



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

YWCA CANBERRA LAUNCHES ITS BIGGEST APPEAL AS ACT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING DROPS

12 November 2015: YWCA Canberra has launched its annual Frugal Feast appeal, with a goal to raise \$15,000 to help feed vulnerable Canberrans this Christmas.

YWCA Canberra's Lanyon Food Hub provides free, nutritious food to young people and their families in need in Tuggeranong, one of Canberra's most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.

Since opening its doors during Anti-Poverty Week in 2012, the Food Hub has supported more than 1200 families and individuals.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins said that despite the obvious need, federal funding for emergency relief services in the ACT had fallen.

"Year on year, the number of people accessing the Food Hub has increased, but Federal Government funding has dropped the last two years, and future funding is uncertain," Ms Crimmins said.

"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.

"The Christmas period puts extra demands and stress on families, which is why we've come up with the concept of the 'Frugal Feast'," Ms Crimmins said.

The Frugal Feast encapsulates the philosophy of feasting this festive season without blowing the bank.

"It's about 'feasting' on family gatherings, friendships and fun, and supporting vulnerable members of our community," Ms Crimmins added.

YWCA Canberra has set the ambitious target to raise \$15,000 to keep the Food Hub shelves stocked for Christmas and the holiday period.

Some of the appeal funds will also go towards providing food and gifts for tenants and clients of YWCA Canberra's Housing Support Unit.

Canberrans are encouraged to purchase a '[Shop & Share](#)' grocery basket on YWCA Canberra's website, host a [Frugal Feast event](#), or enter the [Frugal Feast writing competition](#).

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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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