



youth  
coalition  
of the ACT

# Annual Report

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

[youthcoalition.net](http://youthcoalition.net)

2023-2024

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.

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# Letter from the Board Chair

This year has been one of significant change and transformation for the Youth Coalition. In January, we bid farewell to our long-term CEO, Justin Barker, who transitioned to chair the Therapeutic Panel for the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR). Over the past six years, Justin has been an invaluable asset to the Youth Coalition, spearheading our growth, success, and impact on young people's lives and the sector. His leadership, advocacy, and passion have left an indelible mark on our community. On behalf of the Board, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Justin for his unwavering commitment and hard work during his tenure as CEO.

Following Justin's departure, in February 2024 Joel stepped down from the Board to fill the role of interim CEO. During his six-month tenure, Joel provided critical support through the leadership transition, ensuring continuity and stability. He contributed to key operational successes and played an integral role in recruiting our new CEO, Hannah Watts. I am grateful for Joel's leadership and guidance, which enabled organisational stability and a smooth transition during our CEO succession.

We have been delighted to welcome Hannah as our new CEO. A passionate advocate with over 20 years of experience in the youth sector, Hannah brings a unique blend of evidence-based practice, theoretical expertise, and personal values centred on integrity, accountability, and collaboration. Her reputation as a visionary and pragmatic leader promises exciting new directions for our organisation, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact and continued growth she will foster.

The Youth Coalition has had a very successful year. Erin, Tom and Sharon, your dedication and exceptional contributions over the past year have been pivotal in the outcomes showcased throughout this report. Some of these key achievements include:

- The growth of the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Alliance. The Alliance builds on earlier work regarding the "Missing Middle" to better understand why children and young people with moderate to severe mental health concerns experience difficulties accessing mental health services.
- The formation of the Anti-Racism Working Group. This working group is currently made up of the Children and Young People Commissioner, Multicultural Hub, Curijo

and the Youth Coalition. The group aims to tackle racism in the ACT by acting on the recommendations from the “It Really Stabs Me” report to actively address racism in our community and advocate for others to do the same.

- Increasing sector capacity and professionalism by through initiatives like the Talk To Them training and Reflective Supervision training.

I thank the Board for their collaborative efforts and commitment to excellence. I extend special appreciation to Sean Mullins, whose leadership as co-chair during my maternity leave was invaluable, and to Vice Chair Beth Allibone, whose efforts have enhanced our Board processes and practices.

In closing, I reflect on the Youth Coalition's remarkable resilience and adaptability. With Hannah Watts leading, a strong team in place, and a dedicated Board, we are poised for continued growth, innovation, and impact.

## **Cindylee Young**

Chair

# Letter from the CEO



The 2023–23 financial year was a year of change for the Youth Coalition. In January we farewelled Dr Justin Barker, who had served as our CEO for six years. Under his leadership, the Youth Coalition grew in both stature and influence. Justin’s commitment to the work of the Youth Coalition, and his passion for evidenced based practice and decision making, led to many changes across the youth sector that will ultimately improve the lives of young people and families in our Canberra community. Justin’s vision for the Youth Coalition and strong financial management has built a solid foundation from which the organisation will continue to grow.

During the leadership transition, we were fortunate to have Joel Artup step in as Interim CEO. Joel is a youth sector leader, and stepped down from the Board Chair role to full the Interim CEO position. Joel’s understanding of the Youth Coalition’s work was crucial to the support he provided to the staff team and board during this transition. His steady guidance ensured the staff were able to focus on continuing to deliver outstanding work to our stakeholders, and the Board were supported with recruitment processes. Joel is dedicated to the youth sector, and I am sincerely grateful for his hard work and unwavering commitment to the Youth Coalition over many years. I will miss having him as a Board Member, and as part of the staff team.

It is a privilege to work with a small but dedicated and talented staff team. Our Business Manager, Sharon Casey, works hard behind the scenes to support the staff team, Board, and the sector. Beyond her administrative role, she provides valuable insight to inform the work of the organisation. The work that Thomas Stevens and Erin Barry have led in the last year in areas such as youth mental health, domestic and family violence, gambling and gaming harm as well as our research, evaluation, and youth participation projects will continue to have a positive impact on the sector and our community. These projects, along with others, have also helped strengthen our relationships with partners and stakeholders and have set the stage for continued growth and impact in the years ahead.

Their passion, commitment, knowledge and optimism are the driving force behind everything we do.

I'd like to thank the Board members who have now stepped down from their roles. Zachary Noble and Daniel Gaffney finished their terms during this financial year, and we are grateful for the support they provided to the board and staff during their tenure. Sean Mullins and Kieran Purves were co-opted onto the Board for the CEO recruitment process. Both had previously served several terms on the Board, and over the years have contributed significantly to the strategic direction, stability, and growth of the organisation. We are particularly grateful to you both for stepping back into Board roles when you have already contributed so much to the organisation. To all our board members, your strategic oversight and steadfast support is invaluable as we look to the future. I am particularly grateful for the support I have received as I step into the CEO role. I forward to working with you all in the coming year as we develop a new strategic plan and look to what comes next for the organisation and the youth sector.

The Youth Coalition holds a unique position as a Peak Body, representing and advocating for both the youth sector, and young people themselves. Throughout my career, I have seen the transformative power of effective youth work on individuals, families, and the broader community. However, I have also seen missed opportunities – where policy, funding, or the professional standards have missed the mark, to the detriment of young people. As the community sector stands on the brink of significant change in the next 3 to 5 years, including funding reforms, legislative changes, and shifts in focus towards evidence-based practice and impact measurement, it is imperative that the youth sector evolves to meet these challenges.

As I take on the responsibility of leading the organisation, I look forward to addressing the challenges that the youth sector and young people are facing. The influence of social media, global events, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing open conversations in the public discourse around critical issues such as mental health, domestic and family violence, local and global economy, and climate change, all shape the present experiences and future hopes of young people. As a sector, we have a responsibility to support young people to navigate these changes, and to ensure their voices are heard and their experiences are valued as we work together to improve our community for their benefit.

I am proud lead an organisation that not only works for young people and the youth sector, but collaborates with them to build a better present and future for our community.

With gratitude and anticipation,

**Hannah Watts**

Chief Executive Officer

# Treasurers Report

The Youth Coalition of the ACT achieved an overall operating surplus for the 2023/24FY year totalling \$12,404, as compared to a total operating deficit for the 2022/23FY year of \$4,665. The current year result represents an overall result improvement of \$17,069.

Total income for the year of \$757,024 represented a 6.27% increase as compared to the 2022/23 year of \$712,387.

Total expenditure for the year of \$744,620 represented a 3.84% increase as compared to the 2022/23 year total of \$717,052. Increased costs have predominantly been in external consultants, who we have partnered with to deliver funded projects; operating expenses including planned building upgrades and maintenance; and strategic purchase of IT equipment and software. While we had increased costs this year, we achieved cost saving on operating expenditures including staff salaries, and event and meeting costs.

In conclusion, the overall surplus illustrates an improved result as compared to 2023/24. The full audited financial report provides a full list of the Coalition's sources of funding and expenditure, and is available at the end of this report.



# Annual Report 2023-2024

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 in the report below. However, the distinction and line between these activities is a conceptual division. In practice many of these activities and projects intersect and overlap; they are 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 provides 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 each of the activities we conduct achieve several 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 aid 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 view 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 2023–24 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 2023–24. Thirdly, we outline the Youth Participation and Youth-Led activities undertaken in 2023–24. 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 35 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:

- ACT ATOD and Mental Health Alliance
- ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Coordinating Group
- ACT Peaks Network (see also: Key Projects)
- ACT Region Suicide Prevention Community Collaborative
- Canberra Gambling Reform Alliance
- Capital Health Network Community Advisory Council
- Commissioning Lived Experience Advisory Panel
- Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council
- Connect Up Working Group
- Continuum of Education Support Advisory Group
- CYFSP Agency Directors
- CYFSP Practice Leaders Group
- CYFSP Workforce Development Subcommittee
- DFSV Roundtable Forum
- DFSVO Training and Capability Workshop
- Flexible Education Intake Panel
- Gambling and Racing Commission Community of Practice
- Gambling, Gaming and Youth Working Group
- Headspace Canberra and Tuggeranong Consortium
- JCGRG Industry Strategy Steering Group
- Joint Pathways & Joint Pathways Executive (homelessness sector meeting)
- Justice Reform Group

- Mental Health Service Development Working Group
- MindMap Governance Group
- MindMap Evaluation Advisory Group
- Murrumbidgee School Board
- Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre Training and Employment Committee
- MyDHR Consumer Experience Committee
- Network Coordinator Governance Group; & Network Coordinators and Peaks Meeting
- Next Steps Critical Sector Friends Group
- Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Community of Practice
- OOH Youth Participation Working Group
- Safe & Connected Youth Program – Governance Group
- Tertiary Education Sector Suicide Prevention Partnership
- The Gambling and Racing Commission Advisory Committee
- Young Adults and Online Gambling Advisory Committee
- 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. In 2023–24, the Youth Coalition delivered 27 events with approximately 650 participants.

## Networks and Forums

- **Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum (YHHF):** The YHHF provides a bimonthly 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.
- **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. In 2023, MYAN ACT created a sub-committee to establish an Anti-Racism Working Group.
- **Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN):** The YWPN provides a Community of Practice for frontline youth workers. YWPN activities include member sessions and training sessions. In 23/24 we conducted sessions on vaping harm reduction, and the service system reforms related to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. (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 deliver this Alliance, which 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 deliver 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. This training increases 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; and new skills in harm reduction practice.

## Other Initiatives

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

- Experiences of young people and parents/carers engaged with CAMHS (Research and Evaluation)
- Outcome Measurement Approaches and Considerations – CASP Services and the CATS Sector (Research and Evaluation)
- The Evidence Project (Research and Evaluation)
- Building service readiness to collect and use client feedback (Research and Evaluation)
- Professionalisation of Youth Work (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 initiatives in 2023–24 included:

- **ACT Budget:** The Youth Coalition participates in the annual ACT Budget process, by developing an annual submission, an annual response/analysis, and through conducting additional advocacy. View the Youth Coalition’s submission to the 2024–25 ACT Budget, and subsequent Youth Coalition response.
- **Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility:** The Youth Coalition 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 included informing the development of service system reforms.
- **Child, youth and family sector reforms:** The Youth Coalition participated in a range of policy activities, including to inform amendments to the ACT Children and Young People Act 2008 and to inform the implementation of the Next Steps for Our Kids Strategy 2022–2030.
- **Child and Youth Mental Health:** The Youth Coalition 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; including through the ACT Budget process and to inform the CAMHS Adolescent Day Program.
- **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 actively participated in and informed ACT Government processes towards commissioning across a range of sub-sectors:
  - Child, Youth and Family Services Program: *View the Youth Coalition’s [submission](#) to the ACT CYFSP Draft Investment Strategy (April 2024).*
  - Mental Health: *View the Youth Coalition’s [submission](#) to the ACT Mental*

*Health NGO Sub-Sector Design Phase*

- 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, to both the broader sector, and to sub-sectors. Between 2023–24, the Youth Coalition sent out 72 eBulletins through our email networks of 1,168 contacts, totalling over 40k emails. We use our email networks to disseminate 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 7.15k clicks from search related queries and 575k impressions.
- **Media:** The Youth Coalition has a presence in the media in the ACT, regularly 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 the key projects and activities of the Youth Coalition. This year the website received 1.26k clicks from search and 57.9k impressions.
- **ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance:** The Youth Coalition developed and launched a website which provides key publications and resources related to the work of the Alliance.
- **Social Media:** The Youth Coalition disseminates information through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with over 4,900 followers across our social networks. We use our social networks to provide updates, advocate and disseminate information.



# Research & Evaluation

The Youth Coalition conducts and supports a range of research and evaluation activities, along with other 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 2023–24 is provided below.

## 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) inform the re-location of CAMHS South. The final report was submitted in September 2023.

## Evaluation: Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)

In 2022, 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 support for youth workers in the ACT. The final report was released in October 2023.

## Research: Outcome Measurement Approaches and Considerations – CASP Services and the CATS Sector

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 (CASP). The aim of the evaluation was to assess how well the tool 'Amplify' supported service providers to identify and measure outcomes. During the Pilot, the Centre for Social Impact closed the Amplify platform due to low levels of service uptake across Australia.

Consequently, this project was amended to examine the outcome measurement approaches and needs of CASP services more broadly. The final report was submitted in October 2023.

## **‘The Evidence Project’: Supporting child, youth and family services to understand and use evidence in service design and planning**

In 2024, the Youth Coalition received funding through the CYFSP Workforce Development and Training Committee to develop an online resource for child, youth and family services. The resource aims to support services to understand, access and use evidence in their service design and planning. This project is ongoing and will conclude in 2024.

## **Research: Building service readiness to collect and use client feedback from children, young people and families**

The Youth Coalition is leading a project through the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance to support services working with children, young people and families to collect and use client feedback, to improve service-user experiences and inform continuous improvement. This project is engaging with mental health services, child, youth and family services, young people with lived experience, and reviewing existing literature. It aims to build shared understandings and principles across government and community services. This project is ongoing.

## **Evaluation: CYFSP Workforce Development and Training Committee**

In 2024, the Youth Coalition received funding through the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) Workforce Development and Training Committee (WDT) to undertake an evaluation of the WDT. The evaluation will examine the role, value and benefits of the WDT; its contribution to supporting the CYFSP; and key learnings that can be drawn from its delivery. The evaluation aims to deliver findings for the consideration of the community sector and government, to inform future delivery of system support functions beyond 2026. This project is ongoing and will conclude in 2025.

## **Other Initiatives**

The Youth Coalition also supports external research projects related to children and young people. In 2023-24, initiatives included:

## **JAMMed: Young People’s Journeys around Mental Health Services Study**

This longitudinal qualitative study led by Dr Louise Stone at the ANU is following the experiences of a group of young people within the ACT mental health sector over an 18-month period. The Youth Coalition convenes a youth advisory panel to support the research process. This study will provide valuable, local and contemporary findings regarding young people’s experiences of navigating the system, and their experiences of services, within the ACT.

## **Connect Up Project**

This study, led by the Health Research Institute at the University of Canberra, will develop and pilot a program in Bruce and Belconnen for young people aged 18–30. This project has been developed in response to high levels of social isolation and loneliness for young people aged 18–30, coupled with high social fragmentation in the suburbs of Bruce and Belconnen. The Youth Coalition is participating in the Working Group for this project. This project provides an opportunity to better understand how co-designed, place-based responses can support young people to build social connection.

## **Clearing the Smoke with Motion Comics**

This research, led by Dr Erin Walsh at the ANU, relates to the unmet information and mental health needs of young people who are affected by bushfires. The Youth Coalition will convene a youth advisory panel of young people aged 15–19, to provide feedback and advice to the research team.



# Key Projects and Achievements

This section provides an overview of key projects and achievements of the Youth Coalition between 2023–24.

## 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 raised the age to 12, with a further commitment to raising it to 14 in 2025. 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. The Youth Coalition worked closely with government and community stakeholders to progress this significant legislative change.

## ACT Budget

The Youth Coalition was successful in advocating for continued funding for key child and youth mental health programs, including WOKE and Stepping Stones, in both the 2023–24 and 2024–25 ACT Budgets. These clinical programs provide specialised, evidence-based models of therapeutic support to children, young people and families that are difficult to access elsewhere. Both WOKE and Stepping Stones fill key gaps within the continuum of mental health support for children and young people, responding directly to the ‘missing middle’. View the Youth Coalition’s Budget Response for more information.

## ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

In July 2023, the Youth Coalition, Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Capital Health Network formally established the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance (the Alliance), after a series of strategic planning activities in 2022–23. The establishment of the Alliance builds on earlier work to better understand why children and young people with moderate to severe mental health concerns experience difficulties accessing mental health services, presented in the ACT Government’s ‘Missing Middle’ report.

The Alliance aims to provide a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, the private sector and young people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving service system responses for children and young people with mental health concerns. The Alliance is overseen by a Coordinating Committee comprised of key stakeholders. Key Alliance activities undertaken in 2023–24 include:

- Conducting two Alliance Forums to identify, prioritise and progress shared areas of work
- Establishing an Alliance Working Group to progress projects related to improving young people’s experiences of mental health services, and improving service and system responses for children and young people with mental health concerns and co-occurring concerns or complex needs
- Supporting delivery of the Alliance Community of Practice
- Supporting the Alliance Youth Reference Group, led by the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Establishing governance and communications structures and processes for the Alliance, including the website: [www.cymhalliance.com.au](http://www.cymhalliance.com.au)

Funding was provided through the 2023–24 ACT Budget to support the establishment and delivery of the Alliance.

## Anti-Racism Working Group

In 2023, the report ‘It really stabs me: From resignation to resilience – children and young people’s experiences of racism in the ACT’ was published by the ACT Human Rights Commission. It reported on a project conducted by Curijo Pty Ltd, Multicultural Hub Canberra (mHub) and the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner (CYPC). This project consulted with 2,456 children and young people about their views on and experiences of racism in the ACT. The project found that racism occurs ‘often and everywhere’, with children and young people describing experiences of racism from peers and also adults.

Following the release of the report, The Youth Coalition established a cross-sector working group to progress anti-racism strategies within the community. This working group is currently made up of the Children and Young People Commissioner, Multicultural Hub, Curijo and the Youth Coalition. The group aims to tackle racism in the ACT by acting on the recommendations in the report to actively address racism in our community and advocate for others to do the same. A proposal for Anti-Racism training and resources has been developed and the group is currently seeking funding for it.

## 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.

## Delivery of Training

As described in 'Capacity Building and Sector Development', 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, reflective supervision training, and monitoring and evaluation training.

## 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.

## ACT Peaks – Collaborative Activities

The Youth Coalition has collaborated with other ACT peak bodies across a range of activities, to improve coordinated approaches and shared advocacy. Activities have included monthly peaks' meetings, monthly meetings in relation to commissioning, shared meetings with Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly, and shared election activities. The peaks group has also agreed to establish a policy group, that will bring together expertise from across our organisations.

## 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 2023, the YOGIES were held at the Youth Coalition. 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

## National Impact

Through our work at the state/territory, and national levels, 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, better supporting young people under the age of 15 at risk of homelessness, and approaches to service improvement. We also regularly contribute to national initiatives through the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.



# 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 appropriate, youth-friendly methods to engage with young research participants; and will provide a youth-lens to data analysis and interpretation. This project is ongoing.

## 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) inform the re-location of CAMHS southside.

## Other initiatives

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

- **Alliance Youth Reference Group:** As part of the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, the OMH&W leads a Youth Reference Group. The YRG lead their own projects and are available for consultation.
- **Promoting research and participation:** The Youth Coalition 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, are often slow and incremental endeavours. Noting this, our activities and projects are developed with a program logic that outlines the sequence of changes and outcomes that, if implemented and delivered as intended, would lead to the intended community level outcomes. 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 control, or that we can directly influence. However, many of our intended outcomes are also influenced by a range of factors that are out of our control. As a result, we aim to report activities and progress that contribute to the progress of these broader outcomes.

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 the influence or control of the Youth Coalition of the ACT.
- The **Period Activities were Conducted** column outlines the time period that these activities were conducted. Some projects were completed in 2023–24, others are ongoing, whilst others were completed prior to this reporting period. To effectively

report on the outcomes of our advocacy it is important that we keep track of previous work conducted to see if it has had 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 numbers in the column refer 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 are heard and/or reflected in the Recipients 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 red text denotes indicators of outcomes.

