

Youth Budget Statement – Video Message Transcript

Hi, I'm Kate Ellis, the Federal Minister for Youth.

Since the Government was elected we've been getting on with the job of providing young Australians with the opportunity to contribute to the direction of our nation on a scale that we've never seen before.

We have unapologetically done things differently – actively seeking out the views of young Australians on the things that matter to you – as well as highlighting information about policies and services relevant to your lives.

Building on this new approach – we have decided to put together the first ever youth budget statement – What's in it for Youth – to highlight what the budget means for young Australians.

Even though times are tough – really tough – as a result of the global recession, supporting young people to reach their full potential remains a key priority for the Government.

In the current climate – it will be no surprise that the 2009 Budget is deliberately focussed on infrastructure and jobs.

The Government is in the business of creating and supporting jobs, apprenticeships and training – now and for the future.

We know that young people will not be immune to the impact of the global economic downturn.

That's why we've taken decisive action and are doing everything we can to give young Australians the support that they need to support their future, and that of our nation.

We have invested **\$3.8 billion** to support apprenticeships and traineeships. We've also developed a **\$5.7 billion** package that transforms higher education and innovation – and **includes long overdue reform of student income support and expanded eligibility for scholarships.**

But we also understand that for many young Australians it's just not as simple as just walking into a training course or a job.

To help young Australians who need it the most we will undertake much needed reform of the Government's \$618 million investment in youth transitions and career programs to create a stronger safety net for young people who are at risk.

This is a coordinated jobs and training plan that is the best way to ensure that all young Australians have the best opportunity to not only secure their own future, but to contribute to the economic future of the whole nation.

There are also other important budget initiatives that will benefit young Australians right across our diverse community. Some of these include:

\$28.4 million for a Youth in Communities initiative

\$9.3 million to create 250 out-of-school care places for teenagers with a disability.

\$10 million to engage young Indigenous Australians in education through the use of sport

\$50,000 grants for our next generation of farmers to support projects which are aimed at young people in primary industries.

and

\$3.5 million to develop a coordinated national approach to eating disorders

These and a range of other initiatives included in this year's budget are what are detailed in *What's in it for Youth – A quick guide to youth budget and other relevant measures 2009* which is available at www.youth.gov.au.

And I hope that you find the information useful and I look forward to continuing our conversation, particularly through new and innovative ways such as this – the first ever online youth budget kit.

Thank you.