

MEDIA RELEASE

February 2018

### YNOT welcomes commitment to appoint a Minister for Youth in lead up to state election

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) welcomes the election commitment from the Tasmanian Labor party to appoint a Minister for Youth should they be elected in the upcoming state election on Saturday 3 March 2018.

YNOT believes that Labor's announcement shows a statewide commitment to elevating and prioritising the needs of young people in Tasmania. The appointment of a Minister for Youth will bring Tasmania into line nationally as currently Tasmania is the only State or Territory that does not have a Minister for Youth, an Office for Youth or a Strategy to coordinate, implement and evaluate youth programs and priorities.

YNOT has been a strong advocate for the establishment of an Office for Youth and Minister for Youth to ensure a more coordinated and consistent approach in responding to youth issues in Tasmania.

Miranda Ashby, YNOT Vice Chair, said, "youth issues currently sit across many portfolio areas such as education and training, justice, health and human services and state growth. This can often result in a fragmented approach to complex issues that need to be addressed holistically to best meet the needs of young people in Tasmania".

"The appointment of a Minister for Youth would provide an important platform for youth policy and would provide the much needed coordinated approach when responding to the issues that affect young people," continued Ms. Ashby.

YNOT urges all political parties to support a coordinated approach in responding to youth issues through investing in appropriate governance and leadership strategies in this space as well as utilizing the current leading youth consultation mechanism in Tasmania the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF).

YNOT is the peak body for the 78,000 young people in Tasmania and the wider youth sector, which includes over 70 members, and through its regional networks, over 300 sector workers working in all areas of youth welfare across Tasmania. YNOT is committed to working with all political parties to address the needs of young people and the Tasmanian youth sector and we look forward to working with the Tasmanian Government to inform the delivery of initiatives related to young people in Tasmania.

### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Southern Contact  
Miranda Ashby  
YNOT Vice Chair  
0408 427 899

Northern Contact  
Troy O'Konnah  
YNOT Board Member  
0409 169 953

North West Contact  
Damian Collins  
YNOT Board Member  
0407 528 354



Suite 4a, Mayfair Plaza, 236 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7005  
p 03 6223 5511 admin@ynot.org.au  
www.ynot.org.au abn 37 078 758 651

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth