



ACT Budget: Caught in Cycles of Crisis

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2012-2013

Part 2 of 3

Expenditure Initiatives

June 2012

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

© Youth Coalition of the ACT
June 2012

Prepared by Youth Coalition staff Adelaide Jones, Ashlin Flanagan, Emma Byrne, Emma Robertson, Erin Barry and Katrina Campion.

PO Box 5232, Lyneham, ACT, 2602
Phone: (02) 6247 3540
Facsimile: (02) 6249 1675
Email: info@youthcoalition.net
Web: www.youthcoalition.net
Twitter: @youthco_act
Facebook: facebook.com/YouthCoACT

Expenditure Initiatives Overview

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs and young people aged 12 – 25, acknowledges additional funding for child protection and youth justice in the 2012 – 2013 ACT Budget. However, Budget measures do not invest enough in early intervention and prevention for the most vulnerable young people and families in our community.

Although the objectives of the ACT Budget include targeted investments to reduce future costs and address chronic disadvantage, this has not resulted in a significant investment in community services to support young people and their families.

The Youth Coalition is particularly disappointed that the Children, Youth and Family Services Program has not received additional funding, as was urgently called for by the Youth Coalition and Families ACT in May 2012. The CYFSP funds a range of community-based services to support vulnerable children, young people and families with relationships, housing, finances, parenting, education, employment; and to prevent them from becoming involved with Care and Protection and Youth Justice.

The Youth Coalition's 2012 – 2013 ACT Budget Analysis is divided into three parts:

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

Some of the key expenditure initiatives and outcomes of the 2012 – 2013 ACT Budget are outlined below.

Canberra Institute of Technology

- Support for the CIT Year 12 Program and students with disabilities

Community Services Directorate

- Out of Home Care Costs
- Additional Positions for Care and Protection Services
- Strengthening Care and Protection Services

- Blueprint for Youth Justice
- Assisting People on Low Incomes
- Community Helping Aboriginal Australians to Negotiate Choices Leading to Employment and Success
- Attraction and Retention Initiative (for Care and Protection Services)
- Implementation of Equal Remuneration Case Outcomes and Related ACT Community Sector Reforms

Economic Development Directorate

- Affordable Housing Action Plan – Phase III
- Supporting Inclusive Sport and the Active 2020 Strategy in the ACT
- Participation in Sport and Recreation Campaign
- Increasing Volunteers in Sport and Recreation

Education and Training Directorate

- Excellence and Enterprise – Advancing Public Schools of Distinction
- Special Needs Transport
- Non-Government Schools – Students with Disabilities

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

- Grant for the Heart Foundation – Active Living in the ACT

Health Directorate

- Mental Health Growth
- Gungahlin Health Centre
- Enhanced Counselling and Volunteer Services
- Healthy Weight Action Plan

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- Street Law Outreach Legal Service for the Homeless
- Relocation of the Women's Legal Centre
- Extending Throughcare for Offenders to the Community

Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

- Improving Access to Justice – Addressing Supreme Court Backlog

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

- ACTION Operations
- Transport for Canberra – Nightrider Services
- Transport for Canberra – Communication Service for Real Time Passenger Information System

Below is an analysis of the 2012 – 2013 ACT Budget Expenditure Initiatives related to young people and their families, as outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 for the following Directorates and corporations:

- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Community Services Directorate
- Economic Development Directorate
- Education and Training Directorate
- Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
- Health Directorate
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Legal Aid Commission (ACT)
- Territory and Municipal Services

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

Support for CIT Year 12 Program and Students with Disabilities

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
132	This initiative will support the CIT Year 12 program and the Disabilities Support Area to respond to the increasing demand for enrolment of students with complex needs.	2012-2013	\$772,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased to see funding towards this initiative, particularly in light of the ACT Government's strategic indicator to achieve 95% of young people aged 20 – 24 who have attained a Year 12 Certificate or equivalent; or Certificate II or above, by 2013.
		2013-2014	\$791,000	
		2014-2015	\$811,000	
		2015-2016	\$831,000	

Community Services Directorate

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

General Comments:

While the Youth Coalition acknowledges the significant funding that has been allocated towards child protection and youth justice services, we are concerned that funding for vulnerable young people and their families has not been invested in early intervention and prevention. We note that the objectives of the ACT Budget included targeted investments to reduce future costs and address chronic disadvantage; which has not been reflected in the direction of funding mainly towards crisis services.

There is significant evidence that points towards the value of investing in early intervention and prevention initiatives (at a primary and secondary intervention level), to reduce the long-term burden on tertiary services (such as Care and Protection Services and Youth Justice). The ACT Government Children, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) funds a range of community-based services to support vulnerable children, young people and families to prevent them from becoming involved with Care and Protection Services and Youth Justice.

The Youth Coalition is concerned that if the ACT Government does not prioritise providing adequate funding to early intervention and prevention services, including the CYFSP, the ACT will experience continuing pressures on future budgets to allocate money to tertiary level responses.

Out of Home Care Costs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
127	This initiative will address the increasing number of children and young people in out of home care arrangements including residential care, kinship care and foster care.	2012-2013	\$4,936,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports additional funding towards young people in out-of-home care arrangements, to work towards improved outcomes for young people in care.</p> <p>Additionally, we note that increased support to families is one of the most significant ways in which the care and protection of young people is best secured. Research indicates the effectiveness of early intervention and prevention in reducing both the costs of young people becoming involved in the child protection system and, more importantly, the health, wellbeing and happiness of young people.</p> <p>We look forward to receiving more information about the details of this initiative, including how it will align with the Youth Support and Transitions Team, which supports young people aged 18 – 25 transitioning out of long-term care.</p>
		2013-2014	\$5,118,000	
		2014-2015	\$5,306,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Additional Positions for Care and Protection Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
127	This initiative provides for additional care and protection staff in the complex and challenging area of statutory child protection to support the delivery of quality services to the ACT's most vulnerable children.	2012-2013	\$1,196,000	See comment above. The Youth Coalition supports the funding of additional positions for Care and Protection Services. However, we also reiterate the importance of investing in early intervention and prevention services; and secondary level intervention services, for vulnerable children, young people and their families; to reduce the long-term burden on statutory services.
		2013-2014	\$1,210,000	
		2014-2015	\$1,462,000	
		2015-2016	\$1,478,000	

Strengthening Care and Protection Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
128	This initiative will support further improvements to Care and Protection Services including systems development, professional development and practice improvement with a particular focus on enhancing decision making and cultural competence. The investment will enable development of a comprehensive, caseworker's toolkit which will support improved outcomes for families, children and young people.	2012-2013	\$250,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the implementation of professional development and practice improvement for the Care and Protection Service workforce.
		2013-2014	\$150,000	
		2014-2015	\$150,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	<p>The Youth Coalition has been advocating for a Workforce Development Strategy for the youth sector for a number of years. It is important that workforce development initiatives are also implemented for early intervention and prevention services, and secondary-level intervention services.</p> <p>The Youth Coalition looks forward to seeing how this initiative will relate to other existing workforce projects such as the Practice Framework which is being developed for the Children, Youth, and Family Services Program, and other cultural competence development initiatives.</p>

Blueprint for Youth Justice

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
128	The initiative provides specialised therapeutic services to support young people already in the youth justice system to overcome specific offending behaviours, and a community-based mobile intensive support service to engage directly with children, young people and families in their homes and communities. Targeted support will assist in keeping young people away from crime and/or further involvement in the youth justice system, and will include a brokerage component to purchase specialised services. Additional staff for the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre will be dedicated to improving the quality of operational practices.	2012-2013	\$1,320,000	<p>The Youth Coalition is pleased to see that the ACT Government has invested in the actions to be identified in the ACT Blueprint for Youth Justice. The Youth Coalition participates in the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce which oversees the Blueprint, and we also called for funding to be allocated towards this in our 2012-13 ACT Budget Submission.</p> <p>We understand that this funding will allow the employment of approximately 4 – 5 positions at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre; with the remainder of the funds allocated towards the specialised therapeutic services, community-based mobile intensive support service and targeted support.</p> <p>We look forward to working with ACT Government around the development of these activities and clarification on the specific breakdown of funds.</p>
		2013-2014	\$1,355,000	
		2014-2015	\$1,390,000	
		2015-2016	\$1,427,000	

