



# **ACT Budget: Step by Step**

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2011-2012

Part 2 of 3

Expenditure Initiatives

May 2011

[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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May 2011

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Thank you to the Youth Coalition team for their support.

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## **Expenditure Initiatives 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 2011-12 and welcomes the announcement of funding for some key initiatives.

However, the Youth Coalition is disappointed that overall the Budget has not addressed some of the biggest issues facing young people in the ACT community, such as affordable housing, mental health services, and engagement with education, training, and employment.

The ACT Budget 2011-12 contains a number of promising gains for young people, with a particular focus on out of home and kinship care, and investment in diversion from detention and engagement with the criminal justice system.

Some of the key initiatives that have been funded include:

### **Chief Minister's Directorate**

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- Community Engagement

### **Community Services Directorate**

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- Addressing Demand for Disability Services
- Supporting Youth Transitioning from Out of Home Care
- Enhanced Youth Justice Services
- Care and Protection Community Kinship Care Program
- Child Death Review Committee

### **Housing ACT**

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- Street to Home
- Antisocial Behaviour Response and Support

## **Health Directorate**

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- Expansion of the ACT Magistrate Courts Forensic Mental Health Court Liaison Team
- Mental Health Training

## **Justice and Community Safety Directorate**

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- Improved Access to Law and Justice Services and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

## **Education and Training Directorate**

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- Disability Education
- ACT Public Secondary Schools Innovation Fund

## **Economic Development Directorate**

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- Affordable Housing
- University of Canberra – Support for Student Accommodation Projects

While the promising new spending initiatives are welcomed, much of the detail is still to come. We implore the ACT Government to take the opportunity to engage with young people, their families, community youth services, and allied community service (such as family support, mental health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug services) to identify the best ways in which these resources can be utilised in the Canberra region to benefit young people and their families.

The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Budget 2011-2012 addresses some gaps in services, with significant spending commitments, and we look forward to working with the ACT Government and other community stakeholders in implementing the initiatives from this budget that relate to young people and youth services.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT's ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: Overview and Media Releases
- Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives (this document)
- Part 3: Capital Initiatives

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 2011-2012 Expenditure Initiatives pertinent to young people and their families, as outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 for the following Directorates:

- Chief Minister's Directorate
- Community Services Directorate
- Housing ACT
- Health Directorate
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Education and Training Directorate
- Economic Development Directorate

## Chief Minister's Directorate

Initiatives under the Chief Minister's Directorate (CMD) are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Community Engagement

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
84	The Government is committed to involving Canberrans in decision-making. This initiative will enable the Chief Minister's Directorate to more effectively lead community engagement by providing directorates with training support and development of online and social media engagement options.	2011-2012	\$200,000	This initiative is welcome, particularly in light of the Youth Coalition's submission to the former Chief Minister's Department's draft: <i>Engaging Canberrans: A Guide to Community Engagement (Dec 2010)</i> .  We look forward to the CMD providing more details, and engaging with young people, the youth and family support sector, and the relevant peak bodies, to develop this initiative further.
		2012-2013	\$200,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	

## Community Services Directorate

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

### Addressing Demand for Disability Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
106	A sustained response will be provided to individuals who require support as a result of breakdown of natural and/or formal supports and who are transitioning from school to adult life. The initiative also provides specialist after school care and holiday support for young people with complex behaviour, associated with autism and other developmental delays.	2011-2012	\$2,160,000	The Youth Coalition supports this combination of initiatives to provide greater support to young people with disabilities. We look forward to seeing further details as to how current programs, with proven track records of providing after school care and school holiday support programs, will be enhanced by this increased funding. We strongly support the component of this funding announcement that seeks to better support young people with a disability who are transitioning from school to adult life with limited natural, traditional or formal support, however we seek further details as to the integration of this support with existing early intervention and family breakdown prevention services.
		2012-2013	\$2,619,000	
		2013-2014	\$2,720,000	
		2014-2015	\$2,811,000	

### Children and Young People's Equipment Loan Service (CAPELS) Operating Costs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
106	This initiative provides for the additional operation requirements of the Children and Young People's Equipment Loan Service (CAYPELS), including staffing and maintenance of the equipment pool, including repair and replacement of items.	2011-2012	\$196,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the continued support to this program that seeks to provide often prohibitively expensive specialist equipment to young people with disabilities, and their families, for loan and trial.
		2012-2013	\$200,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	

