



# **ACT Budget 2010/11**

## **Future Proofing the ACT: What's In It For Young People**

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2010/11

Part 2 of 3

Expenditure Initiatives

May 2010

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

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as 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 Indigenous children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that the Indigenous 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 Ngunnawal culture and the invaluable contribution it makes to our community.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT (Youth Coalition) is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory and is responsible for representing the interests of people aged between 12 and 25 years of age and those who work with them. The Youth Coalition works to actively promote the well being and aspirations of young people in the ACT with particular respect to their political, cultural, economic and social development. The Youth Coalition is represented on many ACT advisory structures and provides advice to the ACT Government on a range of issues related to young people and youth services. For more information phone the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 or email [info@youthcoalition.net](mailto:info@youthcoalition.net)

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May 2010

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## Budget Analysis Overview

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, acknowledges the challenges faced by the ACT Government in developing the ACT Budget 2010/11, and welcomes the announcement of funding for some key initiatives.

The ACT Budget 2010/11 contains a few gains for young people, with a particular focus on improving supports for young people with disabilities, young people in Out of Home Care, and young people in detention. The Budget also features funding for young people aimed at improving access to legal information, and early intervention for young people experiencing violence in their family relationships.

However, the Youth Coalition is concerned about the lack of an overarching vision for the budget. The Youth Coalition is disappointed that the implementation of the goals of the *ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014*, launched in December 2009, has not been identified as a priority for the 2010/11 financial year.

The Youth Coalition calls on the ACT Government to address service delivery, planning and support for young people and their families in a systematic and sustainable way. In particular crisis support services need to be complemented with a suite of long term intervention and prevention programs.

While this year's promising new spending initiatives are welcomed, much of the detail is still to come. We implore the ACT Government to take the opportunity to conduct significant consultations with young people and community youth services to identify the best ways in which these resources can be utilised to benefit young people in the Canberra community.

Some key initiatives announced in the ACT Budget 2010/11 are outlined below.

### Young People with Disability

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- Funding the Home and Community Care Program an additional \$2.2 million, which will include supports for young people with disabilities;
- Funding of \$1.6 million over four years to provide further supports to young people with disabilities in schools;
- Funding of \$2.4 million over two years into disability support services; and,
- Funding of \$425,000 over four years to employ a community-based family support worker to support families who have a child with autism.

## **Young People in Care**

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- Funding of \$5.7 million over four years to support young Canberrans in out of home care.

## **Multicultural Young People**

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- Funding of \$105,000 over four years to Multicultural Youth Services to provide support to multicultural, newly arrived and refugee young people.

## **Young People in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre**

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- Funding of \$7.1 million over four years to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, of which part will go towards ensuring human rights compliance.

## **Legal**

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- Funding of \$785,000 over four years to the Youth Law Centre to increase capacity; and,
- Funding of \$200,000 over four years for an Indigenous Liaison Officer in the Legal Aid Commission.

## **Domestic Violence**

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- Funding of \$2 million over four years to provide further support to women and children experiencing violence, including early intervention for children and young people experiencing violence in their family relationships.

## **Young People and Education**

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- Funding of \$1.1 million over four years to support the Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership by increasing the engagement of young people in education, training and employment.

## Infrastructure

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- Funding for regional infrastructure, including CIT Vocational Education in Gungahlin, a new Gungahlin Library, and a Gungahlin Health Centre.

## Youth Services

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- One-off funding of \$70,000 to Warehouse Circus Community Program.

## Youth Sector Viability

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The ACT Budget 2010/11, under the 2010/11 priorities of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services clearly articulates its commitment to working with the community sector to build their sustainability and industrial relations capacity. However, no funding has been allocated towards resourcing this commitment.

Like many sections of the community sector, community based youth services continue to experience significant challenges with regard to workforce development, recruitment and retention of workers, while also facing increased demand for service provision. The increasingly complex nature of the issues youth services and workers are supporting young people with also highlights the challenge of skill development in a sector that must be both pre-emptive and responsive to the changing needs of young people, and have such a broad range of response knowledge.

The viability of the ACT youth and community sectors is important, to ensure that the service system is set up to support young people, able to further develop to address emerging issues and provide targeted support to young people..

The Youth Coalition, in our submission to the 2010 / 11 Budget called for the following key actions in relation to the youth and community sectors:

- Implementation of the 30 recommendations outlined in the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) report, *Finding Solutions: Towards the long term viability of the ACT Community Sector*,

- Investment in workforce development strategies for the youth and community sectors;
- A commitment to no reduction in the funding level supporting young people aged 12 – 25 years within the new service framework that will come into effect during the 2010/11 Budget;
- Development of an updated social and demographic profile of young people in the ACT;
- Contribution of funds to enable the Youth Centre’s Network to progress modelling to:
  - Further develop Youth Centre practice;
  - Contribute to the evidence base informing Youth Centre practice; and,
  - Inform future funding of youth services.
- Provision of funding to further develop a Code of Ethics for Youth Work in the ACT;
- Ensuring that the Youth Coalition is able to continue to support specific networks within the youth and community sector which aim to strengthen supports and services for young people aged 12 – 25 years; and,
- Ensure that funding is available to support the continued production of the Big Red Book.

Youth and community sector organisations cannot continue to deliver high quality programs and services with staff shortages, high turnovers and an inability to attract suitably qualified or experienced workers.

The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Budget 2010/11 addresses some gaps in services, with significant spending commitments, and we look forward to working with the ACT Government and other community stakeholders in implementing the initiatives from this budget that relate to young people and youth services.

## **Budget Analysis Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives**

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The Youth Coalition of the ACT Budget 2010/11 Analysis is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: Media Releases
- Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives (this document)
- Part 3: Capital Initiatives

Each part can be downloaded from [www.youthcoalition.net](http://www.youthcoalition.net) or accessed in hardcopy by calling (02) 6247 3540.

Below is an analysis of the ACT Budget 2010 / 11 Expenditure Initiatives, as outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 for the following Departments:

- Chief Ministers Department
- Department of Territory and Municipal Services
- ACT Health
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services
- Housing ACT
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water
- Department of Education and Training
- ACT Planning and Land Authority
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

## Chief Ministers Department

Initiatives under the Chief Ministers Department (CMD) are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Implementation of *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009* and Community Information

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
71	This initiative will enable the implementation of the <i>Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009</i> and the continuation of whole of government community information.	2010 / 11	\$246,000	The Youth Coalition supports the dissemination by ies of information to members of the public about government program's, policy's and/or matters which affect their entitlements, rights and/or obligations.
		2011 / 12	\$250,000	
		2012 / 13	\$255,000	
		2013 / 14	\$260,000	

### Resourcing to Continue Support for the ACT's Participation in COAG

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
71	This continues support for the ACT's participation in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reform agenda, including new reform areas, whole of government oversight and coordination of national partnership implementation plans as well as input and review of the COAG Reform Council's National Agreement reporting. The position was initially funded for two years, commencing in 2008-09.	2010 / 11	\$145,000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT believes that participation in the Council of Australian Governments plays a key role in ensuring that the ACT is actively aware of and involved in the National reform agenda.
		2011 / 12	\$147,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Augmenting the Government's Skills Response

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
71	This establishes a networking mechanism based inside government that will promote information sharing, coordination and support collaborative approaches to skills and future workforce issues across the Territory. The new mechanism will promote extensive outreach and involvement of external stakeholders.	2010 / 11	\$105,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports this initiative and commends the ACT Government on investing in addressing skills and future workforce issues across the territory.
		2011 / 12	\$105,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	The Youth Coalition calls for the ACT Government to keep the community and relevant stakeholders informed on developments under this initiative.
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Future Delivery of Floriade and Floriade NightFest

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
72	This initiative ensures the future delivery of Floriade and Floriade NightFest.	2010 / 11	\$450,000	The Youth Coalition generally supports initiatives that provide recreational opportunities for the community.
		2011 / 12	\$463,000	
		2012 / 13	\$475,000	
		2013 / 14	\$488,000	

## ACT Film Investment Fund

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
72	This supports the growth and sustainability of the ACT screen industry which includes film, television and digital media. The ACT Film Investment Fund will provide equity co-investment with the marketplace in high potential eligible projects.	2010 / 11	\$400,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes investment in the ACT Screen Industry.
		2011 / 12	\$600,000	
		2012 / 13	\$800,000	We call for more information on how the ACT Film Investment Fund will be implemented.
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Department of Territory and Municipal Services

Initiatives under the Department of Territory and Municipal Services are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Transport for Canberra – Expansion of ACTION Network Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
74	The Government will deliver enhanced ACTION public transport services. These enhanced services will encourage a shift in transport modes, with greater numbers of commuters using public transport for part or all of their journey. This is being supported by further capital investment in public transport infrastructure to improve the speed and reliability of public transport services, providing more flexible transport options and better amenity for passengers.	2010 / 11	\$2,172,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased to see an investment in public transport in the ACT. Lack of access to public transport can act as a barrier to young people's participation in education, employment, and other activities in the ACT community.  Young people in Canberra have identified the frequency of bus services as one of the most important issues of public transport in Canberra.
		2011 / 12	\$1,941,000	
		2012 / 13	\$1,426,000	
		2013 / 14	\$604,000	

