

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Youth focus in State budget but youth voice needed to ensure success**

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) welcomes the focus on young people in the State Budget, with initiatives such as funding of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, a youth arts strategy and the expansion of the School Nurse Program.

YNOT has been a longtime advocate for many of the initiatives announced in this Budget, including the Youth Employment Strategy and additional support for students in need. YNOT has been able to bring strong ideas to the table as a result of its unique ability to connect with a large number of diverse Tasmanian young people.

YNOT is unique within Australia, and internationally, in that it enables young people with the mechanism to inform Government what they need to address the key issues affecting them, such as education and employment, mental health and housing.

Lisa Amerikanos, YNOT Chair, said, "What is needed to ensure the success of many of these initiatives is the continued input of Tasmanian young people. Young people are experts in their own lives, and they know best what it is they need to achieve in life."

We look forwards to working with the Tasmanian Government and informing the delivery of a these initiatives along with Tasmanian young people and the youth sector."

The majority of YNOT's key budget asks have been addressed, with the exception of the need for a youth voice represented within Government, through a Minister for Youth and Office for Youth; and the inclusion of indexation on YNOT's core deed funding. These have not been included in this State Budget.

"As the peak body representing young people we believe a strong youth voice is very important as there are limited opportunities for young people to have a say on issues important to them and we will continue to advocate for these things in the future," said Ms Amerikanos.

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.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Lisa Amerikanos  
Chair, Youth Network of Tasmania  
Ph 0419 511 335



Suite 4a, Mayfair Plaza, 236 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7005  
p 03 6223 5511 f 03 6223 2255 m 0458 235 511  
admin@ynot.org.au www.ynot.org.au abn 37 078 758 651

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth