



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**2004-05 BUDGET DELIVERS EARLY INTERVENTION FOR YOUTH AT RISK**

The 2004-05 Budget will deliver \$2.7 million over four years in increased funding towards early intervention for youth at risk.

"The funding will be allocated to improve intervention services for at risk young people to decrease the number of young people who jeopardise their well-being and become alienated from 'mainstream settings' such as families and schools, and the community more generally," said Ms Katy Gallagher, Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services.

"Young people are valuable members of the community and this initiative will provide a continuum of support services ranging from prevention and early intervention services to intervention for young people with intensive support needs."

The initiatives will contribute to the ACT Government policy for young people and the Blueprint for Action for Young People at Risk, both currently subject to community consultation.

"Funds will be allocated to a number of youth centres and youth sector development activities to support improvements in case management practices and the coordination of multidisciplinary approaches. Individual support packages will also be made available through the Turnaround initiative, a new and innovative program for young people with intensive support needs."

"Increased funding for youth at risk will also target the individual young person by improving educational and employment opportunities, providing age appropriate ongoing support, and seeking to divert young people away from the justice system. We will also be working with family, schools and the community."

"The increased funds reflect the Government's commitments in the Social Plan, to ensure better care for our vulnerable young people and to reduce the incidence and impact of crime."

**Statement Ends.**