### Transport for Canberra – Coordination Team

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
74	This will coordinate the delivery of a program of transport infrastructure investments, and other projects to encourage greater numbers of people to walk, cycle and use public transport, and so reduce the use of private passenger vehicles, particularly for commuting journeys.	2010 / 11	\$105,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of initiatives that aim to reduce the use of private passenger vehicles, but highlight the importance of ensuring that this initiative aligns with the enhancement of public transport services.
		2011 / 12	\$105,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Transport for Canberra – Strategic Planning Studies

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
74	These studies will deliver information to support future decisions that will further improve transport sustainability in the Territory. A series of studies will explore a range of transport issues such as demand responsive transport, implications of future urban development, the role of pricing in transport behaviours, and smart parking technologies, all of which will contribute to achieving sustainability goals.	2010 / 11	\$1,169,00	While the Youth Coalition supports the funding of initiatives to further improve transport sustainability in the ACT. Transport and access to services is a significant barrier for young people in the ACT to participate in the community.  In undertaking this research, we highlight the importance of ensuring that the needs of young people are specifically considered in planning future strategies.
		2011 / 12	\$100,000	
		2012 / 13	\$100,000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Transport for Canberra – Road Safety Measures

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
74	The initiative will deliver enhanced road safety awareness campaigns consistent with the ACT Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan to achieve <i>Vision Zero</i> , which aims to ensure that eventually no one will be killed or seriously injured within the ACT's road transport system. The initiative will also allow technology changes to improve the collection and analysis of data on road accidents.	2010 / 11	\$400,000	The Youth Coalition supports the enhancement of road safety awareness campaigns.  During 2006, transport accidents made up a much higher proportion of all deaths among young people (31%) than among people aged 25 years and over (1% of deaths). <sup>1</sup> This highlights the importance of ensuring young people are a key target group requiring specific campaign awareness strategies on road safety.
		2011 / 12	\$600,000	
		2012 / 13	\$800,000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (Accessed May 2010) Risk Taking by Young People, Canberra

### Continuation of AFL Games in Canberra during 2010

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
75	Through this initiative, AFL games will continue at Manuka Oval in Canberra during 2010. It also secures a commitment by the AFL to conduct community activities such as sporting clinics and school visits.	2010 / 11	\$150,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative as an investment in sport and recreation for young people, through the provision of community activities in sporting clinics and schools.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

### Lakeside Leisure Centre Operations

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
76	This will deliver support for the operation of the Lakeside Leisure Centre to ensure it continues to provide affordable year-round access to quality aquatic, fitness and recreational facilities.	2010 / 11	\$250,000	The Youth Coalition supports this initiative as an investment in sport and recreation for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$256,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

### Additional Funding for Maintenance of Municipal Assets

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
76	The Government will provide for the ongoing maintenance of new and existing municipal assets including parks and reserves, roads, stormwater, and sportsgrounds. It provides for a two year boost in maintenance programs, as well as ongoing funding increases for new assets created through urban development activity.	2010 / 11	\$7,550,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the investment in parks, reserves and sports grounds frequently used by young people in the ACT.
		2011 / 12	\$7,564,000	
		2012 / 13	\$3,578,000	
		2013 / 14	\$3,592,000	

## New Gungahlin Library

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
76	This supports the opening of the new Gungahlin Library within the Gungahlin College in 2011. The new library will include expanded facilities such as additional computers for public use and new community spaces with learning and recreation programs.	2010 / 11	\$0	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the development of new infrastructure in the Gungahlin region; that will be accessible to young people, and will provide access to additional computers and community space. Young people have reported being particularly isolated in the Gungahlin region.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## ACT Health

The Youth Coalition identified the following areas relating to Budget initiatives raised in the 2009/10 ACT Budget, that we seek clarification on in the 2010/11 financial year:

- *Rollover of \$1.3 million for the Healthy Future – Preventative Health Program to 2010/11:* The Youth Coalition strongly supports the initiatives included in the Healthy Future Program, and seeks clarification on what specific activities have been rolled over and will be implemented in the 2010/11 financial year, including an update on the feasibility study for a Centre of Adolescent Health.
- *Rollover of \$447,000 for the GP Workforce Initiatives to 2010/11:* The Youth Coalition strongly supports the initiatives included in the GP Workforce Initiatives, and seeks clarification on what specific activities have been rolled over and will be implemented in the 2010/11 financial year.

The Youth Coalition identified a number of areas in the Strategic Indicators and Accountability Indicators, for further consideration by the ACT Government:

- *Strategic Indicator 5 - Maintaining Consumer and Carer Participation:* The Youth Coalition strongly supports the commitment by ACT Health to ensure that 100% of Mental Health ACT committees have representation by consumers and carers. However, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that consumer and carer participation is well-planned, adequately resourced, and meaningful, and recommend that evaluative mechanisms be implemented to ensure this is measured.
- *Strategic Indicator 22 – Reduction in the Youth Smoking Rate:* The Youth Coalition strongly supports the ACT Health priority to reduce the percentage of young people aged 12 – 17 years who smoke regularly. However, we call for clarification on the goal to reduce the rate to 5% in the 'long-term', and recommend the identification of a concrete timeframe.
- *Output 1.3e – Proportion of Offenders and Detainees in Bimberi Youth Detention Centre with a Completed Health Assessment within 24 Hours of Detention:* The Youth Coalition supports the inclusion of a 100% completion rate of young people in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre receiving a completed health assessment. In addition to these accountability indicator, we recommend that an additional indicator be included measuring the implementation rate of health care plans.

Initiatives under ACT Department of Health are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

## Mental Health Growth

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
80	This addresses the growing demand for mental health services in the ACT and will enhance the Government's focus on promotion, prevention and early intervention, while also providing high quality community based clinical and psychosocial support services.	2010 / 11	\$1, 000, 000	<p>The Youth Coalition strongly supports the inclusion in the 2010/11 Budget of funding to focus on mental health promotion, prevention and early.</p> <p>We would like to highlight the importance of ensuring young people are a key target group in the roll-out of this funding. Research indicates that 70% of mental health issues manifest between the ages of 15 and 25, with early intervention increasing the chances of recovery for these young people.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>In the Youth Coalition's Budget Submission to the 2010/11 ACT Government Budget, we recommended that the ACT Government provide increased funding for existing youth services, such as headspace ACT, that provide mental health support services to young people aged between 12 and 25 years.</p> <p>The Youth Coalition seeks further clarification on how this funding will be distributed, and recommend that resources are allocated, out of this funding, to existing local youth mental health services. It is also vital that initiatives rolled out through this funding is developed and implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders, including young people, and youth services.</p>
		2011 / 12	\$1, 030, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$1, 061, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$1, 093, 000	

<sup>2</sup> Mental Health Council of Australia (December 2008) Young People and Mental Health, Canberra

## Growth in Home and Community Care Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
82	This initiative provides for growth in the Home and Community Care (HACC) program, which provides a range of services supporting older Australians, younger people with a disability and their carers to be more independent at home, and to prevent their early or inappropriate admission to long term residential care. HACC services include: domestic assistance, personal care, meals on wheels, respite care, social support, community transport and home and garden maintenance. The HACC program is a joint venture between the ACT and the Commonwealth.	2010 / 11	\$2,263,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports funding for the Home and Community Care Program, to support younger people with a disability and their carers to be more independent at home and to prevent their early or appropriate admission to long-term residential care.  Young people with disabilities living in residential aged care is a significant issue in Australia.  The Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance highlights the importance of developing an effective and well-resourced system of long term care and support, which includes accommodation and support choices; and workforce development and training. <sup>3</sup>  It is important that this initiative be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including young people and community youth services.
		2011 / 12	\$2,331,000	
		2012 / 13	\$2,401,000	
		2013 / 14	\$2,473,000	

<sup>3</sup> Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance (Accessed May 2010) What we Need, Victoria

## Increased Demand for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Services at the Canberra Hospital

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
82	This initiative provides capacity to meet increased service demand in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Service at the Canberra Hospital. It also provides for additional medical and nursing resources to adequately manage the increasing level of demand for these services.	2010 / 11	\$2,000,000	<p>While the Youth Coalition supports this initiative to increase capacity of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology at The Canberra Hospital.</p> <p>Young people may experience difficulties accessing health services due to affordability or geographic location. As such, we note the importance of also building the capacity of sexual health services, including community-based services accessed by young people, such as The Junction, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, and the Canberra Sexual Health Centre.</p>
2011 / 12		\$2,100,000		
2012 / 13		\$2,200,000		
2013 / 14		\$2,300,000		

## Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The Youth Coalition is concerned that the *ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014* (the ACT Young People's Plan) has not been specified in the 2010-11 priorities for DHCS, where other ACT Government strategies have been identified. The ACT Young People's Plan included a commitment to implementing the *Child Friendly Cities Initiative*, in which child and youth participation is a key component in the planning and delivery of ACT Government activities. No specific funding has been allocated to the implementation of this important initiative.

The Youth Coalition identified a number of areas in the Strategic Indicators and Accountability Indicators, for further consideration by the ACT Government:

- *Strategic Indicator 6 – Promote Participation in Community Life by Canberrans including those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds:* While the Youth Coalition supports the commitment by the ACT Government to promote participation by people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, we are concerned that the measure (the number of groups participating in the Annual National Multicultural Festival) is inadequate. This Strategic Indicator should also consider broader participation in the community, including participation in employment and education opportunities, and access to services and community activities.
- *Strategic Indicator 8 – Meeting Individuals' needs through Case Management and Appropriate Services and Programs:* The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Government is working towards a greater proportion of children and young people experiencing no more than 2 placements in care. However, we believe that the ACT Government should be progressing towards a higher proportion of children and young people (than 60 – 70%) experiencing no more than 2 placements. Additionally, we are concerned that the measure is inadequate and should also consider children and young people's experiences and outcomes of care.
- *Output 3.1a – Number of Training Sessions provided for Community Sector Organisations:* While the Youth Coalition supports the provision of ACT Government funded training for community sector organisations, we seek further clarification on what type of training will be provided, and highlight the importance of ensuring that the ACT Government works with the community sector to identify training needs.
- *Output 3.1c – Number of Community Capacity Building Projects Supported:* While the Youth Coalition supports the provision of ACT Government grants to build the capacity and sustainability of community organisations, and to address disadvantage in the community,

we are concerned that these grants are piece-meal, and call for the ACT Government to address these issues in a systematic and sustainable way.

The Youth Coalition is also concerned that while DHCS and OCYFS are looking to make significant change in the framework for Youth Support Program and Family Support Program service purchasing there has been no change in the strategic indicators and accountability indicators for children and young people and families in this area.

Initiatives under the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Support for Disability Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
92	This initiative provides funding to Disability ACT to assist in ensuring that disability services are sustainable.	2010 / 11	\$1,200,000	<p>The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government on providing funding to assist in ensuring that disability services are sustainable.</p> <p>In 2009 the ACT Government developed the disability framework, <i>Future Directions – Towards Challenge 2014</i>. The Youth Coalition calls for actions under this initiative to be in line with the framework. In addition to this, it is imperative that young people with disability are identified as key stakeholders and that part of this funding allocation is retained for these young people.</p>
		2011 / 12	\$1,244,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Support for Out of Home Care

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
92	The proposal addresses the increase in the cost of children and young people in out of home care arrangements.	2010 / 11	\$1,343,000	<p>We strongly support the ACT Government's allocation of resources to support young people in out of home care.</p> <p>Children and young people in care are a diverse group who share a common experience of not being able to live with their parents and are cared for by someone else. Many have experienced a number of placements and disruptions of their connections with family, friends, school, community and culture.</p> <p>The ACT is the poorest performer of all governments in Australia in providing support for young people leaving care.</p> <p>The CREATE Foundation Transitioning From Care Report states that significant improvements need to be made to support young people to transition from care, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early commencement of transition planning (at 15 years);</li> <li>• Continuity of support until the young person reaches 25;</li> <li>• Better integration between departments to support young people;</li> <li>• Planning in collaboration with young people and carers (youth participation);</li> <li>• High representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in care; and,</li> <li>• Acquisition of life skills.</li> </ul>
		2011 / 12	\$1,390,000	
		2012 / 13	\$1,439,000	
		2013 / 14	\$1,489,000	

## Carers Advocacy Service

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	This initiative will work in collaboration with advocacy services, and streamline access to services in the community. The service will support young carers, carers of people with alcohol and other drug dependence issues, mental health carers, carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.	2010 / 11	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition supports streamlining access to services for carers in the community.
		2011 / 12	\$104,000	
		2012 / 13	\$108,000	We strongly urge that the implementation of this initiative is supported by the evidence available in relation to carers, including the recommendations of the report published by the Institute of Child Protection Studies <i>Who Cares? Young People Living with a Family Member who has an [Alcohol and Other Drug] Issue</i>
		2013 / 14	\$112,000	

## Prevention of Violence Against Women

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	The initiative increases the support available for women and children experiencing violence and provides early intervention to children and young people prone to violence in their family relationships.	2010 / 11	\$344,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports initiatives focused on the prevention of violence against women.
		2011 / 12	\$298,000	
		2012 / 13	\$307,000	We seek clarification regarding the synergy with other programs set out in this budget, specifically the 'Prevention of Violence Against Women' from the Department of Justice and Community Safety.
		2013 / 14	\$317,000	

## Warehouse Circus Community Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	The Warehouse Circus offers circus skills training and performance opportunities for 'at risk' young people, people with disabilities and people from low-income households.	2010 / 11	\$70,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased to see the allocation of funding to creative engagement opportunities for 'at risk' young people, people with disabilities and people from low-income households. We look forward to future allocations for such initiatives.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Multicultural Languages Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	The proposal supports community languages schools with the implementation of their language programs by boosting the level of funding in the existing Community Languages Grants Program.	2010 / 11	\$25,000	The Youth Coalition supports the provision of additional funding to community languages schools, and calls for the ACT Government to ensure that these are accessible to multicultural, newly arrived and refugee young people in the ACT.
		2011 / 12	\$25,000	
		2012 / 13	\$26,000	
		2013 / 14	\$27,000	

## Multicultural Youth Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	This initiative will assist young refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants gain access to appropriate services and programs. It will build on the support services for young people from multicultural backgrounds who are at risk of social isolation.	2010 / 11	\$25,000	<p>The Youth Coalition is pleased with the funding allocated to Multicultural Youth Services (MYS), the only youth specific service in the ACT for refugee, newly arrived and multicultural young people.</p> <p>The ACT Government has stated that all migrants should be able to gain access to targeted essential services and programs; and committed to providing the full range of essential settlement services, such as housing, transport, education, work experience programs, counselling and orientation assistance for newly arrived migrants.</p> <p>However, we are disappointed with the inadequate level of funding that has been provided.</p>
		2011 / 12	\$26,000	
		2012 / 13	\$27,000	
		2013 / 14	\$27,000	

## Traditional Owners Genealogy Project

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
93	This enables research to compile the genealogies and family histories for each of the acknowledged traditional Aboriginal clans based in the ACT.	2010 / 11	\$50,000	<p>The Youth Coalition is pleased with the allocation of funding towards this project, and the ACT Government's commitment to recognising the value of Aboriginal communities in the ACT.</p>
		2011 / 12	\$50,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Operational Costs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
94	This initiative provides additional funding required for the operating costs of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. This initiative will fund additional staff, ensure appropriate supports and placements occur for young people, assist in maintaining a human rights compliant environment and meet building and maintenance costs.	2010 / 11	\$1,704,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the provision of funding to ensure appropriate supports and placements occur for young people; and to assist Bimberi to maintain a human rights compliant environment.</p> <p>However, we call on the ACT Government to take this opportunity to engage in evidence-based diversion and intervention programs, and to focus on through-care.</p> <p>In line with the Youth Coalition's recommendations in the Youth Coalition Submission to the 2010/11 ACT Budget, we also call for the ACT Government to implement an evaluation of the Human Rights Framework in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.</p>
		2011 / 12	\$1,747,000	
		2012 / 13	\$1,791,000	
		2013 / 14	\$1,836,000	

## Housing ACT

The Youth Coalition acknowledges that some of the announcements in the 2009-2010 are continuing to be rolled out.

Initiatives under Housing ACT are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Homelessness National Partnership Agreement

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
95	This initiative builds on the homelessness and supported accommodation initiatives funded under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement Implementation Plan in the 2009/10 Budget. It will provide outreach support to sustain tenancies for low income and vulnerable families in the private rental market.	2010 / 11	\$0	<p>The Youth Coalition acknowledges this initiative as an extension of the initiatives funded under the National Partnership agreement. We are pleased that that this initiative is focused on expanding the reach of the sustaining tenancies initiatives, however the success of this will be determined by the framework for delivery. The Youth Coalition strongly urges the ACT Government to ensure that this initiative is underpinned by the principles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights Based;</li> <li>• Equity and Access;</li> <li>• Participation;</li> <li>• Integration;</li> <li>• Early Intervention and Prevention;</li> <li>• Evidence Based; and,</li> <li>• Accountability.</li> </ul>
		2011 / 12	\$100, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$291, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Department of Justice and Community Safety

The Youth Coalition of the ACT has many questions for the Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS) regarding the initiatives outlined below. We urgently seek a clearer presentation regarding the costing, timeframe and fee structure for the Working With Vulnerable People Checking System, as this initiative will impact heavily on most of the youth and community sector.

Initiatives under the Department of Justice and Community Safety are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Prevention of Violence Against Women

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
84	This initiative provides further funding for the delivery of victim support services by the community sector and also provides increased capacity for the Canberra Women's Legal Centre to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access legal services in the ACT.	2010 / 11	\$ 162, 000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports this initiative.
		2011 / 12	\$ 169, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 176, 000	We seek clarification regarding the synergy of other programs set out in this budget, specifically the 'Prevention of Violence Against Women' from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.
		2013 / 14	\$ 183, 000	

### Prohibition of Smoking in Outdoor Eating and Drinking Areas

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
84	An additional inspector will be provided to respond to increased enforcement activities associated with prohibiting smoking in all outdoor eating and drinking venues.	2010 / 11	\$118, 000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges the ongoing efforts of JACS to address smoking as an important health issue.
		2011 / 12	\$130, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$133, 000	We seek clarification of how this initiative will interact with other smoking cessation programs.
		2013 / 14	\$135, 000	

## Working with Vulnerable People Checks

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
85	Supplementary resources will allow for the screening of three year intervals of people who work with vulnerable people in the ACT rather than the five years originally envisaged as part of this policy. Each applicant for screening, excluding volunteers, will be subject to an application fee.	2010 / 11	\$370, 000	The Youth Coalition welcomes a commitment to a Working With Vulnerable People Checking System in the ACT, however we are concerned about the additional cost that compliance with the system will place on the youth and community sector, as a revenue raising mechanism for the ACT.  Consultation with the sector revealed that most agencies supported the System following ACT Government's commitment to fund the checks.
		2011 / 12	\$709, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$721, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$734, 000	

## Liquor Reforms for a Safer Community

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
86	This provides ten additional police officers to inspect and enforce responsible service of alcohol practices in licensed premises on weekends. Two additional staff for the Office of Regulatory Services will also be provided to support the new liquor reforms. One off funding is also provided for an independent review after 18 months of operation.	2010 / 11	\$1,164,000	The Youth Coalition supports strategies to reduce the harm associated with alcohol misuse and highlight the importance of using this as an opportunity for community engagement.
		2011 / 12	\$1,642,000	
		2012 / 13	\$1,747,000	
		2013 / 14	\$1,754,000	

## Enhancement of Work Safety Regulation

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
86	This initiative provides for five additional staff to increase capacity of work safety regulation in the ACT in a number of areas including high level OH&S expertise, workplace safety inspections and asbestos coordination.	2010 / 11	\$ 585, 000	The Youth Coalition supports initiatives that are focused on the work safety regulation.
		2011 / 12	\$ 593, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 600, 000	We call for this initiative to include strategies around young people entering the workforce and work safety regulation.
		2013 / 14	\$ 608, 000	

## District Court Jurisdiction Capacity

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
86	This initiative establishes an intermediate court jurisdiction, a District Court capacity in the ACT and provides additional temporary judicial resources to assist in transition to this new arrangement.	2010 / 11	\$ 969, 000	The Youth Coalition is reluctant to support this initiative without further presentation of the evidence base behind establishing another tier to the judicial system.
		2011 / 12	\$ 301, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 164, 000	We call on JACS to engage with the community around the rationale in implementing effective change in the criminal justice system with this initiative.
		2013 / 14	\$ 166, 000	

## Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water

Initiatives under the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Progressing Actions on Climate Change

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
87	The institutional arrangements necessary for the longterm measuring of, and reporting against, the Government's proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets, including zero net emissions by 2060, are created through this initiative. This initiative also further enhances the Department's capability to design and implement energy efficiency projects and to meet the Government's commitments through the COAG to national energy reforms. It will also establish a Carbon Neutral Framework for the ACT Government.	2010 / 11	\$1,041,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges the importance of investing in progressing actions on climate change.  The <i>ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 14</i> identified the Environment as a key area of concern for young people. Therefore, we call for more information on how young people may be engaged in various aspects of this initiative.
		2011 / 12	\$646,000	
		2012 / 13	\$445,000	
		2013 / 14	\$452,000	

## Department of Education and Training

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the large commitment The Department of Education and Training (DET) has made to increasing the potential pathways available to young people in regards to education, employment and training. We look forward to continuing to work closely with DET as these new initiatives are implemented.

However, we have some concern over the apparent lack of focus on alternative education options, in light of the recent changes to the legislative requirements for educational attainment for young people. The ACT has a strong non-government or alternative education sector, offering many unique and tailored programs aimed at assisting young people who may have disengaged from the mainstream education system. We call on DET to recognise the potential growing demand placed on these services due to the legislative changes.

Initiatives under the Department of Education and Training are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Support for Students with a Disability

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
88	The proposal provides support to students with a disability in ACT public schools.	2010 / 11	\$ 386,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges DET's ongoing efforts to support young people with a disability in the ACT. We seek clarification on how the department will implement these strategies in relation to current submissions and reports, for example the Shaddock Report and the recent changes to the education legislation.
		2011 / 12	\$ 397,000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 409,000	
		2013 / 14	\$ 422,000	

## New Schools Operating Costs

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
88	This initiative makes available teaching staff, non-teaching staff and school based management payments to newly constructed schools in Harrison, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin.	2010 / 11	\$ 2,335,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges DET's continued support of new schools operating costs.
		2011 / 12	\$ 4,075,000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 4,092,000	We anticipate that this funding will also incorporate the provision of school welfare team support.
		2013 / 14	\$ 3,958,000	

## ACT Teacher Quality Institute

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
88	This establishes the ACT Teacher Quality Institute responsible for pre-service teacher education and accreditation, teacher registration and certification of teachers against nationally recognised standards. This initiative supports the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the ACT as part of the Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership Program.	2010 / 11	\$1,964,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes DET's commitment to improving teacher quality in ACT schools.
		2011 / 12	\$1,025,000	
		2012 / 13	\$470,000	We seek further clarification as to the framework which will support this initiative and the rationale it is based on.
		2013 / 14	\$482,000	

