



National Youth Commission Australia

## Press Release: Coalition of Employers, Job Services and Youth Organisations call on government for an emergency deal for young people

An unlikely group of employers, job service providers, and youth organisations have come together to call on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to take immediate action to support young people, including establishing a wage subsidy scheme and increasing public sector traineeships.

The open letter to the Prime Minister highlights the opportunity the Federal Government has to include young people in the October budget as decisions are made over the next two weeks for what's in and what's out.

The urgent need for some kind of emergency response to support young people in this October budget has brought together a united group of job service providers, employers and youth organisations, which represent tens of thousands of young people, as well as small businesses and community sector workers.

The group is calling for 4 critical actions:

1. The establishment of a wage subsidy scheme to enable willing employers to provide employment to young people through new jobs, with appropriate training.
2. The dramatic expansion of Commonwealth public sector traineeships for both school leavers and graduates.
3. The use of government procurement to increase provision of entry level opportunities for young people, particularly those facing labour market disadvantage.
4. The re-establishment of an environmental jobs program to provide employment and learning opportunities for young people across urban, regional and remote areas.

The group, led by the National Youth Commission Australia, argues there is an urgent and immediate need to ensure that young people in the early stages of their transition to employment can access jobs that help them move forward. But the Government is yet to respond to their call for action.

Without such a commitment from the Federal Government, this will lead for bigger systemic problems for the country as a whole including reduced productivity, increased welfare costs and dampened economic growth.

Youth Commissioner Sophie Johnston says the Prime Minister has an opportunity to commit to young people's futures, and the future of this country,



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"This is about the whole community. If we invest in our young people now, we will see benefit that extends to all parts of society. We must create pathways into secure and meaningful work for young people to avoid longterm economic scarring and shrinking wages."

"These are not radical proposals. The four steps we have outlined here are measured in evidence, and the government has the capacity to adopt and implement them. The reward will be incredible, with young people not only in work but building meaningful careers and strong foundations for their futures so that they can have families, secure housing, support their parents as they grow old and contribute to our economic recovery."

A full copy of the letter is [available here](#).

The letter has been endorsed by the following groups:

- National Youth Commission Australia
- Social Ventures Australia
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Australia Together
- The Salvation Army
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- YMCA
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN)
- Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA)
- Campbell Page
- Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN) Australia

**Available for Interview:**

Sophie Johnston, NYCA Youth Commissioner

Lisa Fowkes, Director of Social Ventures Australia

Other endorsees of the Open Letter may be available for interview on request.

**Please contact Nina Roxburgh to schedule an interview.**

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