

MEDIA RELEASE

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The devil is in the detail – Youth Engagement Budget slashed

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) joins with the broader Australian youth sector to tell the Federal Government reinstate funding to national youth engagement programs that have been slashed in the Federal Budget.

Whilst Tuesday's budget loudly announced a new Youth Employment Strategy, there were also less obvious changes to spending for youth programs. Upon investigation this revealed a significant reduction in youth engagement funding, which was slashed, leaving only minimal funding for National Youth Week.

Youth engagement programs defunded in the Federal Budget include the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS) and the National Youth Awards.

For over 30 years, ACYS has served young people and the youth sector by providing objective, evidence based analysis, and information and best practice on working with young people. Their work on creating youth employment has contributed to the development of the Federal Government's announcement of a Youth Employment Strategy.

Joanna Siejka, CEO of YNOT, said that, "Over the past year national youth programs have been wiped out. We have lost our national youth peak and our national youth participation program. ACYS is one of the last services left that can inform best practice to the sector and Government."

"This service is needed now more than ever, at a time when we are experiencing record high rates of youth employment, increasing youth homelessness and widespread changes to youth policy and programs."

"For very little costs the Federal Government can obtain expert advice and information, and we believe this funding must be reinstated," she said.

YNOT is the peak body for the youth sector and young people in Tasmania.

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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth