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Budget 2018 Blind spot: Young People

Australia's 4.3 million young people have been locked out of today's Federal Budget at a time when the overall budget position is improving and conditions for young people are deteriorating.

"Right now, young people are facing sustained high youth unemployment rates, worrying spikes in youth homelessness, record low housing affordability and difficulties transitioning from education to work. The longer these issues are ignored, the worse they will become. They've already been ignored for too long" said Katie Acheson, Chairperson of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.

"With an increase in revenue the government had the opportunity to invest in young Australians and instead they have further mortgaged their future. The fact there is nothing significant in the budget about young people is a direct result of the fact young people have been locked out of parliament".

"Pursuing tax cuts when there is severely unaffordable housing, the lowest income support payments in the OECD and underinvestment in mental health is baffling".

"We know what businesses do with tax cuts – they pocket them. Analysis of the recent small business tax cuts shows businesses pocketed half the money, invested one-quarter and created jobs with the crumbs left over. Wages for workers did not increase at all".

Australia has created nearly 1 million jobs in the last five years but very few were filled by young people. The youth unemployment rate has risen from 12% to 12.5% during that time.

"Investing in jobs for young people today will ensure we can continue to pay for our aging population. Instead the government is trying to buy off the middle class with an extra \$10 a week. It's like kids giving their parents pocket money. But Australians don't want extra pocket money, they want good government of a thriving country" said Ms Acheson.

"The government has promised long term measures with a short term revenue source. If you want to ensure funding you have to invest in better outcomes for young people".

"This budget has shown again that this government has no intention of engaging with the young people they represent".

"Young people aren't in the room and they're not at the table. If we're being honest, this Government has made sure they're not even in the same postcode".

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