



ACT Budget: Opens Some Doors and Closes Others

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2009 / 10

Part 2 of 3

Expenditure Initiatives

May 2009

www.youthcoalition.net

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors.

We acknowledge that the effect of forced removal of Indigenous children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that the Indigenous people hold distinctive rights as the original people of modern day Australia including the right to a distinct status and culture, self-determination and land. The Youth Coalition of the ACT celebrates Ngunnawal culture and the invaluable contribution it makes to our community.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT (Youth Coalition) is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests of people aged between 12 and 25 years of age and those who work with them. The Youth Coalition works to actively promote the well being and aspirations of young people in the ACT with particular respect to their political, cultural, economic and social development. The Youth Coalition is represented on many ACT advisory structures and provides advice to the ACT Government on a range of issues related to young people and youth services. For more information phone the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 or email info@youthcoalition.net

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May 2009

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Thank you to the Youth Coalition team for their support.

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Analysis of the ACT Budget 2009 / 10

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, acknowledges the challenges faced by the ACT Government in developing the ACT Budget 2009 / 10 in light of the current economic crisis, and welcomes the announcement of funding for some key initiatives.

However, despite ACT Government assurances to the ACT community that there would be no cuts to services through the Budget 2009 / 10 critical services have in fact been cut by cessation of funding through the Community Inclusion Fund. These include the highly successful Indigenous Numeracy and Literacy Program at the Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, and the drop-in service at the Multicultural Youth Service. The loss of these services will further isolate some of Canberra's most marginalised young people in an economic environment where risk factors are increasing for all members of the community.

The ACT Budget 2009 / 10 contains a number of promising gains for young people, with a particular focus on infrastructure. The Budget features a number of new initiatives for young people aimed at improving access to housing, health services, sport and recreation facilities in regional areas that are in need of investment.

Several key initiatives have been funded which are outlined below.

Young People in Care:

- \$11 million over four years to support young Canberrans in out of home care.

Youth Participation and Engagement:

- \$20,000 to enable the Youth Advisory Council to provide an ongoing program of consultation with young people; and
- funding for community engagement coordination and activities.

Health:

- Feasibility study into the establishment of a Centre for Adolescent Health;
- Working towards the integrated prevention of chronic disease;
- A Healthy Future Prevention Health program, including a \$200,000 per annum program to reduce tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and \$500,000 per annum for a Chlamydia awareness campaign;
- Health workforce development;
- GP workforce initiatives;
- A range of mental health initiatives including:
 - \$2 million in 2009 – 10 to be split 50/50 between government and community services with a focus on psychosocial support;
 - The establishment of a Mental Health Assessment Unit (MHAU);

- provision of mental health training for police, emergency services workers and teachers; and
- The expansion the ACT Forensic Mental Health Court Liaison Team.

Homelessness:

- \$10 million over 5 years, providing 20 additional properties to house homeless families and provide them with the necessary supports to sustain their tenancies;
- \$898,000 over 4 years for an initiative to address chronic homelessness (rough sleepers) who will receive community outreach to assist them in to housing and to maintain that housing;
- \$948,000 over 4 years to support for public housing tenants through a targeted program to assist vulnerable families, youth and older people, and Indigenous families to sustain their tenancies and break cycles of homelessness;
- \$1.113 million over 3 years for a *Foyer Model* to establish a service for young people aged 16 to 25 to maintain stable housing and engage with education and employment services;
- \$1.2 million over 4 years for housing and accommodation support initiatives to provide support for people with mental health issues and disorders requiring accommodation support to participate in the community and maintain successful tenancies;
- \$497,000 over 4 years for a central homelessness intake service as a centralised access point for housing and homelessness and would include a common waiting list for public and community housing;
- \$100,000 to support victims of domestic violence: to establish a program to enable women and children who are victims of domestic violence to retain their housing; and
- \$292,000 over 4 years to expand the existing stairwell model program by 10 places, and provide exit points from homelessness services with support in public housing.

The Youth Coalition is concerned about the confusion with regard to funding of existing homelessness services, and calls for clarification around their funding levels, particularly in light of an expectation of increased demand on these services as a result of tough economic times. The Youth Coalition reiterates its calls on the ACT Government to develop a new *Youth Homelessness Action Plan* in order to build on the successful collaboration between the ACT Government and the community and youth sectors of the previous Plan, which expired at the end of 2008.

While the promising new spending initiatives are welcomed, much of the detail is still to come. We implore the ACT Government to take the opportunity to conduct significant consultations with young people and community youth services to identify the best ways in which these resources can be utilised in the Canberra to benefit young people.

Youth Sector Viability:

- The short and long term viability of the youth and community sector has again not been addressed in the Budget 2009 / 10. In particular, the reduced indexation for community services from the expected 3.5% to 3.15% puts community sector jobs at risk when demand for services is increasing daily.
- 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, in it's submission to the 2009 / 10 Budget called for the following key actions;

- Urgent consideration of each of the 30 recommendations outlined in the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) report, *Finding Solutions: Towards the long term viability of the ACT Community Sector*, and;
- Recognition of reported increase in demand and unmet need by increasing the Youth Services Program funding by 25%.

The Youth Coalition supports the ACT Government's commitment to review community sector contracts over the next 18 months to ensure that staff wages and conditions are adequate. Additionally, the review will seek to develop a funding strategy to address identified needs.

Youth and community sector organisations cannot continue to deliver high quality programs and services with staff shortages, high turnovers and an inability to attract suitably qualified or experienced workers.

Infrastructure:

- Funding for regional infrastructure including upgrades to Eddison Park, Black Mountain Peninsular and Weston Park;
- The development of a Gungahlin Sports Complex, Gungahlin College Precinct, and initial planning for a Leisure Centre;
- Child and Family Centre in West Belconnen, with a focus on Indigenous families; and
- A health centre in Belconnen.

The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Budget 2009 / 10 addresses some gaps in services, with significant spending commitments, and we look forward to working with the ACT Government and other community stakeholders in implementing the initiatives from this budget that relate to young people and youth services.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT's ACT Budget 2009 / 10 Analysis is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: Media Releases
- Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives (this document)
- Part 3: Capital Initiatives

Each part can be downloaded from www.youthcoalition.net or accessed in hardcopy by calling (02) 6247 3540.

i) CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT			
Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Business and Economic Development Package (Budget Paper 3, page 68)	This initiative will support a range of measures to assist exporting firms: the ACT Exporters Network — an industry-led mentoring and information sharing network; TradeConnect — a program that provides small grants to support access to professional business services; the Government Trade Mission Program — a biannual program delivered in partnership with Austrade to introduce new exporters to overseas markets; and ongoing support for the ACT Chief Minister's Export Awards. This will also provide for an International Student Ambassadors Program which supports the targeted marketing of ACT's tertiary institutions in key international student markets; as well as additional support for Young Achievement Australia, ScreenACT; and CollabIT — which links local small to medium sized enterprises with multinational companies in the ICT sector.	\$575, 000 (2009 -10)	We welcome the increased investment in supporting young people to participate in business and economic development through undertaking leadership and mentoring opportunities with community based organisations, such as Young Achievement Australia. We look forward to hearing further details about this initiative, particularly the work that will be done through business skills program to develop opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.
		\$637, 000 (2010-11)	
		\$1, 097, 000 (2011-12)	
		\$784, 000 (2012-13)	

<p>Medicare Change of Address Campaign (Budget Paper 3, page 68)</p>	<p>This will provide for the development and delivery of a promotional campaign to encourage people who have moved from interstate to change their Medicare address to the ACT. Any resultant increase in population estimates as a result of the campaign will impact positively on the Territory's GST revenue collections from the Commonwealth Government.</p>	<p>\$65, 000 (2009 -10) \$65, 000 (2010-11)</p>	<p>We strongly support the collection of accurate population estimates for the ACT. We have been calling for the ACT Demographer to update the Social and Demographic Profile for Young People in the ACT. It is well known that many young people may not be included in the current population data. This is due to a range of reasons including frequent moving and young people living in Canberra for a short period of time for work or study. This data would help support the development of the ACT Young People's Plan, as well as other planning in the areas of policy development and the targeting of resources and support services.</p> <p>The additional GST revenue sought from this work could help fund additional services that may be required.</p>
<p>Establishment of Safe Work Australia – ACT Contribution (Budget Paper 3, page 69)</p>	<p>This initiative will provide the ACT's contribution to the establishment and ongoing maintenance of Safe Work Australia, the replacement body for the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. In accordance with the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety, contributions from each jurisdiction are based on a share of national population.</p>	<p>\$137, 000 (2009 -10) \$140, 000 (2010-11) \$144, 000 (2011-12) \$148, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>We strongly support the coordination and resourcing for improvement in occupational health and safety practices across Australia and the ACT.</p> <p>This issue has dual significance for the Youth Coalition. Much of the infrastructure in the youth sector is out of date and many services, particularly the smaller ones, do not have the resources to meet OH&S requirement.</p>
<p>Centenary of Canberra – ACT Celebratory Program (Budget Paper 3, page 69)</p>	<p>This initiative will provide for the appointment of a Creative Director to guide the development and delivery of a meaningful and cohesive official program of celebration, maximising participation and engagement and leaving enduring benefits for the Territory. This initiative also provides for the Government's contribution towards the official centenary celebrations, including</p>	<p>\$730, 000 (2009 -10) \$1, 000, 000 (2010-11) \$6, 135, 000 (2011-12)</p>	<p>We encourage the Creative Director, whose position is funded through this initiative, to engage with young people and the youth sector in the development of the program to mark the centenary of Canberra.</p> <p>The ACT Legislative Assembly is currently conducting an inquiry into live community events. The findings from this inquiry should be helpful in informing the centenary program.</p>
<p>Youth Coalition of the ACT: Part 2 of 3: Expenditure Initiatives</p>	<p>Analysis of the ACT Budget 2009 / 10 Initiatives</p>		

Reaching Out to the Community (Budget paper 3, page 69)	This provides for community engagement initiatives across government. The first year includes project funding to support a broader community conversation on big picture issues that affect Canberra's future. The Community Engagement team in Chief Minister's Department will be supplemented with one position to work across government to enhance	\$398, 000 (2009 -10)	We welcome the ACT Government's commitment to develop engagement strategies with the community. It is important that young people have the opportunity to participate in these consultative mechanisms. Although the Youth Coalition acknowledges the ACT Government's efforts to develop accessible engagement strategies, it is important to note that specific strategies need to be developed that are relevant to young people. We look forward to working with the ACT Government on developing these strategies and hearing more about their detail.
	coordination, planning and targeting of engagement activities.	\$152, 000 (2010-11)	
		\$157, 000 (2011-12)	
		\$161, 000 (2012-13)	

ii) DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

<p>Trial Rapid Express Direct (REDEX) Service (Budget Paper 3, page 72)</p>	<p>A one year pilot of a new bus service will be undertaken on two key cross-town routes. The service will operate every 30 minutes, between 7am and 7pm, and at 15 minute intervals during the weekday peak times throughout school terms – commencing in Term 4 of 2009. Centres services will include Gungahlin, Kippax, Belconnen, Dickson, City, Russell, Barton, Woden, Erindale and Tuggeranong.</p>	<p>\$1, 000, 000 (2009-10)</p>	<p>A lack of access to public transport due to problems of affordability, safety, availability, convenience and appropriateness of the type of transport available, can act as a barrier to young people’s participation in education, employment and other activities in the Canberra community.</p> <p>Young people in Canberra have identified the frequency of bus services as one of the most important issues of public transport in Canberra. As such, the Youth Coalition welcomes the ACT Government for the development of new Rapid Transit Buses through town centres. However we have serious concerns that this budget proposes an ACTION fare increase of 11%.</p>
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ii) ACT HEALTH			
Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Mental Health Growth (Budget Paper 3, page 76)	This initiative will address the growing demand for mental health services in the community by focusing on promotion, prevention and early intervention, while also providing high quality community based clinical and psychosocial support services. The funds will be split between Mental Health ACT and community-sector psychosocial support services on a 50/50 basis. This initiative is part of the Government's 2008 election commitment to provide an additional \$14.5 million over the next four years across community and hospital based mental health services.	\$2, 000, 000 (2009-10)	We strongly support additional funding being allocated towards both government and non-government agencies to provide mental health services for young people and their families. We particularly support the funding of community based psychosocial support services. We hope these additional resources will reduce case loads and ensure that the diverse needs of young people including young mental health consumers, children of parents with a mental illness and young carers.
		\$2, 068, 000 (2010-11)	
		\$2, 138, 000 (2011-12)	
		\$2, 211, 000 (2012-13)	
Integrated Prevention of Chronic Disease (Budget Paper 3, page 78)	This initiative is aimed at reducing the burden of chronic disease in the community by ensuring that people with chronic diseases get improved access to services to better manage their condition, and achieve better health outcomes. This will result in reduced demand for acute services for this population group. This initiative also aims to ensure the patients receive treatment and management plans, giving them the knowledge, confidence and expert support to live as healthy a life as possible.	\$1, 000, 000 (2009-10)	Chronic disease in adolescence has been shown to have detrimental effects on a variety of outcomes in adulthood, including physical health, mental health, employment, and education. Disadvantaged young people are more likely to experience chronic disease as a result of their socio-economic status, and access to education, health and support services. We therefore strongly support initiatives targeted at young people and their families to prevent chronic diseases. We look forward to hearing about how these initiatives will be worked out and participating in their development through consultative mechanisms such as the ACT Chronic Disease Network.
		\$1, 035, 000 (2010-11)	
		\$1, 069, 000 (2011-12)	
		\$1, 106, 000 (2012-13)	
Health Workforce Development (Budget Paper 3, page	This will establish new health professional support roles, physiotherapy extended scope roles, clinical educator positions, support for	\$500, 000 (2009-10)	We commend the ACT Government for increased funding for health workforce development and acknowledges the need to foster a skilled workforce.

