July 2026

youth coalition of the ACT

ACT Budget 2026-2027

What's in it for young people?

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledge the Traditional Owners and continuing Custodians of the lands of the ACT and pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors.

We acknowledge that the effect of forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinctive rights as the original people of modern-day Australia including the right to a distinct status and culture, self-determination and land. We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the invaluable contribution they make to our community.

About the Youth Coalition of the ACT

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 and evaluation, advocacy and representation activities to improve outcomes for young people and their families.

A key role of the Youth Coalition is the development and analysis of ACT social policy and program decisions that affect young people and youth services. The Youth Coalition facilitates the development of strong linkages and promotes collaboration between the community, government and private sectors to achieve better outcomes for young people in the ACT.

Prepared by Shannon Lanza, Thomas Stevens and Hannah Watts, Youth Coalition of the ACT. July 2026.

Response to the ACT Budget 2026-27

We welcome the **substantial community sector investment** government has made as a policy decision this Budget. The **permanent funding uplift** of $23.7 million over four years will help to address structural inequality in funding arrangements with NGOs. The sector looks forward to the development of a community sector funding model which addresses sector sustainability and considers baseline funding, contract terms, increases to superannuation, insurance costs, and other such factors. We also welcome government's **decision to bring the Budget forward**; by having the Budget fall earlier in the year, many community services have been able to provide greater certainty to their workforce around the continuation of program and service funding.

While we welcome a number of important investments in this budget, which are outlined below, we remain concerned that there is no clear overarching **Youth Strategy** aimed at improving outcomes for young people in the ACT. Young people interact with almost every Directorate and Ministerial portfolio, but we do not have a whole-of-government framework that articulates how government will identify, prioritise and address the needs of young people across portfolios. Without a clear framework for coordinating action and reporting on outcomes, there is risk that significant needs and emerging issues are not being addressed in a consistent or strategic way.

We welcome the Budget's additional investment into both frontline services and foundational supports in the **domestic, family, and sexual violence sector**, particularly those which respond to young people as victim-survivors in their own right. This funding amounts to $47.8 million total over four years, with $13.2 million of it ongoing to provide greater certainty for services. We are pleased to be able to continue the Youth Coalition's **'Talk to Them' training** and **Community of Practice** for people working with young people as a result of this additional funding.

The 2026-27 Budget has placed strong emphasis on improving **housing affordability and homelessness**, with additional investment into construction and repairs of public and social housing. Several frontline services, including **Our Place** have received additional funding, along with support for the housing and homelessness peak body ACT Shelter to continue their important advocacy. This follows the government's commitment in the Legislative Assembly in May to develop an **ACT Youth Homelessness Strategy**, following a motion from Laura Nuttall, MLA. The development of this strategy remains a priority despite not receiving direct funding.

Alongside housing pressures, this Budget continues to recognise the ongoing impacts of cost of living on the ACT community. We welcome the additional funding for the Future of Education Equity Fund, the Housing Crisis Support Fund and new Crisis Support Payment, and reducing the cap on public transportation fares for tertiary students.

The **Future of Education: One Public Education system** reform has received $9.3 million in this Budget, aiming to create a more coordinated, equitable and sustainable public education system. This is a significant reform for the whole public education system which will take place over the next two years. Alongside this whole-of-system reform, $600 000 has been allocated for a feasibility study into the expansion of flexible education and specialist schools, following the recent *Flexible Education Review*. While we welcome long term planning for the **ongoing sustainability of flexible education across the public school system**, we are disappointed that this Budget has not provided additional support to address the immediate staffing and infrastructure pressures facing Muliyan and the Flexible Education

Outreach Program. Without greater support, the important work of these programs in engaging young people with complex needs in education is compromised, with long-term consequence.

Gambling harm sees no new investment in this Budget. We note that the ACT Government is developing a new five-year gambling harm strategy, alongside cashless gaming reforms and the inquiry into the ACT club sector; however, this work is to be delivered within existing resources. At the same time, gambling revenue continues to grow, with the Betting Operations Tax on online wagering forecast to rise from $25.3 million in 2026-27 to $30.6 million by 2029-30. The ACT's gambling harm prevention efforts such as counselling, school education, public awareness, industry training and research is paid for almost entirely out of a single fund of about $2 million a year, the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund, which is primarily funded through a small percentage of poker machine revenue. None of it comes from the $89 million in gambling tax the Government collects. We urge the ACT Government **to commit dedicated funding to gambling harm prevention that reflects the scale of the harm**, including the growing harm from online gambling — noting that online wagering pays no levy toward prevention, even as it generates growing tax revenue.

