



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2017-18

MR WALL MLA (CHAIR), MS CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR COE MLA, MS LE COUTEUR MLA, MR PETERSSON MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2017-18 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 6 JUNE 2017

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 9 June 2017**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

Youth Coalition of the ACT

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Rebecca Cuzzillo

Phone: 02 6247 3540

Email: [REDACTED]

3. Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

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.

4. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes* (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey.)

No

5. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2017-2018 (you can expand on these in Question 6):

a. Education Equity

b. Employment

c. Housing & Homelessness

**If completing this form electronically, simply double click the Yes/No field and choose "checked" to insert a cross.*

6. Please provide details of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

a. Education Equity: We welcome the new focus on education equity through the Future of Education program, but do not believe the education initiatives in this Budget will deliver improved outcomes for students experiencing educational disadvantage. We look forward to working with the ACT Government to ensure the Future of Education program prioritises a student-centred approach that looks beyond the school gate.

b. Employment: We are disappointed with the lack of investment in specific initiatives to address youth unemployment and underemployment. We believe there is little in the 2017-18 ACT Budget that will ensure younger members of our community can share in the opportunities of a growing local economy.

We will continue to encourage the ACT Government to maximise the value of their business development strategy and increased infrastructure spending by implementing and reporting on targets and strategies to ensure that these projects employ people in the community most vulnerable to unemployment and underemployment, particularly young people.

c. Housing & Homelessness: We welcome the modest funding increases in homelessness, but are disappointed in the lack of affordable housing measures in the 2017-18 ACT Budget. Improving the supply of affordable housing has been a key policy focus area for the Youth Coalition for a number of years. We remain concerned about the gap in Canberra's rental market for people not eligible for social housing but who cannot afford private rental prices. We will continue to advocate for budgetary measures that addresses the lack of affordable housing for young Canberrans.

7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

Youth Mental Health: We are pleased to see a number of positive initiatives focused on youth mental health. With 25% of young people experiencing a mental health issue in any given year, long wait times have become the norm for many of our youth mental health services in the ACT. We believe some of the budget measures focused on youth mental health have the potential to alleviate some of the pressure on services and increase their capacity to support the mental health and wellbeing of young Canberrans.

8. Did you provide a pre-budget submission to the ACT Government for 2017-18?

Yes (go to question 9) No (go to question 10)

9. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No Partially

a. If no/partially, please comment

The 2017-18 ACT Budget delivered a number of positive initiatives for young Canberrans that the Youth Coalition has been calling for over the last few years. In particular, we commend the ACT Government for investing in youth mental health services and increasing investment in child protection and out of home care services.

However, we believe more needs to be done to ensure that younger members of our community can share in the opportunities of a strengthening economy. We are particularly disappointed that there is little in the 2017-18 ACT Budget that will address housing affordability and youth unemployment and underemployment.

10. Does your organisation/group wish to be considered to provide its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 16 June 2017, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 14 June 2017 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all interested groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
