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# MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ATT: NEWS EDITOR/COS**

### **FEDERAL BUDGET A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR YOUNG JOB SEEKERS**

The Youth Affairs Council of WA has welcomed the Federal Budget measures on youth employment as a step in the right direction, and believes it represents a fundamental shift in policy by the government.

The budget has committed \$840 million over four years to a youth employment package, which includes access to intensive pre-employment skills training and subsidies for four to 12 week internships.

“Instead of treating young people with contempt, this budget focuses on positive incentives for young people seeking work,” YACWA Acting CEO John Thomson said.

“However, we will need to keep a close eye on the rollout of this program to ensure that young people aren’t exploited through the internship scheme.”

Mr Thomson also welcomed the new PaTH program, which will allow the most work ready young people to defer entering the work for the dole program for 12 months instead of six.

“While this is an improvement on the current situation, we would like to see the work for the dole program cut altogether, and further money invested into programs with demonstrated outcomes in securing employment for young people instead,” he said.

YACWA has highlighted concerns that some other barriers to employment for young people have not been addressed.

“The budget has not addressed issues affecting vulnerable young people in regards to housing affordability,” he said.

“It is also extremely disappointing that the government has maintained its policy of forcing young people to wait four weeks for income support after they’ve finished studying or working.”

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