197	<p>This initiative is to provide a bulk equipped van that enables dental services to be brought to community members who are unable to travel to the centralised dental clinics.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$600,000	<p>Young people in the ACT have called for greater access to dentists. The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, as it may improve young people's access to affordable dental care, particularly for vulnerable young people with limited transport options.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

### General Comments:

#### *Training for healthcare workers*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for the ACT Government to allocate funding to support greater training and support for frontline healthcare workers such as GP's and psychologists to target their services to young people and provide more youth-friendly practice within these services. This remains an outstanding issue. The Youth Coalition encourages such training and professional development to be included in all health initiatives.

#### *Early intervention, outreach and therapeutic mental health services*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget called for an increase in investment in early intervention, outreach and therapeutic mental health services for young people and their families. The Youth Coalition welcomes growth in Community Mental Health Services, and the inclusion of mental health services in the Belconnen Health Centre. We encourage work to ensure these services are fully equipped to respond to young people's particular circumstances and needs, and the needs of their families. The Youth Coalition strongly supports early intervention services as such programs have been shown to be effective and efficient in improving outcomes for young people and preventing costly and disruptive interventions such as hospitalisations.

### *Mental Health Education*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for an increase in mental health education provision targeting young people in schools and other locations, families, and teachers. This remains an outstanding issue. Friends, family and teachers are often at the frontline of supporting young people experiencing mental health issues. Young people identify friends, family and the Internet as the top three places they go to for information and support regarding mental health and wellbeing. This suggests mental health education, such as Mental Health First Aid training or Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT) programs, need to be provided to these groups to help identify issues in the early stages and provide information about available services and supports. The Youth Coalition believes mental health education promotes quality help seeking behaviour.

### *Sobering Up Shelter*

Finally, the Youth Coalition's budget submission called for support to establish a Sobering Up Shelter Trial for young people aged 16 and 17 years. This remains an outstanding issue. The Youth Coalition understands this trial is likely to be undertaken by CatholicCare within their existing budget. However, given the prevalence of alcohol use and associated harms amongst this age group, this project may require additional funding in the future. While ACT Policing currently have the option to transport intoxicated people over the age of 18 years to a sobering up facility, this is not available as a response for young people under the age of 18. As such, intoxicated young people may experience inappropriate responses, such as being detained in the Regional Watch House, and engagement with the criminal justice system



## Housing ACT

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under Housing ACT are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness Extension

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
165	This initiative builds on the homelessness and supported accommodation programs funded under the 2009-2013 <i>National Partnership Agreement</i> on Homelessness. It will continue funding for a further year, the programs and initiatives to provide supported accommodation, outreach support and assistance to sustain tenancies for low income and vulnerable families.	2013 / 14	\$580,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes this commitment to the NPA for a further 12 months.</p> <p>The NPA funds services such as: Our Place which provides supported accommodation for young people who are either studying or employed; and First Point, the central intake service for homelessness.</p> <p>As the NPA has no commitment from Commonwealth or Territory Governments beyond the upcoming financial year, the Youth Coalition urges the ACT Government to make a plan for services funded through NPA so vital services are not lost in coming years.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Housing and Homelessness Advocacy and Policy Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
165	This initiative provides funding for two years towards an enhanced capacity for strategic advice and advocacy on housing and homelessness policy issues which affect people on low incomes.	2013 / 14	\$80,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, however we acknowledge the amount is only for a two year period and is half the amount outlined in the Parliamentary Agreement.  The Youth Coalition also acknowledges previous investment of funding in this area has recently been cut through the current reform of homelessness services.
		2014 / 15	\$82,000	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Common Ground Supportive Housing

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
215	This project provides funding to construct a Common Ground supportive housing complex, providing a model of housing targeting singles and couples, without children, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This initiative offers affordable housing combined with on-site and assertive support to address the issues and causes of the individual's homelessness.  <i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i>	2013 / 14	\$7,000,000	This capital works investment follows last year's feasibility study.  The Youth Coalition welcomes new initiatives and investment seeking to address housing and homelessness.  While young people are not excluded from common ground the Youth Coalition acknowledges this is not a specifically youth focussed initiative. There is not clear evidence from other jurisdictions where common ground is in place that it is the most effective model for young people experiencing homelessness.
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## **General Comments:**

### *Housing affordability*

The private rental market in the ACT is amongst the highest in Australia. Many young people report difficulty in gaining entry to private rental properties, due to cost, availability and discrimination.