Assisting People on Low Incomes

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
128	This initiative expands the No Interest Loan Scheme to provide assistance to low income members of the community experiencing financial hardship.	2012-2013	\$185,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the expansion of this Scheme, and we look forward to receiving more details.
		2013-2014	\$240,000	
		2014-2015	\$185,000	
		2015-2016	\$130,000	

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
129	The CHANCES Program will provide nationally accredited job-ready training to members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly those who are deemed to be at risk of homelessness, re-offending or facing long-term unemployment.	2012-2013	\$180,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative to provide job-ready training to members of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Employment, be it part-time, casual or full-time, is a major issue for young people and affects many aspects of their lives. We support the provision of training as a collaboration between various stakeholders, including the ACT Indigenous Elected Body.
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Agency Funded Initiatives:

Attraction and Retention Initiative

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
129	This initiative is part of a five year recruitment and retention plan to attract and retain frontline staff to Care and Protection Services.	2012-2013	\$200,000	<p>See previous comments regarding Care and Protection Services above. The Youth Coalition supports the funding of a recruitment and retention plan for frontline staff at Care and Protection Services. Child protection work is highly intensive and requires skilled workers to support the most vulnerable children, young people and their families in the ACT.</p> <p>However, it is important that workforce development initiatives are also implemented for the broader youth and family support sector. Recruitment and retention is a significant issue across the community sector; and these services would also significantly benefit from having funds specifically allocated towards attraction and retention.</p>
		2013-2014	\$205,000	
		2014-2015	\$210,000	
		2015-2016	\$215,000	

Implementation of Equal Remuneration Case Outcomes and Related ACT Community Sector Reforms

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
129	This initiative will provide support to the ACT community sector in response to the ACT Government's commitment to fully fund the outcomes of the equal remuneration case, and will manage a series of community sector reform projects.	2012-2013	\$448,000	<p>The Youth Coalition understands that this funding is specifically to support the community sector to transition to the outcomes of the Equal Remuneration Case through the establishment of the Community Sector Transition and Investment Fund.</p> <p>We note that the funding amount represents the contribution of 0.34% adjustment from community sector indexation.</p>
		2013-2014	\$464,000	
		2014-2015	\$479,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Economic Development Directorate

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

Affordable Housing Action Plan – Phase III

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
119	This initiative aims to address the shortage of affordable rental properties and to ensure the continuation of existing affordable housing initiatives.	2012-2013	\$300,000	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes this continued recognition that the private rental market in the ACT is amongst the most expensive and inaccessible in Australia, however we firmly believe that more work needs to be done by the ACT Government in the area of housing affordability, and supporting young people to rent privately.</p> <p>40% of renters who receive Commonwealth Rental Assistance (CRA) are in housing stress¹ (defined as spending 30% of their income on rent).</p> <p>The Youth Coalition looks forward to the release of further details of Phase III of the Affordable Housing Action Plan, and has concerns that the funding allocation devoted to this initiative will be insufficient in addressing the shortage of affordable rental properties.</p>
		2013-2014	\$300,000	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

¹ Productivity Commission (2012), Report on Government Services 2012, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, Table 16A.16.