A full summary of new funding allocations that directly affect young people and their families is provided at the end of this document, from Page 11.

ACT Budget initiatives for young people: Snapshot

1. **Funding injection into the community sector:** $58.8 million in total over 4 years. This is the largest increase in community sector funding in over a decade and includes a permanent funding uplift to community sector organisations of $23.7 million over four years to address structural inequality in funding arrangements with NGOs.

2. **Support for foundational and frontline domestic, family, and sexual violence services:** $3.559 million over 4 years, with $1.7 million of that ongoing funding for strengthening system foundations; $44.2 million over 4 years, with $12.8 million per year ongoing funding for frontline services, including those which treat young people as victim-survivors in their own right, and $225,000 over 3 years for continued delivery of the Youth Coalition's 'Talk to Them' training.

3. **Cost of living supports:** $977,000 boost to the Future of Education Equity Fund; $1.228 million for a reduced monthly cap on public transport concessions for tertiary students over 12 months.

4. **Housing affordability and homelessness:** $16.919 million over 4 years for frontline homelessness and housing services, including $827,000 for Our Place Braddon; $5.162 million additional funding for the Housing Crisis Support Fund and new Crisis Support Payment; construction of 450 new public housing dwellings.

5. **Apprenticeships and Trades:** $24.8 million over the next 4 years to extend fee free TAFE to another 9,093 places; $5.878 million over 1 year to support CIT Woden and Yurauna campuses; $25.090 million over 3 years to upgrade CIT's ICT infrastructure; $774,000 over 2 years to continue the 'Head Start' program for school-based apprenticeships.

Areas requiring further investment or review

Health & Community Services Directorate

1. Youth Engagement in the ACT and developing an ACT Youth Strategy

We continue to advocate for the creation of an ACT Youth Strategy that captures young people's perspectives to promote their wellbeing, health, and rights in the Territory. It is crucial that this strategy is appropriately resourced to be co-designed by young Canberrans from all backgrounds and privileges. As noted in prior Budget submissions and responses from the Youth Coalition, an ACT Youth Strategy was one of Labor's 2024 election commitments. Creating and implementing a youth strategy could structure an effective whole-of-community and government approach to issues facing young people and to review existing indicators for tracking children and young people wellbeing, as used in the ACT Government's wellbeing framework.

The creation of a Youth Strategy also presents the opportunity to assess existing mechanisms of youth engagement in the ACT, their purposes, and their functions. Strong systems of youth engagement can help to ensure that the strategy has robust validation, while providing an avenue for young people to develop their civic understandings and responsibilities. We note the government's openness to expanding mechanisms for democratic and participatory process suggested in the ACT Government's response to the *Inquiry into the Electoral Amendment Bill 2021*. Youth engagement must capture the diversity of experiences in the ACT and is best placed to do so when youth led.

We note that the Government recently committed to developing an ACT Youth Homelessness strategy, which is a welcome step towards strengthening the service system for young people experiencing or as risk of homelessness. While no dedicated funding has been announced as part of this Budget to support the development or implementation of this strategy, the ACT Youth Homelessness sector is committed to working with the ACT Government to develop this strategy alongside young people. We note that the strategy development process is likely to identify gaps in the current service system and areas for additional investment, and will be looking to future Budgets to provide the required resourcing to support implementation of the strategy.

While welcome in its own right, the ACT Youth Homelessness Strategy should not be seen as an alternative for a broader ACT Youth Strategy, but as a valuable first step that could inform and support a more comprehensive framework for improving outcomes for young people across the ACT.

Recommendations for ACT Health & Community Services Directorate Investment (Youth Engagement):

1. Review the existing ACT Government youth engagement mechanisms.

2. Appropriate funding to co-design a Youth Strategy with both young people and youth organisations, which supports a whole-of-government and community approach to supporting youth wellbeing.

