

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: November 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

November ACT AOD Sector Forum

The ACT AOD sector forum is for AOD workers and is hosted by a different AOD service each month. The forum aims to:

- provide an opportunity for ACT AOD workers to network and share information such as referring clients, service vacancies and waiting lists, and the impact of changes to services;
- learn about developments in, and relevant to, the sector;
- access professional development opportunities, information and resources;
- support professional peer networks;
- improve referrals, service knowledge and visit other AOD services, and;
- provide information about, and give workers an opportunity to have input into the ACT AOD Sector Project

Guest Speaker: ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project

Ben Frommel, Student Placement from University of Canberra, ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project and Carrie Fowlie, Director, ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project was undertaken throughout 2009 and examined the relationship between the ACT AOD Sector and the ACT's new correctional facility, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). Given the link between AOD use and incarceration, the Project sought to explore the implications that the opening of the AMC would have for the AOD Sector in the ACT. Ben Frommel and Carrie Fowlie will present the key Project findings, focusing on service delivery in, and post release from the AMC, training and professional development, the relationship between the AOD Sector and the AMC. Information from the presentation will help form a basis from which the Sector can be proactive about identifying and addressing the issues that have arisen from the opening of the AMC.

Date: Thursday 26 November 2009

Time: 9.30 - 11.30am

Venue: Ted Noffs Foundation, 350 Antill St, Watson

For more information or to RSVP contact Amanda Bode, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

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, 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 Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile

In This Edition...

[News from the ACT AOD Sector Project](#)

Updates on Project activities.

[First Annual ACT AOD Awards](#)

Updates on the First Annual ACT AOD Awards.

[ACT AOD Sector Forum Update](#)

Information from services that attended the AOD Sector monthly forum.

[Sector Activities and Events](#)

Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.

[News from the Executive Directors' Group](#)

Information from the EDs' group that is relevant to the AOD sector and Workers..

[Sector Development](#)

Information on networks, resources, websites, factsheets and tools for Workers.

[Training and Professional Development](#)

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

The ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile is now publicly available and presents a profile of the ACT AOD sector workforce qualifications and remuneration at April 2009.

The profile is regarded as useful to identify if the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy is meeting its objectives and appropriate for the ACT AOD workforce. The areas covered in the profile include the ACT AOD workforce demographics, remuneration and employee entitlements by chosen category of employment within the sector, level of qualification and staff development processes.

Download the [ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile](#) or visit www.aodsector.org.au for more information.

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:

Stream 1:

- Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 November
- Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 December

Stream 2:

- Monday 16, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 November
- 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.

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

Limited Time Left to Nominate for 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.

- Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Health has generously agreed to present the Awards at the ACT Legislative Assembly on 11 December 2009.
- 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.

Award Categories:

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

a. Excellence in Alcohol and Other Drug Work Award

This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated excellence in non-clinical or clinical alcohol and other drug work in the ACT. The individual will have demonstrated a strong commitment to embodying the principles of the Awards and to conducting their professional practice with empathy, skill and knowledge.

b. Lifetime Achievements Award

This award recognises an individual who over the span of their career has consistently demonstrated a commitment to evidenced-informed and socially-just approaches to promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and other

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 Opportunities](#)

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

drug issues. The individual will be regarded as a highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the alcohol and other drugs sector in the ACT.

c. Outstanding Contributions Award

This award recognises the contributions of an individual who has worked to prevent or reduce the psychological, physical, social and/or economic harms caused by alcohol and other drugs in the ACT. The individual need not have worked in direct service delivery or specifically in the AOD sector, but will have over a considerable period of time worked to improve the health and well-being of people affected alcohol and other drug issues.

Nomination Package:

The First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards – 2009 Nomination Package includes information about the Awards, the Guidelines and Categories; Nomination Information; Information for Award Recipients; and the 2009 Nomination Form.

The Nomination Package and Nomination Form are available for download from www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/Awards.htm

Key Dates:

Nominations Open:	12 October 2009
Nominations Close:	9 November 2009
Awards Ceremony:	11 December 2009

How to submit a nomination:

A completed nomination form can be submitted by:

Email: awards@aodsector.org.au

Fax: (02) 6249 1675

Post: PO Box 5232, Lyneham ACT 2602

In person: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor

Getting support and more information:

If you would like more information, assistance or additional copies of the nomination package please contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on:

Email: awards@aodsector.org.au

Phone: (02) 6247 3540

Web: 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 October 2009.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT: Family Support

Service Spokesperson: Meg Fitzgerald

Phone: (02) 6292 2733, *Email:* fitzgerald@adfact.org

ADFAC Family Support offers care, support and assistance to families of clients within Karralika, Nexus, Early-birds and the Therapeutic Community in the Alexander Maconochie Centre to reduce the impact cause by addiction in the family. The following support can be provided:

- Contact with case worker
- Counselling
- Family Support Group
- Education and information
- Information pack for families or carers
- Referrals
- Follow up support

Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc

Phone: (02) 6241 7233, *Email:* lesleys@toora.org.au

Lesleys place currently offers:

- 3 month residential service for women and accompanying children leaving supervised withdrawal.
- Halfway house for women and accompanying children for up to 12 months.
- Outreach to women in the community.

The Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare Canberra

Service Spokesperson: Steve Roche

Phone: 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 trialling a new model for brief interventions.

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

Service Spokesperson: Susan Babic

Phone: (02) 6248 8600, Email: wireddd@toora.org.au

Some programs currently being offered by WIREDDD include:

- Information and support for women about drugs
- Confidential free counselling
- Drop in
- Groups

Sector Activities and Events

Developing and Defining our Workforce: Community Sector Human Resources Event

National Disability Service and ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This full-day event will seek to clarify the nature of the ACT community sector workforce and progress strategic development in the areas of career pathways, job descriptions, training and development, and workforce planning.

In the context of the Industrial Relations Review, Portable Long Service Leave and other workforce reform, understanding our human resource issues has never been more important

Date: Thursday 5 November

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: Marymead Child and Family Centre Functions Room, 255 Goyder St, Narrabundah

RSVP: To louise.gray@nds.org.au or brooke.mckail@actcoss.org.au by 23 October to reserve your place.

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](#).

Maysoon Program

DIRECTIONS ACT

DIRECTIONS ACT is again offering the Maysoon Program for women with alcohol and other drugs issues who have young children.

Maysoon provides knowledge, support and skills for women to gain confidence in parenting and build self esteem and resilience in themselves and their children. Free childcare and a healthy lunch is provided to participating women.

Date: Thursday, from 29 October - 10 December 2009.

Time: 10am - 1pm

Registration: Please contact Ineke Wylde on (02) 6122 8038 or visit www.directionsact.com.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Workshops

Reconciliation Australia

Join RAP organisations from across Canberra to discuss the successes and challenges of developing and administering RAPs, how you can extend your RAPs through cultural development and engaging with your local Aboriginal community and how Reconciliation Australia can better support you in your work. This workshop is perfect for organisations who are beginning their RAP journey, through to organisations who are reporting on, and implementing, their second and third RAPs. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other RAPPers and to help build our RAP community.

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2009

Time: 10am – 4pm (light lunch included)

Venue: Burringiri Association Inc, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, 245 Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach ACT

RSVP: Essential to rsvp@reconciliation.org.au

Canberra Volunteers' Day 2009

Volunteering ACT

The aim of Canberra Volunteers' Day is to encourage members of the community to volunteer and to match people with volunteer-based organisations to find the 'right fit'. It will also seek to raise the profile of volunteering, and to acknowledge the benefits of volunteering and the invaluable contribution made by volunteer-based organisations. Organisations are invited to register to reserve a display table, to provide information to prospective volunteers.

Date: Sunday 6 December

Time: 11am - 3pm

Venue: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton

For more information, or to reserve a display table contact Volunteering ACT on ceo@volunteeract.org.au or (02) 6251 4161.

ACT Early Intervention Awards 2009: Applications Open

SupportLink, Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) and ParentLine

Applications for the ACT Early Intervention Awards are now open. These awards 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.

Applications for the Awards close **2 November 2009**.

Date: Thursday 3 December 2009

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Bradroom Room, Manuka Oval

RSVP: Essential, by 20 November 2009

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

Call for Nominations for Outstanding Women in the ACT

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

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**.

Annual General Meeting of ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

Guest speakers include Mr. Bradley Foxlewin, Mental Health Consumer Representative who will speak about seclusion and restraint and provide some ideas about where or how these start.

Date: Wednesday 11th November 2009

Time: 5.30pm

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

RSVP: To (02) 6230 5796 or information@actmhcn.org.au

ACT Council of Social Service Annual General Meeting (AGM)

ACT Council of Social Service

A guest speaker and other special events will take place during the AGM.

Date: Monday 23 November 2009

Time: Registrations open 3.30pm

Venue: ACT Legislative Assembly

For further information phone the ACTCOSS office on (02) 6202 7200 or actcoss@actcoss.org.au.

