youth coalition of the ACT



2025–26

Annual Report

A World For, By and With Young People

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

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

Acknowledgement of Country

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the Traditional Owners and continuing Custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors. We acknowledge that the effect of forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold distinctive rights as the original people of modern-day Australia including the right to a distinct status and culture, self-determination and land. The Youth Coalition of the ACT celebrates Indigenous cultures and the invaluable contribution they make to our community.

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Letter from the Board Chair

The past year has been one of significant progress, growth and opportunity for the Youth Coalition of the ACT. At a time when young people and the services supporting them continue to face considerable challenges, the importance of a strong, independent voice for young Canberrans has never been clearer. At the heart of our work is a simple commitment: ensuring that young people are heard, supported, and empowered to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

One of the most significant achievements this year was the unanimous support of the ACT Legislative Assembly for the development of a Youth Homelessness Strategy. This milestone follows years of sustained advocacy by the Youth Coalition and our partners across the youth homelessness sector, demonstrating what can be accomplished through collective effort. Our advocacy has also continued across the many issues affecting young Canberrans, including mental health, education, housing, youth justice and domestic and family violence. Through research, policy development and engagement with government, we have worked to bring the experiences of young people and the expertise of the youth sector into the decisions that shape their lives. Just as importantly, we recognise that young people must be more than the subjects of our advocacy. Their voices, experiences and aspirations must help shape our priorities and the solutions we pursue.

As the peak body for young people and the youth sector, the Youth Coalition's strength comes from the relationships we build and maintain. Our members, youth workers and sector partners bring invaluable knowledge of the challenges facing young people, often while navigating significant pressures themselves. Their experiences and expertise keep our advocacy grounded in the realities facing young people, and remind us that lasting change is achieved through collective effort. I am deeply grateful to our members, partners and supporters, and particularly to the young people who share their experiences and contribute to our work.

It has also been a year of considerable growth and renewal for the Youth Coalition itself. Under the thoughtful and capable leadership of our CEO, Hannah Watts, we have expanded our team, strengthened our organisational capacity and taken on an increasingly ambitious program of work. As the organisation grows, so too does our responsibility to ensure that this growth is sustainable, purposeful and supported by strong governance. The Board has continued to strengthen our governance arrangements and, alongside staff, commenced work on a new strategic plan. This is an opportunity to reflect on our priorities, set a clear direction for the years ahead, and ensure that our resources are directed where they can make the greatest difference.

This year has also seen significant renewal of the Board, with new members bringing fresh perspectives, experience and enthusiasm. I thank my fellow Board members, past and present, for their dedication and the many hours they volunteer in service of the

organisation. I would particularly like to acknowledge my predecessor, Cindylee Young, for her leadership and contribution to the Youth Coalition, and for the strong foundations on which we continue to build. On behalf of the Board, I also extend my sincere thanks to Hannah and the entire staff team for the care, expertise and determination they bring to their work every day.

As we look to the year ahead, I am optimistic about what the Youth Coalition can achieve, while conscious of the challenges that remain. The policies we influence, the projects we deliver and the services we strengthen are all important, but they are means to an end. What matters most is the difference we make in young people's lives: whether they can access support when they need it, feel connected and valued in their communities, and have a genuine say in shaping their futures.

That is the purpose which brings us together, and which will continue to guide our work towards a world for, by and with young people.

Harrison Oates
Board Chair



Hannah Watts
Chief Executive Officer

Letter from the CEO

The 2025-26 financial year has been a year of growth for the Youth Coalition. As the needs of young people and the youth sector continue to increase in both size and complexity, we are focusing on how we can best use our resources to address the needs of the sector and elevate the needs and experiences of young people in our community.

To meet this challenge, we welcomed new staff and board members throughout the year (see more in the Our People section of this report). I would particularly like to thank Erin, Tom and Shannon. We started the year as a team of four, and within 14 months have grown to a team of ten people. All three of you welcomed the changes and helped strengthen a workplace culture of support, enthusiasm, dedication and fun. At the same time, we have strengthened the Youth Coalition's processes and organisational capacity, so we can respond effectively to the changing needs of the youth sector and young people.

While there has been a number of changes to our Board this year, each board member is committed to good governance and strengthening our organisation through sustainable, strategic decision-making. Thank you to both our former and current board members – the many hours of volunteer time you contribute to the Youth Coalition and the youth sector in the ACT do not go unnoticed. We will be welcoming new board members following our AGM in October, and I look forward to working with our Board to strengthen the governance of the organisation, and look at how we operationalise a forthcoming strategic plan.

We have been receiving an increasing number of requests for support with youth participation from both community services and government directorates. We are pleased to see an increasing understanding by decision makers of the value of including young people in decision-making processes, and a commitment to developing safe and impactful opportunities for young people.

Towards the end of this financial year, we embarked on a strategic planning process. The first stage has been policy prioritisation. There are over 40 key issues that we identified as impacting young people and the youth sector, which could all take significant resources to address. As a small team, we must make constant decisions about where our work can have the most impact, how we address emergent and urgent needs in real time as well as keeping eyes on the years ahead to try to anticipate what young people will need, and how we can lay the foundations now to address those future needs. This process will help us identify the key areas of highest impact, and consider how that fits into the broader strategic plan of the organisation. This work continues into the new financial year, and we look forward to sharing our new Strategic Plan with members and stakeholders in early 2027.

We continue to connect with and uplift the youth sector through our sector development and workforce capability activities. Following a commitment by the Legislative Assembly to develop an *ACT Youth Homelessness Strategy*, we re-established our Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum, hosting a roundtable focused on supports for young people transitioning out of homelessness services. We have developed and launched the Fair Play website and resources to address gambling harm; progressed a number of research projects through the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance; and are working with partners to codesign a youth aftercare service model for young people experiencing suicidal distress, which has centred young people's voices in the service design. We have partnered with Families ACT and Spark Space to develop the *Child Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP) Workforce Capability and Learning Framework*. We were also successful in a joint application with Families ACT to deliver the CYFSP System Support Service in the coming years, and look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with Families ACT.

Across advocacy, policy, sector development, research & evaluation and youth participation, our work is strongest when it is connected. The relationships we build with young people, youth workers, community sector leaders and government inform our understanding of the challenges facing young people, and the opportunities to build supports to address those challenges. Insight from one area of work informs the others, and this interconnected approach is central to the Youth Coalition's role as the peak body for young people and the youth sector. Our impact is not only measured through individual projects or activities, but through how they work together to strengthen the sector, elevate young people's voices, and contribute to better outcomes for young people and families across the ACT.

Despite the pressures of the ever-increasing need, youth workers across the ACT are dedicated, hardworking, and continually striving to show young people the care and support they deserve. They manage complex roles while also navigating uncertainty in their own careers due to funding constraints, increasing costs of living, and changes to employment conditions as the SCHADS Award undergoes significant reform. Hosting the YOGIE awards is a highlight of each year for the Youth Coalition. These awards

acknowledge and celebrate the incredible work happening across the Canberra youth sector to support young people.

Looking ahead, I see increasing uncertainty facing the youth sector. This includes anticipated changes to CYFSP and child & youth mental health services as a result of commissioning, a range of reviews in the public education system, and changes in youth justice and out of home care. Children whose early school years were impacted by COVID are entering high school, and teenagers whose foundational years in high school were impacted by COVID are now graduating and entering early adulthood in a challenging economic, social, and political climate. Youth workers have a significant role in supporting young people navigate these transitions. We see the consequences of limited early support – when challenges are not met early, young people miss opportunities of support, and can require more intensive services later in life. We hear the rhetoric about young people across traditional and social media, and see their need for third spaces as safe places to connect with peers and supports.

Young people are central to everything we do. It is important that we recognise their value to our community, and that the decisions we make across legislation, policy, programs and funding are made with their needs and futures in the forefront of our minds and conversations. Young people need support as soon as challenges arise in their lives. They need to feel a sense of belonging and connection to their community. As a sector, we need to keep working collectively, advocating for and delivering the support they need, and creating opportunities for their experiences to inform the decisions that impact their current life and their futures.

