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Strategic Partnerships
Office for Children, Youth and Family Support
Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services
27 August, 2010

To the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support;

On behalf of the Youth Coalition of the ACT (the Youth Coalition), I would like to thank the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (the Office) for the opportunity to input into the development of the 'Young People at work in the ACT – what you need to know'.

About the Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the ACT. Comprised of 90 members, programs, and individuals the Youth Coalition is responsible for representing and promoting the interests and wellbeing of young people aged 12 to 25 years and those who work with them.

The Youth Coalition is represented on many ACT Government advisory structures and provides advice to the ACT Government on youth issues, along with providing information to youth services about policy and program matters.

A key role of the Youth Coalition is the development and analysis of ACT social policy and program decisions for young people and youth services. The Youth Coalition facilitates the development of strong linkages and promotes collaboration between the community, government and private sectors to achieve better outcomes for young people in the ACT.

Response to the 'Young People at work in the ACT'

The Youth Coalition reviewed the Young People at work in the ACT and would like to offer comment.

Practical concerns.

We would like to see this document refer, to or address several practical issues we believe are of concern and importance to young people starting out in the work force.

- How to apply for, and the importance of having a Tax File Number;
- How to open, and the importance of having a Bank account;
- Much greater, in depth presentation of Work Place Compensation issues, including the time concerns of claims and incident / injury reports

Department of Education and Training (DET) requirements.

The Youth Coalition is currently working closely DET around the recent major changes to education legislation, primarily focused on the school leaving age, and approval and exemption certificates. We believe the draft Young People at work in the ACT needs to include a more in depth and clear presentation of the processes required to seek approval and exemption certificates.

Further information and assistance.

The Youth Coalition recommends including the following agencies /services:

- The Youth Law Centre
- Auswide Projects
- Campbell Page
- Centrelink

The Youth Coalition would welcome the opportunity to work with the Office to support the youth sector to have input into the further development of 'Young People at work in the ACT – what you need to know.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6247 3540 or at director@youthcoalition.net if you wish to discuss this letter further.

Sincerely,

Emma Robertson
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