



As generation Z head to the polls cost of living is top of mind

23 Feb 2023

Generation Z and Millennials (also known as Generation Y) now hold more influence, making up a total of 39% of NSW voters.

In a recent poll of 1,000 young people aged 16-24 they ranked cost-of-living as their top issue as they head to the polls. Rounding out their key issues for voting included employment, climate change, health/wellbeing, economy, housing, and education.

When asked what their major cost-of-living worries were, food and groceries came in at number one followed closely by rent and utilities.

This poll was released the same day that Youth Action, the state-wide peak organisation for young people and the services who support them, released their asks to all the parties for the March election. In preparing their asks for the incoming Government Youth Action heard from over 2,000 young people in 62 consultations and nearly 1,700 youth sector representatives over 40 occasions. The platform covers 7 key areas that are needed to ensure that young people thrive in the state of NSW.

“We have seen an increase in demand from the services that support young people. The past three years have been tough for young people in NSW, with the pandemic, fires and floods and the ongoing intergenerational inequity. The combination of these events has seen young people fall further behind”, said CEO of Youth Action, Kate Munro

“Our state will need targeted investment to increase engagement and participation of young people, through supports and services in areas such as mental health, education, employment, housing and homelessness, throughcare for those in conflict with the law, child protection systems, and the expansion of youth specific services.”

Key recommendations include:

- Investment in capacity of youth services through \$15 million funding increase to provide non-clinical prevention and early intervention mental health support programs
- Allocate an additional \$12 million to expand community-based learner driver programs in 40 additional sites to support young people in NSW to obtain their learner and provisional licences
- Allocate an addition \$52 million to expand youth service delivery in early intervention and youth development programs and services aimed at increasing engagement, confidence and participation of young people
- Increase investment in youth social housing to reduce the number of young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

[End of Media Release]

Youth Action together with Australian Theatre for Young People, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW, and YFoundations will be hosting an election forum where political parties, sector leaders, and young people will discuss what matters to young people in the upcoming NSW State election.

What: NSW Election Forum

When: 10am, Thursday 23 February 2023

Where: The Rebel Theatre, Australian Theatre for Young People (AYTP)

Eora Country, Pier 2/3, Hickson Rd, Dawes Point Sydney

For more information, please contact Tyrone on 0455 776 393 or tyrone@youthaction.org.au