

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: December 2009

The monthly ACT AOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to the AOD sector in the ACT. The eBulletin is an activity of the ACT AOD Sector Project which is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT. To subscribe, submit an item or to provide feedback email ebulletin@aodsector.org.au

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

ACT Biannual Comorbidity Forum

The Second Biannual ACT Comorbidity Forum aims to:

- provide an opportunity for ACT AOD and mental health workers to network and share information;
- learn about developments in, and relevant to, comorbidity and the sector;
- access professional development opportunities, information and resources;
- support professional peer networks;
- improve referrals and service knowledge, and;
- provide information about, and give workers an opportunity to have input into, the ACT AOD Sector Project and the ACT Comorbidity Project.

The forum will be held as a belated Mental Health Week activity and will focus on Suicide among Illicit Drug Users.

Guest speaker: Dr Joanne Ross, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), University of New South Wales

Dr Ross will discuss the prevalence of attempted and completed suicide among illicit drug users, and associated risk factors. Dr Ross is a Senior Lecturer at NDARC, and has 15 years experience in drug and alcohol research.

Date: Monday 7 December 2009

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Training Room 2, Level 2, 1 Moore St, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential to (02) 6247 3540 or ben@aodsector.org.au

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 2, 2009

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing a Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the AOD sector.

Under the MQS, all workers of ACT Health funded AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. The following classes will be held shortly for participants enrolled in the remaining units of the Certificate IV in AOD Work:

Stream 1: Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 December

Stream 2: Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 December

For further information please contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Participant Surveys

The following surveys have been developed for workers participating in the Minimum Qualification Strategy training at the Canberra Institute of Technology. This survey covers training block 3 for Stream 1 and 2 and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Information collected through the Survey will remain

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anonymous.

Stream 1: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ImOlrTiP3WJe6_2flhD_2fL57Q_3d_3d

Stream 2: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DRz_2bOAScO2_2bAtwswjSBFjA_3d_3d

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Frommel, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on (02) 6247 3540 or ben@aodsector.org.au

National Improved Services Initiative Newsletter

The National Improved Services Initiative provided funding to over 140 agencies across Australia, including 5 in the ACT to build the capacity of their services to assist them to better identify and treat comorbid substance abuse disorders and mental illness. The creation of the Newsletter is part of ongoing collaboration between the Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations (or equivalent), who have been funded to support the grant recipients as part of the Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) Project.

The newsletter provides an opportunity for grant recipients to promote the work they are doing under the Improved Services Initiative, the support being provided under the CSSSP Project, and to find out more about related initiatives. The Newsletter will be produced quarterly and feedback is welcome.

Visit www.nada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=37 to download the National Improved Services Initiative Newsletter.

To provide feedback or for more information contact Amanda Bode, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on (02) 6247 3540 or amanda@aodsector.org.au.

About the ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project, auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, is a capacity building Project that began in 2007 and is funded by ACT Health. The Project aims to build the capacity and identity of the ACT AOD sector, foster intra and cross-sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by AOD.

For more information visit www.aodsector.org.au or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

First Annual ACT AOD Awards

Invitation to the First Annual ACT AOD Awards

ACT AOD Sector Project

There are many exceptional people who work to promote health and prevent harms associated with alcohol and other drugs. The First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards aim to recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the AOD field in the ACT. The Awards Ceremony will be held:

Date: Friday 11 December 2009

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: Exhibition Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential to awards@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

Visit www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/Awards.htm to download the First Annual ACT AOD Awards Ceremony Flyer.

Award Categories:

There are three individual award categories for 2009, which include:

- a. Excellence in Alcohol and Other Drug Work Award
- b. Lifetime Achievements Award
- c. Outstanding Contributions Award

Professional Development

Training for the AOD and allied sectors, including upcoming seminars, conferences, bus tours, courses and other professional development opportunities.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.

Policy Activities

Information on key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

Policy, Reports and Research

New research, reports, inquiry findings, and any key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

Media

Media Releases and news items relevant to the ACT AOD Sector.

Consumer Participation

Information items about consumer participation that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Information from and about allied sectors that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD sector.

Grants and Funding

Additionally, Dr Colin Adrian, Chief Executive Officer of the Canberra Institute of Technology has also agreed to present certificates to recognise the workers who participated in the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy in 2009.

Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

For more information contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on awards@aodsector.org.au or visit www.aodsector.org.au

ACT AOD Sector Forum Update

This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attended the ACT AOD Sector Forum in November 2009.

Canberra Men's Centre

Service Spokesperson: Gerald Franks

Phone: (02) 6230 6999, Email: geraldf@menscentre.com.au

The Canberra Men's Centre provide the Mens Accommodation Support Services (MASS) Program which provides supported accommodation for single men, unaccompanied by children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those who are leaving custody or are involved in the criminal justice system. The Program has recently increased staffing; however, is still running at capacity.

Canberra Men's Centre Holiday Shutdown: Services will be closed on public holidays, but operating as normal all other days throughout the holiday period.

Solaris Therapeutic Community, Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT (ADFACT)

Service Spokesperson: Annabel Mayo

Email: annabel.m@adfact.org

Provides a voluntary program for adult males in the Alexander Maconochie Centre who have been affected by alcohol and drug use and related dependencies using the therapeutic community approach to treatment.

ADFACT Holiday Shutdown: Services will continue to operate throughout the holiday period.

Ted Noffs Foundation ACT

Service Spokesperson: Christina Sanchez

Phone: (02) 6123 2400, Email: tnfact@noffs.org.au

Ted Noffs Foundation ACT provides:

- Adolescent Drug Withdrawal Unit: Provides up to 14 days of residential support for young people aged 14 – 18 years experiencing withdrawal.
- Community Outreach and Outclient Program: Supports young people aged 12 – 18 years who experiencing alcohol and other drug issues in the community, and who do not want or need residential rehabilitation services.
- Program for Adolescent Life Management: Provides up to 3 months residential rehabilitation for young people aged 14 – 18 years.

The Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn

Service Spokesperson: Steve Roche

Phone: (02) 6163 3711 or 0406 377 623, Email: soberingupshelter@catholiccare.cg.org.au

Provides a safe place for intoxicated persons to recover from alcohol or other drug use. The shelter is a free and confidential service open 11pm - 11am, Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights. The shelter is currently investigating opportunities to follow up with people who have accessed the services.

Holiday Shutdown: Open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night throughout the holiday period.

Sector Activities and Events

Comorbidity Interagency Day

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn (formerly Centacare) in partnership with the ACT AOD Sector Project

Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health services in Canberra are invited to attend the Comorbidity Interagency Day to promote awareness of services in the ACT region.

Date: Wednesday 9 December 2009

Time: 12 - 2pm

Venue: Blackfriars Fountain Garden, 127 Philip Ave, Watson ACT

Food: A sausage sizzle will be provided.

RSVP: Essential by 1 December to Jessica Durand on (02) 6163 7600 or

jessica.durand@catholiccare.cg.org.au

World AIDS Day

Various sponsor agencies

On 1 December 2009, World AIDS Day is held to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and strengthen support for HIV positive people and those who are affected by AIDS.

For more information on World AIDS Day and activities happening across Australia visit

www.worldaidsday.org.au.

ACT Early Intervention Awards 2009

SupportLink, Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) and ParentLine

These awards are a peer to peer award ceremony. They are designed to highlight the significance of early intervention services in the prevention of (including but not exclusive to) child and elder abuse, family violence, substance abuse, suicide and mental illness, crime, social isolation, preventable family breakdown and homelessness. The awards also aim to promote "best practice" and excellence in community service delivery, in particular the willingness to collaborate with other agencies and deliver flexible and responsive services to clients.

Date: Thursday 3 December 2009

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Bradman Room, Manuka Oval

RSVP: Essential, by 3 December.

For more information or to RSVP contact the organising committee on awards@supportlink.com.au.

Demographic and socioeconomic outcomes across the Indigenous lifecourse – Initial results and a research agenda

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra

Across almost all standard indicators including employment, education, housing, income and health, the Indigenous population has worse outcomes than the non-Indigenous population. Despite the abundance of statistics and government reports on Indigenous outcomes, there is very little information on how Indigenous disadvantage accumulates or is mitigated through time at the individual level. The aim of this presentation is to outline a research agenda around the Indigenous lifecourse and present initial results based on analysis of individual data from the 2006 Census.

Date: Wednesday 9 December 2009

Time: 11am - 12 noon

Venue: Demonstration Room, Building 18, University of Canberra, 170 Haydon Drive, Bruce

RSVP: To hotline@natsem.canberra.edu.au or (02) 6201 2780

Human Rights Forum: "Fulfilling Rights and Accessing Justice"

ACT Human Rights Commission

The forum will seek to discuss the impact of the Human Rights Act for all members of the community.

Speakers include:

- The Government's view—Simon Corbell MLA, Attorney General
- A judicial view—Justice Richard Refshauge, ACT Supreme Court

- The profession's view—Anna Haynes, pro bono coordinator, Clayton Utz
- Issues for Disadvantaged Canberrans—Amy Kilpatrick, Homeless Persons' Legal Service, Welfare Rights & Legal Centre
- Issues for Indigenous Canberrans—John Roe, Aboriginal Justice Centre

Date: 10 December 2009

Time: 12.30 - 2pm

Venue: ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential, by 3 December to human.rights@act.gov.au

Call for Nominations for Outstanding Women in the ACT

ACT Office for Women, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)

Do you know an outstanding woman who has made a contribution to the ACT community? Do you know an organisation, team or group that has made a substantial contribution to improving the quality of life for women in the ACT? If so, please consider nominating someone and encourage your colleagues to nominate someone for a 2010 ACT International Women's Day Award.

Nominations are encouraged for women in the following Award categories:

- **Women's Award:** This award acknowledges and celebrates the contribution and achievements of an individual woman.
- **Community Award:** recognises a team or organisation that has made a substantial contribution to improving the quality of life for women in the ACT.

Information and nomination forms are available at www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/international_womens_day

Nominations close **Friday 14 December 2009**.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

This section reports on information from the Executive Directors (ED's) Group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers. At the November ED's meeting the group progressed:

Cultural Awareness Training:

Kiki Korpinen, Deputy Director, ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) provided an overview on the ACTCOSS' *Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit*. The Toolkit is a practical guide to assist an organisation to: document the knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, assess the practice in assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and plan to develop the service to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The toolkit has six Standards:

- Respect and Commitment,
- Staff Knowledge and Development,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment,
- Culturally Appropriate Service Delivery,
- Engagement with Communities, and
- Service Development and Evaluation.

The Toolkit will be further discussed at the ED's group in 2010.

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (APSAD) Conference:

Kevin Foreman, ACT Health Chief Pharmacist and Chair of the APSAD Conference provided an overview on the conference which is being held in Canberra 28 November – 1 December 2010. Kevin asked that the sector

consider submitting abstracts. Individuals are encouraged to contact Kevin for further information on kevin.foreman@act.gov.au. Further information will be provided to the ED's Group in 2010.

Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre:

The Group discussed the *Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services in Alexander Maconochie Centre*. The Group is waiting for further information on the evaluations development.

Development of the ACT AOD Sector Peak Body:

Work is currently underway to establish clear processes and engagement strategies for the development of the ACT AOD Sector Peak Body as described in the consensus statement from the Strategic Directions and Governance Workshop held in July 2009.

Sector Development

Concerned About Someone's Cannabis Use: Fast Facts on how to Help

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) and Orygen Youth Health

This booklet is based on first aid guidelines that were developed and launched earlier this year. The guidelines (Helping Someone with Problem Cannabis Use: Mental Health First Aid Guidelines), were the first to be produced in the world, and were researched and produced by Orygen Youth Health for the NCPIC, and are a response to the growing body of evidence that links cannabis use to a range of physical and mental health problems.

This new booklet, once again developed by Orygen and NCPIC, provides some basic information to people who may be concerned about someone they know who uses cannabis and gives some simple advice on how to help.

Visit <http://ncpic.org.au/workforce/alcohol-and-other-drug-workers/cannabis-information/order-resource/> to download the booklet.

Visit <http://ncpic.org.au/assets/downloads/ncpic/news/ncpic-news/helping-someonw-with-problem-cannabis-use-mental-health-first-aid-guidelines.pdf> to download the First Aid Guidelines.

Call for Participation in Youth Initiatives

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AER)

One of AER's key priority areas for 2009 and beyond is to foster attitudinal and behavioural change towards alcohol and licit substance abuse, to help create healthy, safe communities around Australia. Given this, the AER announced the establishment of a Youth Committee to engage with young Australians to help them develop a healthy relationship with alcohol. The Committee will comprise young people, researchers, experienced trainers and practitioners from the health and social sectors to inform AER policy and initiatives in this critical area.

Email luke.ringland@aerf.com.au to express interest in participating in a face-to-face consultative group or post your questions, concerns, thoughts and ideas on the AER Blog at: <http://aerfoundation.blogspot.com>

New Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Website: "Bluebelly – with eyes wide open"

Moreland Hall

The website was developed to provide a publically accessible space to develop relevant and engaging harm reduction information for users of ecstasy, meth/amphetamines and cocaine. Key aspects of the Bluebelly site include:

- Fully editable harm-reduction articles
- Your Stories – a forum for users to share stories, tips and warnings
- How They Work – animations and information describing the effects of amphetamine-type stimulants on the brain and body
- A pre and post-party recipe book with dietician recommended, easy-to-prepare food ideas. You can also submit your own recipes to be nutritionally analysed and published
- Interactive games, videos and music

- A harm-reduction short film competition – to win a fully paid trip to the IHRA Conference Film Festival in Liverpool 2010
- Links to recommended pathways for more information and help, including a complete self-help section soon to be added

Visit www.bluebelly.org.au/ to view the website.

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Newsletter

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AER)

The current edition of the AER Newsletter contains the following articles:

- AER welcomes our new team members
- Indigenous Alcohol Awareness Campaign launched in the Kimberley
- The AER Mixed Pairs Challenge is back for 2010
- Survivor Challenge - Manly Drug Education
- Alcohol and Breastfeeding - a guide for mothers
- AER and Carclew Youth Arts celebrate APY Lands project success

Visit [http://aerf.com.au/newsletters/AER Newsletter Summer 09.pdf](http://aerf.com.au/newsletters/AER_Newsletter_Summer_09.pdf) to download the Newsletter.

Synergy Magazine: Comorbidity Edition

Multicultural Mental Health Australia

This edition, titled Comorbidity I, is the first in a two-part series on comorbidity that focuses on mental illness and alcohol/drug abuse in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The second edition will explore issues surrounding mental illness and chronic conditions such as cancer, obesity and diabetes.

To download the magazine visit www.mmha.org.au/mmha-products/synergy/magazineedition.2008-10-07.4545881773

HIV Management: A guide for clinical care monograph

The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)

This clinical resource has been extensively reviewed and updated to incorporate the latest advances and research in the management of HIV. The resource aims to improve the care and wellbeing of people with HIV infection in Australasia. Further, the monograph is a key text used by many medical institutions, health departments and universities for HIV (and viral hepatitis) related education programs in Australia and New Zealand.

To order a free copy or for further information visit www.ashm.org.au/HIVManagement.

Inside Out Resource

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

This perennial diary was developed with recently released prisoners around Australia. The resource is for prisoners and those in correctional institutions and provides information on Hepatitis C and safer using tips.

Visit www.aivl.org.au/files/AIVL-Prison%20Diary_22_web.pdf to view the resource online or to order copies.

Industrial Relations Survey

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), ACT Government

DHCS has commissioned HBA Consulting to conduct a review of the industrial arrangements in place for ACT Community Sector organisations who manage contracts on behalf of the ACT Government (specifically DHCS and ACT Health). A survey tool has been developed to provide advice to the ACT Government regarding current industrial arrangements within the ACT Community sector, including opportunities for improvement.

All agencies currently holding a Service Funding Agreement with DHCS or ACT Health should have received this survey by email. If you believe you should have this survey, but are yet to see it, or if you have any questions about the survey contact Gary Champion at HBA at survey@hbaconsulting.com.au

The Australian Community Sector Survey

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Community Sector Survey is now open and available online at www.acoss.org.au. The survey should be completed by non-government, non-profit organisations providing services directly to the public. The survey closes **16 December 2009**.

Opportunities for Student Projects and Placements

University of Canberra

The Community Education, Counselling, Community and/or Health Development courses at the University of Canberra, are currently providing services with the opportunity to host a student project or placement.

Contact Sandra Heaney-Mustafa on (02) 6201 5387 or sandra.heaney-mustafa@canberra.edu.au for more information.

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (November - December 2009)

ACT AOD Sector Project and the Drugs in the Family Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT

The bi-monthly Training and Professional Development Calendar is produced as a partnership between the ACT AOD Sector Project and the Drugs in the Family Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT. The calendar compiles training and professional development opportunities available for workers from the AOD and allied sectors.

Download the current [Training and Professional Development Calendar](#) or visit www.aodsector.org.au

For more information contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on (02) 6247 3540 or info@aodsector.org.au

Breaking the Ice Workshop

Women's Information Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDDD)

The aim of the Breaking the Ice Workshop is to provide the community with an understanding of why women use amphetamines such as ice, and to equip participants with the skills to work with women such as engagement, nonjudgment and harm minimisation.

Date: 2 December 2009

Time: 9.30am – 4pm

Venue: Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential by 27 November to (02) 6248 8600 or wiredddcoord@toora.org.au

For more information download the [Breaking the Ice Workshop flyer](#).

We're All in this Together Workshop

Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University

This workshop will explore new family centred ways of supporting children, young people and parents in their families in a respectful and affirming way. It will explore ways of overcoming any of the dilemmas that workers might face, issues of confidentiality, managing competing wishes, minimising potential risk factors and how best to enable family restoration.

Date: Tuesday 8 December 2009

Time: 9am - 4pm

Venue: Room B10, Blackfriars, ACU, Antill Street, Watson

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential

For more information contact Pam Floro on (02) 6209 1228.

Working with Interpreters

CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn

This workshop aims to support those who work with clients with language barriers, to access and work with interpreters. Two interpreters from ACT Migrant Health will be facilitating the training.

Date: Tuesday 8 December 2009

Time: 2.30 - 4pm

Cost: \$15

For more information, contact Peter Hill on (02) 6295 4301 or peter.hill@catholiccare.cg.org.au.

Building Better Boards: Board Basic Workshop

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop provides an overview of a range of governance topics for anyone who would like an introduction to the roles, responsibilities and obligations of Board Members. It is an opportunity to ask questions and discuss common problems experienced by new board members. The workshop will cover topics including legal and financial responsibilities of board members, the relationship between governance and management and core documents.

Date: 9 December 2009

Time: 5 - 8pm

Venue: Room 7, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

Cost: ACTCOSS Members \$30, Non-member community organisations \$37.50

RSVP: To register for this seminar please email lisa@actcoss.org.au.

For further information contact ACTCOSS on (02) 6202 7200.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference aims to assist and contribute to further develop the capacity of those working to address AOD harms in meaningful and practical ways. The Conference will also showcase and celebrate the quiet efforts and achievements of those striving to improve the health and well being of our communities.

Date: 16 - 18 June 2010

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Registration: Super Early Bird registration closes 4 December 2009.

Call for Abstract Submissions:

Abstract submissions (300 word maximum) are currently being sought on the following sub-themes:

- Listening - Indigenous based evidence working in practice
- Learning - About service delivery
- Leading - Indigenous designed models & practices across Australia
- Our Future - Making it happen – policies, planning, partnerships, community initiatives

For more information on the Conference or to submit an abstract visit www.nidaconference.com.au/.

2010 Australian Government Social Inclusion Conference

Australian Government

This conference is an opportunity to join a national conversation about effective and innovative social inclusion policy and practice. The conference will be highly interactive and offer participants an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss topics and learn from each other to build a more socially inclusive Australia.

Date: 28 - 29 January 2010

Venue: Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre, Melbourne Victoria

Cost: Standard \$900, Not for profit \$450

Registration: Closes mid-January 2010

For more information, or to register your interest visit www.socialinclusionconference.com.au/.

Policy Activities

Community Consultation on the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 - 2014

ACT Government

The ACT Government has commenced a phase of community consultation to further the development of the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014. The draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 replaces its 2004-2008 predecessor and has been developed to this point in consultation with the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Implementation and Evaluation Group and with input from key stakeholders in the ACT's alcohol and other drug sector.

The ACT Government invites individuals and organisations to consider the draft Strategy and to engage with its development by lodging a submission.

Further information, including the draft Strategy is available from

www.health.act.gov.au/communityconsultation.

Submissions close **28 February 2010**.

Draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy 2010-2013 released for Consultation

ACT Health

The draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy articulates the roles of mental health services, AOD services and primary care services in ensuring those at risk of or experiencing both mental health and AOD problems concurrently receive the right services at the right time. It also outlines the areas in which further investment is required in terms of effort and / or funding to strengthen the support available for those who deliver and receive these services. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Define comorbidity and its prevalence within our community
- Identify the current investment in the ACT in mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) services
- Articulate the roles and responsibilities of mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) and primary care services in working with people at risk of or experiencing both mental health and AOD problems
- Identify areas where further investment is required in terms of effort and / or funding to support those who deliver and those who experience both mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft Strategy. To obtain a copy of the draft Strategy or to provide comments email Johann Sheehan on Johann.Sheehan@act.gov.au by close of business on **8 December 2009**.

It would be appreciated if comments/ proposed changes could be tracked into the document directly where relevant, if possible.

National Drug Strategy Consultation paper

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy

Source: Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy Communique: 27 November 2009

Ministers today agreed to seek community input to the development of the National Drug Strategy for 2010 to 2015. A Consultation Paper will be posted on the National Drug Strategy website at

www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/ on 4 December 2009. for public comment until the end of February 2010.

Officials will also be conducting targeted consultations with key stakeholders. These consultations will inform the development of a new draft National Drug Strategy for release by mid-2010.

Public comment closes at the end of **February 2010**.

Update of the 2004 Canberra Social Plan

ACT Government

The ACT Government is currently seeking input into the update of the 2004 Canberra Social Plan. The Canberra Social Plan is an overarching ACT Government document that informs the strategic direction and activities of the

ACT Government. Individuals can participate in an online forum, which will run until 18 December 2009. A second forum will begin in mid-January 2010. Following these initial forums, the ACT Government will implement further targeted consultative activities in the first few months of next year.

Visit www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystategic/socialplan/developing_an_update for more information.

Review of Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act

ACT Government

The purpose of the Review of the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994 is to ensure the Act reflects best practice in mental health law, as it has developed over the last 10 years. The introduction of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004, and the required review for compatibility with the HR Act, provides an appropriate context in which the Review will be carried out. As part of the public consultation, three public forums will be held.

Written submissions will be accepted until close of business **29 January 2010**.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10050411&pid=1155860255 for more information.

The Road Map - A Discussion Paper

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), ACT Government

The Road Map - A discussion paper on the way forward for ACT homelessness services and related services, has been released by DHCS. The purpose of this document is to provide information and seek community feedback on the changing policy context in the ACT and proposed direction of several of the new initiatives under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

Written feedback is current being sought and further information on timelines and processes is available from

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/.

