



ADAM BANDT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

The Hon. Sussan Ley MP
Minister for Health
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

21 April, 2016

Dear Minister,

Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS (YEAH)

I write in relation to the recent announcement of Federal Government defunding of Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS (YEAH), an organisation based within my electorate of Melbourne.

YEAH is Australia's only national youth-lead and youth-focused sexual health promotion organisation. YEAH fulfills a valuable role in providing inclusive, age appropriate sexual health information that is targeted at young people, and delivered by young people, with five active teams of peer educators across Australia. I understand that YEAH's core programs and activities advance the 8 key strategic components of the Federal Government's national STI strategy, and engage various in-person and online strategies and an enthusiastic volunteer network to delivery sexual health education across Australia. I am informed that in 2015 YEAH reached more than 900,000 people through its online channels, reflecting the established strong online reach of this organisation.

I understand that YEAH has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health since its establishment in 2009, and has achieved exceptional outcomes in the important field of youth-focused sexual health promotion through maximising use of this funding.

I am deeply concerned by the recent announcement that the Federal Government intends to terminate funding to YEAH from June 30, 2016.

I seek an opportunity to urgently discuss this matter with you. I furthermore seek your urgent consideration of a recent request from YEAH for you to meet with representatives and youth educators from the organisation.

Yours Sincerely,

Adam Bandt
Federal Member for Melbourne