The Youth Coalition recommends a 30% increase in rent assistance for young people on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance and a review of payments taking into account jurisdictional issues. The ACT Government is urged to lobby the Commonwealth Government on this issue and consider supplementary payments to ACT residents on CRA in severe housing stress.

While this budget outlines some measures to address housing affordability in Canberra (eg. changes to the land rent scheme and continuing reforms to stamp duty) the Youth Coalition argues more work needs to be done by the ACT Government in the area of housing affordability, and supporting young people to rent privately. In coming years the ACT Government is urged to allocate more funding to affordable housing initiatives for young people.

The Youth Coalition notes the Chief Minister and Treasury initiative promoting Canberra as a study destination of choice. It is essential students have a range of affordable housing options when they choose to study in Canberra.

### *Homelessness*

Homelessness services in the ACT are facing significant cuts over the next three years. The Youth Coalition welcomes the ACT Government's commitment to find resources to decrease projected shortfall in funding for homelessness support from \$5.9million to \$3.6million. This withdrawal of funding is of particular concern in an environment where there is already significant unmet need and increasing demand. As the youth homelessness sector has already undergone significant reform, the ACT Government is urged not to consider further funding cuts in this sector in coming years as services are already stretched and unable to meet demand. Significant gaps in the existing system have been identified such as a lack of services designed to work with young people experiencing high and complex needs. Many youth homelessness support services are also reporting that current funding does not adequately cover the cost of service delivery, thereby limiting capacity to deliver quality services and desired outcomes.

Additionally, the Youth Coalition also welcomes the Minister for Housing's recent announcement that the current reform process will include an evaluation in 2014. With any reform process it is essential an evaluation framework is built in to ensure the aims of the reform are being achieved, the full cost of service delivery has been granted, and to highlight any unforeseen service gaps which may have resulted from the reform.

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Justice and Community Safety Directorate are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Community Legal Centres Hub Accommodation

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
153	Community Legal Centres (CLCs) provide free legal services to disadvantaged groups within the ACT community. This initiative will assist in providing rental accommodation for a group of CLCs, the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre, the Women's Legal Centre and the Tenants Union.	2013 / 14	\$180,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, which was a priority in the Parliamentary Agreement. Continuing the ability to co-locate these centres will allow disadvantaged members of the ACT community to access a number of different services to address interconnected legal issues and will improve and expand the services available. The Youth Coalition seeks clarification on the location of the CLC's hub. It is essential that the Hub is located with access and transport options in mind to ensure accessibility for young people and vulnerable groups.
		2014 / 15	\$280,000	
		2015 / 16	\$290,000	
		2016 / 17	\$300,000	

## Official Visitor Scheme

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
154	The Official Visitor Scheme provides an essential scrutiny and reporting function in the Territory and currently operates in the 'closed' environments of youth and adult corrections and mental health. This initiative expands the appointment of official visitors to protect vulnerable people in 'open' environments, people with disability and those at risk of homelessness, and the appointment of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander official visitors.	2013 / 14	\$356,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the expansion of this scheme which plays an important role in protecting the rights of vulnerable people.  It is particularly pleasing to note the appointment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander official visitors given the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. However, the Youth Coalition notes that it is also important that female official visitors are appointed.
		2014 / 15	\$361,000	
		2015 / 16	\$366,000	
		2016 / 17	\$372,000	

## Alcohol Interlocks

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
155	This initiative will introduce mandatory alcohol interlocks for all ACT drivers that are convicted or found guilty of high range or repeated drink driving offences. This will aim to reduce drink driving in the ACT, particularly recidivist drink driving. This initiative will be offset by user charging arrangements.	2013 / 14	\$259,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the introduction of interlocks for all ACT drivers convicted or found guilty of high range or repeated drink-driving offences. The Youth Coalition believes that the introduction of interlocks in the ACT will work to reduce the prevalence of recidivist drink drivers.  It will be important to ensure that concessions apply regarding the cost of installing the interlocks for people on a low income to ensure access to the program.
		2014 / 15	\$353,000	
		2015 / 16	\$461,000	
		2016 / 17	\$469,000	

## **General comments:**

### *Justice Reinvestment*

The Youth Coalition is disappointed that there are no new initiatives that:

- Provide early intervention to prevent young people entering incarceration;
- Provide funding to pilot and evaluate Justice Reinvestment Models

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for Justice Reinvestment models to be explored, piloted and evaluated in the ACT with the aim to address underlying causes of offending and called for programs directed at preventing young people entering, and removing young people from, incarceration, in line with best practice. The Youth Coalition would encourage a greater focus on early intervention and prevention including the piloting of Justice Reinvestment models and the adoption of the key actions of the ACT Blueprint for Youth Justice. In addition, whilst the Youth Justice Blueprint is the responsibility of the Community Services Directorate, the Youth Coalition would urge JACS and CSD to work together to realise the key actions of the Blueprint.