Inquiry into Indigenous Juveniles and Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System

House of Representatives

On Thursday 19 November 2009 the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs requested the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs inquire and report into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system. The inquiry will focus on prevention and early intervention in order to identify strategies to assist in reducing the number of Indigenous Australians involved in the criminal justice system. The inquiry will also identify cross-jurisdictional challenges to coordination of services for Indigenous youth in the justice system, such as whether preventative programs can be better aligned to advance the health and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous young people.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry by **22 December 2009**.

For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions see the Committee's website at

www.aph.gov.au/atsia or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559.

Policy, Reports and Research

Note: Most of the reports and research items referenced below are available from the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia's National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) <http://ndsis.adca.org.au>.

Do brief interventions by primary health care workers help patients to reduce their alcohol consumption?

The October 2009 *eBulletin* mentioned a Cochrane review by McQueen *et al.* that found the evidence for brief interventions delivered to heavy drinkers in hospital was inconclusive. By contrast, an analysis of 22 randomised controlled trials involving over 5,800 patients in primary care found evidence of effectiveness of interventions including simple structured advice, motivational counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, self-completed action plans, leaflets, requests to keep diaries and exercises to complete at home. The researchers concluded that 'Brief interventions can reduce alcohol consumption in men, with benefit at a year after intervention, but they are unproven in women for whom there is insufficient research data. Longer counselling has little additional effect over brief intervention'.

Kaner, EF, Dickinson, HO, Beyer, F, Pienaar, E, Schlesinger, C, Campbell, F, Saunders, JB, Burnand, B & Heather, N 2009, 'The effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care settings: a systematic review', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 301-23.

How effective is Alcoholics Anonymous?

'Research on the effectiveness of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is controversial and subject to widely divergent interpretations. The goal of this article is to provide a focused review of the literature on AA effectiveness that will allow readers to judge the evidence effectiveness of AA for themselves. The review organizes the research on AA effectiveness according to six criterion required for establishing causation: (1) magnitude of effect; (2) dose response effect; (3) consistent effect; (4) temporally accurate effects; (5) specific effects; (6) plausibility. The evidence for criteria 1- 4 and 6 is strong: rates of abstinence are about twice as high among those who attend AA (criteria 1, magnitude); higher levels of attendance are related to higher rates of abstinence (criteria 2, dose-response); these relationships are found for different samples and follow-up periods (criteria 3, consistency); prior AA attendance is predictive of subsequent abstinence (criteria 4, temporal); and mechanisms of action predicted by theories of behavior change are present in AA (criteria 6, plausibility). However, rigorous experimental evidence establishing the specificity of an effect for AA or Twelve Step Facilitation/TSF (criteria 5) is mixed, with 2 trials finding a positive effect for AA, 1 trial finding a negative effect for AA, and 1 trial finding a null effect. Studies addressing specificity using statistical approaches have had two contradictory findings, and two that reported significant effects for AA after adjusting for potential confounders such as motivation to change.'

Kaskutas, LA 2009, 'Alcoholics anonymous effectiveness: faith meets science', *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, vol. 28, no. 2, pp. 145-57.

What are the patterns of drink driving offences in the ACT?

The NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust published a report earlier this year which examined drink driving cases finalised in the ACT Magistrates Court during the 2006-07 year. It appears to cover convictions only. Overall, 1,225 cases were included, a rate of 4.4 per 1,000 of the ACT population. 82% were male and 70% were aged 18-35 years. They generally had high blood alcohol concentration readings, with 46% in the range .08 - .15 and 19% exceeding .15. Some 34% had previous drink drive convictions. Only 29% were apprehended through random breath testing, with 15% detected in relation to a crash and 56% in other circumstances, primarily when vehicles were stopped by police for reasons such as speeding or some other traffic offence.

Smithworks Consulting 2009, *Analysis and report on drink driving cases in the ACT Magistrate's Court, 2006-07*: report to the NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust, NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust, Canberra,

www.roadsafetytrust.org.au/c/rtt?a=da&did=1004593

Do publicans have a duty of care to protect patrons from the consequences of drinking to intoxication?

The Tasmanian Supreme Court ruled that a publican in Tandara, Tasmania had failed in his duty of care in 2002 when he returned motorbike keys to a patron, Shane Scott, who had been drinking heavily and who subsequently rode off the road and was killed. Mr Scott's wife and the Motor Accident Insurance Board claimed that the publican was negligent in serving Mr Scott too much alcohol and not stopping him from riding away.

In November 2009 the High Court of Australia overturned the Tasmanian Supreme Court decision, on appeal. Three of the judges explained their decision, stating hotel owners and licensees 'owe no general duty of care at common law to customers...[requiring] them to monitor and minimise the service of alcohol or to protect customers from the consequences of the alcohol they choose to consume'.

The full text of the High Court decision is available for downloading at

www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/HCA/2009/47.txt.

Is using cannabis harmful to health?

'For over two decades, cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, has been the most widely used illicit drug by young people in high-income countries, and has recently become popular on a global scale. Epidemiological

research during the past 10 years suggests that regular use of cannabis during adolescence and into adulthood can have adverse effects. Epidemiological, clinical, and laboratory studies have established an association between cannabis use and adverse outcomes. We focus on adverse health effects of greatest potential public health interest—that is, those that are most likely to occur and to affect a large number of cannabis users. The most probable adverse effects include a dependence syndrome, increased risk of motor vehicle crashes, impaired respiratory function, cardiovascular disease, and adverse effects of regular use on adolescent psychosocial development and mental health.’

Hall, W & Degenhardt, L 2009, ‘Adverse health effects of non-medical cannabis use’, *Lancet*, no. 374, pp. 1383–91.

Do smokers and the tobacco industry pay their way?

Opposition to policies designed to reduce tobacco consumption often includes the claim that these policies would be detrimental to the economy and would reduce employment. Research commissioned by the Cancer Council of Western Australia evaluated the social benefits and costs of the Australian tobacco industry. It demonstrates that ‘a fall in smoking prevalence, while significantly influencing the tobacco industry itself, will have very little, if any, negative impact on aggregate levels of national output, income or employment in the Australian economy’. The study concludes that while ‘smokers themselves...bear some of the social costs of smoking...tobacco tax revenues...fall well short of the total social costs borne by the Australian community as a whole [and] a relatively small proportion of the tobacco tax burden is borne by the industry itself’ – insufficient to cover the social costs of tobacco.