2. Retaining underspending from Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility and Therapeutic Support Panel funding

Raising the *Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility* (MACR) and its associated reforms, including the Therapeutic Support Panel, have already been making positive impacts on the lives of young Canberrans and the wider community. Recognising the importance of these policies, the ACT Labor Government has committed to embedding system reform. Nevertheless, this Budget has indicated there will be up to $1 million in savings over the forward estimates. This cannot come at the cost of supporting programs not fulfilling their basic purposes. We reassert the need to make sure that underspending by the Therapeutic Support Panel does not result in diversions of those funds away from supporting MACR reforms as they stabilise.

Recommendations for ACT Health & Community Services Directorate Investment:

3. Ensure underspending from Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility reforms does not result in reduced funding of the Therapeutic Support Panel

3. CAMHS clinic in Gungahlin and North Community Team expansion

Funding for youth mental health largely comes from previous initiatives and rollovers. However, the distance of young people living in Gungahlin to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) services remains an extant issue. With current staffing levels, the North Community Team in Belconnen has had long term capacity pressures leading to extensive wait times.

The Youth Coalition is aware that a high number of referrals to and requests for support from the North Community Team come from families in the Gungahlin region, where CAMHS does not yet have a physical presence and the population is growing. We believe that a satellite CAMHS clinic in the Gungahlin region, along with an appropriate expansion of the North Community Team, would ease pressures on the Belconnen service while reducing barriers to access and engagement for young people. Such a service could utilise existing infrastructure.

4. Supported transport for The Cottage Program

Construction of purpose-built facilities for the relocation of The Cottage Program is imminent. The new facility in Erindale, moving from Bruce, will continue to provide support to young people with moderate to severe mental health issues who cannot attend mainstream schools. As far as we are aware, The Cottage Program will function similarly to how it does at present, with referrals coming from CAMHS, the Education Directorate providing a classroom teacher and CAMHS providing other program staff and support through Canberra Health Services.

However, the relocation worsens existing transport issues for young people with mental illness living in North Canberra, particularly in Gungahlin. Many of the young people attending The Cottage are reliant on their parents to participate in the day program and cannot reliably navigate public transportation options. Families residing or working in the north will face exacerbated travel challenges. This may unfortunately result in some eligible young people having to withdraw from or never access the program.

As our Budget Submission suggests, this emerging issue is amendable. Muliyan Flexible Education, which assists young people to attend their program with comparable vulnerabilities, demonstrates what accessible arrangements might look like. The Muliyan program provides daily transport support through youth workers to allow their participants to safely attend. The principle of equity requires that young people with complex needs receive the same level of transport support to enable their access to education. We understand that thus far, there has been no planning to implement a supported transport model for the program after it moves. With the relocation of The Cottage set to finalise in 2027, proactive provisions for transporting young people to and from the site are imperative.

Recommendations for ACT Health & Community Services Directorate Investment (Mental Health):

4. Establishing a CAMHS satellite clinic in Gungahlin, and increasing the capacity of the North Community Team.

5. Fund Canberra Health Services to implement a supported transport model, similar to that used for Muliyan, to enable young people to access The Cottage when it relocates to Tuggeranong in 2027.

Education Directorate

1. Building one Public Education System

The Youth Coalition welcomes the ACT Government commitment to implementing the *Future of Education: One Public Education System* reform, which aims to create a more coordinated, equitable and sustainable public education system. For young people experiencing educational disadvantage, this reform should address some of the barriers that emerge for young people and their families when access to supports, resources and educational opportunities varies between schools.

The 2026-27 Budget includes $5.3 million to strengthen system-wide supports for schools, including human resources, financial management, infrastructure and leadership support, $2 million to review the school funding model, and $2 million to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance arrangements. The Education Directorate will also establish a dedicated implementation team to progress these reforms over the next two years.

This reform is a significant shift in how public education is governed, funded and supported across the ACT. It is important that young people, families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, schools, community services and government support programs that intersect with the education system have meaningful opportunities to contribute to these reforms. The expertise of services working directly with young people and families who face barriers to education will be critical to ensuring this reform delivers on its intended outcomes.

The Youth Coalition looks forward to engaging with the Education Directorate as this work develops. We are particularly interested in how this reform responds to the needs of young people who are disengaged from education, at risk of disengagement, or require alternative, flexible or more supportive pathways to participate in learning.

