



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

YWCA CANBERRA WELCOMES ACT GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

02 June 2015: YWCA Canberra has today congratulated the ACT Government on its commitment outlined in the 2015-16 Budget to fund primary violence prevention initiatives in Canberra schools.

Frances Crimmins, Executive Director of YWCA Canberra said, "After months of advocacy and community action, it's fantastic to see this far-reaching issue receive a financial commitment.

"We commend the ACT Government for acknowledging the critical role of primary prevention initiatives to end all forms of violence against women in the long term.

"The allocation of \$615,000 will make a significant impact in ensuring that school children have access to the skills and resources they need to understand and engage in respectful relationships.

"We've been working with the ACT Government Education and Training Directorate and others to explore various models for respectful relationships programming, and look forward to continuing this work with the Government.

After launching the [Respect NOW](#) campaign on International Women's Day in March this year, YWCA Canberra publicly called for primary prevention to be a priority in the upcoming ACT Budget.

Ms Crimmins said, "The campaign has seen a groundswell of community support, resulting in almost 1,000 signatures on [our petition](#), bolstered by numerous emails and letters to Ministers from individuals and organisations across the Territory.

"Our award-winning, evidence-based program, *Respect, Communicate, Choose* (RCC) has been delivered to over 900 students in Canberra and Adelaide.

"All of our resources are aligned with best-practice for primary prevention, reflect the current literature, and are designed to align with the standards of the National Curriculum.

YWCA Canberra also welcomed the allocation of \$250,000 in funding to tertiary service providers.

"Frontline services are already stretched beyond their capacity, and this additional funding will ensure less women in need will be turned away," Ms Crimmins said.

- 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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