

YWCA Young Women's Budget Briefing

Discussion Summary



YWCA
Australia

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INTRODUCTION

On Thursday the 14 May 2015 YWCA Australia and the ANU Gender Institute hosted at Young Women's Budget Briefing event. The aim of the event was to offer an accessible explanation of the federal budget process and its political function, as well as a roundup of the new measures that affected women. The event was also intended to offer young women who are connected to the YWCA in Australia an opportunity to ask questions about the current budget and its effects.

This document offers a summary of the things that the panel discussed as well as the questions that were raised by the audience in Canberra and the online audience over twitter.

Themes of panel discussion

The panel was made up of a combination of speakers from academia, the not-for-profit sector and media. They took a range of pre-set questions on varied themes that spoke to their areas of expertise and interest.

Panel members were, Professor Miranda Steward Director of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute of The ANU's Crawford School, Dr Caroline Lambert Executive Officer of YWCA Canberra, Hannah Gissane Project Coordinator of the Equality Rights Alliance and Yen Eriksen of YWCA Australia and member of the 2SER budget correspondence team.

The panel discussed a range of topics including:

- Young women as stakeholders in the budget process – in particular their role as tax payers and recipients of social welfare and services.
- Gendered outcomes of budget measures, especially where budget measures haven't asked the question "will this measure be different for women and men?"
- Political messaging around budget time, including the lack of focus on young people or on women beyond the family unit.
- Government commitments to improve the lives of young women and how they may or may not appear in the budget
- The effects of certain funding announcements around housing, domestic violence, community legal services that specifically affect women – where there was strong interest in more clarity and funding
- Lengthy analysis and discussion was had around the families package, paid parental leave, early childhood education and other budget measures that had been targeted at women
- Small business tax incentives were also discussed, and the impact on women
- Disappointments around the changes to paid parental leave and the loss of the universal scheme
- Concerns around cuts to international aid funding and the ripple out effects for women in developing countries
- There was also discussion about how to engage with minority groups with the budget and politics, including how to best leverage for minority concerns and how to open the conversation to take better stock of the concerns of CALD women and rural women.
- Discussion about the Family Tax Benefit, income support and youth allowance/Newstart changes
- Discussion about higher education, HELP debt and welfare, especially with a focus on women as students
- Near the end of the event an animated debate was had around the GST on tampons and pads



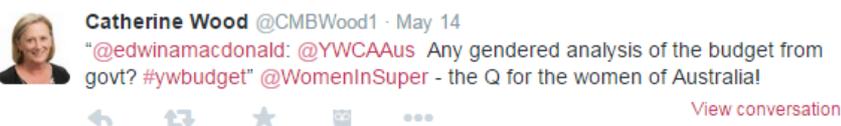
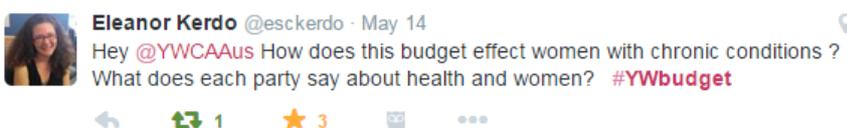
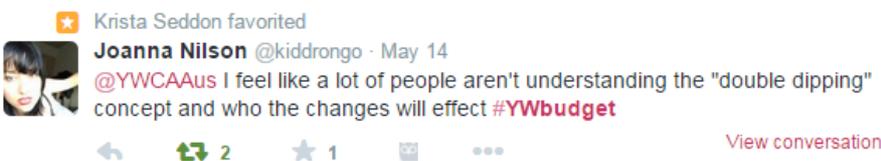
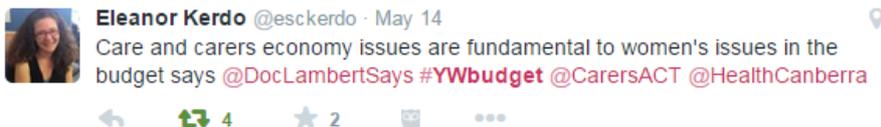
Audience questions in Canberra

The event was well attended by local Canberran women, ranging from their 20's and 30's, many of whom asked questions and engaged keenly in the discussion.

The following questions all came from the audience in the room and were asked and discussed by the panel:

- What do you think about the focus on the language around the budget and the opposition strategy that has been focussing on semantics and not the policies?
- What about Higher Education deregulation and HECS overseas repayment?
- What is the Netflix tax?
- What are the aid funding amount changes?
- What happened to the co-payment and is it coming back by stealth? Does that relate to bulk billing?
- How can young women affect change in the federal politics?
- What is surplus / deficit, why is it such a large focus in the commentary?
- What do you think about the campaign around tampon GST and its taxing as a luxury good?

Questions from Twitter



Eleanor Kerdo retweeted

 **AJ Laird** @ajlaird · May 14
Is there anything in the budget to assist young women to access housing?
#YWbudget @YWCAAus

← ↻ 2 ★ 3 🗨️ ⋮

Hannah Gissane and 1 other favored

 **Eleanor Kerdo** @esckerdo · May 14
Policy costing and the parliamentary budget office is important says @AusTaxProf as and advocacy tool ask polities to cost policy! #YWbudget

← ↻ ★ 2 🗨️ ⋮

Tash Because favored

 **YWCAAdelaide** @YWCAAdelaide · May 14
@YWCAAus Any self image funding in Budget this year? #ywbudget

← ↻ 1 ★ 2 🗨️ ⋮

 **Ruth Ann** @Feylith · May 14
Can you explain the concepts of surplus and deficit in the context of the budget? @YWCAAus #ywbudget

← ↻ 1 ★ 1 🗨️ ⋮

 **Eleanor Kerdo** @esckerdo · May 14
Here's one for MirandaStewart @YWCAAus how do the white papers around tax& health impact this budget and women, it's confusing ..#YWbudget

← ↻ 1 ★ 2 🗨️ ⋮

 **YWCAAdelaide** @YWCAAdelaide · May 14
@YWCAAus Budget cut to women's leadership last year. Was any reinstated this year? #ywbudget

← ↻ 1 ★ 2 🗨️ ⋮

 **Tash Because** @Tash_Because · May 14
Pretty amazing to see @SenClaireMoore here at #ywbudget listening to young women talking about the budget!

← ↻ 1 ★ ⋮

