

Correspondence sent to all supporters of the #saveYEAH campaign who contacted Catherine King – Shadow Minister for Health directly, via YEAH's website.

**From:** "King, Catherine (MP)" <[Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au)>

**Date:** 2 May 2016 at 3:23:26 PM AEST

**To:** [Recipients]

**Subject: RE: We need to #saveYEAH**

"Dear [Supporter],

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Government's defunding of Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS (YEAH).

YEAH has been operating for eleven years and is Australia's only national, youth-led sexual health promotion organisation. It has created a dynamic network of young volunteers working to improve sexual health education across Australia.

Despite receiving federal funding for the last seven years the Turnbull Government has decided to de-fund YEAH, stating that it is no longer part of the Government's plans. The new funding will only go towards website-based activities and not include the work YEAH is doing in areas such as community workshops and condom distribution.

As things stand this means that YEAH will be unable to continue beyond the end of this financial year. It is just another short-sighted decision by an out-of-touch Government unconcerned by how its health cuts will affect public health outcomes. Over 75 per cent of sexually transmitted infections are happening amongst young people and YEAH is the only grass-roots, national network leading the fight to reverse troubling trends including the rise of STIs in Australia.

Labor believes that the sexual safety of young people in Australia should be a high priority and that the message of sexual health safety can be most effectively delivered to young people via their peers.

I would encourage you to sign YEAH's petition and send the Turnbull Government a strong message about its latest health cuts.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine King"