



ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: October 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

October 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

Date: Thursday 22 October 2009

Time: 9.30 - 11.30am

Venue: Karralika Program, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT

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

Change of Date: ACT Biannual Comorbidity Forum

The ACT Comorbidity Forum that was scheduled for Thursday 8 October 2009, will now be changing dates. Further information, including a forum flyer will be available in the November 2009 ACT AOD Sector eBulletin.

First Annual 2009 ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards

Everyone is encouraged to submit a nomination to the First Annual 2009 ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards.

Key dates:

Nominations Open: 9 October 2009

Nominations Close: 9 November 2009

Awards Ceremony: 11 December 2009

Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Health will present the

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awards at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

A nomination package can be accessed by emailing info@aodsector.org.au. A special bulletin with further information will be sent out soon.

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 2, 2009

For semester 2, 2009 limited funding has been allocated to support AOD workers in non-government services to undertake training and assessment opportunities through the Canberra Institute of Technology in order to meet the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification. 39 workers will be undertaking the remaining units of the Certificate IV in AOD Work in Semester 2, 2009 to meet the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification. Class dates are:

Stream 1:

- Monday 31 August, Tuesday 1 September, Wednesday 2 September
- Monday 28, Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 September
- Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 November
- Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 December

Stream 2:

- Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 September
- Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 October
- 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.

ACT AOD Sector Forum Update

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

ACT Division of General Practice

Services Spokesperson: Rosemary Agnew

Phone: (02) 6287 8099, Email: r.agnew@actdgp.asn.au

There are now positions of Mental Health / Comorbidity Project Officers within each State and Territory Division. The Projects are currently focusing on building links for GP's and are providing monthly GP and stakeholders forums.

[and Symposia](#)

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.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT

Service Spokesperson: Meg Fitzgerald

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

The new ADFACT Family Support Program provides support, counselling, information, education and links to services for the families or significant others of people whose life is impacted by AOD. The program is available to the families of clients participating in other ADFACT programs and to people on the waiting list to access Karralika. The program will be forming partnerships with other key stakeholders including Family Drug Support, CatholicCare and mental health services.

Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health

Service Spokesperson: Gabrielle Sledge

Phone: (02) 6205 8387, Email: gabrielle.sledge@act.gov.au

The Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) position is now supporting the delivery of the Aboriginal Health Clinic in the Alexander Maconochie Centre 1 day a week.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Service Spokesperson: Selina Walker

Phone: (02) 6231 9555, Email: selina@gugan-gulwan.com.au

Gugan Gulwan have recently created a website available at www.gugan-gulwan.com.au/ which provides information on the range of programs currently available.

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.

Ted Noffs Foundation ACT

Service Spokesperson: Christina Sanchez

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

Some of the programs Ted Noffs currently provide include:

- Adolescent Drug Withdrawal Unit (ADWU): Up to 14 days of residential support for young people experiencing withdrawal. Current waiting list is about one week.
- Program for Adolescent Life Management (PALM): 3 month residential rehabilitation treatment. Current waiting list is about two weeks.
- Community Outreach and Outclient Program (CO-OP): Semi structured day program for young people who do not want or need residential services.

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

Service Spokesperson: Dara Luzaic

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

Some programs currently being offered by WIREDD include:

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

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service

Service Spokesperson: Jane Sharman

Phone: (02) 6284 6222

Winnunga currently has 3 GPs who are pharmacotherapy prescribers to over 80 clients. This program has proven to be very successful, with high rates of retention.

Sector Activities and Events

Congratulations to the ACT Recipients of the Awards for Excellence in Drug Treatment

Australasian Therapeutic Community Association (ATCA)

Awards for Excellence in Drug Treatment were recently presented at an awards dinner following the ATCA Conference. The awards recognise the significant contribution made to drug treatment by a program or intervention in Australasia. Winners in this category were the Program for Adolescent Life Management (PALM) run by the Ted Noffs Foundation; and the Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT's Early Birds Project.

Additionally, Kim Fleming, Manager of the Karralika Program, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT and Gerard Byrne, Salvation Army Bridge Program received an individual award for their significant contribution to the TC movement in Australasia.

14th Annual Remembrance Ceremony - 'For Those who Lose their life to Illicit Drugs'

Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT)

Speakers include:

- Katy Gallagher, Deputy Chief Minister, ACT Legislative Assembly
- Rev'd Graham Long, Pastor, The Wayside Chapel, Kings Cross
- Debra Wybron

If you have a family member or friend who has lost their life to illicit drugs and would like them remembered by name at the ceremony please phone Marion on (02) 6254 2961 or email

mcconnell@ffdlr.org.au

Date: Monday 19 October

Time: 12.30 – 1.30pm

Venue: Weston Park, Yarralumla, ACT (to take place at the dedicated memorial located on the right of Weston Park Road opposite the Prescott Lane junction).

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 (see next listing), 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@actcross.org.au by 23 October to reserve your place.

Review of Industrial Arrangements for the ACT Community Sector

Department of Disability Housing and Community Services (DHCS)

What is happening?

The ACT Government has commissioned a Review of the Industrial Arrangements in the ACT Community Sector. The objectives of the Review are to:

- identify the current wages and conditions applying to workers in the ACT community sector;
- use this information to undertake a comparison of the relevant position of ACT community sector workers with community sectors in other jurisdictions; and
- use this information to enable the ACT Government to develop policy options to address key findings.

Why is it important?

The ACT Government has committed to obtaining detailed information in relation to the current industrial environment in the ACT community sector, to enable it to develop well targeted responses to further improve the funding and operations of the sector in the future. This first phase of work will be completed by the end of 2009, and will inform the basis for directions and decisions of the second stage, following consideration by Government in the first half of 2010.

What is happening right now?

A number of actions are currently underway:

- An Oversight Group including Government representatives from Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Chief Minister's Department and ACT Health, as well as representatives from ACTCOSS and the Australian Services Union have met and will continue to meet between now and the end of December 2009 to ensure that the project progresses efficiently and effectively, and that the current set of industrial/employment arrangements within the sector are clearly identified, analysed and opportunities for improvement identified.
- A Focus Group made up of employer representatives from across the community sector will review the information being sought from all organisations through a tailored survey to be shortly distributed, and ensure that it is well structured and targeted.
- A State and Territory comparison is currently being developed to assess the position

of the ACT terms and conditions of employment for workers across a wide range of issues such as:

- Flexible work arrangements
- Overtime, penalty payment and other pay related allowances
- Superannuation and salary packaging
- Attraction & retention opportunities
- Industrial relations support

What happens next?

It is planned that all of the information, analysis and options identification for consideration by Government will be completed by end of December 2009. Government will consider next steps and timeframes during the first half of 2010.

Who is running the Review?

The Review is being undertaken by HBA Consulting, a local firm specialising in industrial relations and human resource management analysis and advice. Further information on HBA Consulting can be found at their website www.hbaconsulting.com.au

How to keep up to date with what is happening?

Updates will be available from the DHCS website www.dhcs.act.gov.au

Anti-Poverty Week: 11 – 17 October 2009

Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the United Nation's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:

- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia;
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people.

For more information visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au/about.html

October is Anxiety and Depression Awareness Month

beyondblue

Anxiety and Depression Awareness (ADA) Month provides an opportunity for workplaces, community groups and individuals to take part in activities to raise awareness of anxiety and depression and help reduce the associated stigma.

Depression is common and can affect anyone at any time for many different reasons. More than one million people in Australia experience depression, anxiety or related alcohol and drug problems each year. With the right treatment, most people recover.

For more information visit www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=59.1188

Mental Health Week: 4 - 10 October 2009

National Mental Health Week, which runs from 4 to 10 October 2009, is an annual event celebrated in Australia and over 100 countries. The aim is to increase the public's understanding of mental illness, encourage the reduction of stigma and discrimination against people living with mental illness, and promote positive mental health.

This year's theme is 'Informed and Connected' which signifies the need for individuals to be informed and educated about mental illness, and the benefits of being connected within the community.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10050411&pid=1253076129> for more information on Mental Health Week in the ACT.

ACT Launch of Mental Health Week 2009

ACT Health, Mental Health Council of Australia and Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Services and individuals are invited to participate in the launch of Mental Health Week in the ACT. Katy Gallagher, MLA, Minister for Health will officially launch the week.

Date: Thursday 6 October 2009

Time: 11am

Venue: The Park Stage, Floriade, Commonwealth Park, Canberra

ACT Mental Health Week Activities

In the ACT there will be a range of activities held during and outside of Mental Health Week.

Visit www.mhccact.org.au/cms/index.php#273 to Download the Mental Health Week 2009 Calendar of Events.

See the *News From the ACT AOD Sector Project* section for information on the change of date for the Biannual Comorbidity Forum.

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. As an ED's meeting was not held in September, this section will return in the November 2009 ACT AOD Sector eBulletin.

Sector Development

Tips and Tricks for New Players: a guide to becoming familiar with the alcohol and other drugs sector

Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA)

ADCA's National Drugs Sector Information Service has now launched the second edition of Tips and Tricks. This publication is available to anyone free of charge. Tips and Tricks features AOD related lists of: acronyms, abbreviations, definitions, AOD organisations, recommended reading, websites, databases, conferences and events. There is also information about research and funding opportunities.

If you would like a copy of Tips and Tricks email ndsis@adca.org.au with your postal details.

Tips and Tricks can be viewed online at: <http://ndsis.adca.org.au/publications>

Community Engagement Website

ACT Chief Minister's Department

Earlier this year, the Government commissioned the Preferred Methods of Community Engagement Project, seeking feedback about how it might improve the way it consults and engages with the community. As part of this project, the ACT Chief Minister's Department has launched its new community engagement website. The website is designed to assist members of the community and the government to work together to achieve improved decision-making on policies and programs. The website contains information on how community members can become engaged and provide feedback.

Visit www.communityengagement.act.gov.au/index to view the website.

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (September - October 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

Building Better Boards Series - Budgeting and Financial Management

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This evening workshop is part of the ACTCOSS Governance series run for members of Boards or committees. This seminar will provide an overview of the financial management and budgeting information that you are required to know as the member of a board.

Date: Wednesday 14 October 2009

Time: 5pm – 8pm

Venue: Room 7, Griffin Centre, Genge St, Civic

Cost: \$30 Members, \$37.50 Non-members

RSVP: To ACTCOSS on (02) 6202 7200

Forum and Training Opportunity: Young People and Mental Health

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, in partnership with the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, DHCS, and beyondblue, present a full day of professional development in young people and mental health. The day will include:

1. The Monthly Youth Coalition Forum, with a volunteer from Mental Illness Education ACT as guest speaker;
2. A seminar showcasing key youth mental health services in the ACT, including headspace ACT, Bungee, STEPS, Youth and Wellbeing, MIEACT and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
3. A workshop presented by beyondblue, in assisting youth workers to identify symptoms of

anxiety, depression and stress in young people.

Date: Thursday 15 October 2009

Time: 9am - 3pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus Street, O'Connor (Youth Coalition office)

Food: Morning tea and lunch will be provided

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential - only 30 places available. Contact Erin on (02) 6247 3540 or

erin@youthcoalition.net.

Raising the Standard

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Many organisations now have a requirement to use Raising the Standard as part of their funding agreement. This one-day workshop is for people wanting to learn about:

- the service standards developed for ACT community organisations that meets ACT Government funding requirements;
- the self-assessment process and tools;
- how to use the standards in a quality improvement process; and,
- how to write a quality improvement workplan.

A manual and tool kit is provided as part of the training. Organisations are encouraged to send staff teams with a limit of 6 people per organisation (this is negotiable).

Date: Thursday 22 October 2009

Time: 10am – 3.30pm

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

Cost: \$48 Members, \$60 Non-members, \$72 Corporate/Government

RSVP: To ACTCOSS on (02) 6202 7200

Practice Talking Conference

Office for Children, Youth and Family Support and the Australian Catholic University

Practice Talking celebrates the diverse range of front line workers who work with children, youth, families and communities in the ACT and region. The Practice Talking Conference provides an opportunity to celebrate practice wisdom by providing a forum for workers, from both the government and non-government sector, to share and exchange ideas from their practice and to learn from one another.

Date: Tuesday 27 October

Cost: \$50, or \$30 for students.

Venue: Australian Catholic University, Antill St, Watson

Registration: By Friday 2 October 2009. For more information visit

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocvys/services/practice_talking.

Free Workshop for Community Workers Dealing with Problem Gambling

Gambling Care, Lifeline Canberra

Gambling Care is a free and confidential face-to-face counselling program from Lifeline Canberra. They offer a specialist service for anyone that is experiencing problems with

gambling or for people that are impacted by someone else's gambling. Gambling Care is holding a free training morning for community workers, family support workers, social workers, psychologists and counsellors on the topic of problem gambling.

Date: Thursday 29 October

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

RSVP: To Anu or Liz on (02) 6247 0655

Performance Management

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The aim of this seminar is to provide managers and supervisors with innovative ways to enhance the effectiveness of service delivery through the development of their staff.

Participants will learn to:

- Lead in the creation of positive feedback cultures
- Use performance management to develop your people
- Manage performance by focusing on people's differences and strengths
- Apply specific communication strategies to particular performance management situations.

Date: Thursday 29 October 2009

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Venue: ACTCOSS, Level 1, 67 Townshend St. Phillip

Cost: \$139 members, \$199 non-members, \$274 for corporate/government

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

Understanding Self-Harming Behaviours

VYNE@OzHelp

This one day seminar is aimed at professionals and will explore a method for helping clients learn new skills for dealing with painful situations so that they may be in a better position to decrease self harming behaviours.

Date: 30 October 2009

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Details provided on receipt of registration.

Cost: \$120 Concession, \$140 regular.

RSVP: By 23 October 2009 to the VYNE@OzHelp team on (02) 6251 4166 or

vyne@ozhelp.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.

Note: Places are limited – please book early.

Date: Thursday 5 November 2009

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

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

Cost: \$48 per person for SAAP Services, \$158 per person for Members, \$197.50 per person for Non-Members and \$237 per person for Corporate/Government

RSVP: Contact George Wilson on george.wilson@actcoss.org.au.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Oceania Tobacco Control Conference: Reducing inequality through tobacco control

The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC)

This conference is held every 2 years and is the peak conference for Tobacco Control in our region, attracting delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. This is an exciting time for Indigenous tobacco control, given the recent funding commitment by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to reduce the 17 year life expectancy gap for Indigenous people. Reducing smoking prevalence is now understood to be a critical part of reducing this gap.

