

MEDIA RELEASE

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Good news for youth employment but federal budget still risks leaving young people behind

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) welcomes the announcement of the \$840 million for youth employment over the next four years.

It includes \$750 million to establish Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare, Trail, Hire) providing 30,000 young people work experience, an extra \$200 per fortnight to participants and \$11,000 wage incentives for employers. There is \$89 million to expand the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme to support self employment for young people over the four years.

However, YNOT is disappointed about the Commonwealth Government's lack of investment in other areas of youth support and engagement.

"Young people are a powerful demographic that have a significant influence on election outcomes who have been largely overlooked in these Budget measures"

"Tasmania continues to have some of the highest youth unemployment rates in the country so the new measures are a good start but there is much more that needs to be done," YNOT CEO, Joanna Siejka said.

We remain concerned the budget shows the Government will persist with plans to force people under 25 to wait four weeks for unemployment income support.

The Budget shows no new investment in youth consultation or engagement activities meaning Australia will continue to have no official mechanism for young people to connect with or be heard by Government," warned Ms Siejka.

YNOT is calling for youth issues to be firmly upon the 2016 Federal Election agenda. "Today's young Australians are likely to be the first generation with lower living standards than their parents," Ms Siejka said

"Young Australians are faced with less secure work and housing, which is a huge concern for all Australians, as that is the future taxpayer base. For a brighter future for us all, young people need a stake in our country."

The Federal Government has no Minister for Youth to lead government policy and has failed to fund a national voice for young people, a role traditionally filled by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.

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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth