



youth  
coalition  
of the ACT

# Annual Report

This report provides information  
about the activities undertaken by  
the Youth Coalition of the ACT

2022-2023

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Indigenous cultures and the invaluable contribution they make to our community.

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# A World For, By and With Young People

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory. The Youth Coalition's vision is for an ACT community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people. The Youth Coalition undertakes policy development, sector development, research, evaluation, advocacy and representation.

# Contents

Chair & Vice Chair Report	4
Letter from the CEO	6
Annual Report 2022–2023	9
Advocacy & Representation	13
Capacity Building & Sector Development	15
Policy Development	18
Communications	19
Research & Evaluation	20
Key Projects and Achievements	23
Youth Participation & Youth-led Activities	29
Summary of Activities & Outcomes	31
Financial Statements	41

# Chair & Vice Chair Report

The Youth Coalition of the ACT had an impactful year in 2023, advancing the interests and improving the wellbeing of the territory's youth in a way that will have ripple effects across the country.

The Youth Coalition has been heavily involved in the advocacy for a change in legislation for Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility from 10 years to 14 years. This change to legislation diverts children and young people away from youth justice system and provides a therapeutic response to prevent further harm and adversity for children, young people and their families. We congratulate the Youth Coalition, the ACT Government and everyone involved in the reform for the recent passing of this legislation.

The Youth Coalition were also successful in advocating for the extension of funding for vital mental health services in the ACT that provide support to children and young people in the "missing middle". This cohort of children and young people often have difficulty accessing mental health support despite having moderate to severe mental health concerns. These milestones achieved in 2023 represent the culmination of the work and advocacy of the Youth Coalition over the past several years.

These are significant achievements that will genuinely help people in our community, and they could not have been achieved without the extraordinary efforts and dedication of the Youth Coalition team. Under Justin's leadership, Erin, Thomas, Sharon, and Hannah have once again made our world a little better and on behalf of the Board and our members we thank them for another remarkable year. They have made us proud to be part of such a valuable and impactful organisation.

At the same time, the Board of the Youth Coalition has undergone a significant transition. Over the past two years, the Board has experienced significant turnover, as experienced Board members have completed their terms and moved on to other opportunities. In 2023, the Board welcomed four new members and spent the year consolidating the knowledge and experience of members and developing policies that will ensure the long-term success of the organisation. We implemented a new financial strategy that will improve the security of the organisation for years to come, and recruited new Board members for 2024, with a diversity of lived experience, knowledge, and skills that will support and guide the Youth Coalition in its mission.

We'd like to thank our fellow Board members for their engagement and effort throughout the year, and their dedication to ensuring the years ahead will be secure, stable, and fruitful for the youth, of the ACT. We have such confidence in the continuing and new members and are excited to see what lies ahead.

With pride, gratitude, and a sense of purpose, we present this Annual Report for 2023, highlighting the impactful work that the Youth Coalition and our supporters have accomplished.

**Sean Mullins & Cindylee Young**

Chair & Vice Chair

# Letter from the CEO



It has been another busy and rewarding year for the Youth Coalition. 2022-23 saw many successes and achievements for the Youth Coalition. As a small team we continue to find ways to optimise our impact in the community. Each year we get better at using our resources and time. This year's Annual Report reflects this effort and aims to identify the outcomes we have been achieving in the community. We do a lot of work behind the scenes that not everyone sees. This year's report provides insight into the scope and quality of work we have delivered.

All of the work done by the Youth Coalition begins and ends with the staff. I would like to acknowledge the Youth Coalition staff team for their ongoing passion and commitment to the sector and young people. Erin, Tom, Hannah and Sharon always deliver high quality work. The staff function as a strong team, supporting and nurturing each other. They continue to grow and become more impressive each year as they purposefully strive to challenge themselves, motivated by their values and driven by their integrity. It is an honour to work with them and the whole sector benefits from their excellence.

As an organisation we continue to go from strength to strength as our Board provides stability and security. I would like to thank the Board and the outgoing Chair, Sean Mullins, for their commitment to create and maintain an enabling environment that allows the team to do their work. This has been an explicit aim of the Board led by Sean, which has been noticed and appreciated by the staff team.

The work of the Youth Coalition continues to be directed by the strategic plan, reflected in the structure of this report. The breadth of our work includes: systemic advocacy and policy development; professionalisation and workforce development; promoting the voices and experiences of young people, workers and services; and, research, consultation and evaluation. Each of these categories overlap and include a wide range of activities.

Each year we innovate and learn through reflection on how to do our jobs better. This year we saw great success in the ACT Budget, with money allocated to everything we advocated for. Creating consensus and bringing people together to co-create coherent strategies for advocacy with a 'clear ask' has been the foundations of our approach.

Systemic advocacy is often a slow process. It can take years of work to finally see the changes that we have been advocating for. This year we need to celebrate the work that has been done to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) in the ACT. While the Legislative Assembly recently approved the *Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* on 1 November, the work that got us here stretches back to 2019.

In December 2019 I was on a panel at the Legislative Assembly organised by the Human Rights Commission to discuss raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility; during which a network of people identified that the ACT was uniquely placed to lead Australia in this campaign. In 2020 this group reconvened to develop a strategy for the ACT. Jodie Griffiths-Cook, the incomparable Sophie Trevitt and I were at this meeting. While many people have been involved in this advocacy, Sophie Trevitt played an essential role. Sophie died in July 2023 at the age of 32. Jodie and I had the pleasure of working with Sophie advocating for this change. She was the driving force, the emotional and intellectual support, and inspiration. She did so much work behind the scenes, driven by the aim of making this happen. Sophie would orchestrate and author activities, encourage people into the spotlight that best achieved the goals. She genuinely listened to debates and concerns; and calmly and intelligently supported people to understand the rationale and compassion behind these reforms. In 2020, Sophie won a Yogie for leading this campaign, which at that time had successfully become an election commitment by the ACT Government. But her advocacy did not stop there. Right up until her untimely death, Sophie continued to advocate to ensure these reforms would happen, and in the best interests of the children and young people she cared about so deeply. I feel a deep sense of loss and privilege to have worked alongside Sophie. We will do everything we can to make sure her vision is realised.

Advocacy can go on for years before we become involved and continues after our contribution ends. This year the Youth Coalition, in partnership with The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and CHN, successfully co-created the Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance. This Alliance will be an avenue for creating a coherent and systematic response to child and youth mental health. This is not the beginning of the story of mental health advocacy for child and youth mental health, but we hope it is a part that leads to more coordinated and systemic advocacy now and into the future.

This year saw the launch of the *Youth Worker Code of Ethical Practice*. This has been the result of work over the past few years in collaboration with youth sector champions from the Youth Worker Practice Network and Youth Housing and Homeless Forum. Ethical practice is the foundation upon which all youth work is built. Each year we hold the Yogies to highlight the fantastic work of our sector, however, this only scratches the surface of the commitment the sector and its workforce has for supporting young people. I would

like to thank the youth sector for their wisdom, effort and ongoing contribution to the community.

This last year has also been difficult for the youth sector – those who work with and support young people. There has been a sense of uncertainty linked to Commissioning for Outcomes. It is vital to ensure we are making the most of resources and we must continually improve outcomes for young people and the community. Uncertainty is an unavoidable part of rethinking what we are doing and how we are doing it. However, the *Counting the Costs* report released by ACTCOSS highlighted the enduring struggle for resources. With increased demand for their services, under-resourced and undergoing Commissioning processes, the community sector has struggled. We will continue to advocate for the youth sector, striving to build our capability, capacity, and recognition of their value.

Over the past few years, the Youth Coalition has aimed to improve the value, role and understanding of evidence-informed practice, monitoring and reporting. Over the last six years we have systematically provided support to build capability to collect robust data and encourage evaluation across the sector. It is through these mechanisms that we can highlight our value and tell the story of what we do. We have seen a change in both government and non-government organisations' attitudes and readiness to conduct evaluative activities. This year, evaluation findings have contributed to successful budget bids. The youth sector has changed the way they refer to and measure outcomes, and I believe, lead the way in data awareness and skills. We look forward to continuing to support this ongoing project of supporting the community sector to strengthen their data literacy, to support ongoing service improvement and develop a more robust sector.

The shift to outcomes-oriented reporting has hopefully reminded us all why we are here – to bring about positive change in the lives of young people in the ACT. Throughout the year we have engaged with a wide range of young people and the youth sector. This keeps us grounded in our mission – we are here to improve their lives. We have the great privilege of hearing the lived experience of young people. We learn from them and let them know the value of their contribution. I would like to thank all of the young people we have worked with this year. But there are so many more that we don't meet, and we renew our commitment to trying to hear their voices and advocate with them for positive change.

**Dr Justin Barker**

Chief Executive Officer



# Annual Report 2022-2023

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory. The Youth Coalition undertakes policy development, sector development and workforce capability, research and evaluation, advocacy and representation activities to improve outcomes for young people and their families.

The Youth Coalition receives funding from the ACT Government Community Services Directorate (CSD) as a peak organisation. Our contract with CSD defines a peak as follows:

*“A peak body is a representative non-government organisation, the primary purpose of which is to provide membership engagement and support, coordination, advocacy and representation, information dissemination services, relevant research, policy and sector development services for the Represented Group and other interested parties.”*

*“Represented Group is defined as:*

- a) the relevant community cohort/s and/ or*
- b) industry stakeholders that are members, or are eligible to be members, of the peak body.”*

The Youth Coalition's 'Represented Group' is *young people and those who work with and support young people*. If there is a perceived conflict between representing 'those that work with and support young people' and 'young people,' we prioritise young people – as, logically, young people are also the primary concern of the youth sector.

## Activities & Projects

The Youth Coalition undertakes a wide range of activities and projects to achieve its vision and purpose. These activities broadly fall into four categories:

- Advocacy & Representation
- Capacity Building and Sector Development
- Policy Development
- Communications
- Research and Evaluation

These activities include a wide range of projects, as can be seen below. However, the distinction and line between these activities is a conceptual division, or heuristic. In practice many of these activities and projects intersect and overlap, often mutually interdependent, informing and supporting each other.

## Outcome Oriented Reporting

Each of our activities and projects is explicitly linked to outcomes for young people in the community – positive outcomes for young people are our ultimate aim. This report aims to provide an account of the outputs and outcomes delivered and achieved by the Youth Coalition of the ACT that can be seen to contribute to the broader goal of improving the lives of young people in the ACT.

Through our peak activities the Youth Coalition works to progress the following outcomes as outlined in our contract:

1. The peak body's activity reflects a sound understanding of the issues that impact on the Represented Group.
2. The voices of the Represented Group are heard and/or reflected in the peak's policy advice and systemic advocacy.
3. The Represented Group is supported, informed, engaged.
4. The peak has influence on issues, policies and programs affecting the interests of the Represented Group, including through research and engagement.

It is important to highlight that many of the activities we conduct achieve many of these outcomes. We have endeavoured to account for this throughout the report, however, the **Summary of Activities and Outcomes** explicitly provides an overview of the activities and the outcomes against the contract as well as the specific outcomes achieved.

## Systemic and strategic advocacy

Systemic advocacy is at the core of our approach – our efforts to persuade government, Directorates, organisations and others to change their policies and practice has a great impact and benefits many young people. We conceptualise advocacy as a set of organised activities designed to influence the policies and actions of others to achieve positive change. In other words, advocacy is an activity that is conducted to achieve outcomes – positive changes in the lives of our target population.

There are many types and levels of advocacy, and the approach used must vary in each context.

Accordingly, we advocate on different levels:

- macro: to gain policy commitments at the level of government
- meso: influencing sector and organisational policy content and implementation, and
- micro: influencing the content and implementation of programs, services and the community

Youth affairs includes a diverse range of issues and domains that impact and shape the lives of this heterogenous cohort. As a peak body with limited resources, we need to be able to respond to issues and opportunities that emerge in addition to having advocacy goals that are led by the Youth Coalition.

The Youth Coalition has developed a **decision making and planning framework** to assist in deciding what issues we prioritise and assist us in the development of the advocacy strategy and plan. As a result, we have a transparent and accountable approach for prioritising activities undertaken.

## Structure of this Report

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the work conducted by the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

Firstly, we begin by providing an overview of all the Activities conducted by the Youth Coalition in the 2022–23 financial year – structured by the five categories of activities:

- Advocacy & Representation;
- Capacity Building and Sector Development;
- Policy Development;
- Communications; and,
- Research and Evaluation.

Second, we outline some of the *Key Projects and Achievements* of the Youth Coalition for 2022–23

Thirdly, we outline the *Youth Participation and Youth Led* activities undertaken in 2022–23 .

Finally, we provide a **Summary of Activities and Outcomes** that outlines the range of activities, their aim, the period in which the activity was or is being conducted, and the indicators of success and progress towards outcomes.



# Advocacy & Representation

The Youth Coalition provides advocacy and representation through a range of mechanisms, including participating in over 25 committees, networks, advisory and reference groups, and meeting with ACT Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and ACT Government Directorate representatives.

Examples of the committees and groups that the Youth Coalition participated in this year include:

- Next Steps Critical Sector Friends Group
- Murrumbidgee School Board
- Commissioning Lived Experience Advisory Panel
- Joint Community Government Reference Group (JCGRG)
- JCGRG Industry Strategy Steering Group
- Joint Pathways & Joint Pathways Executive (homelessness sector meeting)
- Flexible Education Intake Panel
- Continuum of Education Support Advisory Group
- CYFSP Practice Leaders Group
- CYFSP Agency Directors
- CYFSP Workforce Development Subcommittee
- Justice Reform Group
- OOHC Youth Participation Working Group
- Safe & Connected Youth Program – Governance Group
- Network Coordinator Governance Group
- Network Coordinators and Peaks Meeting
- Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Community of Practice
- MindMap Governance Group
- MindMap Evaluation Advisory Group
- Adolescent Ward Working Group
- Mental Health Service Development Working Group

- Headspace Canberra and Tuggeranong Consortium
- MHCC Leadership Committee
- MyDHR Consumer Experience Committee
- ACT Peaks Network
- Murrumbidgee Education & Training Centre Training & Employment Committee
- Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council
- Gambling and Racing Commission Community of Practice
- National forums:
  - Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Board
  - Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia: National executive and State and Territory Advisory Network
  - State and Territory Youth Peaks

# Capacity Building & Sector Development



The Youth Coalition provides a range of activities that aim to support workers, services, and the youth sector to build their capacity and capability to work with young people in the ACT. These include ongoing networks and forums, training opportunities, and other capacity-building activities. An overview is provided below.

## Networks and Forums

- **Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum (YHHF):** The YHHF provides a forum for staff and services across the community and government sectors who support young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to identify and progress key issues. YHHF meetings were held bimonthly in 2022–23.
- **Multicultural Youth Affairs Network ACT (MYAN ACT):** MYAN ACT is delivered in partnership with the Multicultural Hub and aims to bring together key stakeholders across the community and government sectors to improve support for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. MYAN meetings are held bi-monthly. In 2023, MYAN ACT created a sub-committee to progress a youth sector forum.
- **Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN):** The YWPN provides a Community of Practice for frontline youth workers. YWPN activities include regular member sessions, training sessions and formal full day / multi day training opportunities (See also: YWPN Evaluation in 'Research and Evaluations').
- **ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance (the Alliance):** The Youth Coalition partnered with the Office for Mental Health & Wellbeing and Capital Health Network to create a new network that aims to improve child and youth mental health service system responses (See also: Projects).

## Training

- **Talk to them Training:** The Youth Coalition of the ACT and Relationships Australia Canberra & Region were funded by the ACT Government – Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office (DFSVO) to develop a training package for frontline youth workers. This training aims to support youth workers with the knowledge and confidence needed to open a conversation with young people about DFV. Youth workers are trusted people that young people engage with for support. This training will increase the capacity of youth workers to understand, recognise and respond to DFV issues, safely refer the young person and/or family to specialist DFV services, and continue to support them as they navigate the specialist DFV support system.
- **Reflective Supervision Training:** The Youth Coalition partnered with Families ACT to develop and deliver a Reflective Supervision Training package specifically for local community sector services. The training aims to:
  - inform and support emerging and existing leaders across the Child, Youth and Family Services Program
  - provide participants with a space to practice reflective supervision skills, including contracting, creating the conditions for reflection and working through difficult situations and ethical challenges
  - encourage informed and reflective practice
  - enable practitioners to feel better able to cope with their work and workplace, reducing burnout and improving job retention and satisfaction
  - build a reflective workforce, committed to ongoing professional growth, and supported by quality supervision.
- **Alcohol Tobacco and other Drugs (AOD) Training:** The Youth Coalition supported training delivered by ATODA to deliver AOD training to youth workers. The training provided participants with:
  - Improved knowledge of ATOD use in the ACT/Australia and harm reduction and safety information
  - Improved confidence in working with people ATOD issues
  - New skills in harm reduction practices

## Other Initiatives

A range of other capability-building initiatives were delivered, which are described later in this report. Please refer to:

- YWPN Evaluation (Research and Evaluation)
- Service Improvement Project (Project Highlights)
- Professionalisation of Youth Work (Project Highlights)
- ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice (Project Highlights)
- YOGIES (Project Highlights)
- CNCT Directory and Email Networks (Communications)



# Policy Development

The Youth Coalition provides policy analysis and development relating to a range of social policy and program decisions that affect young people and youth services in the ACT. Our policy work is strongly informed by current evidence and research on youth affairs, workers and services supporting young people in the ACT, and young people aged 12–25. Key policy activities in 2022–23 included:

- **ACT Budget:** The Youth Coalition participates in the annual ACT Budget process by preparing a submission to the community consultation, providing an analysis of the Budget, appearing at the Estimates hearing, and conducting additional advocacy.
- **Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility:** The Youth Coalition has worked closely with government and community stakeholders to advocate for and work towards raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14. This has included informing the development of service system reforms.
- **Child, youth and family sector reforms:** The Youth Coalition has participated in a range of policy activities, including a Critical Friends Group to the Minister for Children and Families to inform the implementation of the *Next Steps for Our Kids Strategy 2022–2030*, and support alignment between policy initiatives occurring in relation to care and protection, and the broader CYFSP sector.
- **Child and youth mental health:** The Youth Coalition has worked alongside key stakeholders in the government and community to advocate for and progress a range of initiatives within the child and youth mental health sector (see ‘Projects’).
- **Gambling harm:** The Youth Coalition participates in a range of committees, advisory groups and other forums related to reducing gambling harm in the ACT.
- **Youth Workers in schools:** The Youth Coalition worked with the Education Directorate to support and inform the development of new structures and processes to increase supports for school-based youth workers.
- **Commissioning:** The Youth Coalition has participated in and informed ACT Government processes towards commissioning across a range of sub-sectors:
  - Child, youth and family services
  - Mental health
  - Primary youth health
  - Housing and homelessness
  - Next Steps (Out of home care)



# Communications

The Youth Coalition regularly communicates with support workers, services, the youth sector, young people and government.

Examples of communication activities by the Youth Coalition this year include:

- **Email Networks:** The Youth Coalition manages a range of email networks. Between 2022–23, the Youth Coalition sent out 54 eBulletins through our email networks of 1,102 contacts. We use our email networks to disseminate relevant information and promote training, forums and events.
- **CNCT Directory:** Connect is a directory of services created by the Youth Coalition for young people and youth workers in the ACT and surrounding region. It is designed to connect young people to services and be used by those who work with young people. The website has undergone several stages of development and will continue to be further developed. This will assist in finding gaps and additional features that need to be built into the website. The website currently has over 300 listings which are regularly being updated for a better user experience and easy searchability. This year Connect received 9.8k clicks from search related queries and 714k impressions.
- **Media:** The Youth Coalition has a regular presence in the media in the ACT, often providing comment on issues affecting young people and the youth sector across radio, television and print media.
- **Website:** The Youth Coalition website is used as a platform to promote our key projects and activities. This year the website received 1.26k clicks from search and 61.1k impressions.
- **Social Media:** The Youth Coalition disseminates information through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with over 4,900 followers across our social networks. We regularly use our social networks to provide updates, advocate and disseminate information.



# Research & Evaluation

The Youth Coalition conducts a range of research and evaluation activities and projects, that seek to improve understanding of the needs of young people and families; and inform and support improvements to services and systems. An overview of key research and evaluation activities undertaken in 2022–23 is provided below.

## Research: Elder Abuse and Adolescent Violence

In 2021, the Australian Institute of Criminology commissioned the Youth Coalition to undertake interviews with older carers who had experienced violence from the adolescents in their care. This study provided insights into the factors associated with adolescent violence, as well as the experiences and support needs of both carers and young people.

## Research: ‘The Missing Middle’ – Children and Young People with Moderate to Severe Mental Health Concerns

Between 2021–22, the Youth Coalition partnered with the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Capital Health Network, to undertake research to better understand ‘the missing middle’. This research engaged with stakeholders across public, private and community sectors to better understand which cohorts of children and young people experience difficulties accessing mental health services, and the underpinning service and system challenges and constraints. The report was released in 2022 by the ACT Government and has since informed a range of policy initiatives.

## Research: Experiences of young people and parents/carers engaged with CAMHS

In 2023, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commissioned the Youth Coalition to undertake consultations to (1) better understand the access and engagement experiences of young people and families who have been involved with CAMHS, (2) provide feedback on a brochure related to the new adolescent mental health inpatient unit and (3) the re-location of CAMHS southside.

## Evaluation: Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW)

Between 2021–2022, the Youth Coalition was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of FFT–CW ACT, a program delivered by Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and OzChild. The evaluation sought to understand how effectively FFT–CW ACT was meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the ACT. The evaluation was conducted in partnership with Curijo Pty Ltd, Numbers and People Synergy, and Dr Morag McArthur. The final report was submitted in December 2022.

## Evaluation: Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice (FFT-YJ)

In 2022, the Youth Coalition was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the pilot of FFT–YJ, which was delivered over two years by OzChild. Following the cessation of funding to the FFT–YJ program, the evaluation sought to assess the delivery of the pilot program, how effectively it engaged with and supported program participants, and the role and value of the program within the ACT service system. Following the delivery of the evaluation findings, the 2023–24 ACT Budget included funding to re-establish the program.

## Evaluation: Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)

In 2023, the Youth Coalition received funding through the Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra’s Collaborative Grants Round to undertake an evaluation of the YWPN. The evaluation examined the enablers and barriers to delivery and participation, how effectively the YWPN engages with its intended audience, and the value of the YWPN to participants and the broader workforce. It also identified areas for further improvement; to strengthen training and professional development supports for youth workers in the ACT.

## Evaluation: Pilot of Amplify with CASP Services

In 2023, the Youth Coalition was commissioned by ACT Health to conduct a 6-month evaluation of the pilot of ‘Amplify’, a platform that assists with outcome measurement, with services funded under the Community Assistance and Support Program. The evaluation will provide insights regarding the outcome measurement support needs of services.

## Evaluation: Safe and Connected Youth Program

In 2022, the Youth Coalition provided support to the Community Services Directorate and Safe and Connected Youth Program partner agencies, to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework.



# Key Projects and Achievements

This section provides an overview of key projects and achievements of the Youth Coalition between 2022–23.

## ACT Budget

The Youth Coalition was successful in advocating for a range of initiatives announced in the 2023–24 ACT Budget, including:

- Interim funding for the WOKE Program, which was at risk of imminent closure. The WOKE Program provides support to young people at risk of suicide and self-harm, and their families;
- Funding to implement service system reforms related to raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility;
- Establishment funding to support the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance;
- Funding supports for youth and community services in the Gungahlin region while a longer-term permanent youth and community centre is established.

## Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly included a welcome commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Alongside experts and advocates across the human rights, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, medical and legal sectors, the Youth Coalition advocated to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years. In 2023, the ACT Government committed to raising the age from 10 to 12 initially, with a commitment to raising it to 14 within two years, after service system reforms have been implemented. We congratulate the ACT Government for being the first Australian jurisdiction to recognise and act to prevent the damaging and potentially life-long effects of incarceration on children and young people.

Over the last few years, the Youth Coalition has worked closely with government and community stakeholders to progress this significant legislative change. In partnership with

other key stakeholders, the Youth Coalition successfully put raising the age of criminal responsibility on the ACT agenda. This began in 2019 with a panel discussion at the Legislative Assembly. The panel led to a coalition of services and community members who aimed to progress this issue in the ACT that was led by Sophie Trevitt from Raise the Age, Children and Young People Commissioner Jodie Griffiths-Cook and the Youth Coalition. We developed a strategy to increase awareness and knowledge, including an overview of the current and impending reforms that supported and enabled the campaign to raise the age. These resources were widely disseminated, including interstate. We participated in numerous activities to support these reforms including the Review commissioned by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to examine the ACT service system to assess and propose the changes required to improve outcomes for children and families and advocating for funding to implement these initiatives. We continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders to deliver these reforms.

Furthermore, following the cessation of funding to the FFT-YJ pilot program in the ACT, the Youth Coalition advocated for and then conducted an evaluation of the program, which found it to be a necessary component of a service system to support children and families. Subsequently, funding to re-establish FFT-YJ was announced in the 2023-24 ACT Budget (see also: Research and Evaluation).

## Child and Youth Mental Health

Over several years, the Youth Coalition has worked collaboratively with government and community stakeholders to progress initiatives to work towards an integrated child and youth mental health sector. These are described below.

### **ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance**

Building on the 'Review of Children and Young People' undertaken by the Office for Mental Health & Wellbeing in 2019, the Youth Coalition partnered with OMHW and Capital Health Network to undertake the 'Missing Middle' project (see also: Research and Evaluation). These activities and partnerships led to the development of the new ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance.

The Alliance aims to provide a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, the private sector and people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving mental health service system responses for children and young people. The Alliance is led by OMHW, CHN and the Youth Coalition, with support from a Coordinating Committee of key stakeholders.

Key activities undertaken in 2022-23 towards establishing the Alliance included:

- Conducting two strategic planning forums with sector stakeholders to plan and design a structure and processes for the Alliance
- Development of a draft Terms of Reference and key processes for the Alliance

- Establishment of a 'Coordinating Committee' through an open EOI process to provide governance support. The Coordinating Committee includes representatives from key government and community services, academia, and the OMHW Youth Reference Group

Initial funding to support the continued establishment and delivery of the Alliance was provided in the 2023–24 ACT Budget.

## Other child and youth mental health advocacy and initiatives

Alongside the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, the Youth Coalition has been involved in a range of related activities in the child and youth mental health sector. Through our involvement in these activities, the Youth Coalition seeks to support the development of linkages between projects and stakeholders to work towards a more integrated service system. Examples of these initiatives include:

- **MindMap Youth Navigation Portal:** The Youth Coalition participates in the Evaluation Advisory Group and the Governance Group. Prior to this, the Youth Coalition conducted consultation and user-testing to inform the development of the portal.
- **ANU Young People's Journeys around Mental Health and Medical Services Study (JAMMed) – Longitudinal Qualitative Study:** The Youth Coalition is supporting a longitudinal study that will examine young people's experiences in the ACT mental health system (see also: Youth Participation and Youth-Led Activities).
- **CAMHS consultations:** The Youth Coalition is currently conducting consultations with young people and parents/carers regarding their experiences with CAMHS (see also: Research and Evaluation).
- **WOKE advocacy campaign:** The Youth Coalition conducted a targeted advocacy campaign to seek interim funding for the WOKE program.
- **Youth Mental Health System Model:** The Youth Coalition participated in a University of Sydney project to develop a youth mental health system model for the ACT.
- **Headspace:** The Youth Coalition participates on the combined Headspace Canberra and Tuggeranong consortium.

## Youth Work Professionalisation

Working with youth sector stakeholders, the Youth Coalition has led a range of initiatives aimed at supporting youth work professionalisation in the ACT, including the development and launch of the *ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice*, and an evaluation of the Youth Worker Practice Network. Further information about the Code of Ethical Practice is provided below. For more information about the YWPN Evaluation see 'Research and Evaluation'.

## ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice

A sub-group of experienced youth workers from the Youth Worker Practice Network was established to oversee the development of the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice (the Code), which was launched in March 2023. The Code revises and builds upon the previous work done by the sector over 15 years ago to develop the first ACT Youth Work Code of Ethics, as well as work done across Australia and New Zealand to further embed professional and ethical youth work practice across the youth sector. The new Code reflects the growth and development of the youth sector, demonstrated by improved theoretical frameworks and information about what youth work is and how youth workers engage with young people. Following the launch of the Code, the sub-group has identified the need to form an advisory committee to oversee the next stages of professionalisation.

## Service Improvement Project

The Service Improvement Project (SIP) offers a systematic, collaborative and structured approach to service improvement, by supporting worker and services to build their understanding and knowledge regarding the use of program logics, monitoring and evaluation, and applying outcome measurement tools in their practice. This Project aims to improve attitudes and build capability of the sector to undertake ongoing service improvement activities and build the evaluability and rigor of monitoring and reporting.

In 2022-23, the Youth Coalition delivered the SIP to CYFSP managers. Following the success of the first round of the SIP, we noted that while we had successfully improved attitudes and capability of frontline workers, managers were often unaware of or unprepared to operationalise and enable the implementation of the skills and resources developed. As a result, we also worked alongside ACTCOSS to develop approaches to deliver SIP training to managers and further develop a model of training that can be delivered to services across a range of sectors.

## Delivery of Training

The Youth Coalition has supported the design and delivery of training packages for people who work with young people, including the 'Talk to Them' DFV training for youth workers, and 'Reflective Supervision' training.

### **'Talk to Them' Domestic and Family Violence Training for youth workers**

The 'Talk to Them' DFV training for youth workers was developed and piloted between 2021-2022, coordinated by the Youth Coalition in partnership with community and government stakeholders and key experts. The training aims to support youth workers to build the knowledge and confidence to have conversations with young people about DFV; to increase the capability of youth workers to understand, recognise and respond to DFV

issues; safely refer the young person and/or family to specialist DFV services; and continue to support them as they navigate the specialist DFV support system.

In 2023, the Youth Coalition was commissioned by the ACT Government – Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office (DFSVO) to coordinate the development and implementation of a “Train the Trainer” package, to teach workers across a range of sectors how to deliver ‘Talk to Them’ training to people who work with young people. Upon successful completion of the training, the trainers will be supported to deliver the training, with coordination and oversight provided by the Youth Coalition.

## Reflective Supervision Training

The Youth Coalition partnered with Families ACT to coordinate the development and delivery of a Reflective Supervision training package specifically for local community sector services. The training package was developed by social work academics with expertise in reflective supervision. The training was piloted, evaluated and the first round delivered during 2022–23. The training aims to:

- inform and support emerging and existing leaders across the Child, Youth and Family Services Program
- provide a space to practice reflective supervision skills, including contracting, creating the conditions for reflection and working through difficult situations and ethical challenges
- encourage informed and reflective practice
- enable practitioners to feel better able to cope with their work and workplace, reducing burnout and improving job retention and satisfaction
- build a reflective workforce, committed to ongoing professional growth, and supported by quality supervision.

## Children and Young People Commissioner Brand Redevelopment

In 2023, the Youth Coalition was contracted by the Office of the Children and Young People Commissioner to refresh their brand. The Youth Coalition aims to support the CYPC’s efforts by assisting in the delivery of strategic and effective communications and branding to ensure the rights, needs, and interests of children and young people are appropriately recognised and represented. A refreshed logo was developed and selected through a survey, which received feedback from 97 children and young people.

## National Impact

Through our work at the state and territory, and national level, the Youth Coalition is informing and impacting upon work occurring in other jurisdictions. Key stakeholders in other states and territories have expressed interest in learning from and building on approaches used in the ACT to progress initiatives such as raising the age of criminal responsibility, to support young people under the age of 15 at risk of homelessness, and to approach service improvement. We also regularly contribute to national initiatives through the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Multicultural Youth Advisory Network Australia.

## Annual YOGIE Awards

The Annual YOGIE Awards (the YOGIES) recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in working with young people in the ACT and the surrounding area. The YOGIES highlight the exceptional commitment, talent and innovation that exist in the youth sector. In December 2022, the YOGIES were held at the Youth Coalition and was also streamed online. Award categories included:

- Organisational:
  - Excellence in Implementation of Evidence-Informed Practice
  - Outstanding Achievement in Youth Participation
  - Innovation in Service Delivery
- Individual:
  - Youth Work Champion
  - Outstanding Youth Worker
  - Outstanding Contribution to Young People
  - Lifetime Achievement
  - Outstanding New Talent
  - Public Service Award
  - Staff Acknowledgement Award



# Youth Participation & Youth-led Activities

The Youth Coalition is committed to ensuring that the voices and experiences of young people inform policy, advocacy and research initiatives. We promote, support, and engage directly with young people on specific issues that affect them. Examples are provided below.

## Young People's Journeys around Mental Health and Medical Services Study (JAMMed) - Longitudinal Qualitative Study

The Youth Coalition is supporting a longitudinal study that will examine young people's experiences in the ACT mental health system, led by researchers at the ANU. In addition to providing research oversight support, the Youth Coalition established and facilitates a Youth Advisory Group of young people to inform and provide advice on the research methods and data analysis. These young people are engaged to consider how the research will use youth-friendly and appropriate methods to engage with young research participants; and will provide a youth-lens to data analysis and interpretation.

## Experiences of young people and parents/carers engaged with CAMHS

In 2023, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commissioned the Youth Coalition to undertake consultations to (1) better understand the access and engagement experiences of young people and families who have been involved with CAMHS, (2) provide feedback on a brochure related to the new adolescent mental health inpatient unit and (3) the re-location of CAMHS southside.

## National Office for Youth: Consultations with young people and the youth sector

In 2023, the Youth Coalition promoted and supported consultations with young people and the youth sector, to inform the national Office for Youth, which is developing a strategy for engaging with young people in Australia.

## Other initiatives

Other youth participation and youth-led initiatives supported by the Youth Coalition in 2022–23 include:

- **MyDHR Consumer Experience Committee:** The Youth Coalition is a member of the MyDHR Consumer Experience Committee, which provides advice to ACT Health on the delivery of MyDHR. In 2023, we advocated for and supported two young people to join the committee to share their perspectives.
- **Youth Lived Experience in the Alliance:** In 2022, the OMH&W established a Youth Reference Group. Through our continued work with OMHW and Capital Health Network to develop the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, the lead agencies are ensuring that young people with lived experience are provided with opportunities to share their perspectives.
- **Promoting research and participation:** The Youth Coalition regularly disseminates research and youth participation opportunities from key stakeholders directly to young people.
- **Venue support to the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN):** ASEN is the network of student environment collectives from around Australia building grassroots movements for change.



# Summary of Activities & Outcomes

Systemic advocacy, sector development and capability building, listening to and representing the needs and issues of young people and those that work with them, is an often slow and incremental endeavour. Our activities and projects are developed with a program logic; outlining the sequence of changes and outcomes that, if implemented and delivered as intended, would lead to the intended outcomes for the community. Thus, much of our reporting addresses the indicators that signal that we are progressing towards the outcomes for the community. Moreover, our advocacy strategies and plans endeavour to outline outcomes and associated indicators that are within our sphere of influence and control, or we can directly influence. However, many of the outcomes are influenced by a range of factors outside of our control. As a result, we aim to report activities and progress that contribute towards the outcomes through our work.

The table below provides an overview of the range of projects and activities undertaken by the Youth Coalition, their aim, the period in which the activity was or is being conducted, and the indicators of success and progress towards outcomes.

- The **Projects and Activities** column provides the name of the activity. For some of these projects the Youth Coalition was successful in acquiring *additional funding*. This is shown in brackets, indicating where the funding came from. Obtaining funding for projects is itself an indicator of success – demonstrating a capability to procure funding to further progress the aims of the organisation outlined in our contract, enabling us to progress work otherwise limited by core funding. Furthermore, while these activities were supported by external funding not linked to this reporting, they contribute to activities and work that are directly funded by CSD core funding.
- The **Aim** column briefly outlines the intended aim or outcome of each activity. This highlights the changes that this activity aims to create. It is often a medium-to-long term goal that is achievable and within influence and control of the Youth Coalition of the ACT.
- The **Period Activities were Conducted** column outlines the time period that these activities were conducted. Some of the projects were completed in 2022–23, others are ongoing, whilst others were completed prior to this reporting period. However, to effectively report on the outcomes of our advocacy it is important for us to keep track of previous work conducted to see if it has the intended impact in the community.
- The **Outcomes Against Contract** column indicates which of the outcomes outlined in the contract this activity is contributing to. The number in the column refers to:

1. The peak body's activity reflects a sound understanding of the issues that impact on the Represented Group.
  2. The Represented Group is supported, informed, engaged.
  3. The voices of the Represented Group is heard and/or reflected in the Recipient's policy advice and systemic advocacy.
  4. The peak has influence on issues, policies and programs affecting the interests of the Represented Group, including through research and engagement.
- The **Deliverables and Indicators of Success / Progress Towards Outcomes** column lists the range of outputs, deliverables and indicators of success for each activity. The black text outlines the outputs and deliverables that suggest progress towards achieving the desired outcomes. The purple text denotes indicators of outcomes.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Evaluation of FFT-YJ [CSD]	Examine one of the key services intended to enable us to safely raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The project aims to inform the service design and response needed in the ACT to support this major reform agenda.	2022-23	1. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocated for evaluation of FFT-YJ</li> <li>• Conducted evaluation and delivered report</li> <li>• Presented findings to CSD to inform business cases and budget bids</li> <li>• Improved knowledge of service requirements for young people and families involved in anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Increased understanding of best practice and support needs for youth and family services</li> <li>• FFT-YJ received funding in the 2023-34 budget</li> </ul>
Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)	Aim to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and support the development of a system and supports to meet the needs of this cohort to achieve positive outcomes.	2019-ongoing	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing advocacy strategy and approach with key stakeholders</li> <li>• Developing and disseminating information and resource to increase awareness and knowledge</li> <li>• Facilitating the meeting of the coalition of community services to create a coherent advocacy platform</li> <li>• Held forums with youth sector to understand their needs, provide information and hear their concerns</li> <li>• Advocating to raise the age in media, meeting with government and community sector</li> <li>• Extensive meetings with government to inform development of draft legislation and service models and sector needs</li> <li>• Inclusion of raising the age in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly</li> <li>• Proposed amendment bill to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility</li> <li>• Increased awareness and knowledge of service sector needs including Minister Stephen Smith referring in Budget Estimates to the contribution of the Youth Coalition</li> <li>• Improved understanding of service requirements through research and evaluation</li> <li>• Commitment of funding through ACT Budget to services to build capability to respond to community needs</li> </ul>
Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance and the 'Missing Middle'	Aims to respond to and support solutions for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health issues who	2021-ongoing	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted the 'Missing Middle' research between 2021-22 in partnership with OMHW and CHN. This led to the <a href="#">ACT Government report</a> in August 2022.</li> <li>• Conducted planning days with services across community and government to identify intended outcomes and design an Alliance structure to respond to service system gaps and constraints.</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
	experience difficulties accessing services.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed initial program logic, structures, processes and protocols for the Alliance.</li> <li>Established a Coordinating Committee to oversee and govern the Alliance, with cross-sector representation.</li> <li>Advocated for establishment funding for the Alliance.</li> <li>Participated in the Alliance Service Development Working Group contributing to the design of 3 new child/youth mental health programs.</li> <li>Participation in and co-facilitation of Alliance Community of Practice.</li> <li>Alliance received establishment funding in 2023-24 Budget</li> <li>Increased awareness and shared understandings across community and government regarding the 'missing middle.'</li> <li>Increased connections and communication between services and sectors.</li> <li>Improved sector participation in consultation and co-design processes relating to child/youth mental health</li> <li>Increased hope for change within the child/youth mental health system.</li> </ul>
Child & Youth Mental Health	The Youth Coalition aims to improve mental health service system responses for children and young people.	2019-ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> <li></li> <li></li> <li></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See also: Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, MindMap Youth Navigation Portal, JaMMED Study, and CAMHS consultations.</li> <li>Conducted WOKE Program targeted advocacy campaign for continued funding</li> <li>Participated in key groups and opportunities: (1) OMHW Children and Young People Review, including Reference Group; (2) headspace Consortium, (3) Youth Mental Health Inquiry, (4) ACT Audit Office review of CAMHS.</li> <li>Supported development of youth participation processes and participated in Youth Mental Health Systems Modelling Tool project led by Uni of Sydney.</li> <li>Funding for WOKE announced in 2023-24 Budget</li> <li>Improved strategic linkages and alignment between youth mental health initiatives</li> <li>Improved awareness and understanding of child and youth mental health issues within the ACT</li> <li>Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes</li> </ul>
MindMap Youth Navigation Portal	Aims to improve navigation within and referrals to child and youth mental health services in the ACT.	2021-ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> <li></li> <li></li> <li></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted research with young people to inform design of MindMap</li> <li>Conducted user-testing with young people and service providers</li> <li>Participated in MindMap Governance Group</li> <li>Participated in MindMap Evaluation Advisory Group</li> <li>Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes</li> <li>Improved understanding of young people's needs</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Young People's Journeys around Mental Health and Medical Services Study (JAMMed): Longitudinal Qualitative Study	Develop evidence base regarding young people's access to and experience of mental health support in the ACT.	2022-2024	1. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnered with ANU research team to support research</li> <li>Informed research methods and approach</li> <li>Facilitated an ongoing Youth Advisory Group of young people to oversee research methods, delivery and analysis</li> <li>Participated in associated research impact group</li> <li>Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes, leading to improved research processes with young people</li> <li>Improved understanding of the needs and experiences of young people in the mental health system</li> <li>Improved linkages between research/evidence and policy/practice</li> </ul>
CAMHS Consultation [CAMHS]	To inform potential CAMHS services changes to intake and assessment processes, develop communications processes for the new Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit, and inform the fit-out of the relocated CAMHS Southside premises.	2023 - Ongoing	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioned by CAMHS to conduct focus groups and interviews with young people, and parents/carers</li> <li>Improved understanding of the needs and experiences of children, young people and families in the mental health system</li> <li>Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes</li> <li>Improved service system responses for children, young people and families with mental health concerns</li> </ul>
Elder Abuse and Adolescent Violence research project [AIC]	To build the evidence, knowledge and awareness regarding older carers experiences of adolescent violence to inform the development effective responses.	2022	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received funding to conduct research in partnership with AIC</li> <li>Recruited research participant and conducted interviews</li> <li>Collated, analysed and presented data to AIC</li> <li>Presented findings of research to National Criminology Conference building awareness and contributing to the evidence based regarding this issue</li> </ul>
Service Improvement (SIP) [CSD & WDTS]	To improve the attitudes, knowledge and capability of the sector to create program logics, identify outcomes, outcomes measurement, creating	2019-ongoing	1. 2. 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully delivered SIP 1 and SIP 2 with intended target group</li> <li>Updating and reviewing training material for new audiences and to make replicable</li> <li>Data indicates the project has successfully improved attitudes, knowledge and capability of the sector</li> <li>Increased use of outcome measures in CYFSP services</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
	procedures and guidelines and evaluation capability.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge and use of program logics and evaluation frameworks in the sector</li> <li>Program Logics developed in SIP process being used to inform contract development for programs</li> <li>Ongoing requests for the project suggest it is meeting a community need</li> </ul>
CNCT Website	Improving knowledge of youth services for the community to improve outcomes for young people in the ACT.	2020-ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and launched in 2020</li> <li>Ongoing maintenance and updates</li> <li>Improved knowledge of the services and programs available that work with young people in the ACT</li> <li>9.8k clicks from search related queries and 714k impressions from July 2022 – July 2023.</li> </ul>
At Odds Gambling Project  [ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION]	Aimed to target young people aged 18 – 30, to raise young people’s awareness of the indicators of harmful or risky behaviour in relation to gambling, and to help support their peers.	2015–2018	1. 2. 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pilot project of the At Odds (Young People and Gambling in the ACT Project) ran from September 2015 – March 2017</li> <li>Stage 2, a communications campaign was funded and completed in March 2019</li> <li>The campaign reached over 32k people in the ACT.</li> <li>The mini-documentary video received 56,500k views.</li> <li>2.9k clicks from search related queries and 350k impressions from July 2022 – July 2023.</li> </ul>
DFV Youth Sector Training  [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office]	Improving the capability of the sector to respond to domestic and family violence.	2022-ongoing	1. 2. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training developed and piloted</li> <li>Conducted evaluation of pilot and delivered report</li> <li>Development of the “Train the Trainer” package with 13 Government, Education and Community-based workers selected to be trained to deliver the ‘Talk to Them’ training.</li> <li>Collaboration between government and the community sector</li> <li>Youth Coalition asked to be the lead organisation to facilitate the delivery of training</li> <li>Improved ability to identify, respond and refer young people impacted by DFV</li> <li>Improved confidence to have a conversation with young people impacted by DFV</li> <li>Increased knowledge of supports, services and referral options.</li> <li>Increased knowledge and skills related to youth work practice.</li> </ul>
MYAN ACT	Sector development and advocacy for multicultural	Ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions run every 2 months</li> <li>Planning a Youth Sector Forum</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
[MYAN Australia]	young people and the services that work with them.		3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve supports for multicultural young people, strengthen multicultural youth services</li> <li>Strengthen connections between 'mainstream' and multicultural youth services</li> <li>Raise the profile of multicultural youth issues in the ACT</li> </ul>
FFT-CW ACT Evaluation  [OzChild]	To evaluate the effectiveness of the FFT-CW ACT program delivered by OzChild and Gugan Gulwan.	2021-2022	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed partnership with other agencies to deliver evaluation collaboratively</li> <li>Established steering committee to govern the evaluation</li> <li>Conducted evaluation during 2021-2022</li> <li>Delivery of two evaluation reports</li> <li>Improved knowledge and understanding regarding how effectively and the ways in which the FFT-CW program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the ACT through a partnership approach</li> <li>Increased understanding of best practice and support needs for youth and family services</li> </ul>
Youth sector professionalisation – ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice	To strengthen the capability, capacity and reputation of the youth sector to improve the outcomes for young people in the ACT.	2020-ongoing	1. 2. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and launched the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice</li> <li>Sub-committee has continued to meet to develop next stages of professionalisation, including creating an advisory committee to oversee the development of a professional body</li> </ul>
Commissioning Activities	To inform sub-sector commissioning processes to develop effective service systems that meet the needs of young people and families.	Ongoing	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involvement in a range of sub-sector commissioning processes: Housing and homelessness, CYFSP, peaks, primary youth health, mental health, health</li> <li>Improved knowledge and understanding of service system gaps for young people and families</li> </ul>
Network Coordinator and Peaks Meeting	Network Coordinators aims to support services to better meet the needs of the community. Our support ensures their work aligns with broader sector activities.	2021-ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly meeting with NCs to inform each other of work being conducted</li> <li>Identifying and communicating identified needs of the community and community sector</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Child, Youth and Family Sector Program supervision training development [CSD- WDTS]	Developing and evaluating reflective supervision training for the child, youth and family sectors. This project will develop and strengthen the practice of the community to work more effectively and create a more sustainable workforce.	2022–ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and piloted training</li> <li>25 people completed training</li> <li>Improved reflective practice for emerging and existing leaders across the Child, Youth and Family Services Programs</li> </ul>
Youth Worker Practice Network evaluation [Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra]	This evaluation aims to inform the Youth Coalition to more effectively respond to the needs of the youth sector and to build their capability and capacity.	2022–2023	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 survey participants, 50 in focus groups and 10 interviews</li> <li>Final report released in 2023</li> <li>Alleviate the barriers to delivery and participation</li> <li>Improve the value of the YWPN for participants</li> <li>Strengthen the delivery of the YWPN</li> </ul>
ACT Budget	The Budget Submission is a foundational part of our systemic advocacy. Through this process we aim to influence the funding of reforms and initiatives that will improve the lives of young people in the ACT.	Ongoing	1. 2. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to ACT Budget 2022–23 (August 2022)</li> <li>Submission to ACT Budget 2023–24 (April 2023)</li> <li>Response to ACT Budget 2023–24 (June 2023)</li> <li>Increased awareness and understanding about service system gaps for young people and families in the ACT</li> <li>Funding for key areas provided in ACT Budget 2023–24 (WOKE, MACR, Child &amp; Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, Gungahlin Youth and Community supports)</li> </ul>
Community Clubs Ministerial Council, Gambling Harm Prevention Community of Practice	Gambling harm is significant to young people within the ACT. These groups work to minimise harm on the ACT community.	2019–Ongoing	1. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocated for EGM reforms in the ACT</li> <li>Informed the diversification and sustainability support fund</li> <li>EGM reforms underway with the first steps of implementing a CMS within the ACT</li> <li>Invited to be part of the Gambling and Racing Commissions Advisory Committee</li> <li>Invited to be part of ANU Advisory Committees</li> <li>Invited to provide advice and inform a Gambling Education program in schools</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
'Next Steps' Critical Friends Group	This group is overseeing the implementation of Commissioning within the OOHC sector and reforms to the child youth and family sector more broadly. It is an instrumental part of child, youth and family sector with far reaching implications.	2022-Ongoing	1. 3. 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet regularly with Group to oversee development Action Plan</li> <li>Participate and support commission activities</li> <li>Inform and engage government regarding issues affecting Represented group</li> <li>Appointment to the new ACT Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council</li> </ul>
Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)	The YWPN is a core sector development activity for the youth sector. The YWPN allows us to hear from the youth sector and respond to their needs through the provision of sector and workforce development, policy, advocacy, research and evaluation.	Ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions run every 3 months</li> <li>Sessions regularly have up to 50 attendees</li> <li>Improved practice with young people</li> <li>Improved skills and knowledge</li> <li>Improved connection with other workers and services</li> <li>Improved awareness of other services</li> <li>Improved understanding of the changing and emerging needs of the sector</li> </ul>
Youth Housing and Homeless Forum	This network is central to informing our advocacy and sector development for the youth homelessness sector. It aims to identify and respond to the needs of youth homeless sector and to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	Ongoing	1. 2. 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions run every 2 months</li> <li>Presentation from ACT housing about commissioning</li> <li>Improved skills and knowledge</li> <li>Improved connection with other workers and services</li> <li>Improved awareness of other services</li> </ul>
AMPLIFY Evaluation [ACT Health]	This evaluation will allow us to consider the usefulness of Amplify in supporting	2023-Ongoing	2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-month evaluation with ACT Health to evaluate the pilot of Amplify with CASP services</li> </ul>

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
	community organisations to identify and collect outcome data. It will inform our advocacy and sector development regarding monitoring, reporting evaluation and Commissioning.		4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased understanding of the support needs of community organisations regarding outcome measurement</li> </ul>
Flexible Education Intake Panel	This Panel allows use to support education to know about supports in the community but also informs systemic advocacy regarding recurring issues the present for young people in education.	Ongoing	1. 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular participation in Panel Meetings</li> <li>Advocating for development of assessment protocols and procedures</li> <li>Increased knowledge of represented groups needs and emerging patterns in the education system</li> <li>Increased awareness of community sector services for Panel Members</li> <li>Supporting the development of assessment procedures and protocols</li> </ul>
Children and Young People Commissioner (CYPC) Brand Refresh [Children and Young People Commissioner]	Support the CYPC's efforts by assisting in the delivery of strategic and effective communications & branding to ensure the rights, needs, and interests of children and young people are recognised and represented.	2023	2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mood boards and 2 rounds of logos delivered to the Commissioner</li> <li>Received positive feedback on last round of logos from over 97 young people.</li> <li>Improving the ability for the CYPC to connect with a broader demographic of young people and government.</li> <li>Increasing awareness of the CYPC's work.</li> </ul>

# Financial Statements



11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Committee  
Youth Coalition of the ACT

Dear Committee members,

## **Management Letter for the financial year ended 30 June 2023**

I have recently completed the financial statement audit of Youth Coalition of the ACT for the year ended 30 June 2023. As a part of the audit process, I am required to report to you on the matters set out below.

### **1 Audit Approach and Scope**

I have conducted an independent audit of the Youth Coalition of the ACT for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### **2 Audit Outcome**

Having completed the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, I have issued an unqualified audit report.

### **3 Immaterial Uncorrected Misstatements**

All significant adjustments identified during the audit have been correctly accounted for in the financial statements. Unless reported above, these adjustments were not considered to have arisen from serious systemic issues, and therefore are not detailed in this letter.

### **4 Auditor Independence**

I, as auditor, am independent in accordance with relevant ethical requirements and any other regulatory requirements that apply to this audit engagement. I am not aware of any relationships that may reasonably have had a bearing on auditor independence.

### **5 Going Concern**

Lastly as I can see from the minutes, the organisation is very aware that without further government grants or other sources of income the financial future of the organisation will need to be carefully monitored.

### **6 Acknowledgement**

I am required to ensure that audit matters of governance interest have been appropriately communicated to those charged with governance. Please feel free to provide comments in relation to any of the findings contained throughout the letter.

**David Perceval, Fellow Chartered Accountant** ABN 30784502154  
e [percevalsmithconsulting@iinet.net.au](mailto:percevalsmithconsulting@iinet.net.au) p 0402 215 484

I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Casey for her assistance during the audit. They provided accurate and timely information and responded to audit queries in a very efficient manner to enable the audit to be completed in a timely manner.

If you have any queries about the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0402 215 484.

I look forward to working with Youth Coalition of the ACT in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Perceval".

David Perceval

Fellow Chartered Accountant

Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia #45109

# Youth Coalition of the ACT

ABN: 59 552 254 521

## Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Contents**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

<b>Financial Statements</b>	<b>Page</b>
Committee's Report	3
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	4
Statement of Financial Position	5
Statement of Changes in Equity	6
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Statement by Members of the Committee	15
Independent Audit Report	16

## Committee's Report 30 June 2023

In accordance with the requirements of Section 73 (1) (c) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*, the committee members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

### 1. General Information

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Sean Mullins	President (Appointed November 2021)
Andrew Babington	Vice President (Appointed 24 July 2018, Resigned 25 May 2023)
Daniel Gaffney	Treasurer (Appointed November 2022)
Kat Reed	Member (Appointed November 2021)
Joel Artup	Member (Appointed November 2021)
Zac Noble	Member (Appointed November 2022)
Cindy Young	Member (Appointed November 2022)
Isha Sengal	Member (Appointed November 2022)
Sadhana Seriamlu	Member (Appointed November 2022)

### 2 Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to promote the wellbeing and aspirations of young people in the ACT, particularly with respect to their economic, cultural, political, spiritual, educational and social development.

### 3 Significant Changes


No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year

### 4 Operating Results and review of operations for the year

The deficit of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$4,665 (2022: deficit \$13,081). This is related to the non-cash adjustment required for depreciation.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of the Board:

Committee Member.....

  
DANIEL GAFFNEY  
TREASURER

Committee Member.....

  
Sean Mullins [06/11/2023 11:09 GMT+11]

Chair

Dated this 11 day of October 2023

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	5	699,864	764,127
Other Revenue	5a	12,523	12,916
Employee benefits expense		(603,157)	(646,778)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(13,076)	(32,370)
Board Governance		(520)	(25)
Project Accommodation		(-)	(-)
Consultants		(28,583)	(41,172)
Other Operating Expenses	6	(71,716)	(69,779)
Surplus/(Loss) for the year		<u>(4,665)</u>	<u>(13,081)</u>
Total comprehensive deficit for the year		<u>(4,665)</u>	<u>(13,081)</u>

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
 ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Statement of Financial Position**

At 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	463,326	504,866
Trade and other receivables	8	29,807	24,915
Other assets	9	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>529,783</u>	<u>529,781</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	10	18,499	28,479
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>18,499</u>	<u>28,479</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>511,632</u>	<u>558,260</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	45,185	45,873
Other financial liabilities	12	101,998	147,463
Employee benefits	13	46,928	40,895
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>194,111</u>	<u>234,231</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	13	-	1,843
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>194,111</u>	<u>236,073</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>317,521</u>	<u>322,187</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
<b>Reserves</b>		325,000	325,000
Retained earnings		<u>(7,479)</u>	<u>(2,813)</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>317,521</u>	<u>322,187</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
 ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	Retained Earnings	Strategic Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>			
Surplus for the year	(7,479)	325,000	317,521
Transferred to Strategic Reserve	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<u>(7,479)</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>317,521</u>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>			
Surplus for the year	(2,813)	325,000	322,186
Transferred to Strategic Reserve	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<u>(2,813)</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>322,186</u>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>			
Surplus for the year	37,326	-	37,326
Transferred to Strategic Reserve	(100,000)	100,000	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<u>40,287</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>365,287</u>

**Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Cash receipts from government and others	752,960	879,801
Payments to suppliers and employees	(794,762)	(889,186)
Interest received	262	293
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(41,540)</u>	<u>(9,091)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of Assets	-	(14,149)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,149)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(41,540)	(23,240)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	504,866	528,106
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6 <u>463,326</u>	<u>504,866</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The financial statements cover Youth Coalition of the ACT as an individual entity. Youth Coalition of the ACT (is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* ('the Act').

The functional and presentation currency of Youth Coalition of the ACT is in Australian dollars.

#### 1. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Regime and the Act.

#### 2. Change in Accounting Policy

##### Financial Instruments - Adoption of AASB 9

The Association has adopted AASB 9 Financial Instruments for the first time in the current year with a date of initial adoption of 1 July 2017.

As part of the adoption of AASB 9, the Association adopted consequential amendments to other accounting standards arising from the issue of AASB 9 as follows:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements requires the impairment of financial assets to be presented in a separate line item in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. In the comparative year, this information was presented as part of other expenses.
- AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures requires amended disclosures due to changes arising from AASB 9, this disclosure has been provided for the current year.

The key changes to the Association's accounting policy and the impact on these financial statements from applying AASB 9 are described below.

Changes in accounting policies resulting from the adoption of AASB 9 have been applied retrospectively except the Association has not restated any amounts relating to classification and measurement requirements including impairment which have been applied from 1 July 2018.

##### Classification of financial assets

The financial assets of the Association have been reclassified into one of the following categories on adoption of AASB 9 based on primarily the business model in which a financial asset is managed and its contractual cash flow characteristics:

- Measured at amortised cost

Term deposits that would previously have been classified as held to maturity are now classified at amortised cost. The Association intends to hold the assets to maturity to collect contractual cash flows and these cash flows consist solely of payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. There was no difference between the previous carrying amount and the revised carrying amount of these assets.

#### 3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### a) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**b) Leases**

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the period in which they occur.

**c) Revenue and other income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**Sale of goods**

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when risks and rewards are transferred and there is no longer any ownership or effective control over the goods.

**Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis, taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

**Grant income**

Grants are treated according to the specifications of the grant funding deeds. Grant income and expenses are recognised as specified by each grant funding deed. Grants required to be returned to the funding provider due to specific circumstances are treated as unexpended grants which form part of the liabilities in the balance sheet at the end of the financial year.

**Other income**

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

**d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

### e) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis and is therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised in profit or loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is available for use

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Furniture & Fittings	2.5% - 20%
Computer and Office Equipment	5% - 33%

### f) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Association becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

#### Financial Assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

##### *Classification*

On initial recognition, the Association classifies its financial assets into the following categories, those measured at:

- amortised cost

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Association changes its business model for managing financial assets.

##### *Amortised cost*

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

### f) Financial Instruments

The Association's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, foreign exchange gains or losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets measured at amortised cost

Impairment of other financial assets measured at amortised cost are determined using the expected credit loss model in AASB 9. On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

### Financial liabilities

The Association measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Association comprise trade payables, bank and other loans and finance lease liabilities

### g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts

### h) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

### (h) Economic dependence

Youth Coalition of the ACT is dependent on the ACT Government Community Services Directorate for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the committee members have no reason to believe the ACT Government will not continue to support Youth Coalition of the ACT.

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

### **4. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

The committee members make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

#### **Key estimates - impairment of property, plant and equipment**

The Association assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Association that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

#### **Key estimates - receivables**

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
 ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**5. Revenue and Other Income**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Grant Funding	545,283	643,321
Interest received	262	293
SCY Brokerage	-	-
Profit for Purpose Brought Forward	20,000	25,000
External Consulting	125,548	91,026
Registration/Training Fee/Membership	8,771	4,487
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>699,864</b>	<b>764,127</b>

**5A. Other Income Breakup**

Recoupment (inc FACT)	12,916	12,916
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>12,916</b>	<b>12,916</b>

**6. Other operating expenses**

Advertising	833	346
Accounting & auditing expenses	5,164	5,064
Bank charges	180	161
Cleaning	10,900	10,752
Client Support Consumables	2,698	1,399
Computer expenses	7,786	10,499
Events	2,493	2,024
Fees and permits	46	-
Meeting expenses	2,644	-
Insurance	9,656	9,810
Training & staff development	2,689	2,448
Other expenses	570	3,995
Postage	358	214
Printing and stationery	6,240	4,221
Repairs and Maintenance	2,645	3,264
Staff amenities	1,297	1,672
Subscriptions	493	2,174
Telephone and fax	6,703	6,297
Travel & accommodation	3,057	769
Utilities	5,264	4,670
<b>Total Other Operating Expenses</b>	<b>71,716</b>	<b>69,779</b>

**7. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand	463,326	504,866
	<b>463,326</b>	<b>504,866</b>

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
 ABN: 59 522 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>8. Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Current	29,807	24,915
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<u>29,807</u>	<u>24,915</u>
<b>9. Other Assets</b>		
Prepayments	-	-
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>10. Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings		
At Cost	29,121	27,377
Depreciation	(19,988)	(17,792)
<b>Total furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>	<u>9,133</u>	<u>9,585</u>
Office equipment		
At Cost	61,859	60,507
Depreciation	(52,493)	(41,613)
<b>Total office equipment</b>	<u>9,366</u>	<u>18,894</u>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<u>18,499</u>	<u>28,479</u>
<b>11. Trade and Other Payables</b>		
Trade payables	-	857
GST payable	12,471	11,522
Accrued expenses	4,000	4,000
Superannuation Payable	4,562	4,886
PAYG Payable	24,152	24,608
	<u>45,185</u>	<u>45,873</u>
<b>12. Other Financial Liabilities</b>		
Grants received in advance	101,998	147,463
	<u>101,998</u>	<u>147,463</u>
<b>13. Employee Benefits</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Annual Leave	46,928	40,895
	<u>46,928</u>	<u>40,895</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	1,843
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,843</u>

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

**14. Key Management Personnel Remuneration**

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$152,799 (2022: \$142,1124). No income was paid or payable, or otherwise made available, to any members of the board or any related party.

**15. Contingencies**

As at the end of the reporting period the association has no known contingent assets or contingent liabilities.

**16. Related Parties**

The Association's main related parties are as follows:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 14.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

**17. Events after the end of the Reporting Period**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

**18. Statutory Information**

The principal place of business of the association is:  
Youth Coalition of the ACT  
46 Clianthus Street,  
O'Connor ACT 2602.

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

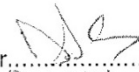
**Statement by Members of the Committee**

In the opinion of the Committee of the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 14:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Youth Coalition of the ACT as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Youth Coalition of the ACT will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the board and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:

Committee Member

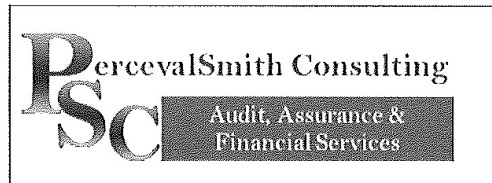
  
.....  
DANIEL GAFFNEY  
TREASURER

Committee Member

  
.....

Chair

Dated this 11 day of October 2023



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES ACT (FACT) INCORPORATED**

I have audited the financial report of Youth Coalition of the ACT (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement.

In my opinion, the financial report of Youth Coalition of the ACT presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
- b) is in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991; and

### *Basis for Opinion*

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APS 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and those charged with Governance for the Financial Report*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

David Perceval, Fellow Chartered Accountant ABN 30784502154  
e [percevalsmithconsulting@iinet.net.au](mailto:percevalsmithconsulting@iinet.net.au) p 0402 215 484

#### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report*

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I have communicated with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that were identified during the audit.



David Perceval, Fellow Chartered Accountant

Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia #45109

11 October 2023

Canberra ACT

David Perceval, Fellow Chartered Accountant ABN 30784502154  
e percevalsmithconsulting@inet.net.au p 0402 215 484

The Youth Coalition of the ACT  
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W | [www.youthcoalition.net](http://www.youthcoalition.net)

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