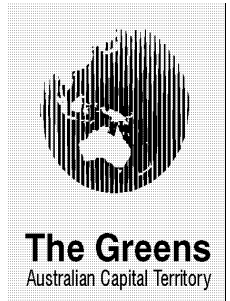


Deb Foskey MLA

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Unemployment is an issue

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey today welcomed the publication of an analysis of the real level of entrenched unemployment in the ACT community, and the difficulties that poses (Dr Andrew Leigh, *Canberra Times*.)

“The ACT Greens have been arguing for some years that poverty and social exclusion are entrenched in pockets of our community, and that the ACT Government needs to accept some responsibility for dealing with it. Unfortunately, the issues of long-term unemployment in Canberra were not addressed by last year’s economic White Paper, nor in this year’s Budget” Dr Foskey said today.

“Now the Commonwealth Government’s “welfare to work” reform is promising to accentuate the burden of poverty and the divisions in our community. It is inevitable that the ACT Government will have to take action at a local level.”

“As ACTCOSS has argued in submissions to the ACT Government, local investment in the community sector could deliver employment training and work creation where it is needed most.”

“The Greens also propose a shift to sustainable development which would open up new jobs that, with training, would expand secondary industry in the ACT.”

“It would be good to see the ACT Government make a fresh commitment to employment creation and in doing that, contribute to the social support needed to build a cohesive society” Dr Foskey said.

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