2. Muliyan Review and Future of Flexible Education

As the ACT Government implements a more coordinated an equitable public education system, it will be important that flexible education pathways are considered a core part of that reform agenda. The Youth Coalition's 2025-26 Budget submission called for a review of the Muliyan Program, including infrastructure needs. Muliyan is one of seven programs delivered through Flexible Education, and works closely alongside the Murrumbidgee School and Flexible Education Outreach programs to provide a range of pathways and supports to young people in the public education system. We have welcomed the opportunity to take part in the recent *ACT Education Directorate Review of Flexible Education* (the Review), which focused on Muliyan, Flexible Education Outreach, and Waruga Yardhura over the last year. We look forward to publication of the final report and recommendations.

The 2026-27 Budget allocated $600,000 for a feasibility study over the next two years *(Feasibility for Expansion of Flexible Education and Specialist Schools*). It is currently unclear if this feasibility study is related to the Review, or if it relates to longer term infrastructure planning such as establishing sites in the north and south of Canberra. While this allocation demonstrates recognition of the issue, it does not yet represent a commitment to increasing capacity or implementing the findings of the Review of Flexible Education, particularly in the interim while the feasibility study takes place.

While further planning for the future and sustainability of Flexible Education is welcome, government should be transparent about the findings of the Review and make a clear commitment to responding to its recommendations. Young people who depend on flexible education programs, their families, and the community organisations and government services that support them have a legitimate interest in understanding what the Review has found and what changes are proposed.

Flexible education is fundamental in supporting young people disengaged from education, and those who face barriers to engagement in a general school setting. These programs support a diverse range of young people, including those in residential care, youth homelessness, and youth justice systems, as well as young people with complex needs, physical or mental ill health, caring responsibilities, or experiences of discrimination. Coordinated planning across government and community services is essential to ensure reforms, including *One Public Education System*, changes to Flexible Education, as well as reforms in Youth Justice (including Murrumbidgee School, upcoming Throughcare Pilot) strengthen the broader alternative education system rather than occurring in isolation.

More broadly, recommendations arising from reviews and feasibility studies should be accompanied by a funded implementation pathway. Without commitment to action, there is a risk that recognised challenges will remain unaddressed while demand for flexible education continues to grow.

3. Additional support to alleviate immediate infrastructure and staffing pressures at Muliyan & Flexible Education Outreach

Muliyan is strained and unable to meet demand, with the program consistently 'oversubscribed' — there are insufficient vacancies to match referrals from schools. In Term 1 2025 the program halved its number of on-site places from 30 to 15 due to infrastructure constraints. Our past two Budget submissions have advocated for restoring on-site participation at Muliyan back to 30 places, which existing staffing levels can support if suitable facilities were available.

We understand that options for temporary accommodation have been identified for the Flexible Education Outreach program, which is continuing to connect with young people in the community. However, while long-term planning and reform initiatives progress, including the feasibility study, One Public Education System reforms, and consideration of the Review recommendations, young people are experiencing unmet need now. Additional staffing and operational funding are required to sustain outreach services, and support any expansion of on-site programs beyond current capacity.

This would provide a bridge to ensure that current pressures are addressed and more young people have access to flexible education options over the coming years while the ACT Government develops its longer-term vision for flexible education in the ACT.

Recommendations for Education Directorate investment:

6. Implement the *One Public Education System* reforms in partnership with young people, families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and community sector organisations.

7. Publicly release the findings and recommendations of the *ACT Education Directorate Review of Flexible Education*, and deliver the Government's response to the recommendations.

8. Ensure planning for the future of Flexible Education is coordinated with the wider alternative education sector and relevant community service systems.

9. Develop a funded implementation pathway for any recommendations arising from the Muliyan review and the Flexible Education and Specialist Schools feasibility study.

10. Provide interim operational funding and staffing support to expand capacity across Muliyan's on-site and outreach programs while longer-term planning and reform processes are underway.

11. Restore Muliyan's on-site capacity to at least 30 places as an immediate priority, with longer-term planning for expanded flexible education provision across Canberra.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate / Justice and Community Safety Directorate

1. Dedicating gambling revenue to harm prevention

This Budget contains no new investment in gambling harm prevention. While we recognise the fiscal pressures on this Budget, we note that gambling reform has been identified as a priority for this term of government. The ACT Government is developing a new five-year gambling harm strategy during 2026-27, which we welcome; however, it is to be developed and delivered within existing resources, with no funding identified for its implementation.