The researchers conclude that their economic analysis ‘provides strong support for the implementation of public policies designed to produce further reductions in tobacco consumption’, with these reductions achieved by means of ‘tobacco tax increases and/or non-tax measures such as public health education campaigns and increased tobacco regulation’.

Collins, DJ & Lapsley, HM 2009, *Weighing the evidence: evaluating the social benefits and costs of the Australian tobacco industry*, Cancer Council Western Australia, Perth, WA.

www.cancerwa.asn.au/prevention/tobacco/policyresearch/

Is pessimism about addressing Indigenous smoking justified?

While smoking prevalence nationally has fallen below 20%, about 50% of Indigenous Australians still smoke.

David Thomas, a researcher at the Menzies School of Health Research and Charles Darwin University in Darwin, examined the trends in smoking prevalence of Australian Indigenous men and women aged 18 and over in three large national cross-sectional surveys: the 1994 National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Survey, the 2002-03 National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, and the 2004-05 National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

His analysis revealed that ‘From 1994 to 2004, Indigenous smoking prevalence fell by 5.5% and 3.5% in non-remote and remote men, and by 1.9% in non-remote women. In contrast, Indigenous smoking prevalence rose by 5.7% in remote women from 1994 to 2002, before falling by 0.8% between 2002 and 2004. Male and female Indigenous smoking prevalences in non-remote Australia fell in parallel with those in the total Australian population. The different Indigenous smoking prevalence trends in remote and non-remote Australia can be plausibly explained by the typical characteristics of national tobacco epidemic curves, with remote Indigenous Australia just at an earlier point in the epidemic’.

He concludes optimistically that ‘Reducing Indigenous smoking need not be considered exceptionally difficult. Inequities in the distribution of smoking related-deaths and illness may be reduced by increasing the exposure and access of Indigenous Australians, and other disadvantaged groups with high smoking prevalence, to proven tobacco control strategies’.

Thomas, DP 2009, ‘Smoking prevalence trends in Indigenous Australians, 1994-2004: a typical rather than an

exceptional epidemic', *International Journal for Equity in Health*, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 37,

www.equityhealthj.com/content/8/1/37.

Can text messages help people to stop smoking?

A number of studies have looked at using mobile phone-based interventions to help smokers to quit. A Cochrane review examined four trials, namely text message programs in New Zealand and the United Kingdom and two mobile phone programs in Norway. They found 'text message mobile phone programmes to be effective in the short-term (six weeks), and a combined Internet-mobile phone programme to be effective up to 12 months', however, 'The current evidence shows no effect of mobile phone-based smoking cessation interventions on long-term outcome.'

Whittaker, R, Borland, R, Bullen, C, Lin, RB, McRobbie, H & Rodgers, A 2009, 'Mobile phone-based interventions for smoking cessation', *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, no. 4, p. CD006611,

www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD006611/frame.html.

Are there gender differences in the link between drug use and crime?

The October 2009 *eBulletin* contained an article entitled 'What is the connection between drug misuse and crime?' which referred to the Goldstein's framework for classifying relationships between drug misuse and criminal behaviour, and outlined recent research by Bennett and Holloway which suggested refinements to Goldstein's taxonomy to include factors such as cultural context and location. Building on these and other studies, researchers from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) have looked at the role of gender differences and offending using data from the AIC's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program.

Their exploration of the relationship between drug use, offending, mental health and experiences of child abuse among a sample of police detainees indicated that 'female detainees were more likely to use "hard" drugs and to have been arrested for a property crime'. They found that the relationship 'between experiences of mental illness, drug use and arrest was also stronger for female detainees'. The relationship 'between drug use, offending and prior experience of child abuse, with the relationship...[was] stronger among female detainees'. The researchers suggest that 'mental health care be considered as a measure to reduce recidivism, and that programs designed for male offenders may not be suitable for addressing women offenders' needs, which also tend to be more complex'.

Forsythe, L & Adams, K 2009, *Mental health, abuse, drug use and crime: does gender matter?*, Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, no. 384, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, A.C.T.,

www.aic.gov.au/documents/F/2/D/%7BF2D5EEFF-3E95-419D-A1F5-BF5F8579F01C%7Dtandi384.pdf.

How could the currently illicit drugs be provided in a regulated manner, as an alternative to total prohibition?

Drug law reform advocates in Australia and abroad argue that the dominant model for dealing with the currently illicit drugs, total prohibition, has largely failed to achieve key goals, as evidenced by the continuing ready availability of these drugs, along with stable or falling prices and stable or increasing purity. They have faced an impasse, however, in that there has been little documentation of how the alternative models, particularly the supply of drugs being regulated by governments rather than by organised crime, would actually work. The UK-based Transform Drug Policy Foundation has now provided a blueprint for this to assist policy-makers and advocates to understand other options. They state that 'We demonstrate that moving to the legal regulation of drugs is not an unthinkable, politically impossible step in the dark, but a sensible, pragmatic approach to control drug production, supply and use'.

Rolls, S 2009, *After the war on drugs: blueprint for regulation*, Transform Drug Policy Foundation, Bristol, UK.

Full report and executive summary: www.tdpf.org.uk/blueprint%20download.htm

How do people who use illicit drugs respond to price increases?

A study funded by NSW Health with in-kind support from the Drug Policy Modelling Program aimed to estimate how methamphetamine users would respond to changes in the prices of methamphetamine and heroin, using

hypothetical drug purchasing scenarios. This was to test the effectiveness of the strategy of reducing drug use by raising the price of drugs.

