



MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis

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Engaging the Community

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, looks forward to seeing more details of the ACT Budget 2011-2012 initiative that seeks to more effectively lead community engagement by providing Directorates with training support, and the development of online and social media engagement options.

Ms Emma Robertson, Director of the Youth Coalition, said, 'the Youth Coalition welcomes the practical opportunities that may be offered with this funding.'

'We are keen to see how this initiative will better support the community to engage with government, and what subsequent benefits the government will in turn receive.'

'The Youth Coalition has been involved in many consultations with the ACT Government, we are keen to work with both the government and non government sectors to provide input into the development of this initiative.'

The Youth Coalition has been concerned that many ACT Government community engagement and consultation activities occur at peak times, such as immediately prior to Christmas, or at the same time.

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget 2011-2012 called for the ACT Government provide Chief Minister's Department (CMD) with funding to develop and implement a planning, approval and registration mechanism which requires all ACT Government agencies planning community engagement activities, to seek approval from CMD. CMD would be responsible for assessing the impact of the activity upon its target groups, in line with other planned community engagement activities.

'The restructure of the ACT Public Service could go a long way to addressing our concerns about different sections of government not being aware of what community consultations are already underway prior to launching further activity.'

For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests, rights, and wellbeing of people aged 12 to 25 years, and those who work with them.

www.youthcoalition.net

