



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 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: headspace Canberra

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

Nic Hubbard phone [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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

headspace Canberra is a part of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. **headspace** Canberra supports young people aged 12 - 25 who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health concerns and/or substance use issues, and their family and friends. **headspace** seeks to enhance young people's ability to seek help, and offer youth-centred support and services. At **headspace** Canberra support is provided from a range of professionals including youth workers, psychologists, social workers, alcohol and other drug workers who undertake assessments and the provision of counselling.

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.)

X 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):

- a. Mental Health
- b. Young People
- c. Support for young people disengaged from education

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

a. Increased resourcing for mental health services – headspace, CAMHS, and Adult Mental Health is a priority due to the prevalence of mental health issues (1 in 4 people), the unmet demands on these services (headspace expects to service approx 1900 young people this year with a growth of at least 10-15% each year since opening in 2008); and the gap that exists for eligibility between mild to moderate services i.e. headspace and mild to moderate services i.e. CAMHS and Adult Mental Health and many people not obtaining the therapeutic intervention they require for recovery, and to mitigate the burden of disease.

b. Young people require increased opportunity for employment to reduce the significant statistic on youth unemployment; resumption of case management services which were de-funded; and increased capacity for accommodation services, to prevent homelessness.

c. The de-funding of youth connection programs means that young people who are disengaged from education have very little capacity to be supported in meaningful ways to stay engaged with education, or to receive the assistance and support they require to mitigate the issues impacting on their ability to stay engaged in education. School disengagement is one of the most difficult issues to address at our service due to the limitations of resources available in this area.

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:

The Youth Coalition has raised in its budget submission the need to increase the resourcing of headspace. Increasing resourcing for headspace would have a direct impact on the referral demand on ACT Health mental health services.

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

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 Some

a. If yes, please comment

It is fantastic that there is an increase in nurses and doctors, a planned extension to the Emergency department, more beds for the Adult Mental Health Unit, support for people with mental health issues to recover and live in the community, and improved an expanded community mental health services. I reiterate the need for expanded community mental health services.

I also endorse the intentions to establish a Young People's Mental Health Treatment Team for people experiencing, or at risk of developing a serious mental illness. This is a current significant gap and applauded. I also applaud the intention to establish an Adult Step Up/Step Down mental health transitional service.

Whilst there is the positive plan to upgrade education facilities, and increase the numbers of teachers and students, having support services in place to ensure engagement in education is paramount.

I am not aware of any particular details regarding the intentions to address the needs of young people raised at point number 2.

10. 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.

x 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.
