

MEDIA RELEASE

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Young people unfairly targeted by Federal Budget

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) said that the youth sector had been dealt a substantial blow by the Federal Budget with widespread cuts to valuable services for young people.

YNOT is extremely concerned that the Federal Government will force young jobseekers to wait six months before they are eligible for welfare payments.

Under the 'earn or learn' plan, anyone under 30 and seeking work will have to wait six months, and others will be forced to stay on the lower rate of Youth Allowance for longer.

YNOT is also concerned about cuts to the proven Youth Connections program, which supports vulnerable young people to stay in employment.

YNOT CEO, Joanna Siejka, said that these plans would put many jobseekers and young people on a path to poverty and homelessness.

"Tasmania reports very high youth unemployment levels. Policies which fail to recognise that there aren't an adequate number of jobs available and that many people require support to find and stay in employment, simply will not work," she said.

Ms Siejka said that the youth sector and young people have taken further hits with the possible defunding of the national advocacy body, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, with no clear indication of the organisations future beyond July 30.

Other information:

Youth Connections costs \$4950 per annum per young person (a third of what welfare would cost), has a 93% success rate in placing disadvantaged young people in sustainable employment and/or education.

For more information:

Joanna Siejka,
Chief Executive Officer
Youth Network of Tasmania
Ph 0458 231 511



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