



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2016-17

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MR JAYSON HINDER MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS JOY BURCH MLA, MR STEVE DOSZPOT MLA

**COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY**

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE  
ACT BUDGET 2016-17 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 7 JUNE 2016

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to [committees@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:committees@parliament.act.gov.au) by **3.00pm Friday 10 June 2016**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

**1. Full name of group/organisation:** YWCA Canberra

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

Frances Crimmins  
Executive Director



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

YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit organisation that has served the Canberra community since 1929. Today, we provide quality, innovative services across the ACT in areas including children's services, housing support, education and training, youth engagement, therapeutic counselling and women's leadership.

In addition, a core part of our work is advocacy. We advocate strongly on a number of topics, including gender equality, reducing violence against women through primary prevention and promoting social inclusion and equality for everyone in our community.

**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 2016-2017 (you can expand on these in Question 6):**

**1. That the ACT Government supports women fleeing domestic violence by:**

- a) Reinstating to prior levels funding for gendered services to provide transitional housing support for families escaping domestic violence, acknowledging that gender-aware services are necessary to provide meaningful support to help break the cycle of violence; and
- b) Increase provision of safe, affordable, single unit housing for single women in Canberra, of all ages, recognising that not all women are in a position to share housing.

**2. That children and young people are educated on respectful relationships, through best-practice primary prevention programs.**

**3. Provide support for at-risk young people through:**

- a) Extending current youth engagement activities in the ACT to support programs that re-engage young people in education or employment pathways; and
- b) Provide funding for secondary intervention counselling services both inside and outside of the care and protection system, and school environments, for young people and their families, to prevent youth homelessness and disengagement from school in the middle-years.

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

**Priority area 1**

YWCA Canberra would like to congratulate the Government on the announcement of the Safer Families package, which sees a significant provision of funding for frontline services supporting survivors of domestic violence. We are also pleased to see the commitment to funding translating and interpreting services, which will be a significant tool to support the social inclusion and wellbeing of women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in our community.

Whilst the package is overall a very positive step, without an increase in affordable housing options for women experiencing homelessness more broadly, we risk being unable to support survivors of domestic violence beyond crisis periods.

We also note that while funding provided to Legal Aid for improvement of services to families experiencing domestic violence is positive, the lack of recognition of the important role that women's legal centres play in providing targeted, gender-responsive legal services to women who have experienced violence is disappointing.

**Priority area 2**

We are disappointed to note the lack of additional funding for primary prevention programs for children and young people. The funding allocated in the previous Budget is a stop-gap measure at best, and to see a sustainable change, we need a consistent, long-term commitment to funding for primary prevention.

**Priority area 3**

We are pleased to note the Budget commitment to extending therapeutic support for young people through the Mental Health Follow-up program, and look forward to seeing more detail about this policy emerge.

However, we are disappointed at the lack of investment into youth engagement activities, specifically to support at-risk young people and engage them into employment or education pathways. Given that youth unemployment is currently at 11.6%, significantly higher than the general unemployment rate, this is an area

that requires immediate attention.

**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:**

**7. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?**

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

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

Yes  No

**a. If yes, please comment**

As above, we are pleased to see the acknowledgement by the ACT Budget of the need for action on domestic violence – however, funding for primary prevention and a broader addressing of affordable housing is required.

**9. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 17 June 2016, 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 15 June 2016 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.

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