


2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

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

A World For, By and With Young People



youthcoalition.net



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.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT

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A World For, By and With Young

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 brought steady progress and meaningful gains for young people in the ACT. As the policy and commissioning landscape continued to evolve, the Board centred its work on strong governance, stability and keeping young people's needs and insights at the heart of our decisions. I'm incredibly proud of how the Youth Coalition has stayed grounded in its purpose and continued to show leadership across the sector.

A major highlight this year was welcoming our CEO, Hannah Watts, back into the organisation. Her return brought clarity, calm and renewed momentum at a time when the sector needed strong, steady leadership. Hannah's thoughtful and strategic approach strengthened the organisation's foundations and set a clear direction for the year ahead. On behalf of the Board, I want to sincerely acknowledge Hannah and our staff team, who navigated change, increasing pressures and growing demand with professionalism, resilience and unwavering commitment. Their dedication shines through every achievement in this report. The impact the Youth Coalition had this year is, in every sense, a reflection of their skill, compassion and integrity.

Young people also played a central role in shaping the organisation's work. Their insights guided research, informed co-design projects, strengthened initiatives and challenged systems to do better. Their honesty, creativity and generosity in sharing their experiences continue to ground the Youth Coalition's advocacy. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the young people who contributed this year, your voices do not just guide our work; they give it purpose.

The organisation contributed to landmark reforms, most notably the ACT becoming the first jurisdiction in Australia to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14. This milestone reflects years of consistent, evidence-informed advocacy and strong partnerships across the sector and with government.

Beyond youth justice reform, the Youth Coalition's influence in child and youth mental health reform, alongside the four-year extension of the Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, reflects the trust placed in the organisation to lead systemic change. Work on gambling harm prevention, including co-designed digital resources developed

with ANU, further positioned the organisation as a leader on an emerging issue of national significance.

Collective advocacy through the ACT Community Peaks Network continued as a central part of our systemic work this year. Through shared meetings, coordinated policy work and the ACT for Community campaign, we contributed to cross-sector advocacy on a range of national and ACT priorities. This included the Federal Election, the Social Media Ban legislation, the Raise the Rate campaign, Youth Homelessness Matters, and key youth justice issues. This combined effort reflects the strength of cross-sector collaboration and the importance of a unified voice when advocating for young people and the services that support them.

Sector development also remained at the heart of our mission. Training, capability-building initiatives and Communities of Practice ensured that the youth sector remained informed, connected and supported. The 21st Annual YOGIE Awards brought together a record number of attendees and celebrated the extraordinary contributions of youth workers, programs and services across the region. The depth of talent and dedication on display was a powerful reminder of the strength, innovation and heart that drive this sector forward.

In the year ahead, the Board will continue to provide steady leadership and a clear strategic focus. I want to acknowledge my fellow Board members for the dedication, perspective and sound judgement they bring to every discussion. It is a privilege to work alongside a Board that leads with integrity and genuine heart.

Thank you to our staff, young people, members, stakeholders and supporters. Your commitment, insight and genuine drive for better outcomes for young people are what enable the Youth Coalition to lead boldly, advocate strongly and create meaningful change across the ACT.

We look forward to building on this year's momentum and shaping an even stronger, more responsive ACT for young people in the year ahead.

Cindylee Young

Chair

Letter from the CEO

The 2024–25 financial year has been a year of transition for the Youth Coalition, and the youth sector more broadly. I stepped into the CEO role one month into the year, and leading the organisation during this period of change has given me a deep appreciation of our history, the strength of what has been built, and the importance of working alongside a team known for its deep expertise, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

The youth sector occupies a unique place in the community landscape – sitting across community services, government programs, and systems including health, mental health, education, justice, housing, and care & protection. As the peak body, we hold a responsibility not only to represent and advocate for the sector, but to champion the voices, experiences, and aspirations of young people themselves. The challenges facing young people continue to grow in complexity, shaped by social and economic pressures, digital environments, and global events. As demand rises and funding remains constrained, the youth sector carries an ever-heavier load. This year has reinforced how essential it is to continue strengthening the systems, workforce capability, and collaborative practices that support young people.

With this in mind, alongside our outward facing work in the sector, we have focused on strengthening our internal capacity so we can continue to serve the sector effectively. We welcomed a new Projects & Support Officer in November, Shannon Lanza, who quickly became a vital part of the team. I also want to acknowledge Erin Barry and Tom Stevens, whose ongoing commitment and expertise over the last two years have ensured continuity and excellence during a period of significant change. The insight, knowledge and skills that each team member contributes brings depth to our work and continues to underpin the organisation’s stability and impact.

In March we farewelled our long-term Business Manager, Sharon Casey, which prompted a broader review of our structure and operational needs. We undertook a comprehensive review of our administrative and accounting procedures, alongside updates to governance policies and processes led by the Board. These improvements, supported by engaging a new bookkeeper and auditor, bring fresh insight and strengthen our organisational accountability. This behind-the-scenes work may not

always be visible, but it is the foundation that will enable us to continue to deliver high-quality work for the youth sector and young people well into the future.

Alongside the internal transitions, we continued to deliver a wide range of projects, supporting youth workers, strengthening sector capability, and exploring opportunities for future initiatives that will enable more direct engagement with young people. We know that many of our members and stakeholders naturally engage with only certain parts of our work, often those most connected to their own roles or interests. I encourage you to take a moment to explore the breadth of projects and activities outlined in this report – there is a great deal happening across different areas that you may not yet have encountered. Many of these projects are interconnected, with work in one area often informing and supporting initiatives in others, reflecting the holistic approach we take to strengthen the sector and contribute to improving outcomes for young people.

Looking to the year ahead, we have welcomed new team members to strengthen our capacity since the end of the 2024-25FY. Kylie Denny joined the team as Office Manager and Executive Assistant. Her support for the whole team, expertise across a wide range of areas, and ability to wrangle my calendar and inbox are already making a significant positive contribution. Hayden Page joined us in a new role as Director of Workforce Capability & Practice, and quickly assumed leadership of several new projects and enhancing our sector development capabilities.

With the growth of our team at the start of this coming financial year, we look forward to expanding our impact and continuing to strengthen our work in the youth sector.

I would also like to sincerely thank our Board members for their confidence in my leadership and their tireless efforts to improve governance processes over the last year; their guidance ensures the organisation remains accountable, strategic, and well-positioned to respond to the evolving needs of young people and the sector.

Thank you to all of our members, partners and stakeholders, for your ongoing support and collaboration throughout the year. I am proud to lead an organisation that works alongside the youth sector, the many committed and hardworking individuals working in programs across community and government services, and young people themselves. We are all in this to build a stronger community and better future for young people, and it is a privilege to work alongside each of you.

Hannah Watts

Chief Executive Officer

Treasurers Report

The Youth Coalition of the ACT remains in a stable financial position for FY 2024–25. The organisation continues to manage resources responsibly, maintain liquidity, increase project income, and ensure that program delivery aligns with available funding.

Despite ongoing cost pressures across the NFP sector, the Youth Coalition has maintained a positive cash position and is tracking close to budget for the next FY.

Key financial highlights for the year are:

- New financial operating model – we have engaged an external bookkeeping service, replacing our in-house finance control model.
- Engaged a new auditor to maintain transparency and accountability.
- Current ratio is 1.98, which demonstrates Youth Co's ability to fulfil its financial obligations.
- Increases in revenue, income, cash reserves and future commitments, all show a positive financial outlook.

Income Summary

Total income for FY 2024–25: \$946,416 as compared to \$787,770 in the previous year.

Grant funding increased to \$887,718 as compared to \$680,116 in 2023–24. These funds allowed us to deliver our core activities, sector development initiatives, training programs, and advocacy work throughout the year. Multi year grants have allowed for additional staffing resources, and improved continuity planning.

Allocating required reserves to higher interest earning term deposit accounts has strengthened our interest earnings, which increased to \$23,193 as compared to \$6,104 in 2023–24.

Total surplus for FY 2024–25: \$181,571 as compared to \$12,404 in the previous year. This surplus is intended to support increased staffing capacity and associated program delivery costs in the 2025–27 financial years. Subsequent to the end of the reporting period, the organisation entered into an employment contract for an additional staff member, with salary and related costs to be partially funded from this surplus.

Expenditure Summary

Total expenditure for FY 2024–25: \$764,845, with 76% costs attributed to staffing.

Staffing cost were reduced this year due to staffing changes and the resultant gap during recruitment processes.

Cashflow & Reserves

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the FY are \$728,192. This amount is \$157,661 higher than last year.

The organisation maintains sufficient liquidity to meet all short-term obligations.

Reserve levels are adequate and continue to provide a financial buffer against emerging sector risks.

Balance Sheet Snapshot as at 30 June 2025:

- Assets: \$1,026,111
- Liabilities: \$514,614
- Net Equity: \$511,497

Audit

Our financial statements have been independently audited. This year we engaged a new auditor, in line with best practice and legal requirements related to auditor rotation. The audit confirms that:

- the Youth Coalition complies with all relevant financial and reporting obligations
- our financial records are accurate and well maintained
- there are no significant concerns regarding the organisation's financial management.

The audited statements are provided at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank:

- The CEO and management team for their strong financial stewardship
- Our funders and partners for their continued support
- Board members for your guidance and commitment to the organisation. A special acknowledgement to Sunday Roach and Harrison Oates (Finance sub-committee members) for their outstanding dedication throughout the year.
- Our new bookkeeper, Jess from Foundation Bookkeeping, especially for her additional support as we redeveloped key financial processes this year, including updates to bookkeeping, payroll & leave processes, and accounts administration.

Hassan Riaz

Treasurer



Annual Report 2024-2025

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 six categories:

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

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. This integrated approach enables us to respond effectively to complex and evolving issues affecting young people and the youth sector.

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 which issues we prioritise, and aid us in the development of the advocacy strategy and plan.

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 2024-25 financial year, structured by the six categories of activities:

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

We provide a Summary of Activities and Outcomes that succinctly 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 30 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 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy: Development and Implementation Committee
- ACT Peaks Network (see also: Key Projects)
- ACT Peaks Policy Network
- ACT Region Suicide Prevention Community Collaborative
- Canberra Gambling Reform Alliance
- Capital Health Services Consumer & Carer Advisory Committee
- Cashless Gaming Working Group
- 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 Advisory Group
- Gambling and Racing Commission Community of Practice
- Gambling, Gaming and Youth Working Group

- Headspace Canberra and Tuggeranong Consortium
- MindMap Governance Group
- Network Coordinator Governance Group; & Network Coordinators and Peaks Meeting
- OOHC Youth Participation Working Group
- Perinatal Mental Health Alliance
- Tertiary Education Sector Suicide Prevention Partnership
- Young Adults and Online Gambling Advisory Committee
- National forums:
 - Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia: National executive and State and Territory Advisory Network
 - Youth Peaks Policy Coalition
 - Youth Homelessness Matters National Steering Committee
 - State and Territory Youth Peaks Network

Outside of formal advisory groups listed above, the Youth Coalition team regularly participates in a broad range of consultations, research and evaluation projects run by other organisations both locally and nationally.

Collective ACT Peak Body Advocacy

The Youth Coalition has continued to work in partnership with our ACT Peak Body colleagues as part of the ACT Community Peaks Network. We collaborate on areas of intersectionality, pool our resources when appropriate, and ensure the needs of the youth sector and young people are incorporated into broader ACT advocacy. Activities include monthly peaks' meetings, additional meetings in relation to commissioning, shared meetings with Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly, shared election activities, and the ACT for Community Campaign. A quarterly peaks policy group meets separately that brings together expertise from across our organisations to share ideas and coordinate joint policy submission and consultation responses.

National Impact

Through our work at the state and territory, and national level, the Youth Coalition is informing and impacting upon work occurring in other jurisdictions. Key

stakeholders in other states and territories have expressed interest in learning from and building on the approaches used in the ACT to progress initiatives such as raising the age of criminal responsibility, supporting young people under the age of 15 at risk of homelessness, and our approach to service improvement.

We participate in regular State and Territory Youth Peak Network meetings, and contribute to national initiatives through the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Y.Foundations Youth Housing Peak.

This year, this has included advocacy related to the Federal Election, the Social Media Ban legislation and implementation, the Raise the Rate campaign for increased Youth Allowance and Jobseeker payments, the Youth Homelessness Matters campaign, and youth justice issues across Australia.



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.

Networks and Forums

- **Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum (YHHF):** In October 2024 we hosted a Youth Homelessness Services Showcase, which provided an opportunity for the broader youth sector to learn more about the service providers who support young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the ACT. The event included presentations from eight service providers and was attended by over 50 people in person and another 40 people online.

Ongoing meetings were put on hold for 2024-25 as the sector navigated changes following commissioning. We will be reinstating regular meetings with the Youth Housing sector in 2026.

- **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 in partnership with the ACT Children & Young People's Commissioner office. This work continued throughout 2024. The working group wrapped up early in 2025 and MYAN ACT will continue to progress work supporting the sector who engage with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in 2026.
- **Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN):** The YWPN provides a Community of Practice for frontline youth workers. In February 2025, we hosted an information session with the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (CAHMA) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) focussed on the decriminalisation of cannabis and small quantities of common drugs in the

ACT. This event equipped youth workers and practitioners with practical knowledge, resources, and the opportunity to discuss the real-world implications of these changes.

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. In 2024-25, the training package was updated in preparation for delivery of additional sessions and training new facilitators. The funding for this program will continue in 2025-26.
- **Reflective Supervision Training:** The Youth Coalition has partnered with Families ACT since 2023 to develop and deliver a Reflective Supervision Training package specifically for the ACT Community Sector. The training was also delivered to the Senior Youth Work Team in the ACT Education Directorate, aiming to support consistent supervision to the youth sector across community services and ACT public schools. The training aims to build a reflective workforce committed to ongoing professional growth and supported by quality supervision.
- **Alcohol Tobacco and other Drugs (ATOD) Training:** The Youth Coalition supports training delivered by ATODA to youth workers. The training provides participants with: improved knowledge of ATOD use in the ACT/Australia and harm reduction and safety information; improves confidence in working with people impacted by ATOD issues; and new skills in harm reduction practice.

ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

The Youth Coalition continues to partner with the Office for Mental Health & Wellbeing and the Capital Health Network to deliver this significant project. This

received an additional four years of funding, through to June 2029, announced in the ACT Budget 2025-26.

The ACT Child & Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance (the Alliance) aims to provide a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, the private sector and people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving service system responses for children and young people.

Building on the successful establishment of the Alliance in 2023, the 2024-25 year saw significant expansion and consolidation:

- Two Alliance Forums delivered with strong sector attendance
- Community of Practice sessions, including a fully booked session on gender-affirming care
- Progression of work through the Child and Youth Mental Health Service Development Working Group
- Commissioned literature reviews and policy analysis
- Successful advocacy for additional four years of funding, ensuring sustainability

The Youth Coalition maintains a separate [website](#) to provide information and resources to Alliance members and the general community & mental health sectors.

YOGIES – The Annual Youth Sector Awards

In 2024, the Youth Coalition proudly celebrated the 21st Annual YOGIE Awards (the Yogies), which recognise, celebrate, promote, and reward outstanding practice in working with young people across the ACT and surrounding regions. The awards highlight the exceptional commitment, talent, and innovation that exist within the youth sector.

Awards were presented across ten categories, acknowledging the achievements of individuals, groups, programs, and services that work with and alongside young people. Nominations were invited from young people, youth workers, and members of the broader community. Award winners details are available on our [website](#).

The 2024 Yogies were presented by Minister Caitlin Tough MLA. The event achieved record attendance, with over 100 guests. Several Members of the Legislative Assembly were also in attendance, highlighting the continued importance and recognition of the youth sector.

The Yogies continue to be a vital opportunity to honour the strength, passion, and impact of those working with and for young people in our community.

Other Initiatives

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

- The Evidence Project (Research and Evaluation)
- Building service readiness to collect and use client feedback (Research and Evaluation)
- Information-sharing of young people's health information, privacy and consent (Research and Evaluation)
- 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 2024-25 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. The Youth Coalition successfully advocated for additional funding in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 ACT Budgets. Key achievements include:
 - Continued funding for key child and youth mental health programs, including WOKE, MindMap, Stepping Stones, and Youth Aware of Mental Health
 - Continued funding for the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance
 - Support for domestic and family violence training programs
 - Recognition of flexible education needs through media attention and government response

The Youth Coalition's [submission](#) to the 2025-26 ACT Budget, and subsequent Youth Coalition [response](#) are available on our website.

- **ACT Election:** The Youth Coalition successfully advocated for a range of child and youth mental health initiatives to be included as election commitments, including funding for key services at risk of discontinuation, and the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance. We also partnered with community agencies in the [ACT for Community Campaign](#).
- **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, ACT Election Process, and commissioning.

- **Gambling harm:** The Youth Coalition participates in a range of committees, advisory groups and other forums related to reducing gambling harm in the ACT.
- **Commissioning:** The Youth Coalition has actively participated in and informed ACT Government processes towards commissioning within the CYFSP and mental health sub-sectors. In 2024-25, this included:
 - Child, Youth and Family Services Program – Meeting with sector stakeholders to collate and provide feedback to the Community Services Directorate regarding delays to commissioning timelines.
 - Mental Health – Responding to the Insights Report for the ACT Mental Health NGO Sub-Sector; and developing a submission to the subsequent draft Strategic Investment Plan.