Date: 7 - 9 October 2009

Venue: TBC, Darwin

Cost: Full registration: \$550

More information is available at www.oceaniatc2009.org

Drug Policy Modelling Program Research Symposium

Drug Policy Modelling Program

The Symposium will feature sessions on better government responses, perspectives on drug markets, and violence, drugs and crime.

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2009

Venue: The Sebel, 28 Albion St, Surry Hills, NSW

Download the [Symposium Program](#) for more information.

2009 National Hepatitis Health Promotion Conference

Hepatitis Australia

The conference will feature plenary addresses from health promotion experts, health promotion skills workshops and presentations on viral hepatitis prevention, education, health maintenance and support projects. The theme of the conference is 'Grass Roots to National Action.' The conference will demonstrate effective grass roots health promotion projects and explore issues of working collaboratively to effect change at a national level.

Date: 29 - 30 October 2009

Venue: Grand Chancellor Hotel, 1 Davey St, Hobart, Tasmania

Cost: Free

Registration: Available online at

www.hepatitisaustralia.com/events_projects/Registration.html

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

Registration: Early bird registration closes 11 September 2009. 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.

Policy Activities

Working with Vulnerable People Checks

ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

Ms Katy Gallagher, MLA, has released a community discussion paper on a proposed centralised system for background checking of people working with vulnerable people in the ACT. The paper, A Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Checking System for the ACT, is the first step towards the ACT Government's commitment to reducing the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect of vulnerable people, through the establishment of mandatory minimum background checking standards. There is currently no consistent process for background checking in the ACT.

Copies of the discussion paper, factsheets and an online forum can be accessed at

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc

If you would like to request a hardcopy of the discussion paper or to discuss aspects of the proposed checking system contact Mathew Munro, Policy Manager, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services on 6205 8329 or

workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au .

The closing date for submissions is 12 October 2009.

Review of the Human Rights Act 2004

Department of Justice and Community Safety

The ACT Government is seeking feedback on the operation of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004. The Department of Justice and Community Safety is seeking submissions from individuals and interested organisations on the recommendations made by the independent ACT Human Rights Act Research Project (ACTHRA). The Research Project report can be viewed online at www.jcs.act.gov.au/eLibrary/otherReports.html.

Written submissions can be sent electronically to JACSScrutinyTeam@act.gov.au

Submissions are due by **Monday 12 October 2009**.

The Social Inclusion Agenda and the Not-For-Profit Sector: National Compact

Australian Government

The Australian Government, as part of its social inclusion agenda, is exploring ways to develop a national compact - an agreement between the Australian Government and the non-profit sector, outlining how the two will work together to improve and strengthen their relationship. A national compact could also provide a framework for building sector capacity and a platform for discussion between the Australian Government and the sector about how to achieve objectives that will benefit the community.

The Australian Government has developed a consultation paper, toolkit, and initiated an online forum to support individuals and services to participate in the development of the National Compact. The Consultation Toolkit supports stakeholders to engage their own stakeholder groups and collect structured feedback on the compact.

Visit www.socialinclusion.gov.au/compact/Pages/default.aspx for more information.

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 Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS)

<http://ndsis.adca.org.au>.

How common is drink spiking?

Researchers in Western Australia conducted a study over a 19 month period of patients presenting to metropolitan hospital emergency departments with suspected drink spiking within the previous 12 hours. This involved examining 'clinical history, including details surrounding the alleged drink spiking incident, and examination', and 'blood ethanol concentration measurement, together with the analysis of urine and blood samples for illicit and sedative drugs'.

They found that 'Of the 97 alleged drink spiking cases...there were only 9 plausible cases', and did not 'identify a single case where a sedative drug was likely to have been illegally placed in a drink in a pub or nightclub. Illicit drugs were detected in 28% of the study group. Ethanol was commonly detected'. However 'Thirty five per cent of patients still believed that they had been a victim of drink spiking irrespective of the results'. The researchers concluded that their study 'did not reflect the current public perception of drink spiking. Drink spiking with sedative or illicit drugs appears to be rare. If drink spiking does occur, ethanol appears to be the most common agent used. Of greater concern was the frequency of illicit drug use and excessive ethanol consumption within the study population, making it difficult to determine whether a person had truly had a drink spiked'.

Quigley, P, Lynch, DM, Little, M, Murray, L, Lynch, AM & O'Halloran, SJ 2009, 'Prospective study of 101 patients with suspected drink spiking', *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 222-8.

Is acupuncture an effective treatment for alcohol dependence?

Korean researchers reviewed results of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to assess the effect of various types of acupuncture for alcohol dependence. They searched 19 English, Korean, Japanese, and Chinese electronic databases for RCTs of acupuncture for alcohol dependence up to June 2008, and found 11 studies that met the inclusion criteria.