'A sample of 101 people who reported using methamphetamine in the past month was recruited from primary healthcare facilities in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle. Participants were given a hypothetical fixed drug budget, presented with a range of drug "pricelists" and asked how many units of each drug on the pricelist they would buy with their drug budget. The prices of methamphetamine and heroin were varied independently across successive trials and the quantity of each drug purchased at each methamphetamine and heroin price was recorded. Results revealed that methamphetamine purchases decreased significantly as the price of methamphetamine increased (a 10% price increase led to an 18%-19% fall), as did heroin purchases in response to heroin price increases (a 10% price increase led to a 16%-27% fall). Among methamphetamine users, increases in methamphetamine prices produced some substitution into heroin. Additionally, dependent methamphetamine users purchased more pharmaceutical opioids while the non-dependent group purchased more cocaine.'

Importantly, 'In most instances where substitution occurred, the fall in consumption of amphetamine (or heroin) was considerably greater than the increase in consumption of other drugs'.

Chalmers, J, Bradford, D & Jones, C 2009, *How do methamphetamine users respond to changes in methamphetamine price?*, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 134, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, [www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB134.pdf/\\$file/CJB134.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB134.pdf/$file/CJB134.pdf)

Homelessness National Partnership Implementation Plans

Australian Government

Homelessness National Partnership Implementation Plans are now available for all states and territories across Australia. The website currently includes ACT Implementation Plans for Social Housing, National Building and Jobs Plan, and Homelessness.

Visit www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_partnership_agreements/housing.aspx for more information.

Australia's Welfare 2009

Australia's welfare 2009 is the ninth biennial welfare report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It is the most comprehensive and authoritative source of national information on welfare services in Australia. Topics include children, youth and families; ageing and aged care; disability and disability services; carers and informal care; housing and housing assistance; and homelessness.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. *Australia's welfare 2009*. Australia's welfare series no. 9. Cat. no. AUS 117. Canberra: AIHW. Downloadable from www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/aw09/index.html.

From Corrections to the Community: A set of indicators of the health of Australia's prisoners

The National Prisoner Health Indicators project is developing a national data collection on the health of Australia's prisoners. This document outlines the Indicators to be reported on, which have been written in consultation with experts in the field. These indicators will assist in monitoring the health of prisoners, information prisoner health service planning and delivery, and evaluating the provision of services.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. *From Corrections to the Community: A set of indicators of the health of Australia's prisoners*. Cat. no. AUS 120. Canberra: AIHW. Download from www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10860. AIHW bulletin no. 75

Media

Union lays foundations for fairer work: Union and Federal

Government reach historic agreement

Australian Services Union (ASU)

4 November 2009

The Australian Services Union (ASU) and the Australian Government have reached an historic agreement which will see the social and community services sector as the test case for pay equity in the new Federal Industrial Relations system. This agreement means that the very first National equal remuneration case under the new Fair Work Act will be run by ASU with the support and co-operation of the Australian Government.

Visit www.asu.asn.au/media/sacs/20091104_payequity.html to view the full media release.

New Scheme to Strengthen Community Sector Workforce

Katy Gallagher, MLA

12 November 2009

The ACT Government has today delivered on its commitment to implement a Portable Long Service Leave scheme to assist child care and community sector workers, Minister for Industrial Relations, Katy Gallagher MLA, announced. The Minister said the Territory had become the first Australian jurisdiction to implement a Portable Long Service Leave Scheme to assist child care and community sector organisations improve workforce retention, after the Greens supported the Government's bill. "The new scheme will support these sectors by protecting the basic entitlement of each worker to take long service leave, even though they may have worked for more than one organisation, just like public sector workers' entitlements accrue by working across several government agencies," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8867 to view the full media release.

Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

18 November 2009

Changing the culture in Australia from binge drinking to responsible drinking is critical to reducing the harms from alcohol. Parents in particular play a crucial role in this fight by shaping their children's attitudes and behaviours towards alcohol. This message couldn't be more important than over the coming weeks - as students across Australia complete their exams and head to schoolies week celebrations. Today's Parliament House launch of the 'Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix' campaign, by DrinkWise Australia and the alcohol industry, is targeted at parents and is a positive move by the industry to combat binge drinking. This campaign is a good example of how as a community we need to work together to change the risky drinking culture that is influencing our young people. There is more that industry can do, including taking voluntary action in regard to marketing, product composition and sale of products to combat binge drinking and underage drinking. The Rudd Government has a strong commitment to reduce the harms caused to Australians, both young and old, by the excessive consumption of alcohol. The Rudd Government is making significant investments in preventative health, including through the \$87.2 million COAG Preventive Health National Partnership. The Government's \$53.5 million National Binge Drinking Strategy, at the forefront of our efforts to reduce the impact and incidence of binge drinking in society, is central to this plan. The Government will be investing an additional \$50 million in this Strategy following the passage of the alcopops legislation. The establishment of the National Health Prevention Agency by 1 January 2010 is a key weapon in the Government's fight against obesity, chronic disease and alcohol and tobacco addiction. The Agency will have a key role in driving the record \$872 million investment by this Government in health prevention. As we consider the inter-generational impact of alcohol use in Australia, I call on the Senate to pass the legislation to establish the Agency. I congratulate all those involved in the 'Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix' campaign on their efforts and look forward to continuing to work to change the culture of binge drinking in Australian society.

Visit www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr214.htm to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation Celebration

Katy Gallagher, MLA

24 November 2009

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today encouraged healthcare consumers to continue to provide feedback on all of aspects of ACT Health service delivery. The Health Minister today addressed the ACT Health Consumer Participation Celebration at the ACT Legislative Assembly. "Consumer participation and feedback is highly regarded within ACT Health," Ms Gallagher said. "I'd like to express my thanks to our consumer representatives who work so tirelessly to ensure safe, quality and timely healthcare continues to be provided in the ACT.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8929 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Consumer, Carer & Community Quarterly Forum

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

This forum is one of 4 held each year to discuss and raise awareness of current issues identified by Caucus and Consumer and Carer members.

Date: Monday 7 December 2009

Time: 5 - 7.30pm

Venue: Room 6, Level 1, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City

RSVP: By Thursday 3 December to admin@mhccact.org.au or (02) 6249 7756.

National Scoping Project - New National Mental Health Consumer Peak Body

Craze Lateral Solutions

Consultations are currently being undertaken for a National Scoping Project to inform the establishment of a New National Mental Health Consumer Peak Body. A Discussion Paper has also been developed to inform these consultations. The ACT consultation will be held:

Date: Wednesday 16 December 2009

Time: 3 - 5pm

Venue: Griffin Centre, Genge St, Canberra City

Visit www.crazelateralsolutions.com/f7a4ea3e-e771-4a32-8cec-53ead211d78b.aspx for more information.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

The YOGIE Awards Ceremony

The YOGIE Awards recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in working with young people in the ACT and surrounding area. The YOGIE Awards are a Youth Coalition of the ACT initiative, proudly supported by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government. The Youth Coalition would like to thank all the services and individuals who submitted nominations, and welcome everyone to attend the ceremony.

Date: Friday 4 December 2009

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Youth Coalition of the ACT, 46 Clianthus Street, O'Connor (Corner of Clianthus and Miller Streets)

RSVP: Essential.

Visit www.youthcoalition.net for more information.

National Youth Week 2010: ACT Seeding Grants

National Youth Week, the annual celebration of young people throughout Australia, will be held from 10 - 18 April 2010. The Youth Coalition is again administering the National Youth Week seeding grants in the ACT. These grants specifically support events that are planned and organised by and for young people. In 2010 there is a pool of \$7000 for general youth week projects and an additional pool of \$7000 for projects aimed at engaging young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, young people with a multicultural or refugee background, and young people in detention. Applications are due **Monday 18 January 2010**.

For more information, including an application package visit www.youthcoalition.net or contact Anna on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net.

Employment Opportunities

Alcohol and Other Drugs Worker - Casual Positions

DIRECTIONS ACT

Successful applicants will provide casual AOD worker support in programs and services within DIRECTIONS ACT which include Needle and Syringe Program, Outreach and Promotions, Arcadia House and Administration and Reception. A six month tenure is required for all casual positions at DIRECTIONS ACT, with an extension available which is negotiated with the Manager or Executive Director.

For more information including the position description and selection criteria visit www.directionsact.com or contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8000 (Tuesday to Thursday) or email hr@directionsact.com.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Worker

Ted Noffs Foundation ACT

The Ted Noffs Foundation are seeking people to work within established guidelines to provide care, supervision and support to young people whose problematic alcohol or other drug use has resulted in their admission to a residential drug free treatment facility.

For more information, including the position description and selection criteria visit

www.noffs.org.au/TED/client/JobSearch/c_jobDetails.jsp?elementID=3&pageName=Jobs

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Kids in Focus Funding

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA)

Kids in Focus is an early intervention, family focussed component of the wider National Drug Strategy. It aims to assist families by taking an early intervention and family-focused approach to dealing with the impacts of substance misuse on families. A total of \$3.2 million of funding per annum is available for Kids in Focus from May 2010 to 30 June 2013. The funding will be made available for the provision of one specialist intensive parenting support service in each State and Territory nationally. These services will be required to provide substance misuse support services to children at risk and vulnerable families in a specific location as well as a telephone advice service to Family Support Program providers to support them to identify and support children at risk.

For more information visit

www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/gamblingdrugs/progserv/kidsinfocus/application_guidelines/Pages/Section1.aspx.

Applications close **2pm on Tuesday 15 December 2009**.

ACT Women's Grants Program

ACT Office for Women

The ACT Women's Grants Program is an ACT Government initiative, which provides non recurrent financial assistance to community organisations and groups for the development of activities that improve the status of women in the ACT. The Program has two categories:

Capacity Building Projects: are Projects which strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of community organisations and their contribution to women in the ACT. These Projects may apply for up to \$3,000 excluding GST in funding per project.

Special Projects: are Projects which progress one or more objectives of the ACT Women's Plan by contributing to public policy or service development for the benefit of women or by adding to the research base. Projects that address one or more of the six objectives of the ACT Women's Plan, thereby contributing to public policy/service

development for the benefit of women and/or by adding to the research base, are eligible for funding under this category. Applicants may apply for up to \$15,000 excluding GST in funding per project.

For more information, contact the ACT Office for Women on (02) 6205 0515 or women@act.gov.au.

Applications close **Monday 7 December 2009**.

2009-10 Innovation Grants

Disability ACT, ACT Government

Applications for grant funding are invited from individuals and organisations to support one-off strategic or specific projects or initiatives that aim to do things differently for vulnerable people, including those with disabilities. Innovation Grants will be offered for projects or initiatives that will make a real difference to the wellbeing, quality of life and/or community participation including by way of services or supports provided to carers and families. Each application may apply for funding up to a maximum of \$50,000; with the total funding pool at \$200,000.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/disability_act for more information, or contact Disability ACT on (02) 6207 1086 or DisabilityACT@act.gov.au.

Applications are due by **Wednesday 16 December 2009**.

ACT Health Promotion Grants (Community Funding Round)

ACT Health, ACT Government

The 2010/11 Community Funding Round is open to community-based groups, not-for-profit organisations and government agencies. The 2010-11 Community Funding Round aims to support activities related to the promotion of good health in general and the prevention of chronic disease including the development of partnerships that strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to make healthy choices. The funding round also aims to build the capability of organisations to adopt health promotion principles and practices and deliver a range of health promotion strategies.

The Community Funding Round calls for projects that place an emphasis on ACT Health's key priorities. These include: physical activity, healthy nutrition, smoking reduction, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion and environmental sustainability and health. The funding guidelines will be applied flexibly to project applications received from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=&did=10091694> for more information.

Applications are due by **Monday 25 January 2010**.

Community Energy Grants

ACT Government

The ACT Government's Community Energy Grants program provides funding to help ACT-based, not-for-profit, incorporated community groups to install renewable energy technologies, such as solar photovoltaic panels, wind generators and solar hot water, in buildings they occupy.

Visit www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/community_energy_grants for more information.

Applications close **23 December 2009**.