78)	workforce development in other nations, and an expansion of the nursing and midwifery scholarship scheme. This initiative is the Government's 2008 election commitment of \$8.2 million over four years to expand the roles of allied health professionals, as well as nursing and medical roles.	\$1, 521, 000 (2010-11) \$2, 621, 000 (2011-12) \$3, 541, 000 (2012-13)	The increased funding for the support of clinical training and supervision acknowledge the diverse range of issues and demands placed on health services. However, the Youth Coalition seeks greater clarity on the provision of training and supervision that will focus specifically on health services provided for young people in the ACT. It is important to build on other workforce development policy and investment including the development of the Centre for Adolescent Health announced in this budget.
GP Workforce Initiatives (Budget Paper 3, page 78)	This initiative will setup: General Practitioner (GP) scholarships, GP teaching payments, the establishment of an ACT GP Development Fund, in-hours GP locum services and a GP Prevocational Placement Program. This initiative is the Government's 2008 election commitment of \$12 million over four years to support and grow the ACT's GP workforce.	\$1, 500, 000 (2009 -10) \$2, 517, 000 (2010-11) \$3, 571, 000 (2011-12) \$4, 655, 000 (2012-13)	There remains a chronic shortage of GPs in Canberra. Statistics from the Department of Health and Ageing show that the ACT has fewer GPs per head of population than in all of the six states. This is compounded by other barriers experienced by young people in accessing health services, including low rates of bulk billing; non youth friendly / specific service. It is recognised that GPs are well placed to play a major role in the improvement of youth health both through the provision of services and providing referrals to allied services such as headspace ACT. While the Youth Coalition supports the announcement of new funding to increase the GP workforce in Canberra, we seek further clarification on how GP's will be encouraged to work with youth specific health services and the newly announced Centre for Adolescent Health.
A Healthy Future - Preventative Health Program (Budget Paper 3, page 78)	This initiative will establish a range of programs aimed at preventing and / or reducing risk factors for chronic disease. The program relates to the <i>Healthy Kids Healthy Future Program, Tobacco Use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Program, Healthy at Work Program, A Chlamydia Awareness Campaign, and an</i>	\$3, 750, 000 (2009 -10) \$3, 567, 000 (2010-11) \$3, 688, 000 (2011-12)	We support the investment in the prevention of chronic diseases, which is a significant issue for young people and their families – particularly those who are experiencing disadvantage. 1) We particularly note the \$500,000 per annum investment in a Chlamydia awareness campaign. The Youth Coalition's 2009 / 10 Budget Submission called for increased resources for targeted education and

	<p><i>Adolescent Health Program.</i> This initiative also funds the feasibility study for a Centre of Adolescent Health.</p>	<p>prevention of Chlamydia for young people.</p> <p>We look forward to participating in consultations on how this funding will be rolled out and build on the significant work that has been conducted in the ACT.</p> <p>2) We noted the commitment to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a Centre for Adolescent Health.</p> <p>We look forward to working with the ACT Government to identify stakeholders as part of the consultative process of the feasibility study, including the Junction Youth Health Service, University of Canberra, Australian National University, The Canberra Hospital, and ACT Health. There are several models of centres for adolescent health across the country.</p> <p>We strongly support the proposal that the centre would have an holistic approach to adolescent health. However we would like to clarify why the proposed target group is young people aged 12 – 22 years, as opposed to 12 – 25 years, and discuss strategies for the centre to be accessible for marginalised young people.</p> <p>There are many opportunities to link the centre with improving existing service delivery, improving our local evidence base, making use of our local tertiary institutions, and helping to plan youth policy.</p> <p>We acknowledge this is one of the ACT Government's election commitments and look forward to being active participants in the study.</p> <p>3) We also noted in the media release that \$200,000 per annum has been allocated to reduce tobacco use through peer education and a nicotine replacement therapy based intervention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>
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			<p>According to national data, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders who smoke are more likely to have begun smoking at an earlier age than their non-Indigenous counterparts. It is therefore essential and interventions that seek to address Tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a strong focus on young people.</p> <p>It is also imperative that the announcement by ACT Health to change their smoking policy as of 1 May 2009 be rolled out with these issues in mind and ensure that consultations are conducted with Indigenous services to make sure the ultimate goal of improved Indigenous health is achieved.</p>
<p>Mental Health Assessment Unit (Budget Paper 3, page 79)</p>	<p>This initiative will allow for the establishment of a Mental Health Assessment Unit (MHAU), allowing it to provide a faster transfer to specialised services for patients with acute mental illness who present at an emergency department.</p> <p>Delay in accessing care can lead to an exacerbation of the patients' condition and increase the risk of self harm. The MHAU, based on the already successful Medical Assessment and Planning Unit will provide timely access to specialist mental health care, enabling earlier intervention and improved outcomes for patients. This six-bed unit will reduce the access block and is a key component of the Government's Capital Asset Development Plan.</p>	<p>\$1,458, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$2,624, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$2,740,000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$2,856,000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the ACT Government's commitment to increasing timely access to mental health services in the ACT.</p> <p>However, we are uncertain about how this initiative aligns with the 4 Stage Model outlined in the <i>Draft ACT Mental Health Services Plan 2008 - 2013</i>, which identifies young people aged 12 – 25 as a key target group for mental health services. It is important to ensure that young people receive youth-specific supports as part of the Mental Health Assessment Unit.</p> <p>It is also important that any further development in Mental Health services considers the needs of family members and significant others, particularly children of parents with a mental illness and young carers.</p> <p>This initiative should be further developed in consultation and collaboration with young people and youth services, to ensure the Unit has the capacity to support young people and work with young people who may have a family member accessing the Unit.</p>
<p>Mental Health Training (Budget Paper 3, page</p>	<p>This initiative will increase mental health training for police, emergency services</p>	<p>\$300, 000 (2009-10)</p>	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the ACT Government's commitment to fund mental health training for police,</p>

79)	<p>workers and teachers, enabling for the provision of better outcomes for people living in the community with mental health problems. Government service employees receiving training will be better equipped to cope with people who have mental health problems.</p> <p>The training program will be reviewed during the 2010-11 financial year.</p>	<p>\$300, 000 (2010-11)</p>	<p>emergency service workers, and teachers.</p> <p>In developing this initiative, it is important that the training include a specific focus on youth mental health, in line with the ACT Government already identifying young people aged 12 – 25 as a specific target group in the <i>Draft ACT Mental Health Services Plan 2008 - 2013</i>.</p> <p>Mental health issues are likely to be significant in many young people's lives with over 25% of young people aged 18-25 experiencing a mental health issue in any given 12 month period. The median age of onset for many mental illnesses is under 24, highlighting the need for youth specific training.</p> <p>It is important to include young mental health consumers, young carers, and children of parents with a mental illness in the training package.</p>
<p>Expand the ACT Magistrate Courts Forensic Mental Health Court Liaison Team (Budget Paper 3, page 80)</p>	<p>This initiative provides additional resources for the ACT Magistrates Court Forensic Mental Health Team and an additional mental health clinician (Court Liaison Officer — CLO) providing mental health assessment, consultation and liaison services to the ACT Law Courts. Referrals to the CLOs may be made by magistrates, lawyers and court officials concerned about the mental state of an offender or alleged offender appearing in the Court.</p> <p>The expansion will ensure services better meet the demands of the population group and judicial system (including children and young people), as well as providing greater support and liaison services to families.</p> <p>The expansion will be reviewed during the 2010-11 financial year and a decision on</p>	<p>\$135, 000 (2009 -10)</p> <p>\$140, 000 (2010-11)</p>	<p>We support the provision of increased resources for the ACT Magistrates Court Forensic Mental Health Team.</p> <p>International data suggests that the rate of mental illness within the incarcerated youth population is more than double that of the general youth population. There is also evidence that intensive interventions can intervene successfully with young people after they have begun offending. We hope that this expanded service will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and ensure all youth mental health referrals are triaged appropriately by a comprehensive mental health screening process that will enable any immediate interventions that may be necessary; • Provide the court with guidance, recommendations and advice about youth mental health issues; • Enhance cost effectiveness and timeliness by ensuring that inappropriate reports are not

