



NSW State Budget: Budget in Surplus Fails to Deliver for Young People In NSW

Tuesday 19 June 2018

Many of the serious issues that have the most impact on young people's lives have failed to be addressed by the NSW Government's 2018/19 Budget, but it does include some encouraging new measures.

Youth Action Policy and Advocacy Manager Shaun Brockman said that the \$3.9 billion surplus Budget misses an opportunity to invest in young people. He commented that there is an over-commitment to spending on infrastructure and under-commitment to programs and supports that can improve young people's health, wellbeing and education outcomes.

'The young people of NSW need a Government that invests in their futures as well as the infrastructure of the State. It is great to see investment to install air-conditioning in schools and build additional mental health units. At the same time the Government must provide adequate funding for staff, training, programs and services to improve outcomes around the health and wellbeing of young people,' said Mr. Brockman.

'What's missing from this Budget are measures that connect young people to existing supports and services. Programs such as mental health first aid and cultural awareness training for frontline workers, funding staff within schools and tertiary institutions to identify at-risk students and employment and training programs tailored to individual needs are vital to fill this gap.

'We welcome the government's commitment of \$59 million for 100 new case workers to work with vulnerable young people. However, these measures do not go far enough to address the deep and systemic issues within the child protection and Out-Of-Home-Care system revealed by the Tune Review.

'We have a budget surplus and a youth homelessness crisis. With a 92% increase in the number of young people experiencing homelessness in the last ten years in NSW, there needs to be significantly more investment than was delivered today.

'We have strongly advocated for investment in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and the investments in Mobile Training Units, fee-free apprenticeship places, and partnerships that can make school-to-work transitions easier are a good start. We encourage the Government to implement additional measures to improve access and affordability for young people,' said Mr. Brockman.

Youth Action & Policy Association (NSW)

Suite 401, 52-58 William Street, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

ABN: 17 209 492 539 | youthaction.org.au



What the NSW 2018/19 Budget includes for young people.

Vocation Education and Training

- \$285.2 million over six years to fund 100,000 fee-free apprenticeships to address skills shortages in areas of significant demand in NSW.
- \$13.9 million over four years, including \$4.7 million in 2018-19, for Regional Industry Education Partnerships to support stronger connections between schools and industry to meet skills shortages and better facilitate school-to-work transition.
- Addition of a fleet of Mobile Training Units, and the continuing development of 10 TAFE NSW Connected Learning Centres, to enable greater reach across regional and rural communities and provide students with access to a wider range of courses.
- \$66.8 million over three years for Smart, Skilled and Hired.

Youth Participation

- \$5.2 million for implementing programs that encourage youth participation, including \$1.5 million for Youth Opportunities and \$2.2 million for Youth Frontiers.

Regional NSW

- \$6.0 million over four years, including \$2.5 million in 2018-19, for the Young Farmer Business Program, to help young farmers improve long-term financial resilience and build a skilled sector workforce.

Youth Services

- \$10.2 million (\$59.1 million over four years) to support better safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and their families, funding 100 additional workers, for the child protection system and investment in the open adoption program.
- \$5.1 million for new street therapeutic services for children and young people aged 10 - 17 years.
- In 2018-19, the Government will spend \$339.7 million in prevention and early intervention for individuals, children and families to reach their potential including:
 - \$149.5 million for early intervention services including \$95 million to provide parenting, youth and family support programs, and
 - \$54.5 million for community development and strengthening programs, and \$1.0 million for the NSW Volunteering Strategy, to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers in the community.

Youth Action & Policy Association (NSW)

Suite 401, 52-58 William Street, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

ABN: 17 209 492 539 | youthaction.org.au



Health

- \$12 million in drug and alcohol services, some earmarked for the expansion of youth specific services.
- investing in the \$700 million State-wide Mental Health Infrastructure Program. This record investment will transform existing infrastructure to support new contemporary care models, provide new specialist mental health units for mothers and their babies, children and adolescents, and older people.
- \$100 million per annum for specialist community mental health supports to continue the Government's 10-year reform of mental health services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Young People

- \$3.75 million in 2018-19 to support an additional 1,000 student placements in the Clontarf Foundation program, which encourages Aboriginal boys and young men to stay at school by harnessing their passion for sport.

Youth Justice

- \$39.2 million over four years to replace and refurbish Police Citizens Youth Clubs focused on the reduction of crime by and against young people and the promotion of citizenship in communities across the State.
- \$2.7 million over three years for the expansion of the Youth Koori Court to the new Surry Hills Children's Court, providing at risk young people with links to relevant support agencies.
- \$4.8 million to continue Youth on Track, an early intervention scheme designed to coordinate targeted services for young people at risk of long-term contact with the criminal justice system.
- \$5.2 million (\$15.6 million over three years) for Community Legal Centres to support the delivery of targeted assistance to those most in need.

Media contact:

Shaun Brockman
Policy and Advocacy Manager
0411 039 429