We are concerned that the scale of the Government's investment in prevention does not reflect the scale of either the revenue gambling generates or the harm it causes. In 2026-27 the Territory is forecast to raise approximately $89 million in gambling taxes. This includes $41.5 million from gaming machines and $25.3 million from online betting, on top of the revenue that clubs and online wagering operators themselves retain. By contrast, the dedicated Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund sits at around $1.7 million, roughly two per cent of the gambling tax the Government collects. That money is not even drawn from gambling tax: it comes from a separate levy on poker machine revenue, paid by licensees.

This is set against clear and concentrated harm. The 2024 ACT Gambling Survey found that about one in six ACT adults — approximately 58,075 people, reported experiencing gambling harm, whether from their own gambling or someone else's, with around 2,940 adults (0.8 per cent) in the most severe "problem gambling" category. The harm is also highly concentrated: the 1.4 per cent of people who gamble in the highest-harm group account for 45.5 per cent of all gambling losses. A prevention response of this size is not proportionate to a source of harm of this scale.

This harm is not reducing. Fewer ACT adults gamble than in 2019, but that has not produced fewer people harmed: an estimated 33,480 ACT adults experienced harm from their own gambling in 2024, against 33,845 in 2019. The proportion fell slightly, from 9.6 per cent to 9.1 per cent, while the number of people harmed did not. At the same time, participation in newer forms of gambling, particularly online wagering, continues to grow, exposing more people, and disproportionately young people, to products designed to cause harm. As the established harm persists and new forms of gambling expand, the need for sustained investment in prevention continues to grow.

The prevention response to all forms of gambling harm — including online — is funded principally through a levy on poker machine revenue. Online wagering, though it generates $25.3 million in tax and a growing share of harm, pays no levy toward prevention at all. We urge the ACT Government to commit dedicated funding to gambling harm prevention that reflects the scale of the harm, including the growing harm from online gambling. Growing gambling revenue is itself a signal of the need for greater investment in prevention.

Recommendations for Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate / Justice and Community Safety Directorate:

12. Commit dedicated funding to gambling harm prevention that reflects the scale of the harm, including harm from online gambling — recognising that the prevention fund is raised principally from poker machine revenue, with online wagering paying no levy toward it.

13. Ensure the new five-year gambling harm strategy is appropriately resourced for implementation, rather than delivered within existing resources.

Where to from here?

This Budget Briefing has been prepared to support understanding of the ACT Government Budget and its implications for young people and youth services in the ACT. It is intended to inform the community sector, policymakers and stakeholders about Budget measures that affect young people, and to highlight areas where further investment and action may be needed.

The analysis and priorities outlined in this briefing will inform the Youth Coalition's ongoing advocacy and engagement with government, the community sector and other stakeholders. We will continue to work collaboratively to advance policies, programs and investment that support the wellbeing, participation and rights of young people in the ACT.

For ease of reference, a summary of all new Budget funding measures identified as having a direct or significant impact on young people is provided in the table that follows. This summary is intended to assist the sector in understanding the range of investments announced in the 2026-27 ACT Budget and their potential implications for young people across the Territory.
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Summary of ACT Budget new funding announcements affecting young people and their families

The following table provides a summary of new funding allocations that directly affect young people and their families.

Initiative	Funding	Details
Health and Community Services Directorate		
Permanent funding uplift to community sector organisations	$23.7 million over 4 years Partially offset	Increased funding for the community sector to address structural inequality in funding arrangements with NGOs. Government intends to develop a community sector funding model to determine allocations of the funding uplift in future, one which addresses sector sustainability and considers baseline funding, contract terms, increases to superannuation, insurance costs, and other such factors.
Continuation of DFSV programs that support children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right	$4.1 million over 3 years Partially funded by the Safer Families Levy	Features as part of further increases to the DFSV service system under *Supporting domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services*, includes: • $2.2 million for Heartfelt, delivered by Australian Childhood Foundation. Provides intensive, trauma-informed therapeutic support for children aged 5–12 and their non-violent caregivers including counselling, case management, psychoeducation and groups. • $1.2 million for Beryl Kids & Young People Safe and Strong Van which delivers mobile, trauma-informed therapy to children aged 4–18 living in Beryl Refuge • $504,000 Doris Women's Refuge Specialist Children's worker program which offers holistic, trauma-informed case management and developmental support to children aged 0–17 in refuge
Additional funding for the 'Talk to Them' program, delivered by the Youth Coalition	$225,000 over 3 years Partially funded by the Safer Families Levy	Provides funding to continue delivery of 'Talk to Them' training sessions and the ACT Child & Youth DFSV Community of Practice, to increase workforce capability in responding to DFV for the youth sector and those working with young people. This is part of the *Supporting domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services* funding.
Embedding specialist DFV workers in HCSD Children, Youth and Families	$1.5 million over 4 years	The HCSD Children, Youth and Families (CYF) co-location program creates a more integrated approach to supporting children and young people impacted by DFV. The model fosters increased collaboration between specialists and allows CYF practitioners to better respond to complex presentations of DFV. This is part of the *Supporting domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services* funding.