### *Legal Education Programs*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for targeted funding for legal education programs directed at informing young people of their rights in order to empower them to prevent breaches. Legal Education empowers young people to protect their legal rights; advocate for themselves in regard to legal issues; avoid behaviours and actions that have been deemed criminal and avoid coming into contact with the legal system.

### *Human Rights*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for biannual reviews of Human Rights compliance at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. While the Youth Coalition acknowledges and welcomes the continuation and expansion of the Official Visitor Scheme, ongoing review and monitoring of human rights compliance provides valuable information about how the overall system could be improved and is vital in order to develop the most effective whole of government youth justice response.

### *Aboriginal Legal Services*

The Parliamentary Agreement included a promise of \$100, 000 for Aboriginal Legal Services. This investment was not made in the 2013 / 14 Budget. The Youth Coalition would support further investment into Aboriginal Legal Services, noting the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system.

## Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Expenditure Initiatives and Capital Works under the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Transport for Canberra – Public Transport Improvements

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
166	This initiative enables the continuation of the Centenary Bus Loop to the end of 2013. It also allows the qualifying age for the Seniors Gold Card to be reduced from 75 to 70 years and trialling of fare discounts, such as extended off-peak periods.	2013 / 14	\$835,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes the trialling of fare discounts including extended off peak periods. However, the Youth Coalition calls for further investment to improve and increase public transport services.</p> <p>Public transport is often a young person's primary means of transportation. ACT public transport services need to be affordable, safe and timely in order to facilitate young people's participation in their community through employment, education, recreation and social activities.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$150,000	
		2015 / 16	\$160,000	
		2016 / 17	\$160,000	

## Transport for Canberra – Bus Stop Upgrades to Disability Standards Stage 2

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
229	<p>This project continues the improvement of bus stops and shelters across the Territory to achieve compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 standards. It aims to assist people with a disability by making public transport infrastructure more accessible.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$2,000,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes the continued improvement of bus stop and shelters across the Territory to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act standards. Accessible transport is a significant issue for young people with a disability.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	

## Transport for Canberra – Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Stage 4 (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
229	<p>This project is for feasibility and forward design of walking and cycling infrastructure improvements across the Territory. The program supports the objectives of the <i>Transport for Canberra Plan</i> relating to modal shift and active travel methods.</p> <p><i>This is a Capital Works Initiative.</i></p>	2013 / 14	\$1,673,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative to improve cycling and walking infrastructure across the Territory. Young people often have less access to more expensive forms of transportation. Improving cycling and walking infrastructure will make these modes of transportation easier and safer for young people.</p>
		2014 / 15	\$0	
		2015 / 16	\$0	
		2016 / 17	\$0	



## **General Comments:**

### *Transport*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for the development for public transport networks that address the needs of young people, are accessible and affordable, and include adequate evening, late night and weekend services. This remains an outstanding issue. Access to affordable, safe and reliable public transport is essential to participate economically and a key socio-economic determinant of health and wellbeing for young people. While the Youth Coalition acknowledges budget initiatives such as the fare discounts and bus upgrades to meet disability standards, further investment in improving public transport is urgently required.

### *Planning*

The Youth Coalition's submission to the budget called for the ACT Government to realise its commitment to becoming a 'Child and Youth Friendly City'. This remains an outstanding issue. While, the Youth Coalition welcomes the continued investment into walking and cycling infrastructure, further investment in city planning is required to create a youth friendly city. Public space plays an important role in the lives of young people. The Youth Coalition seeks clarification on how the ACT Government plans to provide youth friendly spaces.

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<sup>i</sup> Marilyn A. Winkleby, PhD, Danus E. Jatulis, MS, Erica Frank, MD, MPH, and Stephen P. Fortmann, MD (1992) *Socioeconomic Status and Health: How Education, Income, and Occupation Contribute to Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease*, American Journal of Public Health, Vol 82, No 26, USA.