



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

FIVER4FOOD CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF

9 June 2015: Today, YWCA Canberra launched its annual [Fiver4Food](#) appeal, with a goal to raise \$10,000 to sustain its emergency food relief service.

YWCA Canberra's Lanyon Food Hub in south Tuggeranong has been providing free, nutritious food to clients since opening its doors during Anti-Poverty Week in 2012.

Year on year, the number of people accessing the Food Hub has increased, but in the last 12 months Federal Government funding has fallen by 17 per cent.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins said the organisation was depending on the generosity of Canberrans to keep the Food Hub shelves stocked throughout winter.

"We know our Food Hub is meeting a genuine need in the community, but with funding cuts we simply can't keep it going without additional community support.

"Our Food Hub is a pantry-like system where vulnerable young people and their families can access free, healthy and nutritious food in times of need.

"We know from experience that during winter and the Christmas period, the level of demand spikes," Ms Crimmins said.

YWCA Canberra's Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre also provides community members with a free hot soup each Thursday, and a safe space to sit and enjoy a meal.

"The Food Hub and Lanyon Ladle are entry points for families who are genuinely struggling," Ms Crimmins added.

"Often when people visit they find that they are eligible for other services or support such as discounts on energy bills and employment programs, and this really helps them get their lives back on track.

"Without our Food Hub, it would be much less likely those connections would be made," Ms Crimmins said.

YWCA Canberra hopes to raise \$10,000 to keep the Food Hub shelves stocked from June-August.

Canberrans are encouraged to purchase a '[Shop & Share](#)' grocery basket on YWCA Canberra's website, or host a [Winter Warmer](#) pot-luck event and donate the proceeds.

- ENDS -

Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

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About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children's services, community development, housing, youth services, women's leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership. For more information visit:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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