



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

MAJOR PARTIES ASSESSED ON ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AHEAD OF ACT ELECTION

5 October 2016: YWCA Canberra has released an election scorecard today, ranking the three major parties on their commitment to address gender equality and social inclusion ahead of the ACT election.

ACT Labor, the Canberra Liberals and ACT Greens were asked to respond to five key areas of concern for Canberrans, as highlighted in YWCA Canberra's election platform, *Every woman, every child, every day*.

Their responses have been collated and published as a scorecard, to inform voters before they head to the polling booths on Saturday 15 October.

The scorecard questions focussed on primary prevention of violence against women; support for at-risk young people to engage in education or employment; the implementation of gender impact assessments of government policy; addressing the issue of homelessness of single, older women; and increasing community infrastructure in the Lanyon Valley.

The ACT Greens came out on top and received a score of seven out of ten or 70 per cent for their responses. ACT Labor ranked second with a passing score of five out of ten, or 50 per cent; followed by the Canberra Liberals with a score of four out of ten, or 40 per cent.

"The results of our assessment show that social inclusion and gender equality are not receiving adequate attention from our political leaders, with no major party achieving over 70 per cent," Executive Director of YWCA Canberra, Frances Crimmins said.

"The ACT Greens have demonstrated the strongest commitment to addressing these issues, and as we know, there is still time ahead of the election for parties to announce new policies.

"We met with all parties throughout the drafting process, and provided them with recommendations on how to improve their results.

"We were pleased to see all parties engage with this process, and to provide voters with a guide on how major parties are seeking to create a fair and equitable Canberra for all," Ms Crimmins said.

See the full scorecard and results on the YWCA Canberra website at www.ywca-canberra.org.au/advocacy/current-campaigns/election-scorecard

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Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

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About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, secular, 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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