



YWCA  
CANBERRA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **YWCA CLUBHOUSE'S FIRST YEAR A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, ACCORDING TO NEW REPORT**

**24 February 2016:** A new report released this week demonstrates significant positive outcomes from the first year of operation for the YWCA Clubhouse, including the launch of innovative start-ups and access to industry pathways for young people into science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

With the support of numerous industry partners and key stakeholders, including Microsoft, Dimension Data and Richardson Primary School, YWCA Canberra launched Canberra's first Clubhouse in October 2014. The Clubhouse is an innovative out of school learning space that provides young people in Tuggeranong with access to high tech digital tools, industry mentors and pathways into careers in STEAM.

The *YWCA Clubhouse – One-Year Impact Report* released this week details the key achievements of the program over 2014-15.

'Just over 12 months since its launch, our Clubhouse has grown to a membership of almost 150 young people from across Tuggeranong, and is continuing to evolve and see strong outcomes,' YWCA Canberra Executive Director, Frances Crimmins, said.

'Specifically, we have seen several young people launch their own small enterprises through the Clubhouse, including a web design business and a small gardening and seed selling business, and our members have had the chance to participate in community events and work experience with our industry partners.

'We are incredibly proud of the impact of the Clubhouse to date, and are now working to upscale this program to open another Clubhouse in Belconnen in 2017.'

The *YWCA Clubhouse – One-Year Impact Report* demonstrates the power of the Clubhouse model, and the impact that can be achieved through passion-learning environments to increase young people's capacities in STEAM related subjects.

For more information, please see the attached report or visit [www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au](http://www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au).

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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](http://www.ywca-canberra.org.au)

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