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## **No simple solution for young people left behind**

Anglicare Australia has pointed to the experience of its member organisations around the country in support of the call from ACOSS and others today for positive action for young people who are out of work.

“Young people locked out of work in our society are usually facing a range of barriers” said Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers today.

“In its hardship survey this year **Anglicare Tasmania** asked people seeking assistance about issues in their households including domestic violence, eviction, drug or alcohol addiction, family breakdown and so on. Among people aged 24 years or younger, 50.5% said that they or someone in their household had been affected by three or more of these issues and 28.7% said that they had been affected by five or more. So clearly there is no simple answer to the question of youth unemployment.”

“**Anglicare Victoria** points to young people in state care as some of the most vulnerable and 'at risk' when it comes to education and employment.”

“Recent research shows a significant group of those in care are disengaged or disengaging from school and are at risk of losing touch with the labour market. Anglicare Australia supports the call for intensive case management for these young people, including help find suitable education or training options.”

“Anglicare Australia advocates for ongoing support of young people in care past the age of 18 until they have completed education or training qualification, and for that education to be specifically tailored to take account of past trauma and many years of disengagement.”

“Anglicare Australia is concerned that young people already disengaged or marginalised in our communities face further rejection rather than the individual support that will make a difference.”

“**E Qubed** is member of the Anglicare network in Broadmeadows, the postcode with the highest youth unemployment rate Australia. It is a learning and enterprise centre that engages “at risk” young people in social enterprises to provide a pathway to real earning capabilities.”

“International evidence from social enterprises such as this is that they help disadvantaged individuals and communities, facilitate a return to more formal work or education, generate additional jobs and develop active citizenship. But innovative local solutions in Australia are still far too rare.”

“What Anglicare Australia would like to see, in the policies of the two major parties, is an investment in local collaborative responses to the complex challenges faced by so many of our young people, rather than the broad brush stand alone initiatives we have seen in the past” Ms Chambers said.

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This statement represents the views of Anglicare Australia, as the national peak body of the Anglicare network. It may not necessarily represent the views of the Anglican Church of Australia or the views of an individual member of the Anglicare Australia network.

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