



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

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### **Not So Affordable**

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, calls on the ACT Government to address the specific issue of affordable housing for young people.

'Young people continue to face discrimination and be priced out of not only the private rental market, but also affordable housing initiatives.' Director Ms Emma Robertson said.

'Housing is one of the fundamental determinants of the wellbeing of young people and should be given extremely high importance in any government policy development.'

The private rental market in the ACT is amongst the highest cost in Australia. Many young people report difficulty in gaining entry to private rental properties, due to cost, availability and discrimination. The Youth Coalition argues that more work needs to be done by the ACT Government in the area of housing affordability, and supporting young people to rent privately.

The Youth Coalition's submission to the ACT Budget 2011-2012 called on the ACT Government to; 'provide Chief Minister's Department and the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services with funding to develop and implement strategies to assist young people in the ACT to have equal access to private housing, that could include measures such as a 'tenancy ready' program for vulnerable young people aged 16 – 25, and create opportunities for dialogue with private real estate agencies.'

'While today's budget includes initiatives to address affordable housing, the Youth Coalition fears that young people will continue to miss out on this vital support.'

**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)