## ACT Youth Commitment and Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
88	This supports the implementation funding provided by the Commonwealth for the ACT Youth Commitment and Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership. This initiative provides for the establishment of the ACT Youth Commitment and the development of the ACT Career and Transition Framework aiming to increase participation of young people in education and training.	2010 / 11	\$350,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges DET's ongoing commitment to assisting young people's engagement in education and training. We seek clarification regarding how this initiative will support the existing agreements and policies.
		2011 / 12	\$350,000	
		2012 / 13	\$200,000	
		2013 / 14	\$200,000	

## Productivity Places Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
89	The proposal supports the Commonwealth Productivity Places Program National Partnership, which aims to reduce skill shortages and increase the productivity of industry and enterprises.	2010 / 11	\$2,898,000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the inclusion of this program, which aims to reduce the skills shortage and increase the productivity of industry and enterprise.
		2011 / 12	\$3,950,000	
		2012 / 13	\$2,216,000	We look forward to engaging in further discussions on the criteria that will determine eligibility and placement of the 6,164 training places available.
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## ACT Planning and Land Authority

Initiatives under the ACT Planning and Land Authority are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Erindale and Tuggeranong – Urban Planning and Design Study – Master Planning Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
90	This initiative allows urban planning and design studies for the Erindale Group Centre and the Tuggeranong Town Centre to be undertaken. The urban planning and design studies will consider growth, new transport focuses, land use relationships to the surrounding area and community concerns for the future of these areas, and identify planning strategies to direct future development and/or redevelopment opportunities.	2010 / 11	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges the importance of considering growth, new transport focuses, land use relationships to the surrounding area, community concerns for the future of these areas, and identify planning strategies to direct future development and/or redevelopment opportunities.  It is important that young people are considered in and have the opportunity to participate in any consultative processes relating to this initiative.
		2011 / 12	\$200,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

### Pialligo – Urban Planning and Design Study – Master Planning Program

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
90	This will provide for an urban planning and design study for the suburb of Pialligo and will consider growth, new transport focuses, land use relationships to the surrounding area and community concerns for the future of the area, and identify planning strategies to direct future opportunities.	2010 / 11	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition acknowledges the importance of considering growth, new transport focuses, land use relationships to the surrounding area, community concerns for the future of these areas, and identify planning strategies to direct future development and/or redevelopment opportunities.  It is important that young people are considered in and have the opportunity to participate in any consultative processes relating to this initiative.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

## Canberra Institute Of Technology

Initiatives under the Canberra Institute of Technology are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### CIT Vocational Education Delivery at Gungahlin

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
96	The initiative addresses unmet demand in the Gungahlin community by providing locally based vocational education training opportunities and local access to Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) facilities and courses, resulting in expanded access to many CIT courses. The training covered will be flexible in its mode of delivery, self-paced and will support delivery of online CIT courses. It will also utilise the new college and library facilities, delivering a range of programs and subjects face-to-face.	2010 / 11	\$851, 000	The Youth Coalition supports the investment in the Gungahlin Region, particularly those that support young people to engage in education opportunities.  We commend the Department on endeavouring to provide flexible education options to young people in many locations.
		2011 / 12	\$792, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$812, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$833, 000	

## Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

The Youth Coalition of the ACT supports the Legal Aid Commission's (Legal Aid) initiatives. We look forward to working along side the Youth Law Service, and commend Legal Aid for ensuring the continued operations.

Initiatives under the Legal Aid Commission (ACT) are outlined below. Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification are raised.

### Youth Law Services

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
97	A supervising lawyer and a part-time youth community legal education worker will be employed to ensure the continued operation of the Youth Law Centre. The Youth Law Centre provides legal information, advice and other assistance to young people. Services are provided at the centre and through outreach at locations across the ACT frequented by young people, including schools and youth centers. The Youth Law Centre is also involved in community legal education through relevant publications, media used by young people, and presentations.	2010 / 11	\$ 188, 000	The Youth Coalition welcomes the announcement of new funding to support the provision of legal information to young people.  We recommend that Legal Aid aims to use this initiative to create a higher profile for the youth legal services, and has provisions to increase the outreach and resources components. We recommend that the Youth Law Centre continues to engage in a meaningful manner with the youth sector in the ACT.
		2011 / 12	\$ 193, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$ 199, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$ 205, 000	

## Indigenous Liaison Officer

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
97	An Indigenous Liaison Officer will be employed by the Legal Aid Commission to foster links with indigenous communities in the ACT with the objective of reducing the barriers to indigenous people accessing legal assistance services.	2010 / 11	\$46, 000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports this allocation and commend Legal Aid for identifying the many barriers that need to be addressed in this area.
		2011 / 12	\$48, 000	
		2012 / 13	\$49, 000	
		2013 / 14	\$51, 000	