

MEDIA RELEASE

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Motivation, Money, Making a Difference: A Profile of the ACT Youth Sector Workforce

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, released a report today profiling the workforce of 53 non-government and government agencies and programs who work with young people aged 12 – 25 years in the ACT.

The report, *Motivation, Money, Making a Difference: A Profile of the ACT Youth Sector Workforce* discusses the findings of a Project which aimed to support workforce planning and development, through conducting a comprehensive profile of the ACT youth sector workforce.

The Youth Coalition's findings show while more than half of the youth sector have tertiary qualifications in youth work or a related field, wages and conditions are still a significant issue for the sector that is working to support vulnerable young Canberrans.

"The ACT youth sector workforce is diverse and dynamic, comprised of workers from a range of backgrounds, with a common desire to support young people," said Emma Robertson, Director of the Youth Coalition. "Working within the youth sector has become increasingly complex, requiring linkages with other disciplines, and specialised professional expertise and skills."

"It is concerning that we have a relatively high turnover of staff, with more than 60% of workers identifying that they had been in their current job for less than a year."

87% of the youth sector workforce identified improved wages and conditions would entice them to stay longer in the sector, resulting in the Youth Coalition calling on the sector to support the national Pay Equity Case, currently before Fair Work Australia.

In addition to this, the Youth Coalition has called upon the government and non-government services to come together to develop and implement a comprehensive Workforce Development Strategy for the ACT youth sector.

"Young people's needs and interests are specific enough to justify services delivered by professionals who are both knowledgeable and skilled in working with young people and in youth affairs."

For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469