

## AYAC Continues to Call for Substantial Increases to Youth Allowance and Job Seeker Payments in the 2024–25 Federal Budget

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) stands with more than 200 women and non-binary people from various sectors— including the community, union, business, and academic sectors, and civil society— to urge the Government to deliver a substantial increase to Youth Allowance and Job Seeker in this Federal Budget.

The eradication of poverty among young people needs to be a government priority. Young people on Youth Allowance experience the deepest poverty<sup>1</sup> and continue to live well below the poverty line, receiving just \$45 a day— half of the daily requirement as measured under the Henderson poverty line.<sup>2</sup> These inadequate payments mean many young people are unable to afford secure housing, food, energy, transport costs, internet access and a phone— conditions that are further exacerbated by the rising cost-of-living pressures and current housing crisis.

Together with state and territory youth affairs peaks, AYAC continues to call on the Government to raise the rate of Youth Allowance and Job Seeker payments in the 2024-25 Federal Budget as a matter of priority<sup>3</sup>. In order to afford basic necessities and rise above the poverty line, this must be to at least \$88 per day.

AYAC also urges the Government to provide specific financial security and support pathways for children and young people leaving violence. While National Cabinet’s announcement of the Leaving Violence payment program is a welcome one, these responses still don’t prioritise children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right. Efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and improve the economic security of women must recognise the experiences of children and young people too. A failure to prioritise children and young people in this response undermines the government’s stated goal of ending gender-based violence in one generation.

AYAC calls for the Government to deliver a substantial increase to Youth Allowance and Job Seeker payments in this Federal Budget, and provide specific financial investment and support pathways for children and young people in responses to end family violence.

This will support all young people across Australia to live with security, gain access to meaningful long-term employment, and support safety and recovery needs.

### Media Contact:

Katie Cameron

Communications and Media Coordinator

katie@ayac.org.au 0419 240 767

[1] Poverty in Australia 2023: Who is Affected? ([https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Poverty-in-Australia-2023\\_Who-is-affected.pdf](https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Poverty-in-Australia-2023_Who-is-affected.pdf))

[2] Melbourne Institute: Poverty Lines (<https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/publications/poverty-lines>)

[3] Joint Youth Affairs Peaks Pre-Budget Submission

(<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60948b9e3847ee0caf0e2dd4/t/65b84bdb7fe6502663cbffae/1706576862172/Raise+the+rate+letter+Federal+pre-budget+submission+Jan+25+2024.pdf>)