Support for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT	$100,000 over 1 year	Extends the contract for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT to 30 June 2027 for sexual and reproductive health services, including education, focussing on young people and other priority populations.
Additional funding to continue the Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme (CAYPELS)	$263,000 over 1 year Fully offset	Continues the Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme (CAYPELS) as a three day per week service providing free short-term loans of paediatric equipment and assistive technology for children and young people with disabilities and mobility needs to increase their participation in the community.
Continued delivery of minimum age of criminal responsibility reforms	$2.605 million over 4 years Fully offset $1.008 million in savings	Includes funding to continue support to children and young people through the Therapeutic Support Panel and for the continuation of the Safer Youth Response Service while it is evaluated.
Continuing intensive therapeutic placements and extraordinary residential care	$22.457 million over 1 year Not offset	Funding to continue the delivery of extraordinary residential care, crisis accommodation and emergency supports for children and young people in contact with the statutory child protection system. This includes young people with disability and/or mental health conditions. Government will undertake a sustainability review of out of home care expenditure.
Supporting the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre	$5.127 million over 4 years +$561,000 in capital injections Partially offset	Ongoing funding support to ensure the sustained operation of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), and for a Throughcare pilot program to provide transitional supports for young people exiting Bimberi. Capital injections are for upgrades and replacement of ageing infrastructure in addition to increased CCTV storage capacity to 12 months.
Strengthening community services and inclusion	$894,000 over 4 years Partially offset	Funding for trans and gender diverse peer support services, and for a two-year taskforce to review the Working with Vulnerable People scheme. Programs supported include: • $688,000 over 4 years for the Gender Pathways Peer Navigation Service (delivered by A Gender Agenda) • $118,000 over 2 years to expand the Supporting and Strengthening LGBTIQA+ Communities program to deliver dedicated services for LGBTIQA+ parents and their children • $88,000 for implementing co-design outcomes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQA+ communities through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQA+ Advisory Group
Funding two independent justice advisors to support the	$1.06 million [combined	This funds two advisors to help the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in their oversight of the Jumbunna Review (Review into the Over-representation of First Nations people in

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body	expenditure across HCSD and Justice and Community Safety Directorate]	the ACT criminal justice system) recommendations being implemented. One of the independent advisors has expertise in child, youth and families, and the other in adult justice.
Continuing *Addressing Period Poverty in the ACT* to provide menstrual products in public places	$1.698 million over 4 years, $14,000 capital expenditure Fully offset	Follows the 2025 pilot and Your Say Feedback in 2025-26 period, to entrench the government's commitment to providing menstrual products in public schools, sports pavilions, libraries and public health facilities. The project is underpinned by the *Period Products and Facilities (Access) Act 2023*, which requires the ACT Government to provide free period products and accessible menstrual health education.
Supporting domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services	$44.2 million over 4 years, with $12.8 million per year ongoing funding Partly funded by the Safer Family Levy	Increased funding for frontline services to support those impacted by DFV and vulnerable cohorts, with funding specifically for programs that help Aboriginal and Torres Strait, CALD, and LGBTIQA+ victim-survivors. * *Note: several programs cited in this table come from this funding initiative.*
Strengthening DFSV system foundations	$3.559 million over 4 years, with $1.7 million of ongoing funding Partially offset	Aims to improve integration, capability, and responsiveness of the DFSV system. Establishes the DFSV sector network, scoping of an ACT primary prevention infrastructure model, an Information Sharing Coordinator role, and support Risk Assessment and Management Framework training for government and non-government workforces.
Education Directorate		
Future of Education Equity Fund – Cost of Living Relief	$977,000 boost over 1 year Not offset	Funding boost to the Future of Education Student Equity Fund to help families in need with accessing education, in recognition of cost-of-living pressures.
Continuing the Head Start Program	$774,000 over 2 years Not offset	For continuation of the Head Start program which helps support students completing an Australian School-Based Apprenticeship into the 2027 school year.
Feasibility study for Expansion of Flexible Education and Specialist Schools	$600,000 over 2 years Not offset	The feasibility study is intended to assist with planning around the long-term demand for flexible education services and specialist schooling.
Supporting public schools	$60.976 million over 2 years Not offset	Additional funding for public schools to help address students' learning needs.
Future of Education - One Public Education System government school system reform	$9.3 million over 4 years Not offset	Funding to provide stronger system supports for schools, including HR, financial, infrastructure and leadership support, implemented over the next 2 years. Also includes:

