

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Community Services Support ACT Youth Commitment

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, commends the collaborative work being undertaken by schools, community based youth services, education and training providers, employers, and other stakeholders under the ACT Youth Commitment.

The Youth Coalition believes that the ACT Youth Commitment is a positive step towards a whole of government, whole of community approach to ensuring all young people in the ACT are supported to engage with education, training, and employment pathways.

"The Youth Commitment establishes a new set of expectations for ACT schools and the community regarding young people's experience in schooling and their transitions on to further education, training and work," said Emma Robertson, Director of the Youth Coalition.

"In particular we are pleased to be working closely with the ACT Department of Education and Training on initiatives under the ACT Youth Commitment. These include initiatives aiming to bring a greater level of understanding, cooperation and coordination across all providers and agencies working to support young people disengaged from education and training or at risk of disengaging."

"It is vital that education, training, and employment pathways are further developed and resourced in consultation with key stakeholders, including young people, their families, schools and youth support services, and in consideration of other work in allied fields, such as youth justice, out of home care, and housing."

The ACT Youth Commitment Signing Ceremony, to be held 8am Wednesday 18 May at the Belconnen Arts Centre, will see a range of youth and community services join other stakeholders in signing on to the ACT Youth Commitment, including:

- ACT Council of Social Services
- Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn
- Barnardos
- Belconnen Community Service
- Canberra PCYC
- Canberra Youth Theatre
- CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Connections ACT Inc.
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award ACT
- Headspace ACT
- Lifeline Canberra
- Menslink
- Northside Community Services
- Oasis Youth Residential Service
- Southside Community Services
- Tandem
- Volunteering ACT
- Woden Community Service Inc
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- YWCA Canberra

**For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469.**