In spite of the fact that acupuncture has been used for treating drug-related disorders for three decades, the small number of studies and the poor quality of the methodology involved means that the researchers were unable to draw any conclusions as to its efficacy.

Cho, SH & Whang, WW 2009, 'Acupuncture for alcohol dependence: a systematic review', *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 33, no. 8, pp. 1305-13.

Does advice and counselling to heavy drinking hospital patients affect their subsequent drinking?

The plain language summary of a Cochrane review on this topic states in part 'Healthcare professionals have the opportunity to ask people about how much alcohol they drink and offer brief interventions to heavy drinkers. These brief interventions involve a time limited intervention focusing on changing behaviour. They range from a single session providing information and advice to one to three sessions of motivational interviewing or skills-based counseling involving feedback and discussion on responsibility and self efficacy...The review authors identified 11 randomised controlled trials and controlled clinical trials involving 2441 adults (16 years or older) identified as heavy drinkers in hospital, mainly in the UK and USA.'

The authors concluded that 'The evidence for brief interventions delivered to heavy alcohol users admitted to general hospital is still inconclusive. From data extracted from two studies it appears that alcohol consumption could be reduced at one year follow up though further research is recommended. Few studies have been retrieved and the results were difficult to combine because of the different measures used to assess alcohol consumption'.

McQueen, J, Howe, TE, Allan, L & Mains, D 2009, 'Brief interventions for heavy alcohol users admitted to general hospital wards', *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, no. 3, p. CD005191.

Do university students drink less after web-based screening and interventions?

A randomized controlled trial was conducted at the University of Newcastle (NSW) in 2007 to test 'the efficacy of a proactive Web-based alcohol screening and brief intervention program'.

The researchers explain that 'University students drink more heavily than their nonstudent peers and are often unaware that their drinking is risky and exceeds normative levels'. 7,237 undergraduate students completed a Web-based Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. 2,435 scored in the hazardous/harmful range... and were randomized, and 2050 (84%) completed at least 1 follow-up assessment. Intervention was 10 minutes of Web-based motivational assessment and personalized feedback. Controls received only screening'.

The researchers found that 'After 1 month, participants receiving intervention drank less often...smaller quantities per occasion, and less alcohol overall than did controls'. After 6 months 'intervention effects persisted for drinking frequency...and overall volume...but not for other variables'. Their conclusion was that 'Proactive Web-based screening and intervention reduces drinking in undergraduates, and such a program could be implemented widely'.

Kypri, K, Hallett, J, Howat, P, McManus, A, Maycock, B, Bowe, S & Horton, NJ 2009, 'Randomized controlled trial of proactive web-based alcohol screening and brief intervention for university students', *Archives of Internal Medicine*, vol. 169, no. 16, pp. 1508-14.

How do the ACT's rates of alcohol-caused death and

hospitalisation compare with the rest of Australia's?

In September, the National Drug Research Institute published its latest set of National Alcohol Indicators, this time covering trends in estimated alcohol-attributable deaths and hospitalisations in Australia over the period 1996-2005. They report that, over the decade, 32,696 such deaths occurred nationally, along with 813,072 alcohol-attributable hospitalisations. Nationally, alcoholic liver cirrhosis accounted for 25% of the male deaths and 22% of the female deaths. Alcohol dependence accounted for 17% of the male hospitalisations and 24% of the female hospitalisations. It is estimated that, in 2005, 54 people died in the ACT from alcohol-attributable causes, a rate of 2.4 per 10,000 adults, 1.3 times the national rate of 1.9 per 10,000. In the same year, the ACT had an estimated 1,000 alcohol-attributable hospitalisations (a rate of 40.3 per 10,000), just 65% of the national rate of 62.2 per 10,000. The relatively small size of the ACT population, and the relatively small number of deaths and hospitalisations, means that some of the ACT figures need to be used with caution.

Pascal, R, Chikritzhs, T & Jones, P 2009, *Trends in estimated alcohol-attributable deaths and hospitalisations in Australia, 1996-2005*, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, WA, <http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/pdf/naip/naip012.pdf>.

What is the connection between drug misuse and crime?

In 1985 Paul Goldstein developed a framework that divided explanations of the connections between drug misuse and crime into 'economic-compulsive', 'psychopharmacological' and 'systemic'. Bennett and Holloway have recently sought to examine 'the validity of the taxonomy in explained drug-related crime across different crime types and to identify some of the mechanisms involved'. They explain that, according to Goldstein's taxonomy, economic-compulsive crime 'was committed as a means of generating money to support drug use', psychopharmacological crime 'occurred when the use of drugs resulted in change or impairment in cognitive functioning' and systemic crime 'was associated with crime that occurred as part of the system of drug distribution and use'.

They interviewed imprisoned UK drug-using offenders about the role of drug use in their recent criminal behaviour, and analysed the data obtained to refine Goldstein's taxonomy. The main change was that 'the systemic category was broadened to include general lifestyle factors' and was renamed 'lifestyle'. In addition 'economic-compulsive' was renamed 'economic'.

The lifestyle category linked drug use and crime when 'features of the user's routine activities created an opportunity for both drug use and crime. Examples of these lifestyle features are criminal contacts, offending in order to gain access to treatment, retaliation, dealing providing surplus drugs, and handling stolen goods.

The researchers state that 'The causal connection between drug use and crime is likely to vary by cultural context and perhaps even location'. The paper concludes that 'Goldstein's taxonomy should be refined to take into account the wide range of factors that influence the connection between drug use and crime'.

Goldstein, P 1985, 'The Drugs/Violence Nexus: A Tripartite Conceptual Framework', *Journal of Drug Issues*, vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 493-506, www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/nexus.pdf.

Bennett, T & Holloway, K 2009, 'The causal connection between drug misuse and crime', *British Journal of Criminology*, vol. 49, no. 4, pp. 513-31.

An updated resource on comorbid mental disorders and substance abuse

A revised and updated version of the 2002 publication, *Comorbidity of mental disorders and substance use: a brief guide for the primary care clinician*, has recently been released. Topics covered include substance use and depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, personality disorders, eating disorders, somatoform disorders, gambling and brain injury.

Gordon, A 2009, *Comorbidity of mental disorders and substance use: a brief guide for the primary care clinician*, rev. edn, National Drug Strategy Monograph Series no. 71, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, Adelaide, www.dassa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=443.

Do point-of-sale cigarette displays encourage unplanned purchases of cigarettes?

Western Australian researchers conducted a study to assess the influence of point-of-sale (POS) cigarette displays on unplanned purchases. They conducted interviews 'with customers observed purchasing cigarettes from retail outlets featuring POS cigarette displays. Measures included intention to purchase cigarettes prior to entering the store, unprompted and prompted salience of POS tobacco displays, urge to buy cigarettes as a result of seeing the POS display, brand switching and support for a ban on POS cigarette displays'.

'206 daily smokers aged 18-76 years (90 male, 116 female) were interviewed. Unplanned cigarette purchases were made by 22% of participants. POS displays influenced nearly four times as many unplanned purchases as planned purchases...Brand switching was reported among 5% of participants, half of whom were influenced by POS displays. Four times as many smokers were supportive of a ban on POS tobacco displays than unsupportive...and 28% agreed that such a ban would make it easier to quit'.

The researchers concluded that 'POS tobacco displays act as a form of advertising even in the absence of advertising materials. They stimulate unplanned cigarette purchases, play an important role in brand selection and tempt smokers trying to quit. This justifies removing POS tobacco displays from line of sight-something that very few smokers in our sample would object to'.

Carter, OB, Mills, BW & Donovan, RJ 2009, 'The effect of retail cigarette pack displays on unplanned purchases: results from immediate postpurchase interviews', *Tobacco Control*, vol. 18, no. 3, pp. 218-21.

How long do HIV and the hepatitis C virus remain infectious in syringes?

The Harm Reduction Works campaign materials were produced by Exchange Supplies for the United Kingdom National Treatment Agency and Department of Health as part of Reducing Drug Related Harm: An Action Plan. The Youtube presentation series 'Harm reduction Works' showcases some of the video Harm Reduction Works campaign resources. The video *HIV and hepatitis C survival in used syringes* explains that HIV survives [i.e. remains fully infectious] in insulin syringes with fixed needles for up to one week in most of the syringes and up to 21 days in a small percentage of the syringes, and in syringes with detachable

needles for up to 6 weeks in most of the syringes. By contrast, HCV survives for only one or two days in syringes with attached needles and for only one week in syringes with detachable needles. Nonetheless, HCV is at least 10 times as infectious as HIV because a given amount of blood will contain many times the number of viruses in the case of HCV compared with HIV.

Harm Reduction Works [2009], *HIV and hepatitis C survival in used syringes*, Youtube video, website: www.HarmReductionWorks.org.uk, www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNLVp1tVECM.

Are people with HCV, who are otherwise healthy, likely to die early?

The Swiss Hepatitis C Cohort study analysed the causes of death of 1,645 patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection attending secondary and tertiary care centres in Switzerland. There were 61 deaths. 'For patients who were not cirrhotic, not infected with HBV or HIV, did not inject drugs, were not heavy alcohol consumers', the research 'indicated no strong evidence of excess mortality'. Their findings 'emphasize the importance of providing appropriate preventive advice, such as counselling to avoid alcohol intake, in those infected with HCV'.

Prasad, L, Spicher, VM, Negro, F, Rickenbach, M & Zwahlen, M 2009, 'Little evidence that hepatitis C virus leads to a higher risk of mortality in the absence of cirrhosis and excess alcohol intake: the Swiss Hepatitis C Cohort Study', *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*, vol. 16, no. 9, pp. 644-9.

