

The Youth Coalition recognises that access to affordable, safe and timely public transport is a key socio-economic determinant of health and wellbeing for young people. The Youth Coalition acknowledges that young people are among the greatest users of public transport options in the ACT, and that transport services need to be further developed in order to facilitate young people's participation in their communities through employment, educational, recreational and social activities, especially for young people in outer metropolitan communities.

All of these activities benefit young people and the broader community. When young people do not have safe, affordable and accessible public transport their life opportunities are more limited. One ongoing issue is the need for more late night services. ACTION runs Night Rider services during the summer but other times of the year buses generally stop at midnight. This curtails young people's ability to participate in late night activities, or puts them in potentially unsafe situations being alone at night.

The Youth Coalition believes that transport concessions must be offered to all young people on low incomes, in particular:

- Young apprentices and trainees
- Young students at CIT and university
- Young people on aged based rates of pay
- Young job seekers
- Young people in alternative education and employment programs.

One important group who miss out on bus concession rates are young people on youth or training wages. Young people aged 16 years and older who receive youth or training wages are not eligible for any bus concession rates. Youth and training wages are based on the assumption that young people have lower living costs than working adults. However, young people do not receive discounts on accommodation, food, utilities or transport fares. While the Youth Coalition advocates strongly for the abolition of youth and training wages, if such a system is in place, the disadvantage that young people on these wages face should be recognised through transport concessions.

The Youth Coalition is committed to:

- ◆ Advocating to ensure that the concessions system makes public transport as affordable as possible and extends concessions to those on youth and training wages
- ◆ Advocating to ensure that there are frequent bus services covering all areas of the ACT particularly at off peak periods and on weekends
- ◆ Advocating to improve access and frequency of late night public transport services