Thank you to the Youth Coalition Board for their guidance and commitment, and to the entire staff team for the care, expertise, and optimism they bring to our work every day. Thank you to our members, partners, and stakeholders across government, community, and private sector organisations who help inform our work. There remains much to work to be done, but I am hopeful that together we can build a stronger, connected community for our young people to grow in, and create a better future for young Canberrans.

Hannah Watts
Chief Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

The Youth Coalition of the ACT remains in a sound financial position, with positive net assets and substantial financial assets, while also managing significant grant funding associated with future delivery obligations. During 2025–26, the organisation continued to manage its resources carefully while delivering funded projects, supporting the youth sector and preparing for future growth. The financial position also gives the Coalition an opportunity to invest deliberately in work that advances its purpose. At 30 June 2026, grants received in advance were $278,912.

Financial position and outlook

For 2025–26, the organisation recorded total income of $1.541 million, total expenditure of approximately $1.126 million, and a reported surplus of $415,019. This result includes a one-off distribution of $431,165 received following the winding up of Canberra Youth Residential Service. Excluding this one-off contribution, the organisation would have recorded an operating deficit of approximately $16,146. At 30 June 2026, the organisation held cash and cash equivalents of $267,604, term deposits of $949,903, and net assets of $926,516.

Looking ahead to 2026–27, the draft budget projects a surplus. However, this projected surplus is not all generated from normal operations. It includes a one-off donation of $431,164.89 and $250,000 brought forward from previous years. After allowing for an additional $15,000 consultancy allocation, the projected underlying annual operating surplus is approximately $27,145. On the assumptions in the draft budget, this indicates that projected annual operating income and expenditure are broadly balanced.

The distinction between recurring operations, carried-forward funds and the donation will be important in future reporting. It will allow the Board and members to see clearly whether ordinary activities are sustainable, while separately considering the deliberate use of reserves and one-off funds.

Audit

The 2025-26 financial statements have been independently audited. The auditor issued an unmodified opinion, concluding that the financial report gives a true and fair view of the Coalition's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its financial performance for the year then ended. The auditor also concluded that the financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards and applicable Australian accounting and charities reporting requirements. The Auditor's Independence Declaration confirms that there

were no contraventions of the applicable independence requirements or professional conduct requirements during the audit.

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

Staffing and project funding

Staffing remains the organisation's largest area of expenditure and its most important delivery resource. Looking ahead, the draft 2026–27 budget provides for total staffing costs of approximately $1.071 million, covering wages, superannuation, workers compensation, long service leave, mileage, training and supervision, but excluding consultants. These costs are partly offset by wage contributions from funded projects.

It is anticipated that part of the accumulated surplus to support staffing, so the project wage contributions do not fully offset staffing expenditure. This reflects an intentional use of prior-year funds to support continuity, organisational growth and the capacity to retain project-funded staff between funding cycles.

Future monitoring will occur through a multi-year workforce and financial plan so that temporary reserves do not create ongoing commitments without an identified future funding source.

Donation and planned investment

The Coalition received a one-off distribution of $431,165 following the winding up of Canberra Youth Residential Service. The distribution materially strengthens the organisation's financial capacity but is not recurrent operating income. Its use will be subject to Board approval through a clear allocation and implementation plan.

Subject to Board decisions and appropriate project planning, potential uses include progressing youth work professionalisation, work addressing youth homelessness, and youth participation initiatives. These areas align with the Coalition's purpose and would allow the donation to generate lasting sector and community value. Expenditure should occur through an agreed framework that identifies intended outcomes, timeframes, governance, delivery capacity and ongoing cost implications.

Reserves and future financial planning

The 2026–27 budget includes $250,000 brought forward from previous years, which partly reflects staffing expenditure being below budget over several years. Management's intention is to use these funds to support staff sustainability, additional staffing and priority work that has not attracted separate project funding.

The accumulation of these funds is a positive sign of financial capacity, but it also creates a governance responsibility to define their purpose.

During 2026–27, the Board should develop a two-to-three-year financial and workforce plan covering staffing, the purpose and appropriate level of reserves, cash flow, the planned use of the donation and longer-term financial sustainability. This should support decisions about how the Coalition can use its financial capacity effectively without creating ongoing commitments that cannot be sustained from recurrent funding.

The Coalition continues to rely substantially on ACT Government funding. This reinforces the importance of prudent reserves, forward planning and careful management of project and staffing commitments. The financial statements specifically identify dependence on the ACT Government for the majority of revenue used to operate the organisation.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Hannah, our Chief Executive Officer, and Kylie, our Office Manager, for their support and assistance throughout the year. I also thank my fellow Finance Sub-committee members, Harrison and Isha, and the Board for their continued stewardship of the Coalition's resources. I particularly acknowledge the work undertaken during the year to strengthen our financial processes and improve the clarity and accessibility of our financial reporting.

Continued forward planning will help ensure the Coalition's financial capacity is translated into sustainable staffing, effective programs and stronger outcomes for young people and the youth sector.

Damien Kelly
Treasurer

Annual Report 2025-2026

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

The Youth Coalition receives funding from the ACT Government Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) as a peak organisation. Our contract with HCSD 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.

Alongside our peak organisation funding, the Youth Coalition receives funding through both multi-year and short-term contracts. These additional projects complement and strengthen our peak work. This year we received a new four-year contract to deliver the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, as well as a range of project grants and contracts for activities outlined in this report. From July 2026, we will also receive three years of funding to continue our workforce capability activities for the child, youth and family sector on responding to domestic and family violence, and, in partnership with Families ACT, funding to deliver the CYFSP System Support Service.

Activities & Projects

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

- Advocacy and Representation
- Capacity Building and Sector Development
- Policy Development and Research
- Communications and Information Dissemination
- Youth Participation, Engagement and Youth-led Activities.

These activities include a wide range of projects. 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.

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 include 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 emerging issues and opportunities, 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 to assist us in the development of the advocacy strategy and plan.

Our impact at a glance

Advocacy

Strategy
for youth homelessness, committed by ACT Government

4 years
of youth mental health funding we advocated for

Review
of the Flexible Education Program, after our Budget advocacy

Age 14
ACT minimum age of criminal responsibility from July 2025

Communications

14,000+
New visitors to youthcoalition.net

40,000+
Emails sent to 1,100+ sector subscribers

Policy

21
Recommendations in our report submissions

Capacity Building

270+
Professionals trained in, Talk to Them" since 2022

4
CYMHA forums and online sessions

Youth Voice

41
Youngpeople surveyed to shape submissions



1

Advocacy & Representation

1. Advocacy & Representation

The Youth Coalition advocates on specific issues of concern to young people in the ACT, and those who support them within the service system. We take a wide view of the system, inclusive of community, government and other services. We do this through coordinated approaches that integrate relationship-building with and provision of direct advice to key stakeholders, including across the ACT Government; providing representation across a range of advocacy mechanisms; engaging in policy related processes; and working with state and territory counterparts. We engage directly with young people and those who work with them to inform our advocacy.

Advocacy Priorities

Youth Homelessness



Youth homelessness has been a sustained, multi-level advocacy priority for the Youth Coalition. Across annual Budget submissions, we have called for a systematic needs and assets assessment of the ACT youth housing and homelessness system, due to the new gaps that emerged after sub-sector commissioning. This advocacy was met with direct and ongoing engagement with Housing ACT, leading to the Youth Coalition convening a Roundtable with youth homelessness service providers in May 2026 to identify improvements for exit pathways from the youth homelessness system.

Our advocacy contributed to the ACT Government committing to develop an *ACT Youth Homelessness Strategy*, which is due to commence in late 2027. We are committed to remaining involved in the development of this Strategy to support improved responses to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We also work across sectors, contributing to initiatives such as Joint Pathways, to provide a youth perspective.

Nationally, we contributed to advocacy that informed the Federal Government's $60 million commitment to a new National Youth Housing Supplement, announced as part of the *Home Time* campaign's push to fix the 'Youth Housing Penalty', which discouraged providers from offering tenancies to young people due to the lesser amount of rent they paid compared to older tenants. This reform is expected to support availability of housing for more than 4000 young people nationally. We continue to play an ongoing role in the *Youth Homelessness Matters* campaign, which includes *Youth Homelessness Matters Day*, in partnership with key stakeholders from across Australia.