		• a review of the school funding model, for fairness across public schools • establishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led governance The Youth Coalition will be monitoring the impacts of this policy reform on the youth sector.
Pilot of parent advocacy service	$550,000 over 3 years Fully offset	Establishes a two-year trial of a parent advocacy service to provide information, tools and support for families to navigate school engagement, delivered by ACT Parents from 2027.
Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)		
Supporting the new CIT Woden campus and CIT Yurauna	$5.878 million over 1 year Of this, $510,000 goes to CIT Yurauna Fully offset	Builds off 2025-26 support for the new CIT Woden campus and co-located Youth Foyer, and the recently opened CIT Yurauna campus. This is additional investment into the Woden campus's operations and aims to help establish CIT Yurauna as a standalone campus.
Upgrading the Canberra Institute of Technology's ICT Infrastructure (Cloud Campus)	$25.090 million over 3 years Fully offset	Additional funding to finalise the ICT Cloud Campus Program as part of a whole-of-institute digital transformation which enables a contemporary and flexible mode of training delivery. It builds upon the previous *Upgrading the Canberra Institute of Technology's ICT Infrastructure* funding from the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budgets.
Housing ACT		
Increased funding for Our Place Youth Foyer Braddon	$827,000 as part of funding over 4 years Not offset	Features as part of additional investment in the broader housing and homelessness services sector totalling $16.919 million over 4 years.
Housing Crisis Support Fund and new Crisis Support Payment	$5.162 million over 2 years Partially offset	A new Housing Crisis Support Fund which provides direct support for up to 4 weeks of rent (capped at $2,500) and a new Crisis Support Payment of $250 for essential household expenses (e.g. utilities, insurance, basic furnishings) available to low-income households experiencing rental stress.
Supporting youth into Community Housing	*TBD*, over the next 4	The Youth Coalition acknowledges that while state allocations are yet to be finalised, the ACT Government will be recipient of Commonwealth funding over the next 4 years as part of the Supporting youth into Community Housing initiative. The program intends to mitigate the 'youth tax' by supplementing rental income for young people aged 16-24 in receipt of in the Away from Home rate of Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY at risk of homelessness.
Infrastructure Canberra		
New public and social housing	$367.9 million over 4 years	Includes a program of works to deliver 450 new public housing dwellings, with an additional 54 social and affordable dwellings.

	[combined expenditure across Infrastructure Canberra and Housing ACT] Partially offset	More than half of these are funded by the Commonwealth Government's Housing Australia Future Fund Facility Round 3, and will be managed and operated by Community Housing Providers for 25 years with availability payments provided by the Commonwealth.
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate		
Extending Fee Free TAFE	$24.8 million over the next 4 years Partially offset ACT Net Contribution $13.949 million	Continues Fee Free TAFE training, jointly funded by the ACT and Commonwealth governments, and extends it for an additional 9,093 places in healthcare, advanced technology, construction, hospitality and foundation skills.
City and Environment Directorate		
Reduced monthly cap on public transport concessions for tertiary students	$1.228 million total over 1 year - $614,000 allocated - $614,000 in foregone revenue	Reduces the monthly cap from 40 to 30 paid trips in 2026-27 after which travel is free, commencing once the current, halved monthly fare cap initiative ends. This brings the fare cap number in line with school students. It is a 12-month pilot – all other caps revert to limits outlined by the *Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Public Transport Fares Determination 2025*. Under the pilot, the maximum monthly fare amount is capped at $51.3.