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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Youth advocates applaud Labor's commitment to young Australians**

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) welcomes the Labor Party's announcement to fund the national youth peak body, as part of a series of commitments to support young Australians shared by Labor's Ms Terri Butler MP in Brisbane today.

"Finally, young people have clear leadership from one of the major parties to bring their issues into focus. The future should be fair for young Australians. Political inaction on critical issues means that young people haven't had a fighting chance," said Ms Acheson, Chairperson of AYAC.

"Making sure young people have an independent voice like AYAC and putting a Minister for Young People into Cabinet is a great first step to solving the complex challenges facing young people here and now.

A combination of debt, joblessness, globalisation, demographics and rising house prices is depressing young people's incomes and life prospects. Despite saving more than previous generations, today's young Australians are likely to be the first generation to experience lower standards of living than their parents.

Research shows that trust between young Australians and political systems has decreased. 85% of young people aged 18-29 don't believe that politicians are acting in their best interests, an increase from 80% in 2016. And this is also true for younger cohorts, with 66% of young people aged 14 - 19 reporting low to extremely low trust in politicians.

"This announcement demonstrates a willingness to work with young people and will help repair their trust and confidence in government and political systems".

"They have stormed the electoral roll, and at the same time, they're getting out the placards to fight for the issues that affect all of us. Along with a Ministerial position and funding for the national voice, we need leadership on youth issues and a commitment for a national plan for young people," Ms Acheson said.

To date, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition has had no indication from the Morrison Government about a Minister for Young People, a funded national

peak or a plan for young people. The Greens gave early support for all three election asks from the youth peak.

### **Media contact**

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Ms Acheson will be available at the announcement at TAFE Southbank, Brisbane 9:00am AEST and available for comment afterwards.

### **Background**

- The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is the national peak body for the 4.3 million young Australians aged 12 to 25 and the hundreds of thousands of people and organisations who work to support them.
- AYAC was established in 2002 as Australia's national peak body for youth affairs representing the rights and interests of young people in national policy
- The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition has a proven track record in providing the most comprehensive avenue for young people to engage with national policy matters and to contribute to the improvement of national youth services
- Despite this fact, funding for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition ceased in the 2014 Budget under the Abbott Government
- There has been no Minister for Young People since 2013
- There has been no national plan for young people since 2010