How can we assess the affordability, availability, accessibility and quality of opioid pharmacotherapy in Australia?

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) commissioned the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) to investigate the affordability, availability, accessibility and quality of pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence in Australia. Two reports have been produced: ANCD Research Paper No 18 is a qualitative review of the issues associated with opioid pharmacotherapy, and ANCD Research Paper No 19 presents a system dynamics model of the service system to explore the implications of policy options designed to address some of the key issues in opioid pharmacotherapy.

Among the findings are that major problems exist with regard to affordability of treatment on the part of clients particularly with regard to dispensing fees. These fees have been found to have negative impacts on both entry to treatment and retention in treatment, and operate in ways which are inequitable. Furthermore, research evidence suggests that unsupervised treatment for stable, long-term clients facilitates treatment retention and is therefore desirable. The modelling reveals that service clients bear one third (33%) of the treatment costs, which is unusually high in the case of a chronic, relapsing health condition. 43% of the costs are borne by the State and Territory governments and 24% by the Commonwealth Government. The high cost-benefit of this form of treatment means that governments' investments in it produce a worthwhile return. If governments were to meet a higher proportion of the costs, reducing the client co-payments, there would still be significant net benefits, in financial terms,

derived from the program.

Ritter, A & Chalmers, J 2009, *Polygon: the many sides to the Australian opioid pharmacotherapy maintenance system*, ANCD Research Paper no. 18, Australian National Council on Drugs, Canberra.

Chalmers, J, Ritter, A, Heffernan, M & McDonnell, G 2009, *Modelling pharmacotherapy maintenance in Australia: exploring affordability, availability, accessibility and quality using system dynamics*, ANCD Research Paper no. 19, Australian National Council on Drugs, Canberra.

Are 'hard-core' heroin users untreatable or just hard to treat?

In the September eBulletin we reported on the positive outcomes of NAOMI, the North American Opiate Medication Initiative (heroin trial) conducted in Vancouver and Montreal. A fortnight later the results of RIOTT, the UK Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial were released.

The trial participants were '...among the 5% of heroin users for whom treatment, rehabilitation and even prison have had little effect, often over many years of addiction. For these people, daily use of "street heroin" has been the norm, even while in conventional treatment'. The participants were randomly allocated to treatment with either supervised injectable heroin, supervised injectable methadone or optimised oral methadone. All three of these treatment-refractory groups achieved good levels of retention in treatment, with better retention in the injectable heroin group (88%) compared to 81% in the injectable methadone group and 69% in the oral methadone group. Furthermore, the injectable heroin group had the lowest levels of continuing street heroin use and the largest fall in money spent on illicit drugs. Crime levels fell dramatically in all groups.

Overall, 'There was an almost immediate benefit just 6 weeks into treatment and this benefit was maintained throughout the six-month period of study for each patient. The degree of effect of the treatment was greatest in the injectable heroin group, followed by injectable methadone and optimised oral methadone'. This study confirms earlier observations that medically-supervised injectable heroin should be available to treatment-refractory street heroin users. No more heroin trials are needed to demonstrate this fact.

King's Health Partners 2009, *Untreatable or just hard to treat? Results of the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial (RIOTT)*, King's Health Partners, viewed 23 September 2009, <http://tinyurl.com/ycqgm6>.

General Practitioner Taskforce Final Report

On 15 September 2009, the ACT Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, tabled the final report of the ministerially appointed GP Taskforce entitled *General Practice and Sustainable Primary Health Care: The Way Forward* in the ACT Legislative Assembly. The Report, containing 30 recommendations, comes after close to six months of intense consultation and investigation on issues relating to doctor shortages, health records, and primary health care for vulnerable populations in the ACT.

ACT Health, 2009, *General Practice and Sustainable Primary Health Care - The Way Forward*, ACT Health, Canberra,

www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=11034130&pid=1252045120.

Who Cares? Experiences of young people living with a family members who has an AOD issue

This report provides information on a research project, funded by the ACT Government and conducted by the Institute of Child Protection Studies with support from Anglicare Canberra-Goulburn which aimed to redress this situation by exploring the question:

What are the specific needs of children who have a parent with an alcohol or other drug issue and how are these similar or different to other children with care responsibilities? In exploring this question, the project aimed to grasp the implications for the range of services that might come into contact with these families (including young carer, AOD, family support and care and protection programs) and the way that supports might be provided.

Noble-Carr, D., Moore, T., McArthur, M. 2009. *Who Cares? Experiences of young people living with a family member who has an alcohol and other drug issue*, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University,

www.acu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/198062/Who_Carers_Report_Sept_2009.pdf

Media

New scheme to strengthen community sector workforce

Katy Gallagher, MLA

10 September 2009

The ACT Government will become the first Australian jurisdiction to implement a Portable Long Service Leave Scheme to assist child care and community sector organisations with workforce retention, ACT Minister for Community Services, Katy Gallagher MLA said today. The Minister said the Government was delivering on its commitment to set up the scheme and would introduce a bill into the Legislative Assembly next week.