Improving mental health outcomes for young people



The Youth Coalition takes a systems-level approach to youth mental health, recognising that support is fragmented across health, education, community services and justice rather than sitting within one sector. We aim to strengthen the system connections so young people experience a more coherent service system. Central to this is the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance. Delivered in partnership with HCSD and the Capital Health Network, with the Youth Coalition providing secretariat and project support, the Alliance is the ACT's formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders and people with lived experience to work together on improving service system responses for children and young people.

In 2025-26, the Alliance held two Forums with strong sector attendance, and two online Community of Practice sessions, in addition to sponsoring cross-sector connection at the practice level through sponsoring places for child and youth mental health services to attend Families ACT's Joint Case Review program. Research commissioned through the Alliance examined how services collect and use feedback from children and young people, and young people's perspectives on the sharing of their health information. This was complemented by a review of ACT legislation governing information-sharing obligations. This work keeps us closely connected to systemic issues in the sector and directly informs the priorities we raise through our wider advocacy. *See Capacity Building and Sector Development section for further information.*

ACT Budget advocacy has contributed to investment in community-based youth mental health programs, reflected in ACT Labor's 2024 election commitments and delivered in 2025-26 with $9.4 million over four years for WOKE (Pathways), Stepping Stones, MindMap, Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM), and continued Sector Alliance funding. This gives these programs far greater certainty than previous short-term funding cycles enabled. We also engaged directly with Canberra Health Services and the Education Directorate to explore supported transport options for the relocating CAMHS Cottage Program, drawing on the Muliyan precedent to ensure northside young people aren't disadvantaged by the move; and raised the shortfall in mental health services for young people in the Gungahlin region.

During 2025-26, we participated in the Development and Implementation Committee to inform the *2025–2030 ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Regional Plan*, and workshops to inform the *ACT Mental Health Services Plan*; providing a cross-sector perspective on young people's needs. We informed the ACT Mental Health Commissioning Team on future child and youth mental health commissioning processes and participated on the Youth at Risk Project and Evaluation Advisory Committee, including to inform the developmental evaluation for the new TIDES service. We support cross-sector mental health advocacy through communicating and liaising with other peaks.

Our suicide prevention work continues through the *Tertiary Education Providers Suicide Prevention Partnership* and the *ACT and Regional Suicide Prevention Collaborative*. We also extended our systems focus to social connection, joining the advisory group for the *Connect Up #2617 pilot*, which aimed to reduce isolation among young adults in Bruce and Belconnen.

Preventing gambling harm

Our ACT Budget advocacy has consistently argued that the ACT's investment in gambling harm prevention is disproportionately small relative to both the revenue gambling generates, and the harm it causes. Our 2026-27 Budget response called for the Harm Mitigation Fund to be expanded and for a new Gambling Harm Prevention Strategy to be properly resourced outside that fund.

Separately, funding secured through the Gambling Harm Mitigation Fund supported the development of Fair Play, an online resource co-developed with the ANU Centre for Gambling Research, to prevent online gambling harm among children and young people. While separately funded, our consultations with young people, parents and practitioners in the development of this resource informed our broader advocacy in this space. *See Capacity Building and Sector Development section for further information.*

Through involvement in six Cashless Gaming Working Group meetings, we contributed evidence-based positions on loss limits, cooling-off periods, mandatory breaks and account-based data protections, working alongside other sector stakeholders. We also presented on a panel at *Gambling Harm Action Week* to contribute a youth-specific perspective and remain an active member of the Canberra Gambling Reform Alliance.

We also contributed across the *Independent Inquiry into the ACT Clubs Industry*, attending three roundtables and providing a submission on the Panel's interim report. Several of our points were reflected in the final report, including correction of COVID-era online gambling statistics and removal of unsourced data, reframing displacement fears as an evidence perception gap, and adopting the correct legal position that gaming machine authorisations are regulatory privileges rather than property.

Improving access to education

The Youth Coalition is committed to working in partnership with government and the wider alternative education sector to achieve the best outcomes for young people who face barriers to accessing mainstream schooling. Across several ACT Budget submissions and responses, we consistently advocated for a review of the Flexible Education Program and urgent infrastructure investment in Muliyan, which reduced onsite capacity from 30 down to 15 due to inadequate facilities. An outreach program was established to continue supporting students, but infrastructure constraints result in limited opportunities for young people participating in outreach to transition to on-site schooling at Muliyan. This limits the benefits of the flexible education program. Our sustained advocacy contributed to the ACT Education Directorate commencing a formal review of the program.

We participated in that Review, which examined Muliyan, the Flexible Education Outreach program and Waruga Yardhura. We have also advocated for the review's findings to be made public and for a funded implementation pathway.



Supporting youth participation in decision-making

The Youth Coalition is committed to strengthening genuine, youth-led participation mechanisms across the ACT, so that young people have a genuine say in the decisions that affect them. This includes direct involvement in the ACT Youth Assembly, an HCSD initiative, where we have contributed to planning discussions to support young people's engagement and attended the Assembly itself in March 2026. We also met directly with HCSD to discuss youth engagement and participation more broadly, including to provide feedback on both the Youth Assembly and the Youth Advisory Council, on how these mechanisms could be improved to better respond to young people’s needs and to align with best practice youth participation.

This work connects directly to our budget advocacy for a co-designed *ACT Youth Strategy*. Across our 2025-26 and 2026-27 submissions, we consistently advocated for a review of existing ACT Government youth engagement mechanisms as part of developing a Strategy that is genuinely youth-designed and youth-led. This builds on the ACT Government's own response to the *Inquiry into the Electoral Amendment Bill 2021*, which demonstrated openness to broader democratic and participatory opportunities for young people.

During 2025-26, we also met with YMCA Australia representatives, who are leading the establishment of the National Youth Parliament, hosted a visit from the Queensland Office for Youth, and met with the Northern Territory Office of Youth Affairs. More broadly, we continue to advocate for best-practice approaches to youth participation, including at the service level.

Supporting young people's participation in the community

The Youth Coalition supports young people to be active, connected participants in community life through spaces and activities where young people build belonging and connection. This includes advocating for investment in "third spaces"; informal community spaces outside home, school and work, such as youth centres, libraries and free public spaces.

We contributed this perspective directly into the ACT Legislative Assembly's *Inquiry into Barriers and Opportunities for Participation in Community Sports*. Our contribution put forward that while community sport is central to young people's physical health, mental wellbeing and sense of belonging, access is frequently limited by cost, poor transport, a lack of information, inadequate facilities, discrimination, and a competitive culture that excludes beginners and those wanting casual, non-competitive options. Several of our recommendations and the evidence we provided informed the Committee's report.

During 2025-26, we also participated in the advisory group for the *Connect Up #2617 project*, a two-year research study led by the Health Research Institute at the University of Canberra, which piloted initiatives to build social connection and reduce isolation among young people aged 18-30 living in Bruce and Belconnen.

Supporting young people affected by domestic and family violence

The Youth Coalition works across the domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) system in the ACT to strengthen how the youth sector recognises and responds to young people affected by violence. Central to this is the training package and Community of Practice for frontline youth workers that we deliver with funding from the ACT Government's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office (DFSVO), within HCSD. The training builds workers' knowledge and confidence to open conversations with young people about DFV, and to recognise and respond to DFV issues. It also equips them to safely refer young people and families to specialist DFV services, and to keep supporting them as

they navigate the specialist system. The Community of Practice extends this through ongoing professional development, networking and knowledge-sharing.

This work keeps us connected to the realities youth workers experience in supporting young people affected by DFSV, and it informs our wider engagement across the DFSV system. That includes working with DFSVO on the DFV Strategy and the Office's work plan, and providing input into coercive control legislation and its rollout. We also connect with the specialist DFV sector through key events such as the candlelight vigil.

Supporting improved service systems for young people

The Youth Coalition works to strengthen the systems young people access, including the capability of the workforce that supports them. We met with the mental health and CYFSP commissioning teams to inform future commissioning processes. We also sit on the Youth at Risk Project Evaluation Advisory Group, supporting HCSD's evaluation of a project to strengthen trauma-informed responses for young people across the service system.

