



ACT Budget 2010/11

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

Analysis of the ACT Budget 2010 / 11

Part 3 of 3

Capital Initiatives

May 2010

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

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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

- 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

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

Multicultural Young People

- 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

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

Legal

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Youth Services

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

Youth Sector Viability

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 3: Capital Initiatives

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

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

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

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

- Chief Ministers Department
- Department of Territory and Municipal Services
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services
- Housing ACT
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of Education and Training
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

Chief Ministers Department

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

Extension to the Street Theatre (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
137	This initiative provides for the design of an extension to the existing building to house Street Theatre administration functions and the offices of performing arts companies.	2010 / 11	\$150,000	The Street Theatre has a strong history of supporting young people to engage in Arts in the ACT. The Youth Coalition supports this initiative in as much as it supports young people to continue to engage in Arts.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Injury Prevention and Management Information System

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
138	This initiative allows for a new injury prevention and management information system to support the strategic Whole of Government approach to reduce the incidence and cost of workplace injuries.	2010 / 11	\$450,000	The Youth Coalition supports a whole of Government approach to reduce the incidence and cost of workplace injuries and is pleased that funding has been allocated to develop an information system to manage this.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		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 – Walking and Cycling Infrastructure

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
141	This initiative will improve cycling and walking infrastructure through the construction of new on and off road cycle and community paths.	2010 / 11	\$1,000,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of initiatives that aim to promote sport and recreation for young people, and improve access to services and participation in community activities.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – City Path Lighting

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
141	This project will increase lighting along community shared paths in the city, to improve safety and encourage increased use by cyclists and pedestrians, including increasing the number of city area residents accessing shopping, recreation and entertainment facilities at night.	2010 / 11	\$500,000	The Youth Coalition supports initiatives that aim to increase public safety in the ACT. Young people and youth services have reported that safety in public spaces is a key issue for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$1,000,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – ACT Road Safety Strategy (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
142	This will improve road safety through the design of measures consistent with the ACT Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan that can be implemented in future years 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.	2010 / 11	\$250,000	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). ¹ This highlights the importance of ensuring young people are a key target group requiring specific campaign awareness strategies on road safety.
		2011 / 12	\$250,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – Installation of Bus Shelters

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
143	By installing 50 additional bus shelters, this initiative will increase the seating and weather protection provided on public transport routes across the ACT. This will improve amenities for passengers and encourage increased patronage of the public transport system.	2010 / 11	\$500,000	The Youth Coalition supports the installation of additional bus shelters across the ACT, as many young people rely on public transport to access services and participate in community activities.
		2011 / 12	\$500,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

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

Transport for Canberra – Northbourne Avenue Bus Priority Measures and Dickson Major Bus Station

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
143	The initiative will identify the best bus priority, pedestrian and cycle path options for the Northbourne Avenue transport corridor from Flemington Road to London Circuit, City. The initiative provides for full design and documentation of the preferred option, construction of pedestrian and cycle improvements and construction of a bus station in Dickson, following master planning work for the Dickson precinct.	2010 / 11	\$250,000	The Youth Coalition supports the establishment of a bus station in Dickson, as a key town-centre in the ACT.
		2011 / 12	\$4,000,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – Gungahlin Town Centre Major Bus Station

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
144	This project will deliver a major bus station for Gungahlin to improve public transport access and amenity for residents, as part of the overall Hibberson Street design. Works to be completed include passenger stops and shelters, improved pedestrian access, lighting, bus priority measures on Hibberson Street, and bus layover facilities.	2010 / 11	\$175,000	The Youth Coalition supports the establishment of a bus station in Gungahlin, as a rapidly growing town-centre in the ACT; and an area where young people currently experience isolation.
		2011 / 12	\$1,500,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – Erindale Centre Major Bus Station

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
144	This project will deliver a major bus station at Erindale to improve public transport access and amenity for residents. Facilities to be constructed include passenger stops and shelters, lighting, and bus priority measures within, and adjacent to, the Erindale Centre.	2010 / 11	\$150,000	The Youth Coalition supports the establishment of a bus station in Erindale.
		2011 / 12	\$3,000,000	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – Barton Major Bus Station (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
145	This feasibility study will identify options for a major bus station in Barton to improve public transport access and services. The study will identify suitable sites for a new bus station in the Parliamentary Triangle.	2010 / 11	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition supports the feasibility study of a bus station in Barton.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Gungahlin Canberra Connect Shopfront (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
146	This feasibility study will examine options for the delivery of shopfront services to the growing Gungahlin population. Factors to be considered include location and alignment with other services such as public transport, the library, shops and other facilities. The study will incorporate the views of the Gungahlin community.	2010 / 11	\$100,000	The Youth Coalition strongly supports the establishment of a Community Connect Shopfront in Gungahlin, to increase accessibility of essential services to young people in that region.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Belconnen Skate Park (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
147	This initiative provides design work for the potential future expansion of the existing Eastern Valley Way skate park to national competition level, including new elements such as street skating.	2010 / 11	\$200,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of community facilities that provide sporting and recreational activities for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Lake Ginninderra District Parks Playground and Picnic Facilities

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
147	This initiative will upgrade facilities for users of the Lake Ginninderra District Parks. Works will include improvements to the barbeque and picnic area at John Knight Park, and a playground at the Western Foreshores District Park.	2010 / 11	\$300,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of community facilities that provide sporting and recreational activities for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Lyneham Precinct Redevelopment – Stage 3

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
151	This funding provides for the continuation of the significant redevelopment of the Lyneham Precinct (Southwell Park) in accordance with the revised Master Plan, creating a central sporting hub for the ACT community that is better able to service community needs and improve the Precinct's capacity to host major sporting events.	2010 / 11	\$2,100,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of community facilities that provide sporting and recreational activities for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$2,100,000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Throsby Multisport Complex (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
151	This initiative will design an innovative multisport complex to be located in the suburb of Throsby. The complex will become a significant addition to the facilities which contribute to sport and recreation participation in Gungahlin. The design will include outdoor playing surfaces for summer and winter sports, indoor sport and recreation spaces, and associated amenities such as lighting and change rooms.	2010 / 11	\$500,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of community facilities that provide sporting and recreational activities for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Gungahlin Leisure Centre (Design)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
152	This initiative provides for the design of a major recreational resource for the Gungahlin community to increase sporting and recreational opportunities. The design will include swimming and aquatic facilities as well as indoor health and fitness spaces and associated amenities such as changing facilities, refreshment area, and community spaces.	2010 / 11	\$1,460,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of community facilities that provide sporting and recreational activities for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Transport for Canberra – Real Time Passenger Information System

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
153	This project will deliver a Real Time Passenger Information System. The System will provide accurate information about ACTION bus arrivals and departures to passengers through displays at interchanges, major stations and other selected stop locations as well as through the ACTION website and SMS messaging.	2010 / 11	\$500,000	The Youth Coalition supports the funding of initiatives that will ensure easier access to public transport for young people.
		2011 / 12	\$6,000,000	
		2012 / 13	\$6,000,000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

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

Replacement of Centre-Based Respite Houses (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
167	This initiative will study the feasibility of options for the replacement of four centre-based respite houses for people with a disability. The study will incorporate best practice approaches for the provision of respite services for children, young people and adults.	2010 / 11	\$250,000	The Youth Coalition commends the ACT Government on providing funding to assess the feasibility of replacing four centre-based respite houses for people with a disability, and for its commitment to using a best practice approach. It is important that the ACT Government further develop this initiative in collaboration with key stakeholders, including young people with a disability, and youth and disability services.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Client Information Management System

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
168	This project establishes a client information system for disability services that will provide a central source of client data. The new Client Information Management System will enhance the quality, confidentiality and legislative compliance associated with client records.	2010 / 11	\$304,000	The Youth Coalition supports initiatives that enhance the quality, confidentiality and legislative compliance associated with client records.

Housing ACT

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

Refurbish Early Morning Drop-in Centre in the City (Grant)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
169	This initiative provides for the refurbishment of the Early Morning Drop-in Centre at Pilgrim House on Northbourne Avenue to support expanded operations. The refurbishment will double the existing seating capacity for meals, provides for full commercial kitchen facilities, administration and interview rooms, showers, toilets and laundry facilities.	2010 / 11	\$750,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased with the proposed refurbishment of the Early Morning Drop-in Centre at Pilgrim House. We call on Housing ACT to engage in consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, to ensure this space is accessible to those who need it.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Homelessness Initiative – A Place to Call Home (ACT Contribution)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
169	A Place to Call Home is a jointly funded ACT Government and Commonwealth initiative to reduce homelessness under the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement. The ACT Government provided \$2.5 million in 2008-09 to accelerate the program and deliver the first ten dwellings in 2009-10. This funding, together with the balance of the Commonwealth Government funding of \$3 million, provides for the construction of the remaining ten dwellings for housing homeless families over the next three years.	2010 / 11	\$1,000,000	The Youth Coalition is pleased that the ACT Government is on track with the construction of dwellings for housing families experiencing homelessness.
		2011 / 12	\$1,000,000	
		2012 / 13	\$500,000	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

Department of Justice and Community Safety

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

Additional Jury Courtroom

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
96	This initiative provides for the creation of jury court facilities in the Magistrates Court building that will provide supplementary capacity to run jury trials in addition to the two jury courtrooms located in the Supreme Court building.	2010 / 11	\$ 450, 000	The Youth Coalition supports any investment to provide supplementary capacity to the Courts.

Department of Education and Training

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

Harrison High School – Second Gymnasium Court

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
161	This project enables a second gymnasium court and associated facilities to be added to the existing single court facility to be built at the Harrison High School site. The facility will be used by students from the secondary school and the surrounding community.	2010 / 11	\$2,000, 000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT supports the investment in new facilities in ACT schools.
		2011 / 12	\$0	
		2012 / 13	\$0	
		2013 / 14	\$0	

New Online Enrolment System

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
161	This project provides a new streamlined online enrolment process for ACT public school students. This project will provide automatic enrolment, placement and data entry over the whole of a student's school life.	2010 / 11	\$60, 000	The Youth Coalition of the ACT seeks clarification regarding the link between this initiative and the current similar Australian Government proposal, the Unique Student Identifier.

Canberra Institute of Technology

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

New CIT Learning Centre Tuggeranong (Feasibility)

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
170	This initiative provides for a feasibility study into the possibility of expanding the range of learning services and options that CIT provides to the Tuggeranong community. The study will consider the additional learning and support services to be provided, the functional and location requirements, and emerging space planning concepts for flexible education delivery.	2010 / 11	\$ 250, 000	The Youth Coalition supports the investment in the Tuggeranong Region. We commend the Department on endeavouring to provide flexible education options to young people in many locations, particularly in light of the recent changes relating to educational attainment legislation.

Legal Aid Commission (ACT)

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

New Directions Program – Phase 2

Page	Description in Budget	Funding Allocation		Comments, concerns, questions and calls for clarification
173	The completion of the New Directions Program aims to achieve a reduction in administrative operating costs, provision of an improved framework for facilitating analysis of the Commission's business and an improved ability to provide legal assistance to disadvantaged people, through the redeployment of administrative resources. This will be achieved through the implementation of enhanced case management, grants management and associated ecommerce systems provided by this initiative.	2010 / 11	\$268,000	<p>The Youth Coalition supports the redevelopment of infrastructure within the Legal Aid Commission, particularly if it leads to enhanced access to legal assistance for disadvantaged people, including young people.</p> <p>The Youth Coalition looks forward to the results of the completion of the New Directions Program and the makeup of the framework.</p>