



YWCA
CANBERRA



MEDIA RELEASE:

YWCA CANBERRA CLUBHOUSE IS BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEAM SUPERSTARS

DATE: Tuesday 21 November 2017

Today YWCA Canberra launched its 2017 Clubhouse Impact Report at an event in Richardson, a celebration with government, corporate and philanthropic partners.

The Report demonstrates the positive difference the Clubhouse has made to its members, with 45 per cent strongly agreeing that they care more about doing well in school because of their Clubhouse experience, and 65 per cent strongly agreeing that they will use skills learned at the Clubhouse in their future career, or jobs.

Launched in 2014, the Clubhouse provides more than 200 young people in Tuggeranong with access to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) resources, skills and experiences to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities, and lead outstanding lives.

Executive Director of YWCA Canberra, Frances Crimmins said, “At the Clubhouse, young people work alongside adult mentors who support them to create, invent, and explore their interests through industry standard technology.

“I’m proud of the impact we’ve made this year, which has seen girls learning about robotics and engineering through our Inaugural Tech Time workshops, and young people re-engaging in school by sparking their interest in design and engineering through our Upcycling Program.

“It’s difficult for vulnerable young people and their families to keep up with technological innovations and demands, so the Clubhouse is one way we support all young people to have access to the skills, support and networks to thrive.

“We are excited to see that the Clubhouse is making a real difference in so many young people’s lives in the short-term, as well as equipping them for the jobs of the future.”

14 year old Clubhouse member, Ella, said, “The Clubhouse has given me the freedom to explore, play and create in a supportive environment.

“Through using Scratch, which is a block based programming language, I have learned skills in coding, animation and game design – I’ve created a game on called ‘Unicorn Dodgeball’. It’s really interesting.”

The Clubhouse is only made possible with the support of corporate, government and philanthropic partners, including:

- The Snow Foundation

- Canberra Data Centres
- Inspiring Australia
- Australia's Academic Research Network (AARNet)
- Dimension Data
- Microsoft
- The ACT Education and Training Directorate
- Richardson Primary School

YWCA Canberra is calling for cross-sector partnerships and donations to secure the future of this unique program.

Community and Philanthropy Partnerships week is an initiative of the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and managed by Philanthropy Australia in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

- ENDS -

The launch event will take place during Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse, Richardson Primary School, May Gibbs Close, Richardson.

Media invited to attend, please contact kelli-anne.bertram@ywca-canberra.org.au for a media pass.

Frances Crimmins and Clubhouse member Ella are available for interview.

Media contact: Kelli-anne Bertram, 0429 210 881.

About the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse: [YWCA Canberra's Clubhouse](#) is an innovative, creative, out-of-school learning space where young people from underserved communities can work with adult mentors to develop new skills, explore their own ideas, and build confidence in themselves through the use of technology. Founded in Boston in 1993, the [Clubhouse Network](#) now extends across the world, providing 25,000 youth per year access to resources, skills and experience to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities and lead outstanding lives.

About Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week: Community and Philanthropy Partnerships week is an initiative of the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and managed by Philanthropy Australia in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

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

Follow YWCA Canberra on social media:

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/)