



national youth council of ireland
COMHAIRLE NAISIÚNTA NA NÓG

MANIFESTO

NYCI PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT



READ THE COMPLETE MANIFESTO [QUEST FOR THE BEST: MAKE IRELAND THE BEST COUNTRY IN WHICH TO BE A YOUNG PERSON ON YOUTH.IE/ELECTION16](https://www.youth.ie/election16)

#YVOTE16

NYCI CALLS ON THE NEXT GOVERNMENT TO...

YOUTH POLICY



- retain the position of **Minister for Children and Youth Affairs** at cabinet rank and maintain the Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- fully resource the implementation of the **National Youth Strategy 2015-2020**

YOUTH WORK SERVICES



- increase investment in current youth work funding by **€15** from **€58** in 2014 to **€73 per young person by 2020**, this equates to an investment in current spending of **€73.1m** by 2020
- introduce a revised Youth Capital Grants Scheme with an annual budget of **€1m**
- invest **€1m** per annum in the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme

SOCIAL INCLUSION



- restore the full rate of Jobseekers **Allowance** to those under 26 years to **€188**
- commit to the introduction of a Living Wage

EDUCATION AND TRAINING



- review current implementation of the **Youth Guarantee** and set out ambitious targets for delivery of the initiative from 2016-2020
- develop a National Strategy for a Comprehensive Guidance Service

EMPLOYMENT



- undertake a review of **JobBridge** with a view to reform and enhancement of the scheme
- introduce a “Fair Work Certificate” which employers seeking to avail of public funds for job creation would be required to hold

HOUSING & ACCOMMODATION



- introduce **rent controls** so that annual rent increases cannot exceed the Consumer Price Index
- give greater security to tenants
- ensure that the **Aftercare Bill** as proposed is amended to guarantee a right to housing for young people leaving care
- ensure that aftercare supports are provided to young people on the basis of need irrespective of how long they have been in the care system

HEALTH



- ensure effective implementation of “Connecting for Life”, Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020
- implement the provisions of Public Health (Alcohol) Bill with regard to **marketing and advertising, price and supply** in line with the recommendations of the National Substance Misuse Strategy Group report and to phase out the sponsorship of major sporting events by the drinks industry

DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION



- bring forward a referendum to extend **voting rights** to young people aged 16 and 17 in Dáil and Presidential elections and referenda and to bring forward legislation to extend voting rights to young people aged 16 and 17 in local and European elections
- extend voting rights to the Irish abroad
- establish an Electoral Commission

The **National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)** is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. We use our collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. Our members work **with over 380,000** young people each year.

ARTS



- develop and implement an action plan which would guarantee each child growing up in Ireland **equality of access to the arts** (both in and out of school) and tackle economic, geographical and educational disadvantage as barriers to participation and deliver on the arts access promised to each child as part of the five National Outcomes for Children contained in “Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures”
- NYCI calls on the Government to fully implement the ‘**Arts in Education Charter**’ and to further develop the Charter to incorporate non-formal education and youth arts and to deliver on its responsibilities to this sector as recommended in the document

PENSIONS



- ensure the concerns and needs of young workers on low wages and in precarious employment are taken into account when proposed auto-enrolment into **pension schemes** is introduced

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- develop an ambitious national plan of action to monitor and implement the **Sustainable Development Goals**

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DID YOU KNOW?



FOR EVERY
€1 INVESTED IN
YOUTH WORK
THE ECONOMIC
BENEFIT TO
THE STATE
IN THE LONG RUN IS **€2.20**

THE NUMBER OF
10 TO 24
YEAR OLDS
IS SET TO
INCREASE BY
13% BETWEEN
2015
& 2020

1^{IN}**2** YOUNG PEOPLE
IN IRELAND
ARE LIKELY TO
HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME TYPE OF
MENTAL HEALTH
DIFFICULTY
BY THE
AGE OF **24**

THE NUMBER OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
AGED **15-24**
IN TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT
IN IRELAND INCREASED FROM
11.2% IN 2004 **TO**
34.9% IN 2012

FOR REFERENCES, AS WELL AS MORE FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN IRELAND READ THE COMPLETE MANIFESTO QUEST FOR THE BEST: MAKE IRELAND THE BEST COUNTRY IN WHICH TO BE A YOUNG PERSON ON YOUTH.IE/ELECTION16