

Federal Budget and Young People



Employment and economic participation

With youth unemployment at 11.8%, the Y welcomes the Government's focus on jobs and building care industry roles in Australia. Young people can play an integral role in these 'pandemic resilient' and fulfilling roles if given the right support to do so. This includes young people being given the chance and tools to build their career across the important care industry roles (in disability care, child care, aged care and health and wellbeing) offering stable and fair paid jobs.

This is what the budget offered:

- Extending JobTrainer to provide 163,000 more low fee and free training places in areas of skills needs with \$500m over the next two years
- \$2.7 billion for new apprentice and trainee places
- Support for women starting training in non-traditional trades
- Extra wage subsidies for young people in Transition to Work programs (job seekers facing disadvantage) and nearly \$500m for four more years funding to provide TtW's specialist youth employment services
- \$6.2m for Jobs Fairs and \$7.6m to extend the 1800 CAREER Information Service to June 2023

One concern is savings of \$1.1bn over four years by moving people on JobActive into online employment support rather than face to face - meaning 'self-help' for many looking for work.

But good news - low income earners (<\$450/week) are now eligible for superannuation payments from employers and able to earn \$150/fortnight before losing Centrelink benefits.



Mental health support and services

Mental health was a winner for this year's federal budget with a total \$2b over four years committed. This will be broken down to include the following:

- \$278.6 million to expand and enhance headspace youth mental health services
- \$26.9 million over four years to provide additional support for people with eating disorders and their families, and to establish a National Eating Disorder Research Centre
- more digital mental health services to make it easier to find information and support online.



Youth Voices and Policies

Still no news about when the National Youth Policy framework will be released, but a modest \$1m (or 32 cents for every young person) for youth engagement activities, including improving Year 9 and Year 10 students' learning about civics and citizenship, activities for Ministerial engagement with youth, and providing greater information to young Australians on programs and services that support them.

Spending big to save Australia from the economic blackhole created by COVID-19 – **this is a 1 in 100-year budget.** It's unlikely we will see a cash splash like this again, but as the dollar signs fade from our eyes the questions remain the same - "who is going to pay back the debt generated by all this spending?" and "what will Australia look like in 10 years' time?".

At the Y we believe in the power of inspired young people and their voice informed us of the key issues needing to be addressed in this year's budget.





Safety - online and in-person

With the Y's very own "Stay Safe Online, Tell Someone" program launching in the last 12 months and our passion around keeping young people safe in general, we were keeping a close eye on this space.

The eSafety Commission will receive \$3m to identify intimate images shared without consent and develop new resources, training and technology-based tools for children, young people, frontline domestic violence workers and child welfare officers.



Environment/ climate change

Sadly very little to report - in fact one commentator said "everyone got something in the Budget except the environment".



Social security payments

Already announced earlier this year are additional \$50/fortnight for JobSeeker and Youth Allowance/ Austudy payments.



Arts sector

Nothing much new since the extra support for the arts sector affected by COVID-19 through \$222.9 million announced last year.



LGBTIQ+ issues

Nothing mentioned.



Gender equality and discrimination

We saw a Women's Budget Statement for the first time in 10 years which includes some items to address gender issues:

- \$20.5m to prevent and respond to workplace sexual harassment through implementing the 2020 Respect @ Work recommendations
- \$35.1m for prevention campaigns aimed at young people and continue the 'Stop it at the Start' campaign and new programs about consent and respectful relationships

Young people will be able to access a new national legal online chat service to help those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, harm and sexual abuse.



ATSI

\$63.5 million over four years to support another 2,700 places for young ATSI women to finish year 12 and move onto further study or employment.



Education

Some more funding for schools but little for Universities.