## Family Violence Prevention Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	This initiative establishes a specialist accommodation and counselling intervention service for adult males who use violence. The aim of the service is to provide effective services to sustain long-term behavioural change and reduce re-offending.	2011-2012	\$100,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes this important initiative, and supports the aims to sustain long term change and reduce reoffending for men who use violence. We believe that young men aged 18 - 25 who use violence in the home may benefit from having a dedicated service that offers both supported/specialist accommodation and counseling services.</p> <p>However, we are concerned that the resources allocated may not be sufficient to meet demand, nor to provide sufficient start up funds to establish a standalone service. We seek further details as to any needs analysis and or feasibility study that may have been undertaken. We look forward to seeing how this initiative will be integrated with other existing programs that may be enhance outcomes for young people.</p>
		2012-2013	\$104,000	
		2013-2014	\$108,000	
		2014-2015	\$112,000	

## OMATSIA Operating Costs and Support for ATSI Programs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	This initiative provides additional base financial support to assist in the operations of the Office of Multicultural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (OMATSIA). It also assists a number of ATSI initiatives including the ATSI Elected Body Elections in 2011, Aboriginal Elders Camps and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grants program for leadership training.	2011-2012	\$386,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports increased funding to OMATSIA, particularly initiatives that seek to address reconciliation. We look forward to further discussion with OMATSIA about how their work can achieve better outcomes for newly arrived and/or refugee young people, and young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>
		2012-2013	\$344,000	
		2013-2014	\$368,000	
		2014-2015	\$425,000	

## National Multicultural Festival Enhancement

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	Additional open spaces will be provided for families and children to enjoy the <i>National Multicultural Festival</i> leading up to the celebrations for the Centenary of Canberra in 2013.	2011-2012	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes additional support to the highly successful Multicultural Festival. We would advocate that the additional open spaces also include youth friendly space.
		2012-2013	\$100,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	

## Work Experience Support Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	The Work Experience and Support Program (WESP), which aims to help people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds gain employment, will be enhanced. The Program offers office skills training, work experience on-the-job training and entry-level appointments with ACT Government agencies.	2011-2012	\$40,000	The Youth Coalition supports the enhancement of this program, and supports the ACT Government in its aims to foster a multicultural workforce.
		2012-2013	\$41,000	
		2013-2014	\$42,000	
		2014-2015	\$43,000	

## Supporting Youth Transitioning from Out of Home Care

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	A case management service will be provided for young people transitioning from out of home care to independent living, and extends support to these young people beyond the statutory age of 18 to 25 years.	2011-2012	\$500,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports this important recognition by the ACT Government that young people with an out of home care experience remain amongst the most vulnerable in our community, and often require support well beyond their turning 18 years old.</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders to develop our submission to the ACT Government Discussion Paper: Maximising Potential - Improving Life Transitions for Young People in Care (Dec 2010) identified that this initiative, amongst others, will assist in moving the ACT closer to world best practice.</p> <p>However we believe that there are many other issues faced by this target group that have not yet been addressed, with the need for transitioning from care plans amongst the most vital. We look forward to seeing the details of how this practical support will be offered to young people, as well as the services and carers that support them.</p>
		2012-2013	\$513,000	
		2013-2014	\$525,000	
		2014-2015	\$538,000	

## Enhanced Youth Justice Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	Youth Services will be enhanced at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and response capacity improved for young people at risk of remand. Diversionary policies and programs will be developed and implemented, aiming to minimise the involvement of young people in the justice system.	2011-2012	\$1,410,000	<p>The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government for providing more resources to youth justice, however, we seek further details as to the exact breakdown and delivery modes of this funding.</p> <p>We understand that close to \$2.1 million will be allocated to a bail support/diversion service, which may go some way to addressing bail and remand concerns raised in recent consultations undertaken by the Youth Coalition to inform our submission to the ACT Government discussion paper, Towards a Diversionary Framework for the ACT (April 2011).</p> <p>This service will also assist in clearly identifying how bail conditions intersect with the current accommodation needs of young people in the ACT.</p> <p>We are disappointed, however, that Justice Reinvestment does not appear to be a focus of this funding.</p>
		2012-2013	\$1,435,000	
		2013-2014	\$525,000	
		2014-2015	\$538,000	

## Care and Protection Community Kinship Care Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
107	This initiative supports children in kinship care and their carers by offering specialised training and support to kinship carers caring for children with complex problems and promoting alternative mechanisms to support families.	2011-2012	\$236,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, having called for increased support for kinship care in a submission to the ACT Government Discussion Paper: <i>Maximising Potential - Improving Life Transitions for Young People in Care (Dec 2010)</i> .  This, combined with other announcements, shows a growing recognition of the ongoing supports needs of vulnerable young people, and their carers, and represents a substantial increase in funding.
		2012-2013	\$478,000	
		2013-2014	\$486,000	
		2014-2015	\$493,000	

## Child Death Review Committee

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
108	This initiative will see the establishment of a Child Death Review Committee that will review all child deaths in the ACT, consider the trends and patterns of these deaths and make recommendations that may contribute to preventing future child deaths.	2011-2012	\$156,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the establishment of this committee. Along with putting the ACT in line with other states and territories, it will assist in assessing any trends and preventable deaths within the population of children and young people in the ACT.  This will allow for community services working with vulnerable young people to be aware of current major risks to young people's health and safety and implement harm minimisation strategies. It also puts the ACT in line with other states in Australia.
		2012-2013	\$169,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	

## Out of Home Care Costs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
108	This initiative addresses the increase in the cost of children and young people in out-of-home care arrangements.	2011-2012	\$523,000	The Youth Coalition supports this, and other initiatives focusing on the out of home care sector, and the increase in funding towards supporting vulnerable young people, however we acknowledge that increased funding does not always translate into better outcomes. We seek further detail on how this initiative will be delivered.
		2012-2013	\$541,000	
		2013-2014	\$561,000	
		2014-2015	\$581,000	

## Children's Services Scholarship Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
108	Additional support will be provided to the children's services sector to up-skill its workforce in time to meet the requirements of the new National Standards, which become effective in 2014.	2011-2012	\$326,000	The Youth Coalition supports the ACT Government's commitment to provide additional support to the children's services sector to up-skill its workforce in time to meet the requirements of the new National Standards, and calls on the ACT Government to provide similar additional investment in the youth and family support sector's workforce.
		2012-2013	\$459,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	

## Housing ACT

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

### Street to Home Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
109	The Street to Home Program works to assertively engage people experiencing chronic homelessness (particularly 'rough sleepers') to re-engage with support services to gain and sustain a successful tenancy. This will increase the capacity of a similar program ( <i>Community Outreach for Rough Sleepers</i> ) funded in the 2009–10 Budget by 50 per cent or 10 additional placements.	2011-2012	\$180,000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT welcomes the addition of funding to expand the capacity of the Street to Home program. We seek to clarify that the extra capacity includes support to young people; particularly those aged 18 – 25 years.
		2011-2012	\$230,000	
		2012-2013	\$239,000	
		2013-2014	\$249,000	

### Antisocial Behaviour Response and Support

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
109	This initiative provides for the implementation of tenancy management plans for inappropriate tenant behaviour that will address the underlying causes of problem behaviour including, drug and alcohol misuse, and will provide appropriate support options to clients.	2011-2012	\$285,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes implementing individually tailored support plans for tenants of Housing ACT, however, would like to ensure that young people, up to the age of 25 years, are engaged in an inclusive, holistic and supportive manner. We look forward to working with ACT Government to ensure methods of support are not punitive and that people accessing the service are engaged and not coerced.
		2012-2013	\$292,000	
		2013-2014	\$299,000	
		2014-2015	\$307,000	

## Health Directorate

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

### ACT Roadside Drug Testing Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
97	This initiative provides for the implementation of the ACT Roadside Drug Testing program under the <i>Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) (Random Drug Testing) Amendment Act</i> .	2011-2012	\$304,000	The Youth Coalition is disappointed to see this initiative's funding level.  Extensive community consultation, including submissions provided by peak bodies and stakeholder experts, requested further research and evaluation of other jurisdictional learnings on this issue, before seeing the ACT Government commit funding towards the program.
		2012-2013	\$355,000	
		2013-2014	\$366,000	
		2014-2015	\$378,000	

### Expansion of the ACT Magistrate Courts Forensic Mental Health Court Liaison Team

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
97	This initiative provides for mental health assessment, consultation and liaison services to the ACT Law Courts to better meet the demands of the target population group and the judicial system. This is a continuation from the original two year pilot Court Liaison Officer program initiated in the 2009-10 Budget.	2011-2012	\$157,000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT supports the continuation of this program. We look forward to seeing how this initiative can continue to better support vulnerable young people with mental health concerns who are seen by the Magistrates court. We also seek details as to how this initiative can be further integrated into broader youth and young adult justice and diversion initiatives in the ACT.
		2012-2013	\$160,000	
		2013-2014	\$163,000	
		2014-2015	\$166,000	

## Mental Health Training

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
97	The Health Directorate will continue to work with the Education and Training Directorate, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Policing and the ACT Ambulance Service to provide mental health training for teachers, police and ambulance workers. This is a continuation from the original two year pilot program initiated in the 2009-10 Budget.	2011-2012	\$300,000	It is positive to see this initiative provided with further funding, and the Youth Coalition welcomes the continuation of this pilot program with the Education and Training Directorate, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Policing and the ACT Ambulance Service to provide mental health training for teachers, police and ambulance workers.
		2012-2013	\$308,000	
		2013-2014	\$315,000	
		2014-2015	\$323,000	

