



MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Coalition ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis

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Community Services Directorate – Youth Justice

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, welcomes the initiatives that seek to divert and/or support young people with involvement in the justice systems.

‘The Youth Coalition is pleased to see the \$2.1 million provided over 4 years that will go towards a bail support service, reflecting the concerns of our members raised during recent consultations informing our submission to the ACT Government discussion paper, *Towards a Diversionary Framework the ACT*’, Director Ms Emma Robertson said.

‘We are keen to see more details as to the practical delivery of this program, and we look forward to working closely with government and non- government stakeholders in its development.’

The Youth Coalition, in its submission to this year’s budget, called for the development of a comprehensive and evidenced based Diversionary Framework for young offenders aged 12 – 25 in the ACT, addressing:

- A whole of government approach;
- Strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and multicultural people; and,
- A whole of community collaboration focus, which includes community agencies and education providers.

‘It is positive to see the increased focus on enhancing diversionary services’, Ms Robertson said.

‘Similarly, we support the initiatives that seek to *Improve Access to Law and Justice Services and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*, while acknowledging that more is needed in addressing the broader issues of the high representation of ATSI young people in detention.’

‘It is vital that these initiatives are further progressed in consultation with key stakeholders, including young people, their families, and youth support services.’

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