	ongoing funding will be made at that time.		<p>made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that young people with serious mental illnesses or intellectual disabilities are supported appropriately and receive appropriate treatment; • Provide a consultation/liaison service to the local youth mental health services and other agencies; and, • Provide developmentally appropriate mental health and alcohol and other drug services to the young people incarcerated in both Bimberi and the Alexander Maconochie Centre. <p>We look forward to hearing about how these services will be expanded and adapted to meet the needs of young people and complement community based mental health services; and to being part of the development process.</p>
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iii) DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES			
Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Play Art Therapy Services for Children (Budget Paper 3, page 81)	This initiative will provide specialist intervention services for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and other disabilities. The service will provide an evidence based, play-based therapy intervention program to address the increasing demands for intervention services at Therapy ACT.	\$461, 000 (2009-10) \$597, 000 (2010-11) \$606, 000 (2011-12) \$615, 000 (2012-13)	<p>We support investment into autism services for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and other disabilities. There are over 30,000 children and young people in Australia living with ASD.</p> <p>We believe it is important that this initiative is extended to be accessible for young people as well as young children.</p> <p>Appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and education for young people with ASD means that they are more likely to be able to have a quality of life comparable with their peers through improving services delivered to Canberra's young people and their families.</p>

			In the ACT, Therapy ACT provides a range of multidisciplinary therapy and support services for people with disabilities and developmental delay. However some ASD representatives argue that the early intervention strategies are insufficient and can be better targeted – we hope that these additional resources will seek to address this.
Companion Card (Budget Paper 3, page 82)	The ACT Companion Card program will be established to enable people with a disability who require attendant care and support at events and venues to participate without incurring the cost of a second ticket for their attendant carer. The program will be part of a National Companion Card Scheme making it possible for ACT cardholders to use their card at over 1,800 businesses across Australia that currently accept the card.	\$104, 000 (2009 -10) \$97, 000 (2010-11) \$99, 000 (2011-12) \$100, 000 (2012-13)	We strongly support this initiative. The discrimination, isolation and poverty too frequently experienced by young people and families where a member has a disability is well documented. This initiative will also align the ACT with Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania who have all successfully implemented the Companion Card. We look forward to hearing about how ACT businesses will be encouraged and recruited to join the nearly 2000 places across Australia that recognise the card.
Expanded Flexible Support Fund (Budget Paper 3, page 82)	This initiative will expand the Flexible Support Grants program designed to further assist in maintaining the independence of vulnerable individuals and their carers in the ACT community.	\$200, 000 (2009-10) \$205, 000 (2010-11) \$210, 000 (2011-12) \$215, 000 (2012-13)	We understand that this funding consolidates the existing Quality of Life and Carer Recognition grants programs worth \$300,00 each year – thus boosting the total annual grant funding by an extra \$200,000. We therefore strongly support the increase of overall grants funding to \$500,000 annually. Grant programs, such as this, provide opportunities for innovative community responses, which are essential in addressing disadvantage in the ACT and ensuring a strong foundation for future economic and social prosperity. By implementing innovative programs in the ACT, we can better ensure that we are responding more directly and targeting initiatives to the needs of the community; and seek to increase the health and wellbeing of Canberra’s “vulnerable people” and carers.
Growth in Out of Home Care Costs	This initiative will assist in addressing the increase in the number and cost of children	\$4,000,000 (2009-10)	We strongly support the ACT Government’s allocation of resources to support young people in out of home

<p>(Budget Paper 3, page 82)</p>	<p>and young people in out of home care arrangements.</p>	<p>\$3,000,000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$2,000,000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$2,000,000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>care.</p> <p>Children and young people in care are a diverse group who share a common experience of not being able to live with their parents and are cared for by someone else. Many have experienced a number of placements and disruptions of their connections with family, friends, school, community and culture.</p> <p>Every young person in care has a right to be safe, actively participate in decisions that affect their lives, and to be fully supported in the care system.</p> <p>Children and young people in care have a range of needs including but not limited to: education, health, sport and recreation, housing, transport and employment. The CREATE Foundation Transitioning From Care Report states that significant improvements need to be made to support young people to transition from care, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need early commencement of transition planning (at 15 years); • Continuity of support until the young person reaches 25; • Better integration between departments to support young people; • Planning in collaboration with young people and carers (youth participation); • High representation of Indigenous young people in care; and, • Acquisition of life skills. <p>The ACT is the poorest performer of all governments in Australia in providing support for young people leaving care. According to a CREATE Foundation national report, the ACT provides the shortest period of support for young people leaving foster care in Australia.</p> <p>ACT Government support for a young person in foster</p>
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			<p>care ends at the age of 18, unless the person is still completing the last year of secondary schooling. New South Wales, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia all offer support to the age of 25. Queensland has no set age limit, while Tasmania and Victoria offer support to the age of 21.</p> <p>The CREATE Foundation also reports that only the ACT and the Northern Territory had no identifiable budget resources for young people leaving foster care.</p> <p>We hope this funding will seek to address these and other issues affecting young people in the out of home care system in the ACT.</p> <p>The ACT Government funds a range of non-government agencies to provide support to young people who were in care and planning to leave care in the future. We understand that the ACT Government provides financial and other help on a case by case basis after the age of 18. In 2007 there were about 500 young Canberrans in care, and about 30 to 35 leave care each year.</p> <p>We therefore strongly support the provision of funding to seek to address the increasing numbers of young people in out of home care arrangements. The CREATE Foundation has stated that the ACT needs mechanisms to monitor objectives, compliance with standards, and outcomes for young people. We look forward to working with the ACT Government to utilise the evidence base to identify the best ways in which these resources can be accessed by young people and rolled out in consultation with both young people, their families and youth services.</p>
Extension of Paid Maternity Leave (Budget Paper 3, page 82)	This initiative will assist in providing an additional 4 weeks in paid maternity leave for ACT Public Service employees and an additional week in bonding leave, on top of	\$177, 000 (2009-10) \$183, 000	We strongly support this initiative, which places the ACT Public Service in a leadership position in Australia in regards to supporting women and families. Recent interest has widened for working women's access to

	<p>the current 14 weeks paid maternity leave, five days bonding leave and five days personal leave for bonding purposes. The initiative will assist the ACT Public Service in retaining its competitive advantage in the provision of family friendly workplace conditions and is both in the interests of a sustainable workforce and supporting early childhood development.</p>	<p>(2010-11) \$188, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$195, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>paid maternity leave, with the Rudd Government making it an election commitment. We acknowledge the difficult economic times, however it is imperative that equity of access is available to all women and their families. The youth and community sector already has a very difficult time retaining staff and sector viability is the number one issue within the community sector.</p> <p>Elizabeth Broderick, the federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, has said that a universal paid maternity leave scheme has both direct and indirect benefits; and that Australia had one of the worst records in the developed world when it came to mothers' workforce participation, blaming the lack of a universal scheme. We therefore call on the ACT Government to advocate for the Australian Government to extend paid maternity leave to all women and families.</p>
<p>Business and Industrial Relations Support for Community Organisations (2nd Appropriation) (Budget Paper 3, page 82)</p>	<p>This initiative will review community sector contracts and provide improved organisational effectiveness and industrial relations advice to non-government organisations in the ACT. This program is aimed at increasing community sector viability over the longer term.</p>	<p>\$100, 000 (2009-10)</p>	<p>We strongly support any initiative that seeks to address the youth and community sector viability. We look forward to working with the ACT Government to implement the recommendations outlined in the ACT Council of Social Service report, <i>Finding Solutions: Toward the long term viability of the ACT Community Sector</i>.</p>
<p>Indigenous Traineeships (Budget Paper 3, page 83)</p>	<p>This initiative will enable the continuation of the ACT Indigenous Traineeship program that provides training and employment opportunities for 15 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.</p>	<p>\$29, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$30, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$31, 000 (2011-12)</p>	<p>Unemployment remains a serious issue for Indigenous people who continue to experience systematic disadvantage in an increasingly competitive labour market, in which it is harder for all people to get and keep a job. Given this, it is vital that Indigenous people in the ACT, particularly young people, are given equal access to the best possible education and training.</p> <p>The continued investment in the ACT Indigenous Traineeship Program will support young Indigenous people to engage with paid employment whilst working towards an accredited qualification. We are keen to hear how these traineeship opportunities could be expanded across all fields in both the public, trade,</p>

			commercial and community sectors.
Facilitator for Indigenous Elected Body (Budget Paper 3, page 83)	The initiative will provide an independent facilitator to give professional guidance and ongoing support to members of the Indigenous Elected Body.	\$50, 000 (2009-10) \$51, 000 (2010-11) \$53, 000 (2011-12) \$54, 000 (2012-13)	We strongly support additional funding for the Indigenous Elected Body and look forward to further details on how this initiative will be rolled out in consultation with the Elected Body and community members.
Youth Advisory Council (Budget Paper 3, page 83)	This initiative will enable the Youth Advisory Council to provide an ongoing program of consultation with young people on issues which impact them. Consultation will include community forums, online surveys and face-to-face consultation with focus groups.	\$20, 000 (2009-10) \$20, 000 (2010-11) \$20, 000 (2011-12) \$20, 000 (2012-13)	<p>The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, commends the work of the members of the ACT Youth Advisory Council and the ACT Government's commitment to recurrent funding for consultations with young people on issues that affect them.</p> <p>The contributions of the young people engaged in the Council have proven invaluable to the development of Government policy. We congratulate the ACT Government for providing specific funding for the engagement of young people.</p> <p>Youth participation strategies aim to ensure young people are engaged in, and supported to be involved in, decision-making that impacts on their lives - and the ACT Youth Advisory Council is one way in which the ACT Government can implement this. Young people have a right to participate in developing government policy, programs and services. We support the refunding of the Youth Advisory Council to facilitate consultations with young people in the ACT – and reiterate the importance of ensuring the Council is appropriately supported to implement their work plan.</p> <p>Youth participation can be difficult to achieve and requires strategies that ensure meaningful participation that is beneficial to young people. Youth participation must be adequately resourced, supported, and young</p>

			<p>people acknowledged for their time, expertise and contributions.</p> <p>It is imperative that alternative participation strategies are developed and implemented to ensure the engagement of diverse young people in the ACT, including those who are experiencing disadvantage and consumers of youth services. A comprehensive youth participation strategy needs to be inclusive of young people's diverse experiences and backgrounds.</p> <p>Given this, it is important that the ACT Government does not view or treat the Youth Advisory Council as the panacea for youth participation across the whole-of-government. We look forward to working with the Youth Advisory Council and the ACT Government to develop further strategies, particularly in light of the current development of the new <i>Young People's Plan</i>.</p>
<p>Migrant and refugee Settlement Services (Budget Paper 3, page 83)</p>	<p>This initiative will assist the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARS) to meet the needs of refugees and other migrants who choose to settle in Canberra with information, advocacy and referral services.</p>	<p>\$50, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$51 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$53, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$54, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>We support this modest amount of funding for Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services. However we have serious concerns about the provision of support to multicultural, particularly refugee young people, in light of the impending closure of the Multicultural Youth Service's drop-in service due to the cessation of the Community Inclusion Fund on 30 June 2009.</p> <p>Language barriers, economic difficulties, housing barriers, unemployment and cultural barriers can pose problems for many newly arrived and refugee people - to such an extent that these hurdles can seem insurmountable. Young refugees and migrants are particularly vulnerable, making it often very difficult for them to settle healthily and happily into the community.</p> <p>Most refugees who arrive in Australia are aged under 30, and despite the immense difficulty of resettlement and recovery, refugee and migrant young people often make remarkable progress and bring a wealth of resources and strengths to the community. If well</p>

			supported in the transition to life in Australia, refugee and migrant young people have demonstrated their strong capacity to be able to rebuild their lives, achieve their goals and contribute dynamically to the broader community. Given this, migrant and refugee settlement services are essential to assist new migrants to participate as soon and as fully as possible in Canberra's economy and society; and to eliminate social exclusion.
Support for Valley FM 89.5 Community Radio (Budget Paper 3, page 83)	This initiative will support the operations of Valley FM 89.5 to provide community radio services to the Tuggeranong area.	\$15, 000 (2009 -10) \$15, 000 (2010-11) \$15, 000 (2011-12)	Community radio is often a forum by which young people acquire skills, volunteer and contribute to our community's social and cultural development. The Youth Coalition has been calling for additional services and investment to be made in regional areas of the ACT and therefore we welcome the ACT Government's small investment of resources for Valley FM 89.5; and look forward to hearing about how it this initiative is rolled out.

iv) HOUSING ACT			
Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Community Outreach for Rough Sleepers (Budget Paper 3, page 84)	This will provide active outreach to rough sleepers, particularly young rough sleepers to encourage them into safe secure and appropriate long term accommodation. Appropriate support services are provided to enable them to engage with mainstream services and sustain their tenancy. This initiative will be funded by the Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.	\$180, 000 (2009-10) \$230, 000 (2010-11) \$239, 000 (2011-12) \$249, 000 (2012-13)	<p>Young rough sleepers are young people experiencing primary homelessness, meaning they have no conventional accommodation. This includes people living on the streets and in other public places such as parks.</p> <p>Rough sleeping is a circumstance and not a category of homelessness. Most people experiencing homelessness are moving between tenuous and temporary forms of accommodation and are not rough sleeping. Rough sleeping policy requires considerably more discussion and definition. The data on rough sleepers in the ACT is challenging to collect and warrants improvement through the range of data collection improvements being discussed locally and nationally.</p> <p>Most young people in the ACT experience secondary and tertiary homelessness. We therefore look forward to finding out how this initiative, through not youth specific but having a particular focus on young people, will be rolled out to ensure it meets the needs of young people.</p> <p>The Adelaide base program <i>Street to Home</i> provides support to individuals to make the transition from homelessness, into secure and stable housing, and can provide us with some guidance on how to move forward in the ACT.</p> <p>It is important to note that the White Paper on Homelessness calls for caution regarding the over emphasis of rough sleeping. The data on rough sleepers in Australia can confuse the reader's understanding of homelessness and potentially creates</p>