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES                         | AIM   | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES   |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION</b>            |   |                                  |                           |  |
| 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                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed advocacy strategy with key stakeholders, disseminated information and resources to increase awareness and knowledge</li> <li>Held forums with youth sector to understand their needs, provide information and hear their concerns</li> <li>Advocated to raise the age in media, 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>Advocated for and conducted evaluation of FFT–YJ</li> <li>Inclusion of raising the age in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly</li> <li>MACR raised to 12 in 2023, with a further legislated increase to 14 in 2025</li> <li>FFT–YJ received funding to recommence in 2023–24 Budget as part of MACR service system supports</li> <li>Therapeutic Support Panel established and commenced in 2024</li> <li>Safer Youth Response funded and implemented</li> </ul>                                    |
|   |   |                                  | 2                         |  |
|   |   |                                  | 3                         |  |
|   |   |                                  | 4                         |  |
| Child & Youth Mental Health                   | The Youth Coalition aims to improve mental health service system responses for children and young people.   | 2019–ongoing                     | 1                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See also: Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, JAMMed Study and CAMHS consultations</li> <li>WOKE and Stepping Stones advocacy campaign for continued funding</li> <li>Participated in key groups and opportunities: (1) headspace Consortium, (2) ACT Audit Office review of CAMHS, (3) MindMap Governance Group, (4) Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Coordinating Group, (5) ACT Region Suicide Prevention Collaborative, (6) Tertiary Education Suicide Prevention Partnership</li> <li>Funding for WOKE and Stepping Stones announced in 2023–24, and 2024–25 ACT Budget</li> <li>Improved accessibility of appropriate suicide prevention and mental health programs for children and young people</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> |
|   |   |                                  | 2                         |  |
|   |   |                                  | 3                         |  |
|   |   |                                  | 4                         |  |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES   | AIM   | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES   |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 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.                            | 2021-2024                        | 1<br>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> <li>Increased understanding between NCs and peaks of work being progressed and priorities.</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<br>3<br>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> <li>Invited to partner with ANU to develop a digital strategy to prevent gambling harm to young people in the ACT</li> </ul> |
| '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.  | 2022-2023                        | 1<br>3<br>4               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet regular 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 of Justin Barker to the new ACT Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council</li> </ul>   |
| Flexible Education Intake Panel   | This Panel allows us to support Education to know about supports in the community. It also informs systemic advocacy regarding recurring issues the present for young people in Education | Ongoing                          | 1<br>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</li> <li>Supporting the development of assessment procedures and protocols</li> </ul>   |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES                             | AIM   | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT  | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>CAPABILITY BUILDING AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT</b> |   |                                  |                            |   |
| <p>Youth Housing and Homeless Forum</p>           | <p>The YHHF 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.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p>                   | <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions run every 2 months</li> <li>Improved skills and knowledge within the sector</li> <li>Improved connection with other workers and services</li> <li>Improved awareness of other services and what they are doing</li> </ul>   |
| <p>MYAN ACT<br/>[Multicultural Hub]</p>           | <p>Sector development and advocacy for multicultural young people and the services that work with them</p>  | <p>Ongoing</p>                   | <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions run every 2 months</li> <li>Formed an Anti-Racism Working Group</li> <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>  |
| <p>Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)</p>       | <p>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.</p>  | <p>Ongoing</p>                   | <p>1</p> <p>2</p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sessions delivered on Vaping Harm Reduction and MACR</li> <li>Sessions regularly have up to 60 attendees</li> <li>Improved youth workers' 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 and what they are doing</li> <li>Improved understanding of the changing and emerging needs of the sector</li> </ul> |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES   | AIM   | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance and the 'Missing Middle'<br>[OMH&W] | Aims to respond to and support solutions for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health issues who experience difficulties accessing services. | 2021-ongoing                     | 1<br>2<br>3<br>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 strategic planning days with key stakeholders to identify intended outcomes and design an Alliance structure to respond to service system gaps and constraints</li> <li>Established governance and communications structures and processes, advocated for establishment funding for the Alliance</li> <li>Delivered two cross-sector Alliance Forums</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>Established Alliance Working Group to progress shared priorities and projects</li> <li>Alliance received establishment funding in 2023-24 Budget</li> <li>Increased awareness and shared understandings across community and government regarding systemic child and youth MH issues</li> <li>Increased connection and communication between services and across sectors; including government and community</li> <li>Improved sector participation in consultation and co-design processes relating to child/ youth mental health</li> <li>Increased integration of lived experience in systemic work</li> <li>Increased collaboration on initiatives to address systemic problems</li> <li>Increased hope for change within the child/youth mental health system</li> </ul> |
| DFV Youth Sector Training<br>[Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office]        | Improving the capability of the sector to respond to domestic and family violence.  | 2022-ongoing                     | 1<br>2<br>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>Youth Coalition delivered 7 sessions to 93 participants in 2023-24</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> <li>Commissioned to deliver further sessions in 2024-25</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<br>[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<br>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>  |
| Monitoring and Evaluation Training<br>[ACTCOSS]  | To improve the attitudes, knowledge and capability of the sector to create program logics, identify outcomes, outcomes measurement, and evaluation capability.  | 2023                             | 1<br>2<br>3               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered Monitoring and Evaluation workshops with community services across a range of sectors, in partnership with ACTCOSS</li> <li>Reviewed and updated training materials</li> <li>Data indicates the project has successfully improved attitudes, knowledge and capability of the sector</li> <li>Increased knowledge and use of program logics and evaluation frameworks in the sector</li> <li>Program Logics developed are being used to inform contract development for programs and commissioning processes</li> <li>Services report that participation in training increased their capability to participate in commissioning processes</li> </ul> |
| <b>POLICY DEVELOPMENT</b>  |   |                                  |                           |  |
| 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<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission to ACT Budget 2024-25 (March 2024)</li> <li>Response to ACT Budget 2024-25 (June-July 2024)</li> <li>Participation in other Budget activities (e.g. contributing questions to Estimates, meeting with MLAs and advisors)</li> <li>Increased awareness and understanding about service system gaps and opportunities for young people and families in the ACT</li> <li>Funding for WOKE and Stepping Stones provided in the ACT Budget 2024-25</li> </ul>   |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES    | AIM  | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES   |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Commissioning Activities | To inform sub-sector commissioning processes to develop effective service systems that meet the needs of young people and families | Ongoing                          | 1                         | <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>Actively engaged with stakeholders to inform the CYFSP Commissioning process</li> <li>Developed a written submission to CYFSP to inform the development of the CYFSP Strategic Investment Plan</li> <li>Sought funding to deliver 'The Evidence Project' to build services' capability to understand, access and use evidence in their service design and planning</li> <li>Actively engaged with stakeholders to inform the Mental Health sub-sector commissioning process</li> <li>Developed a written submission to ACTHD to inform the development of the mental health NGO investment strategy</li> <li>Improved knowledge and understanding of service system gaps and opportunities for young people and families</li> <li>Improved collaboration between community and government to work towards improved service system responses for children, young people and families</li> </ul> |
|                          |  |                                  | 2                         |  |
|                          |  |                                  | 3                         |  |
|                          |  |                                  | 4                         |  |

### COMMUNICATIONS

|                                      |   |              |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|---|
| CNCT Website                         | Improving knowledge of youth services for the community to improve outcomes for young people in the ACT   | 2020-ongoing | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and launched in 2020</li> <li>Improved knowledge of the services and programs available that work with young people in the ACT</li> <li>7.15k clicks from search related queries and 575k impressions from July 2023 – July 2024</li> </ul>  |
|                                      |   |              | 2 |   |
| At Odds Gambling Project             | 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 | <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>1.78k clicks from search related queries and 208k impressions from July 2023 – July 2024</li> <li>Referenced by ANU in 2023 as informing their gambling and young adults' study</li> <li>Invited to partner with ANU to develop a digital strategy to prevent gambling harm to young people in the ACT</li> </ul> |
| [ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION] |   |              | 2 |   |
|                                      |   |              | 3 |   |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES   | AIM   | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT    | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES   |
|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>RESEARCH AND EVALUATION</b>  |   |                                  |                              |  |
| Experiences of young people and parents/carers engaged with CAMHS<br><br>[CAMHS]            | To better understand the access and engagement experiences of young people and families involved with CAMHS   | 2022-2023                        | 1<br><br>2<br><br>3<br><br>4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted a two-stage research project with young people, and parents/carers, through focus groups and interviews</li> <li>Developed two reports for CAMHS; focused on young people's and parents' experiences of accessing and engaging with CAMHS; to provide feedback on a brochure related to the new adolescent mental health inpatient unit, and to inform the re-location of CAMHS South</li> <li>Improved participation of young people, and families, in mental health programs.</li> <li>Increased understanding within government and community of the support needs of young people and families in their engagement with mental health services</li> <li>Increased government/community collaboration on initiatives to address systemic problems</li> <li>Improved service delivery for young people and families through the development of more appropriate responses and youth-friendly service</li> </ul> |
| Youth Worker Practice Network evaluation<br><br>[Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra] | This evaluation aims to inform the Youth Coalition how to more effectively respond to the needs of the youth sector and to build their capability and capacity                                    | 2022-2023                        | 1<br><br>2<br><br>3<br><br>4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 survey participants, 50 in focus groups and 10 interviews</li> <li>Final report released in October 2023</li> <li>Alleviate the barriers to activity participation</li> <li>Improve the value of the YWPN for participants</li> <li>Strengthen the delivery of the YWPN</li> </ul>   |
| Outcome measurement within the CASP / CATS Sector<br><br>[ACT Health]                       | This project examined CASP / CATS services' outcome measurement approach and needs; and informed our advocacy and sector development regarding monitoring, reporting evaluation and Commissioning | 2023                             | 2<br><br>4                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-month project with ACT Health; including surveys and interviews with service providers</li> <li>Data analysis and development of a final report</li> <li>Increased understanding within government and the community of the support needs of community organisations regarding outcome measurement and Commissioning</li> </ul>   |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES   | AIM  | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES   |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| The Evidence Project<br>[CYFSP WDT]   | To build the capability of child, youth and family services to understand, access and use evidence in service design and planning.   | 2023–Ongoing                     | 1<br>2                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sought funding to develop an online resource for child, youth and family services, to build capability to understand, access and use evidence in service design and planning</li> <li>Engaged with social work academics to co-design product</li> <li>Created templates for use by services in forthcoming commissioning processes</li> <li>Improved service awareness and understanding of where and how to access and use evidence in service design and planning</li> <li>Improved capability of services to participate in Commissioning processes</li> <li>Improved service system responses for children, young people and families</li> </ul>   |
| Building service readiness to collect and use client feedback<br>[OMHW]                 | Aims to support services working with children, young people and families to collect and use client feedback to improve service experiences and inform continuous improvement. | 2024                             | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading the project through the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, including the development and seeking endorsement of the project plan</li> <li>Coordinating consultations with services through the Alliance Forum, Working Group and a sector survey</li> <li>Involving young people through Alliance Forum and Alliance Youth Reference Group</li> <li>Liaising with external experts to facilitate development of literature reviews on seeking service user feedback from young people</li> <li>Improved collaboration across government, community, academia and with young people, to problem-solve systemic issues</li> <li>Increased awareness and understanding of the opportunities and constraints in service user feedback processes</li> <li>Future – improved processes within services to collect and use client feedback; including to inform commissioning processes within the mental health, and child, youth and family services sector</li> </ul> |
| Evaluation of the CYFSP Workforce Development and Training Sub-Committee<br>[CYFSP WDT] | Aims to examine the role, value and benefit of the WDT and its contribution to supporting the CYFSP, and key learnings to be drawn from its delivery.                          | 2024–25                          | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial funding provided to support the evaluation activities over 2024–25</li> <li>Initial planning underway to conduct the evaluation</li> <li>Increased understanding of the value of evaluation in future planning for system coordination and workforce development processes</li> <li>Improved collaboration between government and community in system planning processes</li> <li>Future – Improved understanding of the value, benefits and learnings of the WDT</li> <li>Future – Improved future delivery of system support functions for the CYFSP, beyond 2026</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) | Develop evidence base regarding young people's access to and experience of mental health support in the ACT.   | 2022-Ongoing                     | 1<br>3<br>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> |
| Connect Up<br>[Health Research Institute, UC]                                    | This project led by HRI aims to develop and pilot a program in Bruce and Belconnen for young people aged 18-30, to reduce social isolation and loneliness. | 2024-25                          | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in project working group activities and workshops to support co-design of the program.</li> <li>Promotion of the pilot within the broader child and youth mental health sector.</li> <li>Increased understanding of the role of place-based, co-designed responses in supporting young people to build social connection and reduce loneliness.</li> </ul>  |
| Clearing the Smoke with Motion Comics<br>[ANU]                                   | Aims to understand the unmet information and mental health needs of young people who are impacted by bushfires.  | 2024                             | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support with recruitment and delivery of a youth research advisory panel to provide feedback and advice to the research team.</li> <li>Improved participation of young people in research processes on issues affecting them.</li> <li>Improved understanding of the information-seeking preferences of young people in relation to bushfires and mental health.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>OTHER PROJECTS</b>  |  |                                  |                           |  |
| Anti-Racism Working Group  | The group aims to actively address racism in the ACT and advocate for others to do the same.   | 2023-24                          | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the working group.</li> <li>Working group met 7 times in 2023-24.</li> <li>Developed a proposal for an 'Anti-Racism Toolkit and Resources'</li> <li>Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of young people in addressing incidents of racism.</li> <li>Increased awareness and understanding of young people's views and experiences of racism amongst decision-makers.</li> </ul>   |

| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES  | AIM  | PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED | OUTCOMES AGAINST CONTRACT | DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 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<br>2<br>4               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and launched the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice (CoE)</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> <li>Discussions regarding the development of a training package to accompany the CoE</li> <li>Increased awareness among youth workers and youth sector regarding ethical practice</li> <li>Increased commitment within the youth sector to work collaboratively towards professionalisation activities</li> </ul> |
| Children and Young People Commissioner (CYPC) Brand Refresh<br>[CYPC]      | 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                             | 1                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mood boards and 3 rounds of logos delivered to the commission</li> <li>Received positive feedback on last round of logos from over 97 young people.</li> <li>Final branding and brand guidelines delivered.</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>  |
| Annual YOGIES Awards   | Aim to recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in working with young people in the ACT and surrounding area.   | 2023                             | 1                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of the annual nominations process and awards ceremony; presented by the Minister for Young People.</li> <li>Increased recognition and value of the role of youth workers and youth services in the ACT and surrounding area.</li> <li>Increased recognition of best practice in youth work and service delivery.</li> </ul>   |

# Financial Statements

## Youth Coalition of the ACT

ABN: 59 552 254 521

### Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

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**For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

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## Committee's Report 30 June 2024

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 2024.

### 1. General Information

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

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sean Mullins  | Co-Chair (Co-opted March 2024)  |
| Joel Artup    | Co-Chair (Appointed November 2021, Interim CEO March to July 2024, Resigned Board March 2024) |
| Cindy Young** | Co-Chair (Appointed November 2022)  |
| Zac Noble     | Co-Treasurer (Appointed November 2022)  |
| Kat Reed      | Co Treasurer Member (Appointed November 2021)   |
| Isha Sengal   | Vice Chair (Appointed November 2022)  |
| Beth Allibone | Member (Appointed November 2023)  |
| Sunday Roach  | Member (Appointed November 2023)  |
| Kieran Purves | Member (Co-opted March 2024)  |
| Joshuah Yeend | Member (Appointed November 2023)  |

\*\* Cindy Young was on approved leave of absence (parental leave) for most of 2024 and did not attend Board Meetings in person. She however was an active member of the Executive and involved in decision making and the recruitment of the CEO during this leave of absence.

### 2 Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to relieve the distress of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and their families in the ACT and the surrounding regions, improving their individual physical, social and emotional wellbeing, and advancing the social and public welfare of all young people.

### 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 profit of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$12,404 (2023: deficit \$4,665).

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

Committee Member.....



Committee Member.....



Dated this 11 day of October 2024

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 2024

|   |             | <b>2024</b>      | <b>2023</b> |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>Note</b> | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>   |
| Revenue                                 | 5           | <b>746,551</b>   | 699,864     |
| Other Revenue                           | 5a          | <b>10,473</b>    | 12,523      |
| Employee benefits expense               |             | <b>(590,960)</b> | (603,157)   |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense   |             | <b>(11,078)</b>  | (13,076)    |
| Board Governance                        |             | <b>(890)</b>     | (520)       |
| Consultants                             |             | <b>(47,793)</b>  | (28,583)    |
| Other Operating Expenses                | 6           | <b>(93,899)</b>  | (71,716)    |
| Surplus/(Loss) for the year             |             | <b>12,404</b>    | (4,665)     |
| Total comprehensive profit for the year |             | <b>12,404</b>    | (4,665)     |

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
 ABN: 59 522 254 521

**Statement of Financial Position**

At 30 June 2024

|                                  |      | 2024           | 2023           |
|----------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
|                                  | Note | \$             | \$             |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                    |      |                |                |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |      |                |                |
| Cash and cash equivalents        | 7    | 570,531        | 463,326        |
| Trade and other receivables      | 8    | 286,557        | 29,807         |
| Other assets                     | 9    | -              | -              |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>      |      | <u>857,088</u> | <u>529,783</u> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>        |      |                |                |
| Property, plant and equipment    | 10   | 19,867         | 18,499         |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |      | <u>19,867</u>  | <u>18,499</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>              |      | <u>876,955</u> | <u>511,632</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>               |      |                |                |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |      |                |                |
| Trade and other payables         | 11   | 78,687         | 45,185         |
| Other financial liabilities      | 12   | 374,293        | 101,998        |
| Employee benefits                | 13   | 94,049         | 46,928         |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |      | <u>547,029</u> | <u>194,111</u> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |      |                |                |
| Employee benefits                | 13   | -              | -              |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>         |      | <u>547,029</u> | <u>194,111</u> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                |      | <u>329,926</u> | <u>317,521</u> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                    |      |                |                |
| <b>Reserves</b>                  |      | 325,000        | 325,000        |
| Retained earnings                |      | 4,926          | (7,479)        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>              |      | <u>329,926</u> | <u>317,521</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 2024**

|                                  | Retained<br>Earnings | Strategic<br>Reserve | Total          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                                  | \$                   | \$                   | \$             |
| <b>Balance at 1 July 2023</b>    | (7,478)              | 325,000              | 317,522        |
| Surplus for the year             | 12,404               | -                    | 12,404         |
| Transferred to Strategic Reserve | -                    | -                    | -              |
| <b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>   | <u>4,926</u>         | <u>325,000</u>       | <u>329,926</u> |
| <b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>    |                      |                      |                |
| Surplus for the year             | (7,478)              | 325,000              | 317,522        |
| Transferred to Strategic Reserve | -                    | -                    | -              |
| <b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>   | <u>(7,478)</u>       | <u>325,000</u>       | <u>317,522</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> |

**Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

|  | 2024             | 2023            |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Note   | \$               | \$              |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>         |                  |                 |
| Cash receipts from government and others             | 480,576          | 752,960         |
| Payments to suppliers and employees                  | (367,029)        | (794,762)       |
| Interest received                                    | 6,104            | 262             |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities  | <u>119,651</u>   | <u>(41,540)</u> |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>          |                  |                 |
| Purchase of Assets                                   | (12,446)         | -               |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities  | <u>(12,446)</u>  | <u>-</u>        |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>          |                  |                 |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 107,205          | (41,540)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year       | 463,326          | 504,866         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year   | 6 <u>570,531</u> | <u>463,326</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 2024

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*.

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

##### **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 2024

### 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.

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

#### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

##### 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  
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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

#### **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 2024**

| <b>5. Revenue and Other Income</b>    | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2023</b>    |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                       | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b>      |
| Grant Funding                         | 760,116        | 545,283        |
| Interest received                     | 6,104          | 262            |
| Profit for Purpose Brought Forward    | (80,000)       | 20,000         |
| External Consulting                   | 52,372         | 125,548        |
| Registration/Training Fee/Membership  | 7,959          | 8,771          |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                  | <b>746,551</b> | <b>699,864</b> |
| <b>5A. Other Income Breakup</b>       |                |                |
| Recoupment (inc FACT)                 | 10,473         | 12,916         |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>             | <b>10,473</b>  | <b>12,916</b>  |
| <b>6. Other operating expenses</b>    |                |                |
| Advertising                           | -              | 833            |
| Accounting & auditing expenses        | 5,361          | 5,164          |
| Bank charges                          | 188            | 180            |
| Cleaning                              | 14,517         | 10,900         |
| Client Support Consumables            | 8,019          | 2,698          |
| Computer expenses                     | 12,300         | 7,786          |
| Events                                | 1,704          | 2,493          |
| Fees and permits                      | -              | 46             |
| Meeting expenses                      | 1,350          | 2,644          |
| Insurance                             | 9,616          | 9,656          |
| Training & staff development          | 4,282          | 2,689          |
| Other expenses                        | 1,503          | 570            |
| Postage                               | 158            | 358            |
| Printing and stationery               | 7,557          | 6,240          |
| Repairs and Maintenance               | 10,596         | 2,645          |
| Staff amenities                       | 1,842          | 1,297          |
| Subscriptions                         | 2,444          | 493            |
| Telephone and fax                     | 6,262          | 6,703          |
| Travel & accommodation                | 1,165          | 3,057          |
| Utilities                             | 5,035          | 5,264          |
| <b>Total Other Operating Expenses</b> | <b>93,899</b>  | <b>71,716</b>  |
| <b>7. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>   |                |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand              | 570,531        | 463,326        |
|                                       | <b>570,531</b> | <b>463,326</b> |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

|  | 2024           | 2023           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | \$             | \$             |
| <b>8. Trade and Other Receivables</b>              |                |                |
| Current  | 286,557        | 29,807         |
| <b>Total trade and other receivables</b>           | <u>286,557</u> | <u>29,807</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  | 18,112         | 29,121         |
| Depreciation                                       | (839)          | (19,988)       |
| <b>Total furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>      | <u>17,273</u>  | <u>9,133</u>   |
| Office equipment                                   |                |                |
| At Cost  | 4,460          | 61,859         |
| Depreciation                                       | (1,866)        | (52,493)       |
| <b>Total office equipment</b>                      | <u>2,594</u>   | <u>9,366</u>   |
| <b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>         | <u>19,867</u>  | <u>18,499</u>  |
| <b>11. Trade and Other Payables</b>                |                |                |
| Trade payables                                     | 11,227         | -              |
| GST payable  | 38,698         | 12,471         |
| Accrued expenses                                   | 4,000          | 4,000          |
| Superannuation Payable                             | 890            | 4,562          |
| PAYG Payable                                       | 23,872         | 24,152         |
|  | <u>78,687</u>  | <u>45,185</u>  |
| <b>12. Other Financial Liabilities</b>             |                |                |
| Grants received in advance                         | 374,293        | 101,998        |
|  | <u>374,293</u> | <u>101,998</u> |
| <b>13. Employee Benefits</b>                       |                |                |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                         |                |                |
| Annual Leave                                       | 44,541         | 46,928         |
| Provision for Domestic Violence and Parental Leave | 49,508         | -              |
|  | <u>94,049</u>  | <u>46,928</u>  |

Youth Coalition of the ACT  
ABN: 59 522 254 521

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

##### **14. Contingencies**

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

##### **15. 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.

##### **16. 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 situation of the Association in future financial years.

##### **17. 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:

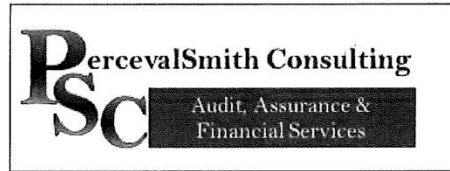
1. Present fairly the financial position of Youth Coalition of the ACT as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date 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 

Committee Member 

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COALITION OF THE ACT (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 2024, 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 2024 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.

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*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

11 October 2024

Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia #45109

Canberra ACT

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