Within the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP), we participate in the Directors Group, the Practice Leaders Group and the Workforce Development and Training (WDT) Sub-Committee, which decides on training priorities for the sector. Our WDT input is informed by the Practice Leaders Group and the WDT Evaluation we completed in 2025. Building on this, we partnered with Families ACT to contract Spark Space to develop the *CYFSP Workforce Capability and Learning Framework*. The Framework sets shared practice standards and baseline expectations for supervision, learning and progression. It will guide training decisions and reduce fragmentation, duplication and inequity in how capability is built across the sector.

We also build capability directly. Since 2023 we have partnered with Families ACT to deliver Reflective Supervision Training for emerging and existing CYFSP leaders. Participants practise skills such as contracting, creating the conditions for reflection, and working through difficult situations and ethical challenges. Quality supervision helps practitioners cope with their work, reducing burnout and improving retention.

Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

On Tuesday 1 July 2025, the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the ACT was raised to 14. This historic achievement places the ACT in line with international human rights standards and represents a profound shift in how we support young people in our community. This was the culmination of years of advocacy by a range of stakeholders in the ACT, including the Youth Coalition, working in partnership to implement a comprehensive and evidence-based service response outside the justice system. These legislative and service system changes will have a significant impact on these young people and the Canberra community. The Youth Coalition meets regularly with the

Chair of the Therapeutic Support Panel to discuss how the youth sector is engaging with and can support these changes.

Participation in Advisory Groups & Committees

The Youth Coalition provides advocacy and representation through a range of mechanisms, including participation in over 30 committees, networks, advisory and reference groups, consultations, and meeting with ACT Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and ACT Government Directorate representatives.

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

- ACT ATOD and Mental Health Alliance
- ACTCOSS Members Forum
- ACT DFV Risk Assessment and Management Framework Consultation
- ACT Men and Boys Wellbeing Summit
- ACT Men and Boys Working Group
- ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy: Development and Implementation Committee [this eventuated into the Regional Plan]
- ACT Community Peaks Network
- ACT Peaks Policy Network
- ACT Region Suicide Prevention Community Collaborative
- Briefing on Youth Housing and Productivity (Federal)
- Canberra Gambling Reform Alliance
- Canberra Health Services Consumer & Carer Advisory Committee
- Cashless Gaming Working Group
- CDNet Communications Committee
- Child First Forum
- Common Cause Community of Practice
- Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council
- Connect Up #2617 Working Group
- Consultation/roundtable discussion with the Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher as part of consultations to inform the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*
- CYFSP Agency Directors Group
- CYFSP Practice Leaders Group
- CYFSP Workforce Development Subcommittee
- Deakin University Gambling Focus Group
- Forum – Countering Violent Extremism in the ACT: A whole of community effort

- Forum – Developing a Strategic Purpose & Model of Care for Youth Detention in the ACT
- Flexible Education Meetings and Intake Panel
- Gambling and Racing Commission Advisory Committee
- Gambling and Racing Commission Community of Practice
- Headspace Canberra and Tuggeranong Consortium
- International Men's Day Conference
- It Starts with Us: Impact Screening
- Joint Pathways / Joint Pathways Executive
- Journeys among Young Sports Betters
- Justice Reform Group
- MHCC Leadership Think Tank
- Murrumbidgee Board Consultative Group Meeting
- OOHC Youth Participation Working Group
- Parliamentary Friends of Young People
- Perinatal Mental Health Alliance
- Tertiary Education Providers Suicide Prevention Partnership
- Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards
- Youth at Risk Project Evaluation Advisory Group
- National forums:
  - AYAC Social Media Ban Forum
  - National Youth Parliament
  - Youth Affairs National Peaks Meetings
  - Youth Homelessness Matters National Steering Committee
  - State and Territory Youth Peaks Network.

The Youth Coalition team regularly participates in a broad range of consultations, research and evaluation projects run by other organisations both locally and nationally.

ACT Legislative Assembly Engagement

During 2025-26, we engaged with and corresponded with Members of the Legislative Assembly and their advisors through a range of mechanisms. In-person meetings were held with Minister Paterson and her advisors, in relation to her dual portfolios of Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence; and Gaming Reform; Laura Nuttall, in relation to her portfolio as Greens spokesperson for young people; and advisors to Minister Pettersson, the Minister for Children and Young People. We also participated in the ACT Greens Roundtable to inform the ACT Budget process.

Collective ACT Peak Body Advocacy

Throughout the year, the Youth Coalition has continued to work in partnership with our ACT Peak Body colleagues as part of the ACT Community Peaks Network to collaborate on areas of intersectionality, pool our resources when appropriate, and influence how to incorporate the needs of the youth sector into broader ACT advocacy.

ACTCOSS facilitates monthly Peaks meetings for CEOs. These meetings focus on collective issues of policy/advocacy (both proactive and reactive) and identified issues of strategic importance for our members. These meetings also provide a useful forum for external guests to seek insights and feedback about initiatives and programs from the Peaks on behalf of those they represent. Meetings alternated between those with peak agencies; and with ACT Government colleagues. Additionally, ACTCOSS convenes a Peaks Policy Group, to support the streamlining of limited policy resources, be a forum for ideas sharing and coordination as well as lead on joint policy submissions and consultation responses.

National Impact

Through our work at the state and territory, and national level, the Youth Coalition is informing and impacting 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 NSW Youth Housing Peak, this year including advocacy related to the

Social Media Ban legislation and implementation, and the Youth Homelessness Matters campaign.

Our contribution to national advocacy helped to inform the Federal Government's $60 million commitment to a new National Youth Housing Supplement, announced as part of the Home Time campaign's push to fix the "Youth Housing Penalty", which discouraged providers from offering tenancies to young people due to the lesser amount of rent they paid compared to older tenants. This reform is expected to support availability of housing for more than 4000 young people nationally.



2

Sector Development & Workforce Capability

2. Sector Development & Workforce Capability



The Youth Coalition provides a range of activities that aim to strengthen the capacity and capability of individual youth workers and the collective youth sector. By strengthening the work of frontline staff, youth services, and the broader youth sector ecosystem, we support the sector to respond effectively to the needs of young people. These activities include ongoing networks and forums, training opportunities, and other capacity-building activities outlined below.

ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

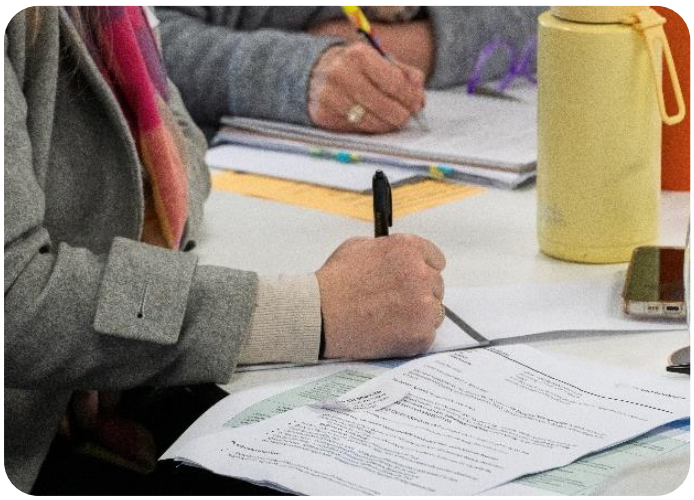
The Youth Coalition continues to partner with HCSD and the Capital Health Network to deliver the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance (the Alliance), which provides a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, and people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving service system responses for children and young people. In 2025-26, the Alliance delivered:

- Two Forums with strong sector attendance
- Two online Community of Practice sessions
- Sponsored places for child and youth mental health services to participate in Families ACT's Joint Case Review Program

- Research related to improving the way that services collect and use feedback from children and young people for service improvement
- Research related to young people's perspectives on information-sharing of their health information
- A review of ACT legislation examining obligations regarding information-sharing of young people's health information.

The Youth Coalition maintains a separate website to provide information and resources to Alliance members and the general community and mental health sectors.

Youth Homelessness Roundtable



Working with Housing ACT, the Youth Coalition convened a Roundtable of services working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the ACT in May 2026, focused on where young people go when they leave a service, and what keeps them housed afterwards. Services participated in a pre-Roundtable survey to identify current gaps and pathways.

The Roundtable centred on what could be improved within the current system to open more exit points. Discussion identified that the system frequently falls short for young people who are gender diverse or intersex, interstate students with no rental history, young people ageing out of care, young parents, those earning too much for housing services but too little for private rental, young people leaving Bimberi, and young carers. The Roundtable contributed to a shared understanding of where the youth homelessness system currently breaks down for young people on exit and contributed to ideas for improving exit and pathway processes.

Youth Worker Practice Network (YWPN)

Through work that was partially funded through core funding and partially funded by Hands Across Canberra and the Snow Foundation, a formal mentoring program within the YWPN will be established to strengthen workforce capability, retention, and collaboration in the youth sector. In a resource-scarce sector, youth workers often lack professional development opportunities and support, leading to burnout and high turnover. This program will create structured mentoring relationships across the sector,

to provide peer support, professional growth, and improved frontline practices for those working with at-risk children, youth and young people. In 2025-26, activities included sector consultation and development of the program, which will be piloted in the coming financial year.

'Talk to Them' Training and Community of Practice: Young people impacted by DFV

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is 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 sector 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. The pilot and initially funded training sessions have been delivered since 2022, with over 270 professionals working with young people participating across 20 training sessions. The ACT Child and Youth DFV Community of Practice was established and piloted this year, and provides opportunities for ongoing professional development, network and knowledge-sharing. Four online webinars were delivered, with 236 live participants and an additional 127 people registered to receive recordings of the sessions.

The 26-27 ACT Budget included an announcement of three years funding from July 2026, to continue this work.

CYFSP Workforce Framework Project

The Youth Coalition partnered with Families ACT to contract Spark Space to develop the *CYFSP Workforce Capability and Learning Framework*. The Framework provides a shared, practical foundation for how workforce capability is defined, developed and supported across the ACT Child Youth and Family Services Program. It sets shared practice standards and baseline expectations for supervision, learning and progression, and is designed to guide workforce development and training decisions, support coordination of training across the sector and reduce fragmentation, duplication an inequity in how capability is built and maintained.

Reflective Supervision Training

The Youth Coalition has partnered with Families ACT since 2023 to develop and deliver a Reflective Supervision Training package specifically the ACT Community Sector. The training aims to inform and support emerging and existing leaders across the Child, Youth and Family Services Program; provide participants with a space to practise reflective

supervision skills, including contracting, creating the conditions for reflection, and working through difficult situations and ethical challenges; encourage informed and reflective practice; enable practitioners to feel better able to cope with their work and workplace, reducing burnout and improving job retention and satisfaction; build a reflective workforce, committed to ongoing professional growth, and supported by quality supervision.

Additional Training

The Youth Coalition is regularly invited to participate and present in training opportunities for youth workers and youth work students, to build their understanding of youth work and the youth sector in the ACT. In 2025-26, the Youth Coalition presented to CIT Youth Work students, and at a Youth Team training day for the Salvation Army.

We also delivered a session at the Volunteering ACT annual conference on 'measuring what matters'; targeted at building the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations to build their capability for monitoring and evaluation.

Advisory Roles

The Youth Coalition also supports capability-building through providing advisory roles across a range of initiatives. In 2025-26, these included:

- Membership and participation in the CYFSP Workforce Development and Training Sub-Committee, and Practice Leaders Group: The WDT Sub-Committee prioritises and makes decisions about training and professional development for the CYFSP sector. Our ongoing membership in this Committee enables direct input into sector capability building. This is further supported and informed by our participation in the CYFSP Practice Leaders Group.
- Connect Up #2617 Advisory Group: We participated on an advisory group for a two-year pilot that aimed to build social connection and reduce isolation among young people aged 18-30 living in Bruce and Belconnen. This was conducted by the Health Research Institute at University of Canberra.
- Youth at Risk Project Evaluation Advisory Group: Our ongoing involvement in this group is to support the Youth at Risk Project team with internal capability-building to support evaluation activities associated with the Youth at Risk Project, which aims to strengthen trauma-informed responses for young people.
- CIT Industry Engagement Meeting – Revision to Cert IV in Youth Work Qualification: We met with CIT representatives to inform elective subjects for Youth Work Students and discuss industry placement requirements and opportunities.

Annual YOGIE Awards

In 2025, the Youth Coalition proudly celebrated the 22nd 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.

This year we introduced a new award, the Children and Young People Commissioners Award. This is awarded by the Commissioner, and recognises a young person who shows a strong commitment to social justice and children and young people's rights.

The 2025 Yogies were presented by Minister Michael Pettersson MLA. 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.





3

Policy Development & Research

3. Policy Development & Research

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.

Our key advocacy priorities were outlined earlier in this Report. Supporting policy development activities are outlined below.

ACT Budget

See submission here.

The Youth Coalition participates in the annual ACT Budget process through developing an annual submission, an annual response/analysis, and conducting additional advocacy through participating in Budget-roundtables, and the Estimates process. While activities occur on an annual basis, we work to medium and longer-term horizons; as such, our Budget-related activities often overlap across financial years.

The 2025-26 ACT Budget saw the delivery of several ACT Election commitments, which the Youth Coalition previously advocated for:

- 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.

Our Submission to the ACT Budget 2026-27 (submitted in February 2026) included an expanded advocacy agenda, across six areas: youth engagement and development of a Youth Strategy; youth housing and homelessness, domestic and family violence, mental health, flexible education, community sector funding reform, and gambling harm prevention.

While subsequent Budget initiatives for young people were limited, we were pleased to see continued ACT Budget funding for the 'Talk to Them' training, which supports youth workers, and other professionals who support young people, to build their capacity to support young people impacted by domestic and family violence; and ACT Government community sector uplift funding. Our response to the ACT Budget 2026-27 was released in July 2026.

Inquiry into Barriers and Opportunities for Participation in Community Sports in the ACT

See submission here.

The Youth Coalition participated in the ACT Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into Barriers and Opportunities for Participation in Community Sports, lodged in October 2025. Our contribution drew upon a survey of 41 young people and two in-person consultations with 14 young people at Woden Youth Centre and Gunner's Place, alongside a review of relevant literature. In addition to providing a written submission, we were invited to attend and present at the Committee's Public Hearing in November 2025.



Our subsequent submission argued that while community sport is central to young people's physical health, mental wellbeing and sense of belonging, barriers to access frequently include cost, poor transport, a lack of information about what is on offer, inadequate or poorly maintained facilities, discrimination, and a competitive culture that can exclude beginners or those wanting casual, non-competitive options.

Our feedback included 21 recommendations to the ACT Government and the sport sector. These related to better promotion and expansion of financial assistance (such as Every Chance to Play), a single go-to source of information on sport opportunities and funding, transport planning accounting for access to sport facilities, investment in facility maintenance and free or low-cost community spaces, mandatory anti-discrimination and anti-racism policies for sporting bodies, more diverse representation in coaching and leadership, expanded entry-level and non-competitive programs, and better support for coaching quality, mental health and injury recovery.

The Committee's Report, tabled in August 2026, drew heavily upon our submission and evidence, citing the Youth Coalition several times across its 33 recommendations. Several of our asks and concerns were reflected in the Committee's recommendations, such as those relating to a centralised online portal for grants, subsidies and financial assistance for sport participation); expanding and simplifying the sport voucher program; facility upkeep and a centralised school-booking system. Our findings on discrimination and cultural exclusion, and the lack of diversity in coaching and leadership, were reflected in recommendations on promoting inclusive, anti-racism programs and encouraging leadership diversity.

Most directly, our research into why young people disengage from sport, including fear of judgement, a lack of beginner-friendly and non-competitive pathways, and low awareness of casual and non-traditional options was cited as the basis for a recommendation for the ACT Government to work with sport and recreation bodies to ensure young people are aware of the full breadth of opportunities available to them.

Independent Inquiry into the Future of the ACT Clubs Industry

See submission here.

Our position throughout the Inquiry into the ACT Clubs Industry was that the sector needs genuine community infrastructure that does not expose young people to gambling harm. We argued against the 20-year transition to 1000 machines on the basis that it will subject future generations of young people to preventable harm. The *2024 ACT Gambling Survey* shows that young men aged 18-39 bear nearly half (46.8%) of all gambling harm in the ACT, despite making up just 22.6% of the population. Young women in this age group are also impacted as 'affected others' by others' gambling. Young people deserve safe community spaces without having to navigation gambling-saturated environments; requiring alternative infrastructure.

The Youth Coalition attended three roundtables and provided a written submission on the Panel's interim report, drawing upon the ACT Auditor-General's finding and Gambling and Racing Commission data. Several of our points were reflected in the final report released in June 2026, including correction of COVID-era online gambling statistics and removal of unsourced data, reframing displacement fears as an evidence perception gap, and adopting the correct legal position that gaming machine authorisations are regulatory privileges rather than property. The ACT Government's response to the report is pending.

Research and Evaluation

Evaluation of the Workforce Development and Training Subcommittee and Fund (WDTS)

See Evaluation here.

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 examined 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. The project concluded in 2025, delivering findings that shaped the CYFSP commissioning process.

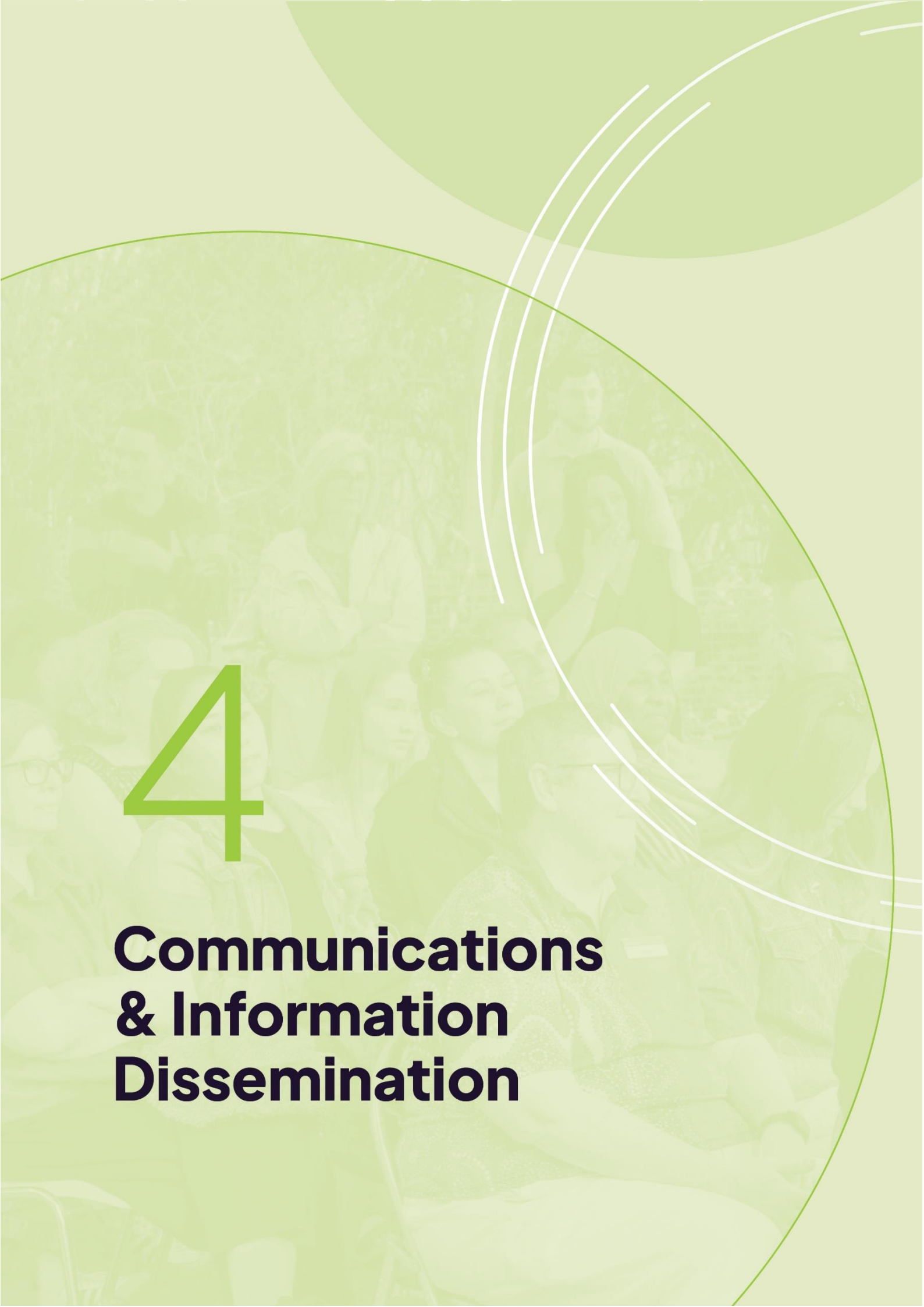
The Evidence Project': Supporting child, youth and family services to understand and use evidence in service design and planning

This online resource for child, youth and family services aims to support services to understand, access and use evidence in their service design and planning. The resource was included in CYFSP commissioning processes, to provide freely available guidance and support to services.

External

In addition to conducting our own research and evaluation projects, we regularly participate in or support external research and evaluation projects conducted by academic partners. In 2025-26, this included:

- **Connect Up #2617 Advisory Group**: We participated on an advisory group for a two-year research study that piloted initiatives to build social connection and reduce isolation among young people aged 18-30 living in Bruce and Belconnen. This was conducted by the Health Research Institute at University of Canberra.
- **Youth at Risk Project Evaluation Advisory Group**: Our ongoing involvement in this group supports the Youth at Risk Project team with internal capability-building to support evaluation activities associated with the Youth at Risk Project, which aims to strengthen trauma-informed responses for young people. Through this work, we informed the HCSD commissioning process for a service provider to undertake a developmental evaluation of TIDES, the new youth trauma service. This was subsequently awarded to the Centre for Mental Health Research at ANU.
- **Identifying priority health impact areas for investment in the Canberra region**: We participated in research commissioned by the John James Foundation to identify the health and wellbeing areas with the greatest opportunity for impact in the Canberra region; to inform a roadmap for high-impact philanthropic investment over a 10-year horizon.



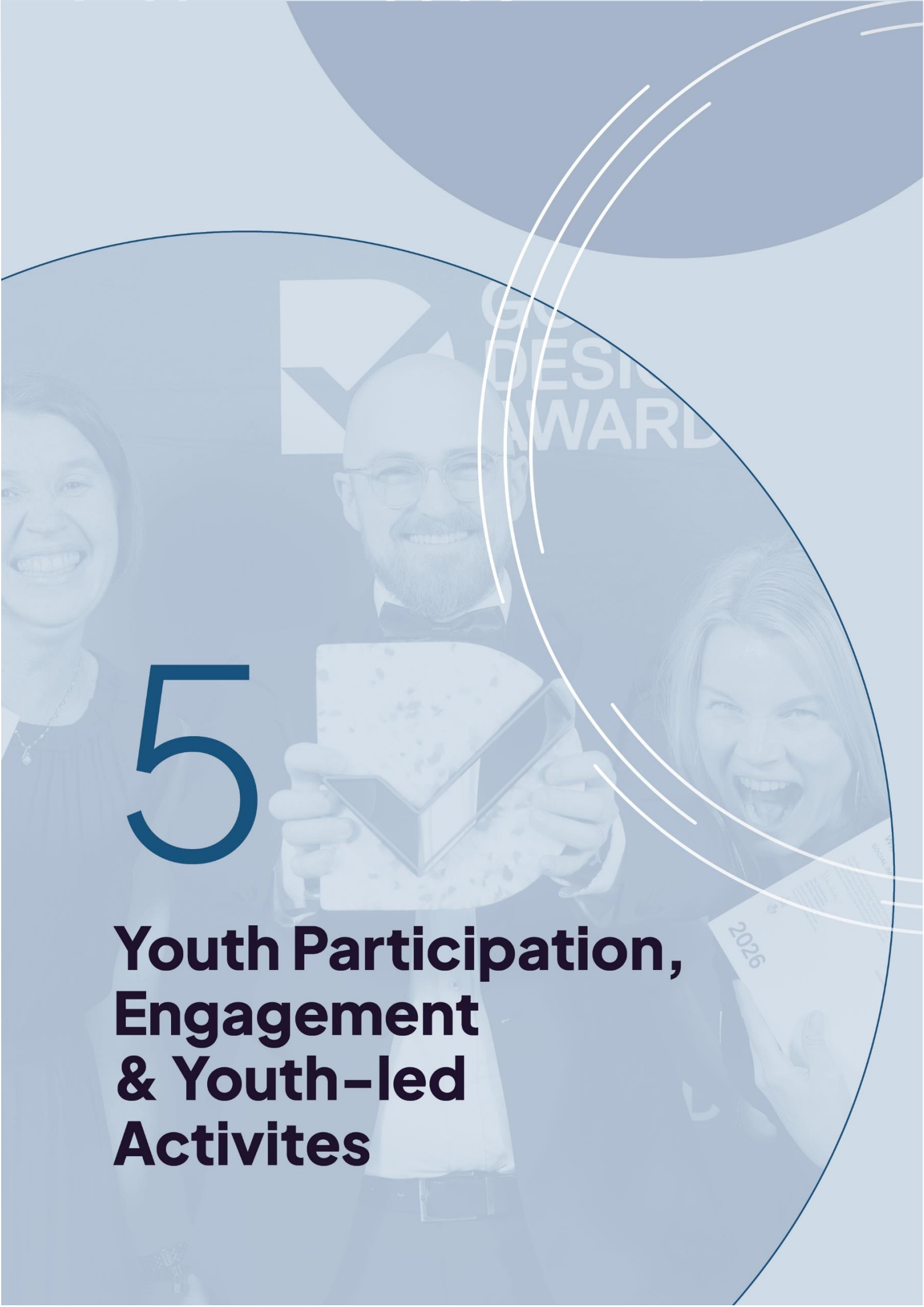
4

Communications & Information Dissemination

4. Communications & Information Dissemination

The Youth Coalition regularly communicates with 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. This includes the ACT Child & Youth Mental Health Alliance, the Youth Housing & Homelessness Forum Network, the ACT Child & Youth DFSV Network, the Youth Worker Practice Network, and a general Youth Affairs email network. In 2025–26, the Youth Coalition sent 60 campaigns through our email networks, totalling almost 40,000 emails to more than 1,100 subscribers. This included monthly eNews updates to the sector and regular eBulletins, with an average open rate of around 40%. We use our email networks to disseminate information and promote training, forums, webinars and events such as the YOGIES and the launch of Fair Play. To join any of our networks, visit our subscribe page.
- **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 to be used by those who work with young people. In 2025–26, Connect was used by around 2,500 people in Australia across almost 5,000 sessions, with search engines the largest source of visitors. The site received 3.6k clicks from search queries and 500k impressions. This year the Youth Coalition also secured funding to redevelop and significantly improve Connect. Youth programs and services are able to easily submit information for inclusion on the directory to promote their services and events. Details and features of the upgrade can be found here.
- **Website:** The Youth Coalition website is used as a platform to promote the key projects and activities of the Youth Coalition. In 2025–26 the website received over 14,000 new visitors across more than 20,000 sessions, and 21k clicks from search from 611k impressions.
- **Media:** The Youth Coalition maintained 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.
- **Social Media:** The Youth Coalition disseminates information through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. We use our social networks to provide updates, advocate and disseminate information.



5

Youth Participation, Engagement & Youth-led Activites

5. Youth Participation, Engagement & 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. In addition to the specific examples of best practice below, our genuine approach to youth participation, engagement and leadership is shown in all aspects of our work earlier mentioned in this Report.

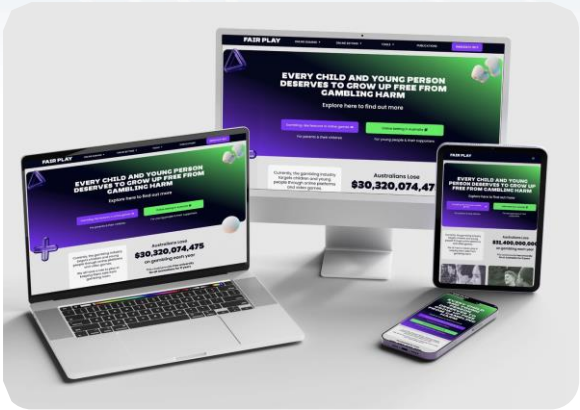
Co-design of Gambling Harm Minimisation Resource: Fair Play

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 resource, Fair Play was launched in October 2025 by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Gaming Reform, alongside Senator David Pocock, Professor Rebekah Brown, ANU's Interim Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Matthew Gray, Director of ANU@POLIS. The site has built a steady presence in search results, and won a **2026 Australian Good Design Award for social impact.**







Co-Design of a Youth Aftercare Service Model

This project, commissioned by HCSD, is developing a service model and high-level evaluation framework for a youth aftercare service, for young people in suicidal distress, through a co-design approach with young people. It commenced in 2025 and will conclude in late 2026. We have partnered with Multicultural Hub, Meridian, Carers ACT and Soward Consultancy (an Aboriginal-owned organisation) to deliver this project; overseen by a Co-Design Governance Group. This process aims to centre the voices of young people with lived experience, and parents/carers. In addition to the development of a specific service model, it will meaningfully contribute to local knowledge and understanding about what young people value in service responses to meet their needs.

‘Be Me’ Project

The Youth Coalition is providing support to the Conflict Resolution Service to deliver two advisory groups associated with the Be.Me Program. These advisory groups include professionals sharing their expert insights, and young men aged 18-30 years of age with lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. The Be.Me Program is a therapeutic support service works with young men aged 12 - 18 who have experienced trauma, and are at risk of engaging in family, domestic or sexual violence due to adverse childhood experiences. The pilot is funded through the Department of Social Services as part of the Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial.

Other initiatives

Other youth participation, engagement and youth-led initiatives supported by the Youth Coalition in 2025-26 include:

- **Charles Weston School:** The Youth Coalition presented to Year 6 students as part of their learning on advocacy and influencing policy and decisions, and how to make an impact in their local community. This is an annual youth participation activity.
- **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.
- **Provision of a meeting space:** We provide a free meeting space for youth-led initiatives, including the Alliance Youth Reference Group, and the Unruly Girls Film Project.

Our People



Behind every achievement of our organisation is a dedicated and highly skilled staff team and board. Over the last year, the Youth Coalition staff team continued to grow, reflecting an increasing demand for our services, our focus on exploring new opportunities to have positive impact for young people and youth services in our community, and a commitment to delivering high-quality work. We are proud to employ a highly skilled and experienced team, with a diverse range of expertise, professional backgrounds and lived experience. This strengthens our ability to respond to emerging needs and collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders.

We pride ourselves on being an employer of choice within the youth and community services sector. During the year, we actively participated in Multi-Enterprise Agreement (MEA) negotiations alongside sector partners, working to secure improved employment conditions for workers across participating organisations. We invest in additional benefits and workplace supports for Youth Coalition staff, recognising that a strong and supported workforce is essential to achieving our mission.

Management team



Hannah Watts
Chief Executive Officer



Erin Barry
Director, Policy & Evaluation



Thomas Stevens
Director, Sector Development & Communications

Staff



Hayden Page
Director, Workforce Capability & Practice



Kylie Denny
Office Manager & Executive Assistant to the CEO



Lauren Forner
Lead Program Manager



Katie Shoemark
Project Coordinator



Emma Hall
Senior Project Officer



Shannon Lanza
Projects & Events Support Officer



Nevia Zanon
Administration Assistant

Board

The Youth Coalition Board provides invaluable governance oversight and strategic direction, as well as support to the CEO and staff team. We acknowledge the many hours of volunteer work that our board members contribute to the organisation and youth sector. With significant turnover of board members this year following our AGM, the focus during this year has been on strengthening governance systems and enhancing board policies and procedural documentation. The Board has also driven the initial stages of a policy review program and strategic planning that commenced late in the financial year and will remain a priority over the coming months.