			<p>a narrower perception of the issue. As we know homelessness is a complex issue that requires long-term individualised holistic responses.</p> <p>We therefore call on the ACT Government to conduct significant consultations with young people and youth services to identify the best ways in which these resources can be utilised in the context of the ACT to benefit young people who are sleeping rough.</p>
<p>Building Housing Partnerships (Budget Paper 3, page 84)</p>	<p>The purpose of this initiative is to break the cycle of homelessness and disadvantage of vulnerable families through facilitating, coordinating and delivering a range of services to support them to sustain their tenancy, assist them improve their living skills and undertake training and find employment. This initiative will be funded by the Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.</p>	<p>\$160, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$256, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$263, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$269, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>We strongly support both the Australian and the ACT Governments' commitment to urgently address housing and homelessness. Homelessness can affect physical and mental health, educational outcomes, access to services, increase the risk of physical and sexual violence, and involvement with the justice system. It is therefore critical that young people who are experiencing homelessness receive support to maximise their opportunities to participate in the economy and the community. Particular attention needs to be paid to reducing the impact of early homelessness and preventing a lifelong cycle of homelessness and social exclusion.</p> <p>Vulnerable families with unstable housing are often subject to a range of additional pressures including unemployment, poverty, illness and social isolation. The Youth Coalition welcomes the announcement of funding for the Building Housing Partnerships Initiative aimed at delivering a range of services to families. We look forward to hearing how these services will revolve around family centre practices that offer individual support to each member of the family.</p> <p>There is significant investment being made across Australia to address homelessness. However it is important that the range of initiatives being developed have clear coherence in each jurisdiction. This is why, as part of the Youth Coalition of the ACT's budget submission, we called for the development of a new</p>

			Youth Homelessness Action Plan.
Expansion of Transitional Housing Program (Budget Paper 3, page 85)	Transitional accommodation provides temporary accommodation for singles and families exiting homelessness supported accommodation, who no longer require the intensive support and assistance delivered through crisis accommodation. This initiative will provide an additional ten exit points from crisis accommodation to ensure that emergency accommodation is available to those most in need, providing a pathway into long-term appropriate and secure housing. This initiative will be funded by the Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.	\$57, 000 (2009-10) \$75, 000 (2010-11) \$79, 000 (2011-12) \$81, 000 (2012-13)	Appropriate, stable, affordable and safe housing options for families remains one of the highest priorities for young people in the ACT. Social housing options, including public housing and community housing for families transitioning from emergency accommodation is necessary to ensure that appropriate pathways to greater housing stability are identified. The Youth Coalition is eager to hear further about the Expansion of Transitional Housing Program.
Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (Budget Paper 3, page 85)	This initiative provides for the implementation of an integrated housing and health program to provide sustainable tenancies in public housing to people with moderate to severe mental health issues. This initiative will be funded by the Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.	\$200, 000 (2009-10) \$329, 000 (2010-11) \$339, 000 (2011-12) \$348, 000 (2012-13)	The link between mental health and homelessness is clear, with young people who are homeless being twice as likely as their peers in stable accommodation to experience mental illness in their lifetime. Given this, special attention needs to be paid to young people with mental health issues to prevent them from becoming homeless, and to homeless young people who already have, or are at risk of developing, a mental health issue. Stable housing for these young people must be a priority given the difficulty of addressing mental health and associated issues while young people remain transient and in a state of crisis.
Centralised Intake Service (Budget Paper 3, page 85)	This provides for the centralising of the access for homelessness services and social housing within the Gateway Services of Housing ACT to ensure that clients do not have to negotiate with multiple agencies in order to access services. This initiative will be funded by the Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.	\$100, 000 (2009-10) \$129, 000 (2010-11) \$132, 000 (2011-12) \$136, 000 (2012-13)	We strongly support providing young people with streamlined access to services and the implementation of the No Wrong Door policy. However we believe that consultation needs to be conducted with stakeholders to ensure that experiences and outcomes for young people are indeed improved. The Social Policy Research Centre in Sydney developed a report, <i>Models of Centralised Intake and Waiting List Management Systems</i> , which reviewed models of centralised intake systems. The following six components of centralised intake and waiting list

		<p>systems in the mental health and housing sector were be identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common / standardised screening and assessment tool/s; • Networked database (common computer system); • Information interface (front door to the service, all following similar procedures); • Common waiting list/reassessment register; • Common needs evaluation process; and • Agreed allocation procedure. <p>We acknowledge the potential benefits, including young people accessing several areas of service with one uniform eligibility criteria; facilitating the development of fair, efficient and consistent priority housing needs; centralised data comparison and analysis; maintaining accountability and transparency; streamlining of information transfer; reduction in workload from other services; and young people connected with appropriate services to begin with.</p> <p>However we believe there may be significant challenges in the roll out including difficulty in developing a tool that satisfies all services and is not too broad; limitations imposed on professional judgment of 'case by case' issues; confidentiality and privacy issues; young people's refusal to consent to information being placed on database; managerial support and costs, substantial IT support; requires highly skilled coordinator; and need policies and procedures re: clients who are not eligible to access any services.</p> <p>We therefore look forward to working with the ACT Government to further develop this initiative. We believe that it is imperative that there is a clear relationship defined within this initiative that the housing intake service currently being delivered</p>
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			through the community based Canberra Emergency Accommodation Service.
Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence (Budget Paper 3, page 85)	This provides for the investigation of options to support the victims of domestic violence to remain housed in their home, and in particular through Housing ACT partnering with the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and appropriate legal services to seek to remove the perpetrator from the tenancy agreement and re-house them as appropriate. The Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement will fund this initiative.	\$100, 000 (2009-10)	<p>The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government's commitment to investigate housing options to support victims of domestic violence to remain housed in their home.</p> <p>Domestic violence can have short-term and long-term impacts on young people, including physical and mental health issues. It is also important that young people have a sense of stability and safety in their home and day-to-day life. Strategies that could support young people to be able to safely remain in their homes will increase positive outcomes for young people.</p> <p>It is important that the ACT Government engages and consults with the youth and community sector, and key services, to collaboratively develop this initiative.</p>

<p>Youth Foyer Model (Budget Paper 3, page 85)</p>	<p>This initiative provides transitional housing integrated with support for young people aged 16–25 years old to maintain stable housing and engage with education and employment services. The Commonwealth under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement will fund this initiative.</p>	<p>\$000 (2009 -10)</p> <p>\$360, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$371, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$382, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>We strongly support the provision transitional housing with integrated support for young people aged 16 – 25 years.</p> <p>A Youth Foyer model is a youth specific housing option that provides young people with support to complete their education and become established in employment. Foyers provide a degree of independence in a supported environment with mandatory participation. The Youth Coalition supports transitional housing with support however we don't necessary support the Foyer model in itself and have stated this in our homelessness research.</p> <p>We note that this initiative will not be funded until the 2010 – 2011 budget. This therefore gives the ACT Government time to consult with young people and the youth sector to identify the best model to be implemented in the ACT. For example, the existing youth stairwell model is working well and it would be worth having significant discussions with stakeholders identify if it would be useful to introduce a new model. Furthermore the ACT Government has committed to expanding the stairwell model.</p> <p>We look forward to having further discussions with the ACT Government in regards to the detail of this initiative and linking it with the new <i>Youth Homelessness Action Plan</i>.</p>
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v) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Single Court Study (Budget Paper 3, page 86)	This allows for investigation of options for streamlining courts administration and jurisdiction in the ACT to ensure that the judicial system suits our unique jurisdiction and its changing needs.	\$125, 000 (2009-10)	We support the investigation into a single court and look forward to being involved in working with the ACT Government to identify stakeholders and participate in consultations.
Director of Public Prosecutions – Additional Funding (Budget Paper 3, page 86)	This initiative will provide for eight additional staff to increase the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions’ ability to address increasing demand for prosecution services.	\$841, 000 (2009-10) \$854, 000 (2010-11) \$867, 000 (2011-12) \$879, 000 (2012-13)	We support the increased resourcing of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). We hope that this additional resourcing, induction process and ongoing professional development will have a youth component. For example representatives from the DPP have participated in Youth Coalition professional development activities such as the Comorbidity Bus Tour. Where participants reported finding the experience valuable in terms of better understanding the service system, issues affecting offenders and rehabilitative options.