Supporting Inclusive Sport and the Active 2020 Strategy in the ACT

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
119	This initiative supports the development and implementation of a program aimed at addressing discrimination including homophobia, harassment and bullying in the sport and recreation industry and administrative support for the Active 2020 Strategy in the ACT.	2012-2013	\$134,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative. Sport can play a prominent role in the lives of young people, so it is imperative that barriers such as discrimination are overcome to ensure all young people are able to access the sport and recreation industry in the ACT. We believe it is essential that young people are consulted with, and involved in the development and implementation of this program.
		2013-2014	\$138,000	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Participation in Sport and Recreation Campaign

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
120	This initiative provides for the promotion, including through social media channels, of the benefits of participation in sport and recreation.	2012-2013	\$20,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative as one of the ways that young people can contribute to their community is through participation in sport and recreation activities. 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. ² Any promotion strategy should be inclusive, and take into account the cohort of young people who do not access social media channels.
		2013-2014	\$20,000	
		2014-2015	\$20,000	
		2015-2016	\$20,000	

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2006) Australia's Health 2006, Australian Government, Canberra

Increasing Volunteers in Sport and Recreation

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
		Year	Amount	
120	This initiative will support the promotion, including through social media channels, of the importance and rewards of volunteering in the sport and recreation industry.	2012-2013	\$20,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative, and the promotion of the range of opportunities in the ACT for young people to volunteer in the sport and recreation industry including coaching, umpiring and coordinating events. These opportunities carry a wide array of personal development benefits such as confidence, community engagement and mentoring. Any promotion strategy should be inclusive, and take into account the cohort of young people who do not access social media channels.
		2013-2014	\$20,000	
		2014-2015	\$20,000	
		2015-2016	\$20,000	

Education and Training Directorate

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

Excellence and Enterprise – Advancing Public Schools of Distinction

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
130	This initiative will support the implementation of the Excellence and Enterprise framework including the continued development of the Virtual Learning Academy.	2012-2013	\$30,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the continued funding of this initiative as it fosters a culture of excellence, and encourages schools to implement innovative programs for the benefit of all students.
		2013-2014	\$31,000	
		2014-2015	\$32,000	
		2015-2016	\$32,000	

Special Needs Transport

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
130	This initiative supports the transport of students with a disability ensuring access to the nearest most appropriate setting.	2012-2013	\$1,540,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative, as young people with disabilities are likely to experience significant barriers to accessing services, programs and opportunities that are available to the broader population. However, continued funding of this initiative is needed to maintain an adequate level of support and care for this vulnerable group of young people. The Youth Coalition commends this substantial financial investment in young people with disability in the ACT.
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Agency Funded Initiatives:

Non-Government Schools – Students with Disabilities

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
131	This is a one-off grant to support existing students with disabilities in non-government schools. Funding will be provided on a needs basis utilising the Student Centred Appraisal of Needs approach. This is an internally funded initiative utilising unallocated funds from the Interest Subsidy Scheme.	2012-2013	\$2,000,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative, which increases the capacity of young people with disabilities to participate more fully in school life.
2013-2014		\$0		
2014-2015		\$0		
2015-2016		\$0		

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

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

Grant for the Heart Foundation – Active Living in the ACT

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
126	The Heart Foundation will build upon and promote the Active Living principles across the ACT. The Active Living program encourages initiatives in the built environment that support an active Canberra population and promotes the uptake of active living.	2012-2013	\$143,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative to promote Active Living Principles across the ACT.
		2013-2014	\$166,000	
		2014-2015	\$176,000	This program supports the recommendation in the ACT Healthy Young People Feasibility Study to provide young people with opportunities for active (non-motorised) transport. We hope that the ACT Living Program will continue to involve young people in the design and implementation of active living initiatives in the ACT.
		2015-2016	\$0	

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

General Comments:

The Youth Coalition is disappointed that there are no new initiatives in the 2012-13 ACT Budget to further implement the outcomes of the *ACT Healthy Young People Feasibility Study*. The report of the Study was released by the ACT Health Directorate in early 2012; and identified a range of recommendations over the short (1 year), medium (2 years) and long term (3+ years).

Recommendations identified in the report that should be implemented in the short term (1 year) included:

- To appoint a skilled person to provide subsidised, good-quality training in detection, assessment and brief opportunistic interventions for alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and mental health first aid for youth workers, general practitioners, nurses, community health workers, school health workers, sporting clubs and other relevant workers who come into contact with young people;
- To develop a quality-assurance framework for young-people-friendly service delivery, including guidelines and checklists and support with appropriate training, and including specific issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural young people;
- To deliver a Youth Assembly on young people's health that is free of charge or low cost;
- To engage a suitable external evaluator to undertake a methodologically sound evaluation of the School Youth Health Nurse program and review the program where necessary;
- To include young people in the planning and design of the built environment; and,
- To develop an Active Travel program in ACT schools to encourage students to walk or ride to school.