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 October ED's meeting the group:

- Received an update on the ACT AOD Workers Group activities
- Agreed to the distribution of the final report of the ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile (October 2009)
- Discussed ACTCOSS' Cultural Self-Assessment Tool and Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plans
- Provided an update on development in the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia
- Endorsed the ACT AOD Sector Project Workplan
- Discussed the development of the ACT-Wide Comorbidity Strategy and the upcoming workshop
- Discussed the Drug Education in ACT Schools workshop
- Received an update on the Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre
- Agreed to support strategies to strengthening linkages with Centres of Excellence - specifically the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) through the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IRDS) & Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (ERDS).
- Discussed engagement strategies with General Practitioners
- Agreed to participate in the ACT Budget 2010 – 2011 consultation process
- The Group also discussed the development of the peak body. A summary of recent developments is provided below.

Development of the Peak

A workshop was conducted on 27 - 28 July 2009 to address strategic directions and governance issues for the ACT AOD sector. Over 30 representatives from non-government and Government services participated. At this workshop a consensus statement was developed (this was circulated in the September ACT AOD Sector eBulletin). This statement was taken back to each organisation's Board of Management, agreed consumer and carer groups and ACT Health for consideration.

The results of stakeholder considerations were fed back to the October 2009 ACT AOD Executive Directors Group who made the final decision on the new governance arrangements. On 20 October 2009 it was agreed that an ACT AOD Sector Peak Body would be established based on the consensus statement developed at the workshop. Work is currently underway to establish clear processes and engagement strategies as described in the consensus statement.

For further information about the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group visit www.aodsector.org.au/public/about/actedg.htm

Sector Development

Of Substance: October 2009 Issue

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

The national magazine on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs has a thought-provoking range of articles, including:

- From happy hour to hospital: Alcohol's impact on the ED
- Violence and vomit: Reclaiming city streets
- Celebrating the sector: The 2009 National Drug and Alcohol Awards
- Special two-page interview: The Prime Ministers Award recipient, Professor Ian Webster
- Dramatic shift in drinking attitudes: latest public opinions from the AER Foundation about the use of alcohol
- Drowning in red tape: NGO's burden of compliance
- Research digest: The use and abuse of prescribed opioids is a worldwide problem
- Annual index of 2009 OF Substance articles: January - October 2009

To subscribe and view the current and past issues online visit www.ofsubstance.org.au.

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Bulletins

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The IDRS and EDRS monitor the price, purity and availability and patterns of use of illicit drugs as well as acting as a timely warning system for emerging markets. NDARC releases bulletins on a regular basis that contain more detailed analyses and information on a particular topic of interest. The October eBulletins are now available online at <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Bulletins>. Topics include:

- An overview of the 2009 IDRS: the injecting drug user survey preliminary findings
- An overview of the 2009 EDRS: the regular ecstasy user survey findings

Presentations from 1st National Cannabis Conference

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)

Presentations are now available to download from <http://ncpic.org.au/workforce/cannabis-conference/download-presentations/>

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

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training: Part I

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one-day workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers gives participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways that organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people.

Date: Thursday 5 November

Time: 9.30 - 4.30pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach

Cost: \$48 for SAAP services, \$158 for members, \$197 for non-members and \$237 for government.

RSVP: To george.wilson@actcoss.org.au or call (02) 6202 7200.

Comorbidity and Young People Bus Tour (Fully Booked)

Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition is running a Comorbidity Bus Tour with a focus on comorbidity and young people (12 – 25 yrs). The bus tour will visit a variety of mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) and community agencies across the ACT and is open to workers from government and non-government organisations. The services visited include:

- Ted Noffs Foundation
- CatholicCare STEPS Program
- headspace ACT
- The Cottage – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Party Safe – DIRECTIONS ACT
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Alcohol & Drug Program, Civic
- The Connection, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- Junction Youth Health Service
- CYCLOPS ACT Litmus Program
- Youth Coalition of the ACT

Date: Wednesday 18 November

Time: 9am - 5pm

For further information, contact Katrina Campion at the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 or bustour@youthcoalition.net

Writing Funding Applications Workshop

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS is running a workshop to assist participants in developing funding applications. The workshop provides:

- an overview of sources of funding from government and philanthropic organisations;
- an opportunity to work through some funding applications;
- an opportunity to draft a funding application; and,
- a chance to share ideas and ask questions.

Date: Friday 20 November 2009

Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Venue: Room 2, Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Freemantle St, Stirling

Cost: ACTCOSS Members \$48; Non-member community organisations \$60; and, Government/Corporate \$72.

RSVP: Registrations close 10 November 2009.