Board members for this year were:

- Bethany Allibone
- Damien Kelly
- Rikki Lloyd
- Mark Marlor
- Timothy McNevin
- Harrison Oates
- Kat Reed
- Hassan Riaz
- Sunday Roach
- Isha Singhal
- Jalene Teo
- Sonali Varma
- Joshuah Yeend
- CindyLee Young

Board positions and terms are detailed in our audited financial statements, which are provided at the end of this report.

We thank our staff and Board members for their leadership, dedication and contribution throughout the year. Their commitment, expertise and shared passion for improving outcomes for young people continue to drive our success.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Directors' Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

The directors present their report on Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

General information

Directors

The following is a list of the board directors who were on the board for all or part of FY 2026. The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position	Appointed/ Resigned
Harrison Oates	Vice Chair	Resigned on 11 May 2026
Harrison Oates	Chair	Appointed on 11 May 2026
CindyLee Young	Chair	Resigned on 11 May 2026
Jalene Teo	General Member	Resigned on 10 March 2026
Hassan Riaz	Treasurer	Resigned on 25 November 2025
Sunday Roach	General Member	Resigned on 25 November 2025
Joshuah Yeend	General Member	Resigned on 25 November 2025
Kat Reed	General Member	Resigned on 25 November 2025
Beth Allibone	General Member	Resigned on 04 August 2025
Isha Singhal	General Member	Appointed on 10 March 2026
Rikki Lloyd	General Member	Appointed 25 November 2025
Damien Kelly	Treasurer	Appointed 25 November 2025
Mark Marlor	General Member	Appointed 25 November 2025
Timothy McNevin	General Member	Appointed 25 November 2025
Sonali Varma	General Member	

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 for the year of $415,019 includes a once off donation of $431,165 from the winding up of the Canberra Youth Residental Service. The association would have incurred a loss $16,146 for the year if this amount was not received (2025: Surplus of $ 181,571).

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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

Director: Harrison Oates ..... Director: .....

Dated this 9th day of November 2026

Hardwickes
more than accounting

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Hardwickes Partners Pty Ltd
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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 2026, 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.

Hardwickes

Hardwickes
Chartered Accountants

Jim Gouskos, CA CPA
Partner

Dated this.....06.....day of November 2026

Canberra

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

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 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Revenue and other income	4	**1,540,751**	946,416
Accounting and Audit fees		**(15,620)**	(10,138)
Board & governance expenses		**(5,904)**	(3,348)
Bank charges		**(157)**	(174)
Cleaning fees		**(13,814)**	(14,498)
Computer expenses		**(14,855)**	(13,424)
Consultancy fees		**(196,157)**	(76,165)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		**(1,268)**	(18,470)
Employee benefits expense	5	**(791,504)**	(587,730)
Insurance		**(11,745)**	(4,028)
Assets purchased		**(16,566)**	(677)
Other expenses		**(43,736)**	(18,873)
Printing and Postage		**(7,390)**	(3,830)
Repairs and maintenance		**(2,994)**	(8,975)
Telephone expenses		**(4,022)**	(4,515)
Surplus before income tax		**415,019**	181,571
Income tax expense	2(b)	**-**	-
Surplus for the year		**415,019**	181,571
Other comprehensive income for the year		**-**	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		**415,019**	181,571

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 69 552 254 521

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	**267,604**	728,192
Trade and other receivables	7	**173,619**	33,204
Other financial assets	8	**949,903**	231,963
Other assets	10	**10,206**	24,906
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**1,401,332**	1,018,265
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	**6,578**	7,846
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**6,578**	7,846
TOTAL ASSETS		**1,407,910**	1,026,111
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	**86,671**	72,284
Employee benefits	13	**115,811**	79,746
Other financial liabilities	12	**278,912**	362,584
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**481,394**	514,614
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**481,394**	514,614
NET ASSETS		**926,516**	511,497
EQUITY			
Reserves		**325,000**	325,000
Retained earnings		**601,516**	186,497
TOTAL EQUITY		**926,516**	511,497

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

5

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 69 552 254 521

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2026

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	$	$	$
Balance at 1 July 2025	**186,497**	**325,000**	**511,497**
Surplus for the year	**415,019**	**-**	**415,019**
Balance at 30 June 2026	**601,516**	**325,000**	**926,516**

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

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Youth Coalition of the ACT Incorporated

ABN: 59 552 254 521

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers		**1,689,119**	1,264,084
Payments to suppliers and employees		**(1,452,174)**	(884,186)
Interest received		**20,407**	16,175
Net cash provided by operating activities		**257,352**	396,073
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**-**	(6,449)
Purchase of investments		**(717,940)**	(231,963)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		**(717,940)**	(238,412)
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents held		**(460,588)**	157,661
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**728,192**	570,531
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	**267,604**	728,192

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

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.

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 - 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

	2026	2025
	$	$
Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)		
- External consulting and Room hire	**52,300**	6,667
- Grant income	**905,746**	887,718
- Member subscriptions	**2,842**	2,363
- Recoupment income	**13,752**	11,146
- Revenue from multi years project	**84,758**	-
Subtotal	**1,059,398**	907,894
Revenue recognised on receipt (not enforceable or not sufficiently specific performance obligations - AASB 1058)		
- Interest received	**20,407**	23,193
- Distribution received on winding up of Canberra Youth Residental Service	**431,165**	-
- Other revenue	**29,781**	15,329
Subtotal	**481,353**	38,522
Total Revenue and other income	**1,540,751**	946,416

5 Employee benefits expenses

	2026	2025
	$	$
Employee benefits expense		
- Salaries and wages	**622,413**	501,348
- Other employee benefit expenses	**169,091**	86,382
Total employee benefits expense	**791,504**	587,730

6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2026	2025
	$	$
Cash at bank and in hand	**267,604**	728,192
	267,604	728,192

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

7 Trade and Other Receivables

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	**173,619**	33,204
Total trade and other receivables	**173,619**	33,204

8 Other Financial Assets

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Term deposits	**949,903**	231,963
	949,903	231,963

9 Plant and Equipment

	2026 $	2025 $
Plant and equipment		
At cost	**22,137**	22,137
Accumulated depreciation	**(18,447)**	(18,197)
Total plant and equipment	**3,690**	3,940
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	**6,883**	6,883
Accumulated depreciation	**(3,995)**	(2,977)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	**2,888**	3,906
Total plant and equipment	**6,578**	7,846
Total plant and equipment	**6,578**	7,846

(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 2026			
Balance at the beginning of year	**3,940**	**3,906**	**7,846**
Depreciation expense	**(250)**	**(1,018)**	**(1,268)**
Balance at the end of the year	**3,690**	**2,888**	**6,578**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

10 Other Assets

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Prepayments	**10,206**	17,888
Accrued income	**-**	7,018
Total other assets	**10,206**	24,906

11 Trade and Other Payables

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Trade payables	**15,621**	2,679
GST payable	**35,825**	39,688
Accrued expense	**22,938**	19,778
Other payables	**12,287**	10,139
Total Trade and other payables	**86,671**	72,284

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.

12 Other Financial Liabilities

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Grants in advance	**278,912**	362,584
Total	**278,912**	362,584

13 Employee Benefits

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT		
Provision for annual leave	**85,479**	42,312
Provision for DFV and Parental leave	**30,332**	37,434
Total employee benefits	**115,811**	79,746

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

14 Financial Risk Management

	2026 $	2025 $
Financial assets		
Held at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	**267,604**	728,192
Term deposits	**949,903**	231,963
Trade and other receivables	**173,619**	33,204
Total financial assets	**1,391,126**	993,359
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade and other payables	**32,059**	22,457
Total financial liabilities	**32,059**	22,457

15 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is $ 419,457 (2025: $ 430,208).

16 Auditors' Remuneration

	2026 $	2025 $
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	**6,500**	6,500
Total	**6,500**	6,500

17 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2026 (30 June 2025:None).

18 Related Parties

The Association's main related parties are as follows:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 15.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

19 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.

20 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 ..... Responsible person Hannah Watts (CEO)

Dated this 09 day of November 2026

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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 2026, 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 2026 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.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

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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.

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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

Hardwickes
Chartered Accountants

Jim Gouskos, CA CPA
Partner

Canberra
Dated this .....10..... day of November 2026

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