Mental Health Growth

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
112	This initiative will increase the capacity to treat and develop post-traumatic stress prevention programs for newly arrived migrants and refugees, as well as expand on the current community mental health services.	2012-2013	\$1,000,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the injection of funds into developing programs focused on post-traumatic stress prevention for newly arrived migrants and refugees.
		2013-2014	\$1,035,000	
		2014-2015	\$1,071,000	<p>It is important that these initiatives seek to develop strategies to support young people who are newly arrived or from a refugee background. Newly arrived young people, particularly those who enter through the humanitarian program, are at high risk of experiencing mental health issues. Many of these young people have suffered displacement and trauma before coming to Australia. Cultural difference and language barriers expose newly arrived young people to social isolation, discrimination and exclusion from economic participation.³</p> <p>We look forward to receiving more information on these initiatives and how they will be implemented; including which organisation(s) will undertake this work, how young people will be involved, and how these supports will overcome barriers to accessing mental health services for multicultural communities.</p>
		2015-2016	\$1,109,000	

³ Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (December 2010) ACT Multicultural Youth Affairs Network Issues Paper, Youth Coalition of the ACT

Gungahlin Health Centre

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
112	Additional centre resources will be provided to support a range of health services for all ages, including counselling, screening, treatment, therapy, community support, education and group programs.	2012-2013	\$1,000,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the establishment of a Health Centre in Gungahlin; which has experienced a significant shortage of GPs and health professionals who are unable to meet the needs of the increasing population in the Gungahlin region.</p> <p>Young people experience additional barriers to accessing health services, including limited bulk-billing services, cost, discrimination, confidentiality concerns, stigma and a limited number of 'youth-friendly' GPs and other health professionals.</p> <p>Reduced access to drop-in support services for vulnerable young people in Gungahlin (and the ACT) means that this target group will have reduced access to health services. It is vital that Health Centre resources are targeted towards ensuring that young people, including vulnerable young people, receive access to appropriate and affordable health services to meet their unique needs.</p>
		2013-2014	\$1,600,000	
		2014-2015	\$1,900,000	
		2015-2016	\$2,106,000	

Enhanced Counselling and Volunteer Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
113	This initiative provides for a low cost counselling service and for support and coordination of existing volunteer services provided by the A Gender Agenda organisation.	2012-2013	\$50,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes funding for A Gender Agenda, a community group which aims to provide a strong and supportive community for sex and gender diverse people.
		2013-2014	\$50,000	
		2014-2015	\$50,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Healthy Weight Action Plan

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
113	This initiative supports a program of activities across the ACT to reduce rates of obesity. The trend towards high rates of unhealthy weight has been longstanding and has significant implications for the future health of ACT residents and demand for health services.	2012-2013	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes programs that seek to reduce rates of obesity in the ACT. Participation in sports and physical activity and health eating has been identified as a Priority Area in the report on the findings of the <i>ACT Healthy Young People Feasibility Study</i> ⁴ , released by the ACT Health Directorate in early 2012, which includes a range of strategies for increasing activity and healthy eating among young people. The Youth Coalition looks forward to receiving more information about how these strategies will be included in this ACT Budget initiative.
		2013-2014	\$100,000	
		2014-2015	\$100,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	

⁴ LeeJenn Health Consultants (November 2011) ACT Healthy Young People Feasibility Study, ACT Government Health Directorate

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

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

Street Law Outreach Legal Service for the Homeless

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
		2012-2013	2013-2014	
122	Building on the pilot program, this funding will allow Street Law to refine its current model and further establish outreach clinics and referral networks for homeless people.	2012-2013	\$300,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased that the Street Law program has received recurrent funding for the next three years, as a collaborative initiative that provides free legal services to those who are homeless. Street Law, in working collaboratively with other agencies, plays a vital role in assisting young people to obtain information on and understand their rights.
		2013-2014	\$300,000	
		2014-2015	\$300,000	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Relocation of the Women's Legal Centre

