



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Youth Coalition ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis**

**No 5**

**3 May 2011**

### **Budget Not So Healthy for Young People**

'The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, is concerned by a lack of focus in health initiatives for young people aged 12- 25 in the ACT Budget 2011-2012', Director Ms Emma Robertson said.

'The lack of resources for mental health services that support young people, including early intervention and prevention programs, is out of step with other jurisdictions.'

The Youth Coalition had called for the ACT Government to increase recurrent funding for headspace ACT, a key component of the youth mental health sector, in its submission to this budget.

'It is also disappointing to see that no funding was allocated to go towards the anticipated recommendations of the Healthy Young People Feasibility Study, which means the community may have wait another year to take advantage of this important work', Ms Robertson continued.

'It is vital that health initiatives for young people are further progressed, in consultation with key stakeholders, including young people, their families, and youth support services, and in consideration with other allied interests such as comorbidity, housing and employment.'

'We call upon the ACT Government to implement an early intervention framework for young people in the ACT community, and see health services as an essential part of the continuum of service delivery.'

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