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

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

### Improved Access to Law and Justice Services and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
99	This initiative allows for the engagement of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Guidance Partner to provide guidance and assistance to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are referred to or involved in restorative justice. It will also provide for appropriate remuneration of Galambany Circle Sentencing Court panel members who are called upon to assess offenders for acceptability for Circle Court and to participate in the Circle Court sentencing process.	2011-2012	\$147,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative, however we are concerned that it does not represent either the level of funding required, and does not address the broader scope of issues.  The Youth Coalition is concerned that neither the 2011-12 Priorities for the Justice and Community Safety, nor Community Services Directorates clearly articulate the need to address the high representation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in detention.
		2012-2013	\$150,000	
		2013-2014	\$153,000	
		2014-2015	\$157,000	

### AMC – Base Funding

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
99	This initiative increases funding for the Alexander Maconochie Centre which will assist in addressing resourcing issues identified in the recent independent review.	2011-2012	\$1,234,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this overdue funding boost to the Alexander Maconochie Centre, particularly in addressing some of the findings of the recent independent reviews, and look forward to seeing better outcomes for young people, in terms of therapeutic interventions and issues relating to throughcare.
		2012-2013	\$1,265,000	
		2013-2014	\$1,296,000	
		2014-2015	\$1,329,000	

## Education and Training Directorate

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

### Disability Education

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
104	Capacity will be enhanced under this initiative to meet the needs of students with a disability in ACT public schools.	2011-2012	\$5,000,000	The Youth Coalition commends this substantial financial investment in young people with disability in the ACT.
		2012-2013	\$5,000,000	
		2013-2014	\$5,000,000	We seek further details as to the delivery of the educational programs, and a clearly articulated plan of how this will integrate with the ACT Youth Commitment.
		2014-2015	\$5,000,000	

### ACT Public Secondary Schools Innovation Fund

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
105	The innovation fund will provide access to additional resources for secondary schools to develop and implement improved approaches to teaching and learning, as well as new pathways for students.	2011-2012	\$375,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes funding to support schools to develop and implement improved approaches.
		2012-2013	\$375,000	
		2013-2014	\$0	However we are concerned that this initiative does not address the need for the ACT Government to support young people's ongoing educational engagement and attainment, under the ACT Youth Commitment.
		2014-2015	\$0	
				We are further disappointed that the Youth Coalitions concerns raised in this budget submission regarding resources for re-engaging vulnerable young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging did not appear to be addressed.

## Economic Development Directorate

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

### Affordable Housing

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
89	This initiative supports the delivery of the <i>Affordable Housing Action Plan</i> and the development of further policies to improve housing affordability.	2011-2012	\$350,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes any initiatives to address the significant issue of affordable housing in the ACT community.
		2012-2013	\$350,000	
		2013-2014	\$350,000	However we note that young people continue to face discrimination and be priced out of not only the private rental market, but also affordable housing initiatives. We call on the ACT Government to implement whole of government policy and strategies that support the development of affordable housing for young people, in areas with appropriate infrastructure and support.
		2014-2015	\$350,000	

## University of Canberra – Support for Student Accommodation Projects (Grant of \$6 million over nine years)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
91	Assistance will be provided to the University of Canberra to deliver additional accommodation for over 200 students. The accommodation is to be located in Wing 5 of Cameron Offices. This contribution will assist in providing affordable accommodation for students in the Territory.	2011-2012	\$700,000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT supports the provision of funding to the University of Canberra for student accommodation.  We believe it is essential this initiative is delivered in a timely manner, along with the inclusion of planning for student safety and stability of the accommodation.
		2012-2013	\$700,000	
		2013-2014	\$700,000	
		2014-2015	\$700,000	

## Hosting First Class Cricket Matches in the ACT

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
90	Cricket ACT will host an annual festival of cricket involving New South Wales senior teams at Manuka Oval for three years. Participating players will also be involved in coaching clinics and promotional activities aimed specifically at children and younger people.	2011-2012	\$110,000	Young people's participation in arts, sports and recreation activities is often central to their health and wellbeing. However, young people's participation in these activities is often predicated on their ability to access affordable and quality facilities and programs.  The Youth Coalition welcomes initiatives that include strategies to engage young people in sporting pursuits.
		2012-2013	\$110,000	
		2013-2014	\$110,000	
		2014-2015	\$0	