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
		2012-2013	2013-2014	
122	Currently located at Havelock House, the Women's Legal Centre (WLC) provides free legal services to disadvantaged women within the ACT community. The future relocation will enable the WLC to improve and expand its services and will allow the expansion of other Community Legal Centres remaining at Havelock House.	2012-2013	\$0	The Youth Coalition supports the funding to the Women's Legal Centre to relocate, in order to improve and expand its service, although we note that this is not scheduled to occur for over 12 months.
		2013-2014	\$579,000	
		2014-2015	\$43,000	
		2015-2016	\$44,000	

Extending Throughcare for Offenders to the Community

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
123	This initiative extends the Throughcare model beyond the end of an offender's custodial sentence to support their transition into the community with the aim of reducing their risk of re-offending.	2012-2013	\$520,000	The Youth Coalition supports the extension of the Throughcare model to support an offender's transition into the community, as we have been advocating for a review of Throughcare policies for a number of years. In undertaking this initiative, there will need to be a coordinated approach to Throughcare for young people; that recognises the unique issues experienced by those aged 18 – 25.
		2013-2014	\$617,000	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

Expenditure Initiatives under the Legal Aid Commission (ACT) are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

Improving Access to Justice – Addressing Supreme Court Backlog

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
134	The initiative provides for additional legal aid resources for the 'blitz' being implemented by the ACT Supreme Court, involving changes to its case management and listing practices. These changes are aimed at reducing waiting times for civil and criminal matters.	2012-2013	\$33,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports any initiative that seeks to reduce waiting times for civil and criminal matters. The current extensive waiting times experienced in court matters can in themselves contribute detrimentally to individuals involved in cases.</p> <p>Young people who are involved with the criminal justice system are often amongst the most vulnerable in the ACT. Research has identified significant associations between offending and risk factors such as involvement with Care and Protection, substance use, disengagement from education, abuse, unemployment and parental criminal behaviour. Uncertainty and confusion experienced by young people in relation to extensive waiting periods for court cases may further exacerbate these other risk factors.</p>
		2013-2014	\$0	
		2014-2015	\$0	
		2015-2016	\$0	

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

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

ACTION Operations

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
114	This initiative will assist ACTION in meeting the increased costs of delivering public transport services to the community.	2012-2013	\$7,744,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this increase in funding for public transport.
		2013-2014	\$5,649,000	
		2014-2015	\$4,601,000	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.
		2015-2016	\$3,512,000	

Transport for Canberra – Nightrider Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
115	This initiative provides for an annual Nightrider service for five weeks during the Christmas and New Year period. It includes the promotion and evaluation of services and aims to increase patronage and reduce drink driving incidents and anti-social behaviour in popular locations including Canberra City, Manuka and Kingston.	2012-2013	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the continuation of the Nightrider bus service.
		2013-2014	\$100,000	
		2014-2015	\$100,000	The Nightrider is a positive initiative for taking people to their homes during the late evening. However young people have identified a need for additional evening and late night bus services. Services at these times are particularly important for young people who are more likely to be engaged in part-time employment or recreational activities during the evenings and weekends.
		2015-2016		

Transport for Canberra – Communication Service for Real Time Passenger Information System

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
115	This initiative will implement a mobile communication system for ACTION buses as part of the Real Time Passenger Information System commencing in 2013. The service will provide live information about arrival times of ACTION services.	2012-2013	\$423,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes this initiative to provide bus users with live information about arrival times.
		2013-2014	\$429,000	
		2014-2015	\$434,000	The provision of timely information on bus arrival times, delays and cancellations will allow young people who rely on public transport to make informed transport decisions. However the Youth Coalition is concerned by reports that some full buses are skipping stops when at full capacity.
		2015-2016	\$440,000	