<p>Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Monitoring (Territorial) (Budget Paper 3, page 86)</p>	<p>This initiative will provide funding for staff to monitor the CCTV system in the Civic, Manuka and Kingston precincts during high-need periods.</p>	<p>\$384, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$398, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$413, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$429, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>The evidence on the effectiveness of CCTV use in preventing crime remains mixed, particularly in light of the expense of establishing and maintaining the systems. While the installation of CCTV in public spaces has been identified as having some positive results on crime most of these studies only show small gains.</p> <p>Consultations conducted by the Youth Coalition with young people found that marginalised young people reported that while CCTV prevented violence where cameras were situated, they primarily result in the displacement of violence. For example, the perceived increase of monitoring, targeting and intervention by police may mean that young people avoid using spaces covered by cameras. While the Youth Coalition welcomes the acknowledgement by the ACT Government that implementing CCTV systems requires additional resources for monitoring, we seek clarification on how this will be implemented and procedural development.</p> <p>Furthermore it is essential to acknowledge that young people are more likely than any more likely to be victims of crime.</p>
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Enhanced Fine Enforcement (Budget Paper 3, page 87)	This initiative will increase recovery of court-imposed fines and introduce a voluntary community service alternative to imprisonment for fine-defaulters.	\$300, 000 (2009-10)	It is well known that all efforts should be made to prevent young people from coming into contact with the criminal justice system. Fines and the consequences of not paying them on time have serious consequences for young people, particularly with the incursion of large debts. With no means to pay and little understanding of options, many young people are left to deal with the complex enforcement system. The Youth Coalition calls for greater clarity on assistance that may be provided to young people who have incurred large fines, in line with the funding to introduce voluntary community service as an alternative to imprisonment for fine-defaulters. It is essential that key stakeholders such as the Youth Law Centre and other youth services are involved and informed of any changes.
		\$364, 000 (2010-11)	
		\$371, 000 (2011-12)	
		\$378, 000 (2012-13)	

vi) DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND WATER

Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Community Partnerships for Sustainability and the Environment (Budget Paper 3, page 88) Expansion of <i>switch your thinking!</i> Program (Budget Paper 3, page 88)	This initiative will support the operations of the Canberra Environment and Sustainability Resource Centre, the Canberra Conservation Council and SEE Change ACT. The support will strengthen partnerships between the sector, the community and Government for the purpose of promoting the environment and sustainability.	\$321, 000 (2009-10) \$331, 000 (2010-11) \$341, 000 (2011-12) \$351, 000 (2012-13)	The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government for committing to initiatives that address climate change and the environment in the ACT. Young people view climate change and the environment as a key issue of importance. As young people have predominantly low incomes, it is imperative that provisions are made to support them to participate.
	This provides for the development and implementation of a consolidated evidence-based program delivering a virtual 'One-Stop Shop' single point of access for ACT householders and businesses to access information and support to assist them in reducing their energy and water consumption and waste.	\$4, 600, 000 (2009 -10) \$4, 715, 000 (2010-11) \$4, 833, 000 (2011-12) \$4, 954, 000 (2012-13)	The Youth Coalition is concerned about the possible impact and associated costs of these environment initiatives on youth services, particularly in light of the decreased indexation rate being delivered to community services by the ACT Government in the 2009/10 financial year. We also call on the ACT Government to extend incentives to youth and community services.

vii) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
In Pursuit of Excellence – Gifted and Talented Students (Budget Paper 3, page 90)	This initiative ensures there are effective and equitable procedures for the provision of developmentally appropriate programs for gifted and talented students. This initiative will also support parents by meeting the costs of identifying gifted and talented students and will provide specialised and enhanced training programs for teachers.	\$263, 000 (2009-10) \$236, 000 (2010-11) \$241, 000 (2011-12) \$244, 000	We support additional funding for gifted and talented students and look forward to hearing more about this initiative.

		(2012-13)	
More Teachers Lower Class Sizes (Budget Paper 3, page 90)	This supports the Government's pledge to lower average class sizes to 21 in primary and high schools and 19 in colleges. The initiative will employ up to 70 extra teachers to reduce class sizes to ensure better educational outcomes for students. Capital works of \$6 million over two years will be undertaken to ensure there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional classes.	\$3, 087, 000 (2009-10) \$6, 379, 000 (2010-11) \$6, 536, 000 (2011-12) \$6, 698, 000 (2012-13)	We support smaller class sizes to improve educational outcomes for young people within the ACT education system. We look forward to hearing about the ACT Government's teacher recruitment strategy.
Indigenous Teachers and Teachers Assistants Attraction Scheme (Budget Paper 3, page 91)	This will increase the number of Indigenous teachers and teachers' assistants in our public schools. The initiative will provide ten scholarships to students in years 11 and 12 who wish to pursue a career in teaching. It will also offer three Indigenous university scholarships to Year 12 graduates to undertake a teaching degree. Recipients of the university scholarships will work part-time as school assistants during their study.	\$160, 000 (2009-10) \$168, 000 (2010-11) \$177, 000 (2011-12) \$186, 000 (2012-13)	Education has always been central to Indigenous economic, social and cultural development. A good education determines Indigenous young people's health, literacy, employment, social status and productivity. The Youth Coalition supports the announcement of funding to attract Indigenous teachers to public schools given the evidence that suggests Aboriginal teachers bring a wider range of cultural perspectives into schools and develop networks with the Indigenous communities around the school, a valuable asset when addressing young people's needs.
Enhancing Performance in Literacy and Numeracy (Budget Paper 3, page 91)	This will provide specialist literacy and numeracy teachers who will work in school clusters to coach and mentor teachers in best practice literacy and numeracy teaching strategies. The specialised teachers will also assist classroom teachers in developing individual learning plans for those students in most need. This initiative also provides an additional position to allow the National Capital Literacy and Learning Centre to reach more parents and support literacy learning in schools.	\$875, 000 (2009-10) \$1, 796, 000 (2010-11) \$1, 839, 000 (2011-12) \$1, 886, 000 (2012-13)	For some Indigenous young people, participation in education is affected by economic disadvantage, social marginalization, health problems and isolation. While the Youth Coalition is pleased with the announcement of increase funding to enhance performance and literacy in numeracy in mainstream schools, we are extremely disappointed that 4% of this funding could not be used to support the continued engagement of a teacher two days a week in the Literacy and Numeracy Program at Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation. This program meets the needs of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who would otherwise not be able to complete studies successfully at a mainstream schooling institution.