We continue to provide feedback to ACT Government regarding the impact of completed commissioning processes, including in Youth Housing & Homelessness, and the Out of Home Care system.

- **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 from 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. On 1 July 2025, the minimum age of criminal responsibility was successfully raised to 14, making the ACT the first jurisdiction in Australia to achieve this milestone.

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 and groundbreaking legislative change. We continue to support the development of the programs and services being delivered that support young people and their families, diverting young people away from the youth justice system.



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 2024-25, the Youth Coalition sent out 59 eBulletins through our email networks, totalling over 51, 495 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. This year Connect received 3.6k clicks from search-related queries and 500k 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 22k clicks from search and 624k impressions.
- **ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance:** The Youth Coalition maintains 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. 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 2024-25 is provided below.

Evaluation: Workforce Development and Training Subcommittee and Fund (WDTs)

In 2024, the Youth Coalition received funding through the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) Workforce Development and Training Committee to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the WDT. The evaluation will examine the role, value and benefits of the WDT and its contribution to supporting the CYFSP, delivering findings to inform future system support functions beyond 2026. This project will conclude in late 2025.

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

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. The Youth Coalition partnered with Dr Elise Woodman to undertake this project, which was finalised in August 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. This project engaged with mental health services, child, youth and family services, young people with lived experience, and reviewing existing literature to build shared understandings and principles across government and community services. In 2024/25, the Youth Coalition commissioned lived experience researchers, Dr Alyssa Morse and Ashley Hoyer, at the ANU to conduct a literature review on best practice and principles for collecting and using service experience information from young people, and to conduct a scoping review of high-quality experience measures. This project is ongoing.

Research: Information-sharing of young people's health information, privacy and consent

The Youth Coalition commenced a project through the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance to support services to improve their processes to engage young people in informed consent, privacy and information-sharing processes. This has included commissioning Dr Alyssa Morse at the ANU to conduct a literature review on young people's preferences for sharing their health information. A significant scoping review of ACT legislation is also being undertaken by Dr Ginny Sargent, which seeks to understand and clarify services' obligations in relation to information-sharing, privacy and consent (to share) within ACT and national legislation. This project is ongoing.

Other Initiatives

The Youth Coalition also supports external research projects related to children and young people. In 2024-25, initiatives included:

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

This longitudinal qualitative study led by Dr Louise Stone at the ANU continued following the experiences of young people within the ACT mental health. The Youth Coalition convened a youth advisory panel to support the research process, providing valuable, local, and contemporary findings regarding young people’s experiences of navigating the mental health system.

Connect Up Project

This study, led by the Health Research Institute at the University of Canberra, developed and piloted 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 participated in the Working Group and evaluation advisory capacity, providing opportunities to better understand place-based responses to support young people in building 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 convened a youth advisory panel of young people aged 15–19 to provide feedback and advice to the research team. This project was completed in 2025



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.

Co-design of Gambling Harm Minimisation Resources

In partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), the Youth Coalition led a comprehensive co-design process to develop digital public health resources aimed at preventing gambling harm among young people in the ACT. Central to this project were focus groups and workshops with young people aged 12 and older, as well as parents and youth workers, to explore their experiences and perspectives on gambling.

Young people played a key role in shaping the project, contributing their expertise and experiences to ensure that the resulting resources were age-appropriate, relevant, accessible, and effective. The initiative produced educational materials and digital resources, including a dedicated website, all specifically designed for ACT youth. The launch of these resources was timed to coincide with Gambling Harm Awareness Week in October 2025, and are available at www.fairplay.org.au.

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

The Youth Coalition is supporting a longitudinal study led by researchers at the ANU examining young people's experiences in the ACT mental health system. 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.

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.
- **Clearing the Smoke with Motion Comics:** This research, led by Dr Erin Walsh at the ANU, related to the unmet information and mental health needs of young people affected by bushfires. The Youth Coalition convened a youth advisory panel to provide feedback and advice to the research team. This project was completed in 2025.
- **Unruly Girls Film Project:** We are supporting local filmmakers to conduct workshops with young women with service system experiences, in an advisory capacity, and supporting them to engage a youth advisory group.
- **Promoting research and participation:** The Youth Coalition disseminates research and youth participation opportunities from key stakeholders directly to young people.
- **Provision of Advice:** The Youth Coalition regularly provides advice to community services and government agencies who wish to engage with young people, framed around safeguarding and trauma informed consultation and engagement processes.
- Meeting with the **ACT Youth Advisory Council** members and participation in the **Youth Assembly 2025**.



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, 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 through our work.

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

- The **Projects and Activities** column provides the name of the activity. For some of these projects the Youth Coalition was successful in acquiring additional funding. This is shown in brackets [...], indicating where the funding came from. Obtaining funding for projects is itself an indicator of success – demonstrating a capability to procure funding to further progress the aims of the organisation outlined in our contract, enabling us to progress work otherwise limited by core funding. Furthermore, while these activities were supported by external funding, they contribute to activities and work that are directly funded by CSD for peak body activities.
- 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 2024-25, others are ongoing. 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 or Peak Body contract that 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 blue text denotes indicators of outcomes.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION				
Representation on a range of Advisory / Representative Groups	The Youth Coalition staff team represents young people and the youth sector on over 30 advisory groups, panels, and networks. The ensures the voices and views of young people and the sector are represented, as well as informing our ongoing policy and advocacy work.	Ongoing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation on a broad range of groups Participation in ACT and National advisory or representative groups Group discussion and decisions reflect the interests of young people and the youth sector Strengthened connections between youth sector and other sectors Increased awareness of the needs of young people and the youth sector across the broad range of advisory groups
			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"> See also: Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, JAMMed Study and CAMHS consultations WOKE and Stepping Stones advocacy campaign for continued funding 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 Funding for WOKE and Stepping Stones announced in consecutive 2023–24, 2024–25, and 2025–26 ACT Budgets Improved accessibility of appropriate suicide prevention and mental health programs for children and young people Improved strategic linkages and alignment between youth mental health initiatives Improved awareness and understanding of child and youth mental health issues within the ACT
			2	
			3	
			4	

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes
CYFSP 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.	2021-2026	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly meeting with NCs to inform each other of work being conducted Identifying and communicating identified needs of the community and community sector Supporting transition of programs as NC funding winds up in 2026 Increased understanding between NCs and peaks of work being progressed and priorities.
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.	2019-2025	1 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocated for EGM reforms in the ACT Informed the diversification and sustainability support fund EGM reforms underway with the first steps of implementing a CMS within the ACT Invited to be part of the Gambling and Racing Commissions Advisory Committee Invited to be part of ANU Advisory Committees Invited to provide advice and inform a Gambling Education program in schools Invited to partner with ANU to develop a digital strategy to prevent gambling harm to young people in the ACT The new Minister for Gaming Reform decided to officially close the Ministerial Council at the end of 2024 Improved awareness of impact of Gambling Harm in young people Development of programs to address Gambling Harm, and inform Gambling and Gaming legislation and policy

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Cashless Gaming Working Group	Gambling harm is significant to young people within the ACT. These groups work to minimise harm on the ACT community.	2025-Ongoing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joined the new Cashless Gaming Working group set up by the Minister in 2025
			2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet regularly to progress the implementation of Cashless Gaming in the ACT
			3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the structure and harm minimisation measures that will be implemented on the system
			4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to cashless gaming legislation and/or policy that is evidence based
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular participation in Panel Meetings
			2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating for development of assessment protocols and procedures Increased knowledge of represented groups needs and emerging patterns in the education system Increased awareness of community sector services for Panel Supporting the development of assessment procedures and protocols
Youth Participation & Youth-led Activities	We provide support for a range of youth participation and youth-led activities, with the aim of providing opportunities for young people to represent their experiences, and support organisations to deliver best-practice youth participation activities.	Ongoing	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the engagement of young people in research, advisory groups and youth participation activities
			3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information, resources and support to groups that are developing opportunities for young people to participate in their work – for example, setting up advisory or youth reference groups, or undertaking consultations or research with young people
			4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Youth Minister’s Advisory Council, and Youth Assembly Improved understanding of how to conduct safe, trauma informed consultations with young people Increased opportunities for young people to engage in reference and advisory groups

CAPABILITY BUILDING AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Youth Housing and Homeless Forum	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.	Ongoing	1 2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth homelessness services sector showcase event run in October 2024 Improved skills and knowledge Improved connection with other workers and services Improved awareness of other services and the supports they provide to young people
MYAN ACT [Multicultural Hub]	Sector development and advocacy for multicultural young people and the services that work with them.	Ongoing	1 2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued involvement in Anti-Racism Working Group Raise the profile of multicultural youth issues in the ACT Representation of the ACT on national MYAN forums and networks Improve supports for multicultural young people, strengthen multicultural youth services Strengthen connections between 'mainstream' and multicultural youth services
Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)	The YWPN is a core sector development activity for the youth sector. The YWPN allows us to hear from the youth sector and respond to their needs.	Ongoing	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement with frontline youth workers through a range of activities Session delivered on Decriminalisation and Harm Reduction in the ACT with over 65 attendees Implementation of the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice Improved youth workers' practice with young people Improved skills and knowledge Improved connection with other workers and services Improved awareness of other services and what they are doing Improved understanding of the changing and emerging needs of the sector

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance and the 'Missing Middle' [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 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted the 'Missing Middle' research between 2021-22 in partnership with OMHW and CHN. This led to the ACT Government report in August 2022 Conducted strategic planning days with key stakeholders to identify intended outcomes and design an Alliance structure to respond to service system gaps and constraints Established governance and communications structures and processes, advocated for establishment funding for the Alliance Delivered two cross-sector Alliance Forums Participated in the Alliance Service Development Working Group contributing to the design of 3 new child/youth mental health programs Participation in and co-facilitation of Alliance Community of Practice Established Alliance Working Group to progress shared priorities and projects Alliance received establishment funding in 2023-24 Budget, and ongoing funding for four years in the 2024-25 Budget Increased awareness and shared understandings across community and government regarding systemic child and youth MH issues Increased connection and communication between services and across sectors; including government and community Improved sector participation in consultation and co-design processes relating to child/ youth mental health Increased integration of lived experience in systemic work Increased collaboration on initiatives to address systemic problems Increased hope for change within the child/youth mental health system Note: This activity includes specific Youth Participation Activities, as outlined in that section of this report.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
DFV Youth Sector Training [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office]	Improving the capability of the sector to respond to domestic and family violence.	2022-Ongoing	1 2 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training developed, piloted, and evaluated in 2022 • 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 • Collaboration between government and the community sector • Youth Coalition asked to be the lead organisation to facilitate the delivery of 20 training sessions from 2023 – 2026 • Training packaged revised in 2024-25 in preparation for additional facilitator training and delivery of further sessions • Improved ability to identify, respond and refer young people impacted by DFV • Improved confidence to have a conversation with young people impacted by DFV • Increased knowledge of supports services and referral options • Increased knowledge and skills related to youth work practice • Increased connections between the youth sector and specialist DFV services
Child, Youth and Family Sector Program Reflective Supervision Training [CSD- WDTS Fund]	Developing and evaluating reflective supervision training for the child, youth and family sectors. This project will develop and strengthen the practice of the community to work more effectively and create a more sustainable workforce.	2022-Ongoing	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned the development of training package • Piloted then delivered additional training sessions • Improved reflective practice for emerging and existing leaders across the Child, Youth and Family Services Programs, and Senior Youth Work team in the ACT Education Directorate • Improved access to supervision for CYFSP staff
Annual YOGIES Awards	To recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in	2024	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the annual nominations process and awards ceremony, presented by the Minister for Young People • Largest attendance recorded, with over 100 people attending in person

