



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

CANBERRA'S 2016 TECH FREEZE: DOWNING DEVICES TO POWER PROGRESS

Date: 23 May 2016

This winter Canberrans are invited to give up their devices as part of the first ever [YWCA Canberra Tech Freeze Appeal](#).

The inaugural Tech Freeze is aiming to raise \$10,000 for [The YWCA Clubhouse](#), a free learning space in Richardson that enables young people from Tuggeranong to learn, create and explore through science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins said that the Clubhouse is only made possible through the support of community donations and corporate and philanthropic partnerships.

“By providing access to high-tech digital tools and mentors, young people are free to explore their interests and drive individual projects, encouraging a passion for STEAM which can ultimately lead to future education pathways,”

“Importantly, the Clubhouse connects young people to internship and vocational opportunities through volunteer mentors and industry partners”.

As technologies continue to transform workplaces and demand for specific digital and STEAM skills increases, the digital economy will provide unbridled opportunities. However, while many take access to technology for granted, the digital divide means that those already experiencing inequality will be further excluded.

“We need to ensure that no one is left behind, and that all young people are properly equipped to take on the jobs of the future” said Ms Crimmins.

Through the Tech Freeze Challenge, members of the community can raise awareness of the digital divide and raise funds to support the Clubhouse, seeking sponsorship to swear off their devices for a Tech Challenge on the weekend of 18 - 19 June.

“Reaching our target of \$10,000 will give us greater certainty and allow us to keep the Clubhouse open”.

- ENDS -

Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

Media contact: Jordan Lim, 0429 210 881, jordan.lim@ywca-canberra.org.au

Twitter: [@YWCACanberra](https://twitter.com/YWCACanberra)

Facebook: facebook.com/YWCACanberra

YouTube: youtube.com/YWCACanberra

Instagram: [@YWCACanberra](https://instagram.com/YWCACanberra)

Flickr: [YWCA Canberra](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ywca-canberra/)