



YWCA  
CANBERRA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ACT BUDGET AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

**8 June 2016:** YWCA Canberra has today welcomed the ACT Government's announcement of \$21.42 million in funding for domestic violence services and prevention in the 2016-17 ACT Budget, under the 'Safer Families' package.

The funding announcement, including significant resourcing for front-line services and \$1.2 million to secure translating and interpreting services for frontline services complements YWCA Canberra's calls to action in their 2016 election platform, [Every woman, every child, every day.](#)

However, the Budget's lack of increased funding for primary violence prevention initiatives and the overlooking of women's specialist legal services demonstrates that there is still work to be done in ensuring a whole-of-community approach to ending domestic violence.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director, Frances Crimmins, says that the organisation is pleased to see the ACT demonstrating a strong commitment to ending violence against women through the Safer Families package, despite these oversights.

"We have been seeking a clear demonstration of support from our government to end violence against women through effective policy responses, including prevention, and crisis support.

"Today's budget announcement shows that they are listening. However, without new funding for primary prevention programs for our young people, we are unlikely to see a long term, sustained reduction in domestic violence.

“Additionally, whilst better resourcing for Legal Aid is a step in the right direction, we must acknowledge the important role of gender-responsive legal services that are targeted to women in supporting victims of domestic violence.

“We look forward to further detail on the implementation of these budget measures, and will be continuing to call for long term, sustainable action on violence against women going forward.”

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

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