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
	working with young people in the ACT and surrounding area.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased recognition and value of the role of youth workers and youth services in the ACT and surrounding area Increased recognition of best practice in youth work and service delivery Increased connections in the youth sector Improved knowledge of services and supports available to young people
POLICY DEVELOPMENT				
ACT Budget	The Budget Submission is a foundational part of our systemic advocacy. Through this process we aim to influence the funding of reforms and initiatives that will improve the lives of young people in the ACT.	Ongoing	1 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to ACT Budget 2025-26 (February 2025) Response to ACT Budget 2025-26 (July 2025) Participation in other Budget activities (e.g. contributing questions to Estimates, meeting with MLAs and advisors) Increased awareness and understanding about service system gaps and opportunities for young people and families in the ACT Allocation of funds for identified needs raised through our budget submission
ACT Election	In the lead up to the ACT Election we met with candidates to advocate for a range of youth focused election commitments.	2024	3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with candidates prior to the election to highlight the emerging and ongoing needs of young people and the youth sector Provide information about services and supports that could be implemented to address these needs, to be included in election policy platforms Support for the ACT for Community Campaign, including development of website and communications resources Candidates make pre-election commitments to address needs raised Public discourse prior to and following the election to include the needs of young people Increased awareness of ACT for Community Campaign
Commissioning Activities	To inform sub-sector commissioning processes to develop	Ongoing	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in a range of sub-sector commissioning processes: Housing and homelessness, CYFSP, peaks, primary youth health, mental health, health

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
	effective service systems that meet the needs of young people and families.		3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively engaged with stakeholders to inform the CYFSP Commissioning process Developed a written submission to CYFSP to inform the development of the CYFSP Strategic Investment Plan Sought funding to deliver 'The Evidence Project' to build services' capability to understand, access and use evidence in their service design and planning Actively engaged with stakeholders to inform the Mental Health sub-sector commissioning process Developed a written submission to ACTHD to inform the development of the mental health NGO investment strategy In partnership with Families ACT, coordinated feedback sessions regarding CYFSP commissioning delay, and provided summary report of feedback to CSD Inclusion of Mental Health Commissioning Feedback Session in the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance forum (June 2025) Improved knowledge and understanding of service system gaps and opportunities for young people and families Improved collaboration between community and government to work towards improved service system responses for children, young people and families
Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)	Aim to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and support the development of a system and supports to meet the needs of this cohort to achieve positive outcomes.	2019-Ongoing	1 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed advocacy strategy with key stakeholders, disseminated information and resources to increase awareness and knowledge Held forums with youth sector to understand their needs, provide information and hear their concerns Advocated to raise the age in media, with government and community sector Extensive meetings with government to inform development of draft legislation and service models and sector needs Advocated for and conducted evaluation of FFT-YJ Inclusion of raising the age in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACR raised to 12 in 2023, with a further legislated increase to 14 in 2025 • FFT-YJ received funding to recommence in 2023-24 Budget as part of MACR service system supports • Therapeutic Support Panel established and commenced in 2024 • Safer Youth Response funded and implemented
COMMUNICATIONS				
Email Networks and Website	Through our email networks and website, we provide regular communications to a broad range of stakeholders.	Ongoing	2 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a broader sector email network, and sub-sector specific networks • Distribution of 59 ebulletins in 2024-25, totalling over 51,000 emails • Maintain the Youth Coalition website, the Alliance website, and the Connect Directory • Improved access to information • Increased knowledge of the opportunities available to the youth sector and young people
CNCT Website [CSD-WDTS fund]	Improving knowledge of youth services for the community to improve outcomes for young people in the ACT.	2020-Ongoing	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and launched in 2020 • Received funding for updates of CYFSP services, including website enhancements to support translation of information into a range of languages, facilitating improved access to information for people who speak English as an additional language – in progress for delivery in 2025-26. • Improved knowledge of the services and programs available that work with young people in the ACT
The co-design of digital public health strategy and resources to prevent gambling harm in young people	The Australian National University's (ANU) Centre for Gambling Research in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT has been funded by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission to	2024-2025	1 2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on previous work through the At Odds Gambling Project • Development of a Public Health Strategy and Resources • Conducted focus groups with each target group that included over 50 participants • who most we engaged with multiple times. The groups include young people aged 12-16, and 17-25, parents, and youth workers • Develop a comprehensive website with resources and tools for children, young people, parents & youth workers

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
[ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION]	undertake this project to co-design digital public health strategy and resources to prevent gambling harm in young people. This project builds on recent evidence about online gambling and gambling related harm in the ACT youth.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved awareness of Gambling and Gaming Harm in children and young people Improved access to resources for parents and friends concerned about a young person's gambling or gaming activities Reduces stigma related to help seeking for gambling Note: This activity includes specific Youth Participation Activities, as outlined in that section of this report.
RESEARCH AND EVALUATION				
The Evidence Project [CYFSP WDT]	To build the capability of child, youth and family services to understand, access and use evidence in service design and planning.	2023-2025	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Engaged with social work academics to co-design product Created templates for use by services in forthcoming commissioning processes Improved service awareness and understanding of where and how to access and use evidence in service design and planning Improved capability of services to participate in commissioning processes Improved service system responses for children, young people and families
Building service readiness to collect and use client feedback [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-Ongoing	1 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the project through the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, including the development and seeking endorsement of the project plan Coordinating consultations with services through the Alliance Forum, Working Group and a sector survey Involving young people through Alliance Forum and Alliance Youth Reference Group Liaising with external experts to facilitate development of literature reviews on seeking service user feedback from young people Improved collaboration across government, community, academia and with young people, to problem-solve systemic issues

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness and understanding of the opportunities and constraints in service user feedback processes 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
Evaluation of the CYFSP Workforce Development and Training Sub-Committee [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-Ongoing	1 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation being conducted across the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Increased understanding of the value of evaluation in future planning for system coordination and workforce development processes Improved collaboration between government and community in system planning processes Future – Improved understanding of the value, benefits and learnings of the WDT Future – Improved future delivery of system support functions for the CYFSP, beyond 2026
Information-sharing of Young People's Health Information, Privacy and Consent [OMHW]	Aims to support services to improve their processes to engage young people in informed consent, privacy and information-sharing processes	2024-Ongoing	1 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning a literature review on young people's preferences for sharing health information Commissioning a scoping review of ACT legislation related to obligations of information-sharing, privacy, and consent to share Improved knowledge of policy and legislation related to information sharing Improved practice informed by young people's preferences for information sharing
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 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with ANU research team to support research Informed research methods and approach Facilitated an ongoing Youth Advisory Group of young people to oversee research methods, delivery and analysis Participated in associated research impact group Improved participation of young people in mental health consultation processes, leading to improved research processes with young people Improved understanding of the needs and experiences of young people in the mental health system Improved linkages between research/evidence and policy/practice

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY CONTRACT	DELIVERABLES & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS / PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: This activity includes specific Youth Participation Activities, as outlined in that section of this report.
Connect Up [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 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in project working group activities and workshops to support co-design of the program Promotion of the pilot within the broader child and youth mental health sector Increased understanding of the role of place-based, co-designed responses in supporting young people to build social connection and reduce loneliness
Clearing the Smoke with Motion Comics [ANU]	Aims to understand the unmet information and mental health needs of young people who are impacted by bushfires.	2024	1 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with recruitment and delivery of a youth research advisory panel to provide feedback and advice to the research team Improved participation of young people in research processes on issues affecting them Improved understanding of the information-seeking preferences of young people in relation to bushfires and mental health Note: This activity includes specific Youth Participation Activities, as outlined in that section of this report.
OTHER PROJECTS				
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 2 3 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the working group. Working group met 7 times in 2023-24. Developed a proposal for an 'Anti-Racism Toolkit and Resources' Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of young people in addressing incidents of racism. Increased awareness and understanding of young people's views and experiences of racism amongst decision-makers.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	AIM	PERIOD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED	OUTCOMES AGAINST PEAK BODY 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 2 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and launched the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice (CoE) • 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 • Discussions regarding the development of a training package to accompany the CoE • Increased awareness among youth workers and youth sector regarding ethical practice • Increased commitment within the youth sector to work collaboratively towards professionalisation activities

Financial Statements

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Directors' Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

The directors present their report on Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

General information

Directors

The following is a list of the board directors who were on the board for all or part of FY 2025, noting that several board members started / ended their terms in November 2024. The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position
Cindylee Young	Chair
Bethany Allibone	Vice Chair
Hassan Riaz	Treasurer
Sonali Varma	Secretary
Jalene Teo	Member
Harrison Oates	Member
Joshuah Yeend	Member
Kat Reed	Former Co-Treasurer, Member
Sunday Roach	Member
Sean Mullins (finished November 2024)	Former Co-Chair
Zachary Noble (finished August 2024)	Former Co-Treasurer
Isha Singhal (finished November 2024)	Former Vice Chair, Former Interim Treasurer
Kieran Purves (finished August 2024)	Former Independent Board Member (co-opted for a period of time)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

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.:

Significant changes

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

Operating result

The surplus of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$ 181,571(2024: \$ 12,404).

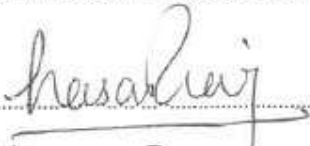
The Board notes that this surplus is intended to support increased staffing capacity and associated program delivery costs in the 2025-2027 financial years. Subsequent to the end of the reporting period, the organisation entered into an employment contract for a new staff member, with salary and related costs to be partially funded from this surplus.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated


ABN: 59 552 254 521

**Directors' Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

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

Director: 
HASSAN RIAZ
BOARD TREASURER

Dated 18/11/2025

Director: 
Cindylee Young - Board Chair

18/11/2025

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Hardwicks
Chartered Accountants

Bhaumik Bumia CA
Partner

Canberra

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue and other income	4	946,416	787,770
Accounting and Audit fees		(10,138)	(5,361)
Depreciation expense		(3,348)	(890)
Bank charges		(174)	(188)
Cleaning fees		(14,498)	(14,518)
Computer expenses		(13,424)	(12,300)
Consultancy fees		(76,165)	(47,367)
Depreciation expense		(18,470)	(11,078)
Employee benefits expense		(587,730)	(597,083)
Insurance		(4,028)	(9,616)
Other expenses		(19,550)	(52,391)
Printing and Postage		(3,830)	(7,716)
Repairs and maintenance		(8,975)	(10,596)
Telephone expenses		(4,515)	(6,262)
Surplus before income tax		181,571	12,404
Income tax expense	2(b)	-	-
Surplus for the year		181,571	12,404
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		181,571	12,404

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	728,192	570,531
Trade and other receivables	6	33,204	286,557
Other financial assets	7	231,963	-
Other assets	9	24,906	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,018,265	857,088
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	7,846	19,867
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		7,846	19,867
TOTAL ASSETS		1,026,111	876,955
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	72,284	78,687
Employee benefits	12	79,746	94,049
Other financial liabilities	11	362,584	374,293
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		514,614	547,029
TOTAL LIABILITIES		514,614	547,029
NET ASSETS		511,497	329,926
EQUITY			
Reserves		325,000	325,000
Retained earnings		186,497	4,926
TOTAL EQUITY		511,497	329,926

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

**Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

2025

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	4,926	325,000	329,926
Surplus for the year	181,571	-	181,571
Balance at 30 June 2025	186,497	325,000	511,497

2024

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	(7,478)	325,000	317,522
Surplus for the year	12,404	-	12,404
Balance at 30 June 2024	4,926	325,000	329,926

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	1,264,084	480,576
Payments to suppliers and employees	(884,186)	(367,029)
Interest received	16,175	6,104
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>396,073</u>	<u>119,651</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(6,449)	(12,446)
Purchase of investments	(231,963)	-
Net cash (used in) investing activities	<u>(238,412)</u>	<u>(12,446)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held	157,661	107,205
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	570,531	463,326
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5 <u>728,192</u>	<u>570,531</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

The financial report covers Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated as an individual entity. Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated is a not-for-profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

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

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Material accounting policy information is consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(a) Revenue and other income

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Association are:

Operating Grants and Donations

When the Association receives operating grant revenue or donations, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance to AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(a) Revenue and other income

Specific revenue streams

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Association:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Other income

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

(b) Income tax

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

(c) 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.

