



Think Forward's response to the 2020/21 Federal Budget

Think Forward, as a lobby group for young Australians, welcomes the Treasurer singling out of young people for support. Young people have borne the brunt of this recession and will continue to feel its long term effects. At first take, the \$4bn commitment to youth jobs is a good start. However, the policy settings are not strong enough to ensure unemployed young people are actually guaranteed a high-quality job, for the longer term.

Young Australian's will be repaying the debt throughout their working life. They have lost their jobs and career pathways, face wage stagnation and depleted their super balances. Young people are hoping for a positive future, and a return on the vast sum of debt racked up in their name. This Budget, though, only thinks for the short term and aims to get us back to where we were before COVID-19 (and even then, many economists say it might not be enough).

The Budget does not address the long-term structural inequalities for young people, nor does it provide a vision for the future. The need for vast amounts of government spending was a golden opportunity to transform Australia for current and future generations. That opportunity has been wasted. Think Forward believes young Australians need bold reforms in our tax and transfer system, to ensure young Australians can receive the benefit of the stimulus they are paying for.