

MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis

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Youth Sector Workforce and Viability

The service system set up to support young people must be viable to address existing and emerging need, and to provide targeted support. The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, in its submission to the 2011-2012 Budget, called for the following key actions, which have not been addressed in today's Budget release:

- A commitment to funding any increase in community sector wages as a result of the Pay Equity case, relating to ACT Government contracts, to ensure that vulnerable young people and their families, and those that work to support them, are not adversely affected;
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce development strategy for the child, youth and family support sectors, in partnership between the government and non-government sectors; and,
- An increase to the total funding for the Youth and Family Support Program by at least 10%, to support the increase in service delivery and ensure that young people aged 18 – 25 also receive adequate support.

'The youth sector sees some highly skilled and experienced workers, who engage in extremely complex, innovative work with young people, and their families', Director Ms Emma Robertson said.

'The Youth Coalition notes the importance of supporting these workers to remain in the sector.'

'The ACT Government has previously indicated its in-principle support for the Australian Services Union's case before Fair Work Australia. With hearings in this case concluded and an anticipated outcome to be announced in the next couple of months, the Youth Coalition calls on the ACT Government to articulate how it will ensure that vulnerable young people and their families, and those that work to support them, are not adversely affected by the decision.'

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