

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ATT: NEWS EDITOR/COS**

**FEDERAL BUDGET UNFAIRLY TARGETS YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Youth Affairs Council of WA is very concerned by budget measures to be introduced by the Federal Government that will force young people to stay on youth allowance until they are 25 a lower rate than Newstart.

Budget measures include a focus on reduction of welfare payments, with jobseekers under 30 facing an immediate six-month waiting period before they can apply for the dole under an "earn or learn" welfare crackdown.

YACWA CEO Craig Comrie said the plan was callous and would put many jobseekers and young people at risk of poverty and homelessness.

"Recent statistics show that youth unemployment is rising at a rapid rate," he said.

"Policies like this fail to recognise that there aren't an adequate number of jobs available for young people seeking employment."

Mr Comrie said young people were continuously targeted in measures relating to welfare.

"It is an easy political stunt that seeks to use young people as a punching bag of the budget and label them as dole bludgers," he said.

"But the majority of young people who are unemployed are actively looking for work and do not fit the "dole bludger" stereotype often perpetuated by governments."

YACWA is also concerned the highly effective Youth Connections program and its future does not seem to be addressed in the Budget Papers despite assurances that its future would be clear after tonight.

**Media Contact: Rebecca Boteler**

Mob: 0424 569 179

Ph: 08 6143 5480

[rebecca@campaigncapital.com.au](mailto:rebecca@campaigncapital.com.au)