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.

(d) Plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(d) Plant and equipment

Depreciation

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

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

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	33%
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	20%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(e) Financial instruments

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
- fair value through profit or loss - FVTPL
- fair value through other comprehensive income - equity instrument (FVOCI - equity)

Amortised cost

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.

Fair value through other comprehensive income - Equity instruments

The Association has no investments in listed and unlisted entities.

Financial assets through profit or loss

The Association does not hold any assets that fall under this category.

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(e) Financial instruments

Financial assets

Impairment of financial assets

Where the simplified approach to expected credit loss (ECL) is not applied, the Association uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Association uses the presumption that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Association in full, without recourse to the Association to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial assets is more than 90 days past due.

Trade receivables

Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses.

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in finance expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

Where the Association renegotiates the terms of trade receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities

The financial liabilities of the Association comprise trade payables.

(f) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period the Association determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where an indicator exists and regardless for indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(h) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits, those 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.

(i) Economic dependence

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

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Those charged with governance 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 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 - estimation of useful life of assets

The association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Key estimates - grant income

For many of the grant agreements received, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a significant judgement involving discussions with a number of parties at the Association, review of the proposal documents prepared during the grant application phase and consideration of the terms and conditions.

Grants received by the Association have been accounted for under both AASB 15 and AASB 1058 depending on the terms and conditions and decisions made.

If this determination was changed then the revenue recognition pattern would be different from that recognised in these financial statements.

Key estimates - employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB119 Employee Benefits defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. The Association expects most employees will take their annual leave entitlements within 24 months of the reporting period in which they are earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amounts recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at the reporting date have been reviewed to specifically provide for any debts which are considered irrecoverable. The remaining debts have been subject to expected credit loss testing based on the history of the association with the counterparty, the current economic climate and any future expectations relating to the industry and circumstances of the counterparty.

4 Revenue and Other Income

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
- External consulting and Room hire	6,667	56,654
- Grant income	887,718	680,116
- Interest received	23,193	6,104
- Member subscriptions	2,363	3,677
- Other revenue	15,329	30,746
- Recoupment income	11,146	10,473
Total Revenue and other income	946,416	787,770

5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	728,192	570,531
	728,192	570,531

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6 Trade and Other Receivables

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	33,204	286,557
Total trade and other receivables	33,204	286,557

7 Other Financial Assets

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Term deposits	231,963	-
	231,963	-

8 Plant and Equipment

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Plant and equipment		
At cost	22,137	18,112
Accumulated depreciation	(18,197)	(839)
Total plant and equipment	3,940	17,273
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	6,883	4,460
Accumulated depreciation	(2,977)	(1,866)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	3,906	2,594
Total plant and equipment	7,846	19,867
Total plant and equipment	7,846	19,867

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2025			
Balance at the beginning of year	17,273	2,594	19,867
Additions	4,026	2,423	6,449
Depreciation expense	(17,359)	(1,111)	(18,470)
Balance at the end of the year	3,940	3,906	7,846

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

9 Other Assets

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	17,888	-
Accrued income	7,018	-
Total other assets	24,906	-

10 Trade and Other Payables

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	2,679	11,227
GST payable	39,688	38,698
Accrued expense	19,778	4,000
Other payables	10,139	24,762
Total Trade and other payables	72,284	78,687

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

11 Other Financial Liabilities

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Grants in advance	362,584	374,293
Total	362,584	374,293

12 Employee Benefits

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Provision for annual leave	42,312	44,541
Provision for DFV and Parental leave	37,434	49,508
Total employee benefits	79,746	94,049

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

13 Financial Risk Management

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Financial assets		
Held at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	728,192	570,531
Term deposits	231,963	-
Trade and other receivables	33,204	286,557
Total financial assets	993,359	857,088
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade and other payables	22,457	15,283
Total financial liabilities	22,457	15,283

14 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$ 430,208 (2024: \$ 400,184).

15 Auditors' Remuneration

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	6,500	4,000
Total	6,500	4,000

16 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2025 (30 June 2024: None).

17 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.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

18 Events After the End of the Reporting Period

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

19 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated
46 Clianthus Street,
O'Connor ACT 2602

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated


ABN: 59 552 254 521


Responsible Persons' Declaration

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2022*.

Responsible person 
HASSAN RIAZ
BOARD TREASURER
Dated 18/11/2025

Responsible person 
Cindyles Young - Board Chair
18/11/2025

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

Independent Audit Report to the members of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Other matter

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on that report on 11 October 2024.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is included in the director's report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

Independent Audit Report to the members of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible persons of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We 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 our 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.

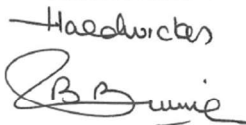
Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

Independent Audit Report to the members of Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' 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 we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are 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 our opinion. Our 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.

We communicate 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 we identify during our audit.

Hardwickes
Chartered Accountants



Bhaumik Bumia CA
Partner

Canberra

24 NOVEMBER 2025

The Youth Coalition of the ACT
46 Clianthus St O'Connor ACT 2602

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