For more information, contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

Mental Health First Aid

VYNE @ OzHelp

Mental Health First Aid is the initial help given to someone experiencing a mental health crisis before professional help is sought. This course covers helping people in mental health crisis situations and/or in the early stages of mental health problems.

Date: 23 & 24 November 2009

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: Venue details provided on receipt of registration - All workshops are held in the ACT

Cost: \$260

RSVP: Contact (02) 6251 4166 or irmgard@ozhelp.org.au

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2009 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

This conference will feature an exciting program which includes international and national speakers, focussing on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of drug and alcohol research.

Date: 1 - 4 November

Venue: Darwin Convention Centre, Northern Territory

Cost: Full registration \$600 - \$900

Information on registration and the Conference Program is available at www.apsadconference.com.au/

Australia's Welfare 2009 Conference

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

A one-day conference providing a forum for discussion and debate on issues around social inclusion, as well as how well the needs of all Australians are being met by government services and programs designed to promote well-being.

Date: Tuesday 17 November

Venue: Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, NSW

Cost: Concession \$150, Non Government Organisation \$250, full fee \$350

Visit <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=7be89b98-74da-47c9-bca4-a617198cc580> for further information and registration details.

Call for Abstracts: Inaugural National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

Across Australia, there are a number of people, organisations and communities working together to address Indigenous alcohol and drug issues and associated harm. NIDAC aims to further develop the capacity of those working to address these harms in meaningful and practical ways and will be hosting the National Drug and Alcohol Conference. 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.

Abstract submissions (300 word maximum) are currently being sought. Submissions close **Friday 4 December 2009**.

For more information including speakers guidelines and to submit your abstract visit www.nidaconference.com.au.

Policy Activities

ACT Multicultural Strategy: Call for Submissions

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The ACT Government is seeking written comment or submissions from individuals or organisations on the second draft of the ACT Multicultural Strategy 2010 -2013. Following the initial round of community consultation, the draft includes an updated structure, as well as new content.

For more information and to view the draft Strategy visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/matsia/multicultural.

Submissions close **Thursday 5 November 2009**.

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>.

What effect does methamphetamine use have on violent behaviour?

A study funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund included a survey of the lifetime and most recent experiences of violent victimisation and offending among 400 regular methamphetamine users from the greater Sydney region. The researchers looked only at physical violence which included assault, armed robbery, homicide, and sexual assault.

They found that:

...both violent victimisation and offending are widespread problems amongst regular illicit drug users, to the extent that violence is almost an 'expected' part of a drug-using lifestyle. Methamphetamine use was not found to contribute to the risk of victimisation. Instead, involvement in drug dealing and a predisposition towards antisociality [sic] pose the greater risks for victimisation. Severity of methamphetamine use, however, was found to significantly increase the risk of committing a violent crime. Whilst the prevalence of offending was high across the different drug-user groups as a result of dependent, drug-using lifestyles, methamphetamine use was an added risk to the broader systemic risks associated with committing violent crime. As more potent forms of methamphetamine have become easily available in Australia over the past decade, we are potentially seeing that a major adverse effect of chronic use of these higher potency drugs is increased risk of violent behaviour.

Torok, M, Darke, S, Kaye, S, Ross, J & McKetin, R 2009, *Comparative rates of violent crime amongst methamphetamine and opioid users: victimisation and offending*, NDLERF Monograph Series No. 32, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, Hobart, www.ndlerf.gov.au/pub.php?type=mono.

Does banning smoking in public places reduce heart attack incidence?

Researchers from the University of Kansas conducted a review and analysis over the period 2004 to 2008 'to determine the association between public smoking bans and risk for hospital admission for acute myocardial infarction (AMI)'. They found that secondhand smoke 'is associated with a 30% increase in risk of AMI, which might be reduced by prohibiting smoking in work and public places'. They examined eleven reports from ten study locations where smoking had been banned in public places (four in the US, one in Canada, and four in Europe).

They found that the risk of AMI 'decreased by 17% overall...with the greatest effect among younger individuals and nonsmokers'. Their conclusion was that 'Smoking bans in public places and workplaces are significantly associated with a reduction in AMI incidence, particularly if enforced over several years'.

Meyers, DG, Neuberger, JS & He, J 2009, 'Cardiovascular effect of bans on smoking in public places: a systematic review and meta-analysis', *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, Vol. 54, No. 14, pp. 1249-1255.

What would be the savings if Australians adopted healthier life styles?

Deakin Health Economics and the National Stroke Research Institute estimate that more than \$2 billion could be saved by means of a reduction in the prevalence of six disease risk factors: intimate partner violence, high risk alcohol consumption, inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption, physical inactivity, tobacco smoking and high body mass index. In 2008 VicHealth commissioned Deakin Health Economics to undertake a research project into the economic benefits of reducing disease risk factors. Health status benefits were measured as 'changes in workforce participation rates, absenteeism and early retirement from the workforce, as well as days of increased household and leisure activities that could be associated with improvements in health status'. More than \$1.2 billion could be saved from reductions in alcohol consumption, and over \$90 million if people ate more fruit and vegetables.

Cadilhac, DA, Magnus, A, Cumming, T, Sheppard, L, Pearce, D & Carter, R 2009, *The health and economic benefits of reducing disease risk factors: research report*, VicHealth & Deakin University, Melbourne,

www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/~media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Knowledge/Research%20Report_FINAL_July09.ashx

What treatments are available for people with both severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders?

A review of evidence on the use of psychosocial treatments for people with co-occurring severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders (dual diagnosis) has identified individual and group treatments that are effective including motivational interviewing, cognitive-behavioural therapy, contingency management, relapse prevention, case management, and skills training. The reviewers conclude 'Regardless of whether services follow integrated or parallel models, they should be well coordinated, take a team approach, be multidisciplinary, have specialist-trained personnel with accessible, 24-hour contact, and offer a range of program types, all of which should provide for long-term follow-up'.

Horsfall, J, Cleary, M, Hunt, GE & Walter, G 2009, 'Psychosocial treatments for people with co-occurring severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders (dual diagnosis): a review of empirical evidence', *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 24-34.

What treatments are available for cannabis use disorder?

Researchers from the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre have published an overview of the epidemiology of cannabis use, cannabis use disorders and its treatment. They report that:

Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug internationally. While use is decreasing in the developed world, it appears to be stable or increasing in developing countries and some indigenous communities. Early initiation and regular adolescent use have been identified as particular risk factors for later problematic cannabis (and other drug) use, impaired mental health, delinquency, lower educational achievement, risky sexual behaviour and criminal offending in a range of studies. It is estimated that approximately one in ten people who had ever used cannabis will become dependent with risk increasing markedly with frequency of use. There has been an increase in the proportion of treatment provided for cannabis use. There are as yet no evidence-based pharmacotherapies available for the management of cannabis withdrawal and craving. Relatively brief cognitive behavioural therapy and contingency management have the strongest evidence of success, and structured, family-based interventions, provide potent treatment options for adolescents. With criminally involved young people and those with severe, persistent mental illness, longer and more intensive therapies provided by interdisciplinary teams may be required.

Copeland, J & Swift, W 2009, 'Cannabis use disorder: epidemiology and management', *International Review of Psychiatry*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 96-103.

What is harm reduction?

The International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) Board of Directors and staff have released a detailed position statement which defines harm reduction as 'policies, programmes and practices that aim primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption. Harm reduction benefits people who use drugs, their families and the community'.

The statement includes a set of underlying principles describing this approach. It is based on a strong commitment to public health and human rights, is targeted at risks and harms, is evidence based and cost effective, and is incremental. The approach encompasses dignity and compassion, it takes account of the universality and interdependence of rights; it challenges policies and practices that maximise harm, and incorporates transparency, accountability and participation.

International Harm Reduction Association 2009, *What is harm reduction? A position statement from the International Harm Reduction Association*, International Harm Reduction Association, London, www.ihra.net/Whatisharmreduction .

Do designated driver programs reduce drink driving or alcohol related crashes?

Researchers from the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland reviewed evidence on the use and effectiveness of designated driver programs in preventing drink driving and reducing alcohol related road trauma. They examined mass media campaigns both overseas and in Australia including the "Pick-a-Skipper" program in Geraldton, WA, the "Sober Bob" program in the NT, "Who's DES tonight?" in Burnie, Tasmania, and "The Skipper" on the Gold Coast. They found that 'The available evidence suggested that designated driver programs can successfully increase the awareness and use of designated drivers. However, whether these programs lead to a reduction in drink driving and ultimately alcohol related crashes is less clear...The lack of evidence confirming the effectiveness of designated driver programs does not necessarily mean that such programs should be discouraged...it highlights the need for them to be better implemented and evaluated'.

Nielson, AL & Watson, B 2009, 'The effectiveness of designated driver programs', *Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 32-7.

Are needle and syringe programs cost effective?

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research has estimated the population benefits of needle and syringe programs (NSPs) on HIV- and hepatitis C virus (HCV)-related outcomes among people who inject illegal drugs in Australia and in each State and Territory over the period from 2000 to 2009, explored changes in the provision of NSPs, populations at risk, and sharing behaviour on these outcomes, and calculated the net present value, future values and cost-effectiveness of NSPs in terms of HIV and HCV infections averted from a health sector (government as third party payer) perspective.

They estimated that 'For every one dollar invested in NSPs, more than four dollars were returned (additional to the investment) in healthcare cost-savings in the short-term (ten years) if only direct costs are included; greater returns are expected over longer time horizons...The majority of the cost savings were found to be associated with HCV-related outcomes...If patient/client costs and productivity gains and losses are included in the analysis, then the net present value of NSPs is \$5.85bn; that is, for every one dollar invested in NSPs (2000-2009), \$27 is returned in cost savings. This return increases considerably over a longer time horizon'.

The report is available for free downloading at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/needle-return2.

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research 2009, *Return on investment 2: evaluating the cost-effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Australia*, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Are people who receive methadone maintenance treatment while in prison more likely to remain in treatment than those who receive only counselling?

Researchers in the US examined the impact of prison-initiated methadone maintenance at twelve months post-release. They found that 'prison-initiated methadone maintenance treatment was associated with greater duration of treatment in the community during the 12 months post prison release compared to counseling...Compared with Counseling Only participants, participants who received methadone in prison spent seven times as many days in drug abuse treatment during the year following release. Furthermore, none of the Counseling Only participants spent the entire postrelease year in treatment compared to approximately 37% of Counseling + Methadone participants'. Kinlock, TW, Gordon, MS, Schwartz, RP, Fitzgerald, TT & O'Grady, KE 2009, 'A randomized clinical trial of methadone maintenance for prisoners: results at 12 months postrelease', *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 277-85.

What is needed to reduce the burden of hepatitis C in Australia?

A review of data about HCV notifications, treatment of HCV infection through the Highly Specialised Drugs (s100) Program, and liver transplants (Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry) for the period 1997-2006 has found that 'HCV case notification rates declined by almost 50% between 1999 and 2006...For newly acquired HCV cases, 89% were Australian-born and 90% reported injecting drug use as a risk factor for infection. Overall, 30% of liver transplant recipients had HCV-related cirrhosis, but the number and proportion of HCV diagnoses increased between 1997 and 2006. HCV treatment also increased over the review period. However, only 1.4% of the 202,400 people estimated to be living with chronic HCV at the end of 2006 received treatment that year'.

The researchers concluded that 'The decline in HCV notifications is consistent with a decline in HCV incidence in Australia. However, the burden of advanced HCV disease continues to expand. To reduce this burden, treatment uptake needs to increase. Consistent and sensitive surveillance mechanisms are required to detect newly acquired cases together with an expansion of surveillance for chronic HCV infections'. Gidding, HF, Topp, L, Middleton, M, Robinson, K, Hellard, M, McCaughan, G, Maher, L, Kaldor, JM, Dore, GJ & Law, MG 2009, 'The epidemiology of hepatitis C in Australia: notifications, treatment uptake and liver transplantations, 1997-2006', *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, vol. 24, no. 10, pp. 1648-54.

What is the next step needed to prevent opioid overdoses?

The 19 October 2009 issue of the Medical Journal of Australia contained a letter to the editor from a number of leading Australian researchers calling for the removal of scheduling and legislative barriers in Australia that prevent easy access to naloxone [Narcan] for administration by peers to people suffering from a heroin overdose.

They state:

In our view, the international evidence clearly indicates that increased naloxone availability will prevent many cases of fatal overdose...and that naloxone should be made available without delay to be administered by peers in cases of opioid overdose. Careful monitoring and evaluation should be a part of this process. We call on all Australian states and territories to immediately enact Good Samaritan legislation to legally protect laypeople using naloxone in emergency situations. Naloxone should be reclassified from a Schedule 4 (S4) drug (available only on prescription) to S3 or S2 to make it available over the counter. As naloxone is no longer under patent, there may be little financial incentive for a drug company to pursue rescheduling. However, it could be rescheduled in Australia under provisions that allow state health authorities, professional associations or the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee to initiate the process. Heroin overdose deaths are preventable. We need to take action now to enable peer-led intervention to reduce this serious outcome.

Lenton, SR, Dietze, PM, Degenhardt, L, Darke, S & Butler, TG 2009, 'Naloxone for administration by peers in cases of heroin overdose', *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 191, no. 8, p. 469.

What do the data tell us about alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia?

The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS NMDS) helps monitor and evaluate the objectives of the National Drug Strategy 2004-2009. It also helps to plan, manage and improve the quality of alcohol and other drug treatment services. The bulletins on AOD treatment services in Australia 2007-08 were released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in October.

In 2007-08 658 government-funded treatment agencies provided around 154,000 treatment episodes, around 7,000 more episodes than in 2006-07. Alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern (44% in 2007-08 compared to 38% in 2002-03). Treatment for heroin use has been declining (11% in 2007-08 down from 18% in 2002-03). Treatment has remained stable for cannabis (22%) and amphetamines (11%). Counselling was the most common main treatment provided in 2007-8 (38% of episodes), with withdrawal management the second most common main treatment (16% of episodes). The ACT NMDS data have not yet been released.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2007-08: findings from the national minimum data set*, Bulletin 74, AIHW, Canberra, www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10745

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2007-08: report on the National Minimum Data Set*, Drug Treatment Series no. 9, cat. no. HSE 73, AIHW, Canberra, www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10744

Media

World First Online Gambling Counselling Service

8 October 2009

Katy Gallagher MLA

A new national online gambling counselling support service has been launched, with the ACT Government providing support for the establishment of the service, ACT Treasurer Katy Gallagher MLA said today. The Treasurer said Gambling Help Online was an initiative of the Ministerial Council on Gambling (MCG) and was funded as part of an agreement between all State and Territory Governments and the Australian Government. "This new online service will complement and increase the range of services available to people with gambling problems. It will enable Canberrans to access counselling and information services when they are either unable or reluctant to access face-to-face services," Ms Gallagher said... For more information visit the website at www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8756&m=52 to view the full media release.

Smoking to be Banned in Outdoor Food and Drinking Areas

15 October 2009

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, will introduce a bill into the Legislative Assembly today to restrict smoking in outdoor eating and drinking areas in the ACT. "Today, the Government is delivering on its commitment to the ACT community to promote the health and wellbeing of Canberrans," Ms Gallagher said. The Minister said the Smoking (Prohibition in Enclosed Public Places) Amendment Bill 2009 would introduce a ban on smoking in outdoor eating and drinking places, as well as at underage functions. "The Bill builds on the success of the enclosed public places legislation which made the indoor areas of pubs, clubs and restaurants smoke-free from 1 December 2006," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8779&m=52 to view the full media release.

Remembrance Ceremony to Commemorate Lives Lost to Drugs

19 October 2009

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, today acknowledged the commitment of Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform to raising awareness and commemorating the lives lost to drug use. The Minister was speaking at the Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform 14th Annual Remembrance Ceremony in Canberra. "The ceremony aims to break a silence of prejudice and ignorance which has left many to bear their grief in isolation," Ms Gallagher said. "I'd like to acknowledge the important work of Families and Friends of Drug Law Reform which offers support and comfort to those who have lost loved ones to drugs," she said. "Occasions such as this remind us that, whilst there are many in our community for whom drug treatment and support services are effective, there are others who slip through the cracks and lose their lives as a result of drug use." The Minister said the ACT was fortunate to have an Alcohol and Other Drugs services sector committed to providing effective drug treatment and support services for our community. These organisations provide a range of interventions including opioid maintenance treatment, withdrawal management, rehabilitation programs, counselling and case management, diversion to drug treatment from the criminal justice system, education and information, and assessment and referral. The Government has also committed to a number of new initiatives, such as the establishment of a residential rehabilitation facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the development of an ACT-wide Integrated Comorbidity Strategy and the provision of integrated services for people who have been released from the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8790 to view the full media release.

Australia's First Preventive Health Agency

22 October 2009

Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

Australia's first ever Preventive Health Agency will soon be established following the passage of important legislation in the House of Representatives today. The Agency is a key part of the Rudd Government's decision to invest more in preventative health measures than any other government in Australia's history. The legislation is now with the Senate for consideration. It is essential that this Bill be passed without delay so that the agency can commence work on 1 January 2010. The creation of this agency responds to calls from health professionals for Australia to establish – as many other countries have done – a dedicated agency to focus exclusively on driving the prevention agenda and combat the complex challenges of preventable chronic disease. The agency will guide health ministers in their task of curbing the growth of lifestyle risks driving chronic disease. It is a role requiring national leadership, capacity to work across sectors and portfolios, and an oversight role for surveillance and monitoring. The agency will bring together the best expertise in the country and play a key role in gathering, analysing and disseminating the best available evidence and evidence-based programs.

Visit www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr182.htm to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Activism, Advocacy and Leadership Workshop

Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

Every year, in conjunction with AIVL's National General Meeting a workshop for people who inject drugs is conducted. The Workshop is designed to develop the skills and knowledge of current and new drug user activists and advocates. The workshop is a stand-alone event for 1.5 days and the workshop participants join the AIVL National Meeting for the remaining 1.5 days. Topics covered include:

- Media skills
- Meeting skills
- Consumer representation skills
- Research skills

Attendees are fully funded to attend the three days (return air fare, accommodation and meal allowances) and must be able to travel and be in Canberra from the 11th to the 13th of November, 2009.

For more information contact AIVL on (02) 6279 1600 or info@aivl.org.au.

3-Day Consumer Advocacy Course (CAC)

ACT Mental Health Consumers Network

The Network is hosting a three-day Consumer Advocacy Course for mental health consumers delivered by consumer advocate Sandy Watson from the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry. Course content includes:

Day 1:

- Introduction and welcome
- Advocacy and social justice principles
- Consumer advocacy
- Consumer representation
- Looking after yourself

Day 2:

- Mental health rights and exercises
- Committee skills
- Looking after yourself

Day 3:

- Getting connected - networking
- Essential knowledge and skills for advocacy
- Final issues about advocacy

Date: Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 November 2009

Cost: Free for mental health consumers

RSVP: Essential by 18 November 2009 to information@actmhcn.org.au or (02) 6230 5796

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

State of Australia's Young People Report

Australian Government

The Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis, has released the State of Australia's Young People: a report on the social, economic, health and family lives of young people. This report presents a comprehensive picture of how young Australians are faring. The report's findings were based on national data sources, existing literature, stakeholder interviews and focus groups with young people. Overall the report presents a positive picture, showing how important young people are to our country and why it makes good economic and social sense for governments to invest in lifting outcomes for all young people. It also highlights some areas of concern and underlines the important role that families, education and employment play in young people's development.

Visit www.youth.gov.au/news.html to view the report.

Employment Opportunities

Policy and Development Officer

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The position provides the successful candidate an opportunity to engage with social policy issues, and work directly with community organisations to improve their capacity. Responsibilities include a broad and engaging workload, and interaction with diverse communities, allowing you to meet and connect with people from different backgrounds and circumstances.

ACTCOSS has above-award pay and conditions as part of the ACT community sector multiple business agreement. ACTCOSS welcomes and encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and from candidates with diverse backgrounds and life experience.

Please phone (02) 6202 7200, email actcoss@actcoss.org.au or visit www.actcoss.org.au for more information, or a copy of the position description and selection criteria.

Applications close **9am, Monday 9 November 2009**.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Grants

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF)

The AER Foundation invites submissions for:

1. Innovative Grants

Submissions are invited from organisations seeking funding for projects which introduce distinctly new initiatives to the sector. Projects must have the potential, if successful, of continuing into the future, with funding and the full commitment of the organisation. The maximum grant value is \$20,000 plus GST.

Applications close **30 November 2009**.

Download a copy of the submission form at www.aerf.com.au/community/about.aspx

2. Conference Attendance Grants - 2010

Applications are invited from organisations seeking financial assistance to attend conferences during 2010, with a maximum of two persons per organisation receiving assistance. The maximum grant value is \$5,000 plus GST

Applications close **30 November 2009**.

Download a copy of the application form at www.aerf.com.au/community/about.aspx

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**.

Preliminary Notice of Opening: Community Funding Round

ACT Health

The 2010/11 Community Funding Round will be 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.

Applications open 7 November 2009 and close Monday 25 January 2010. Application forms will be available from <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&did=10028428> from 7 November 2009.

Youth Development and Support Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government

The Youth Development and Support Program aims to strengthen the capacity of eligible organisations to support initiatives that inspire and encourage young people aged between 12 and 25 years to develop skills and connections within their communities. A total of \$500,000 is available to organisations to deliver projects for implementation in 2009/10. Organisations can apply for a maximum of \$75,000.

Visit www.youth.gov.au/ydsp.html for more information or to apply.

Applications close **Wednesday 4 November 2009**.

Increase in Volunteer Grants Funding

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

The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services have announced an increase in the ACT Volunteer Reimbursement Grant available to ACT registered Not-For Profit Organisations to a maximum of \$15,000.00. This Grant is to enable organisations to reimburse volunteers for out of pocket expenses incurred while volunteering. These expenses may include travelling from home to office, visiting or transporting clients or wherever a volunteer is required to use their own resources in their volunteering effort.

For more information or to apply, contact Peter Wicks, Volunteering ACT, on (02) 6251 4060 or peterw@volunteeract.org.au.

Applications close **30 November 2009**.