			<p>The teaching program will discontinue in 55 days due to the cessation of the Community Inclusion Fund resulting in the subsequent disengagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people from the education system that has been supporting them.</p>
<p>Moving Forward with English as a Second Language (Budget Paper 3, page 91)</p>	<p>This initiative will provide an additional eight professional support staff to improve learning outcomes for students with English as a Second Language (ESL).</p>	<p>\$428, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$883, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$905, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$928, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>We strongly support additional resources to support young people to access English as a Second Language Training. Our submission to the ACT Government for the <i>Draft Multicultural Strategy 2009 - 2012</i> states that there need to be increased services for multicultural young people in this area.</p> <p>Many multicultural, particularly newly arrived and refugee young people experience significant challenges in accessing appropriate English language training.</p> <p>For example, currently there are some small programs to support young people in years 11 and 12 within the ACT Government school system. However many young people, particularly refugees, have had significant breaks in their education (up to 10 years) and do not necessary enter directly into years 11 and 12. Young people need appropriate English as a Second Language training in late primary and early secondary school.</p> <p>We look forward to working with the ACT Government through the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network to identify the best way to roll these services out and complement existing services.</p> <p>This will be very difficult with the impending closure of the Multicultural Youth Service's drop-in service due to the Community Inclusion Fund ceasing and not being replaced by other funding. Many young people who access ESL also access Multicultural Youth Service for support.</p>

<p>Australian School-Based Apprenticeships (Budget Paper 3, page 92)</p>	<p>This initiative will employ new Australian School-Based Apprenticeships (ASBAs) in schools each year through established group training arrangements. This initiative offers students the opportunity to achieve a nationally recognised vocational qualification by combining paid work and training as part of their education program and contributing towards their year 12 certificate.</p>	<p>\$350, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$359, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$368, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$377, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>Education systems need to provide inclusive settings with opportunities for young people to learn and develop in ways that recognise and respond to their diverse strengths, backgrounds, learning styles and individual needs.</p> <p>Increasingly we are aware of the need to provide young people with choices during their schooling that encourage them to develop their strengths and areas of interest in relation to their development in the workforce and life.</p> <p>Given this, the Youth Coalition supports the announcement of funding to employ new Australian School-Based Apprenticeships in Schools allowing young people to engage with the workforce and achieve a nationally recognised vocational qualification while maintaining engagement in mainstream school to reach their Year 12 certificate.</p>
<p>Nation Building and Jobs Plan - Building the Education Revolution (ACT Contribution) (Budget Paper 3, page 92)</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Government has committed over \$145 million to provide new facilities and refurbishments to ACT public schools under the Building the Education Revolution program. Under a partnership approach, the ACT is responsible for the ongoing costs of this infrastructure. This initiative meets the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the new facilities.</p>	<p>\$454, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$1, 089, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$2, 019, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$2, 069, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the ACT Government commitment to take responsibility for the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the new facilities for ACT schools being funded by the Australian Government.</p> <p>It is important that the development and maintenance of the new facilities and refurbishments be planned in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to ensure they meet the current and future needs of students at those schools.</p>

viii) ACT PLANNING AND LAND AUTHORITY

Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
<p>Reaching Out to the Community (Budget Paper 3, page 95)</p>	<p>ACTPLA will enhance community engagement by continuing to upgrade its website, making information easier to access and increasing opportunities for people to engage and consult with ACTPLA on projects, policies and development applications.</p> <p>This complements work undertaken over the last 12 months including more visible and informative public notices on planning proposals and development applications through local newspapers, larger more prominent on-site signage of development proposals and the introduction of electronic community and industry newsletters.</p>	<p>\$25, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$25, 000 (2010-11)</p> <p>\$25, 000 (2011-12)</p> <p>\$25, 000 (2012-13)</p>	<p>The Youth Coalition welcomes the ACT Government's commitment to develop accessible information dissemination strategies and increase opportunities for people to engage and consult with ACTPLA on projects, policies and development applications.</p> <p>It is important that young people have the opportunity to participate in these consultative mechanisms, given that young people in Canberra can experience isolation due to inaccessible public transport and systemic disadvantage. Young people have specific needs and valuable ideas to contribute to the development of ACTPLA projects, policies and developments.</p> <p>We urge the ACT Government to develop proactive consultation strategies to engage with young people and youth services in order to access their expertise.</p> <p>Young people in Gungahlin, West Belconnen, Tuggeranong and the Lanyon Valley are in particularly isolated areas; highlighting the importance of consulting with young people in the development of these regions, to ensure they meet the needs of young people.</p>

ix) CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
<p>Assistance with Fees in Areas of Skills Shortage (Budget Paper 3, page 96)</p>	<p>CIT's scholarship program will be expanded, providing assistance with fees and course materials to approximately 1,000 students per annum in areas of skills shortage. It encourages financially disadvantaged</p>	<p>\$300, 000 (2009-10)</p> <p>\$350, 000 (2010-11)</p>	<p>The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government on its commitment to expand the Canberra Institute of Technology Scholarship Program.</p> <p>The Youth Coalition believes that young people should</p>

	students to undertake training and develop careers in the workforce by making training more affordable. It will have a positive impact on women and people from non-English speaking backgrounds who generally face additional barriers in accessing training.	\$359, 000 (2011-12) \$370, 000 (2012-13)	be a priority target group in this commitment to provide assistance with fees and course materials to approximately 1000 students each year. The Canberra Institute of Technology should provide clarification on which study areas are defined as 'skills shortage areas'. It is important that young people are encouraged to pursue choices based on developing their individual interests and strengths. It is important that all young people who may experience barriers to education and training have the opportunity to apply for scholarship assistance.
Lions Youth Haven (Budget Paper 3, page 96)	This initiative will enable the Lions Youth Haven Inc. to deliver learning opportunities at Westwood Farm. Specifically, it will assist in providing youth with training in basic personal skills to be self-sufficient and productive individuals.	\$66, 000 (2009 -10) \$66, 000 (2010-11) \$33, 000 (2011-12)	We strongly support the allocation of funding for Lion Youth Haven to deliver opportunities for young people at Westwood Farm. We look forward to hearing about the details of the initiative.

x) LEGAL AID COMMISSION (ACT)			
Initiative, paper, page	Description in budget	Funding	Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
Homelessness and Elder Law Project (Budget Paper 3, page 97)	This project will develop and pilot, cost-effective, collaborative models for the provision of legal services to older people and homeless people in the ACT. The collaborative models developed in the project will also be used to improve service delivery to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community who have difficulty accessing traditional legal services. This is a joint ACT and Commonwealth pilot initiative over 2 years.	\$144, 000 (2009-10) \$147, 000 (2010-11)	The Youth Coalition welcomes the announcement of new funding to support the provision of legal services to homeless people in the ACT. We look forward to participating in the development of this initiative. It is imperative that this Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds on the work currently being undertaken by other services, such as the Youth Law Centre; • Aligns with other housing and homelessness initiatives announced in this Budget; and • Has synergies with key policy documents such as the new Youth Homelessness Action Plan.