"The new Portable Long Service Leave Scheme will support the ACT's community sector by protecting the basic entitlement of each worker to take long service leave, even though they may have worked for more than one community organisation. This already occurs in the public sector where entitlements accrue by working across several government agencies," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8411 to view the full media release.

Corrective Services Staff Recognised

John Hargreaves, MLA

September 8, 2009

ACT Corrective Services staff were recognised for their outstanding performance at an awards ceremony held at the Legislative Assembly Reception Room.

Minister for Corrections, John Hargreaves MLA, presented the inaugural Alexander Maconochie Medal to Simone Fowlie of Community Corrections and to Ray Giucci, a senior custodial officer at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Ms Fowlie, who is Manager, Probation and Parole, Reparation and Compliance, received the award for outstanding performance and exemplary leadership in Community-based Corrections.

Mr Giucci, who is currently acting Superintendent at the AMC but is usually a Deputy Superintendent, received his award for outstanding dedication and strategic contribution to

the commencement of operations at the AMC.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8407&m=50 to view the full media release.

National Preventative Health Agency – Massive Step Forward for Australia’s Health

Public Health Association of Australia

10 September 2009

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has welcomed the introduction into Federal Parliament by Health Minister Nicola Roxon of a Bill to establish an Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said “This is a massive step forward in improving the health and lives of all Australians. The establishment of a National Preventive Health Agency was a key recommendation of both the National Preventative Health Taskforce and the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission. We are delighted that the Government has moved so quickly to establish this Agency, with an initial budget of \$133 million over four years that will enable it to make real inroads into major national problems such as tobacco and obesity.”

“This measure means that prevention moves out of its Cinderella status. It is a recognition by governments that prevention works, and that it needs a major boost. Tobacco is still our largest preventable cause of death and disease; and if we simply halt and stabilise the rise in obesity we can prevent a massive 500,000 deaths by 2050 that would otherwise have been caused by obesity”.

“A National Prevention Agency will bring a much needed focus to prevention in Australia, with best-practise programs based on expert advice. Moves such as this will make Australia the international leader in promoting health and preventing disease.”

Funding for Prisoners to Get Off Drugs

Kate Lundy, MP

24 September 2009

Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O’Connor and Senator for ACT Kate Lundy today announced a grant of \$485,000 to help rehabilitate drug and alcohol addicted prisoners at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Mr O’Connor said he was pleased that Directions ACT would be able to use grant from the Rudd Government to get addicted prisoners off drugs.

“The Inside Out program will help inmates who have problems with drugs and alcohol to access support and treatment services so that they can successfully rejoin the community when released.”

Senator Lundy said “Prisoners at the Alexander Maconochie Centre will be provided with referral pathways for treatment, information services and support for themselves and their families.”

“The main aim of this program is to see these people recover from their addiction and to improve access to treatment options to stop prisoners using drugs and alcohol,” Senator Lundy said.

Minister O’Connor said “Addressing drug and alcohol addiction is an important way to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, and helps ensure newly released prisoners and their families have the best opportunity to contribute to their community.”

The grant is one of a number to be made under the Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) which

enables money from assets confiscated under Commonwealth law to be returned to the community. More than \$6 million of funding under the Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) will be distributed to community groups for crime prevention and Indigenous prisoner projects.

To view the full media release visit www.katelundy.com.au/2009/09/24/funding-for-prisoners-to-get-off-drugs/

Consumer Participation

Call for Contributions: Practical Manual to assist AOD service providers to increase consumer participations

Association of Participating Service Users (APSU)

The APSU is calling for contributions of examples of consumer/service user participation in the Australian AOD. These practices could include surveys that clients fill out; suggestion box methods of processing; having clients involved on committees or in research; self run groups; peer groups or any other activity.

For more information, or to make a contribution contact Mariam Clarke on (03) 9573 1776 or mclarke@sharc.org.au

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Mental Health Services Plan 2009 - 2014

ACT Health

The Mental Health Services Plan articulates a clear vision for an integrated mental health sector in the ACT and for establishing a coordinated approach to achieving and maintaining mental health. The Plan outlines the initial steps for achieving a vision for the delivery of mental health services in 2020.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&pid=1221000313 to download the Plan.

Draft ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014 Released

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

The Minister for Children and Young People, Andrew Barr MLA released the draft ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014 on 27 August 2009. The ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014 articulates the ACT Government's commitment to young people, their families and the community. As well as providing a common policy framework for service provision, the Young People's Plan guides the practical implementation of services across government, non-government agencies and within the community.

Individuals and services are invited to provide written feedback on the draft Young People's Plan. Feedback can be submitted to submissioncyfs@act.gov.au or youthinteract@act.gov.au (for young people).

Visit http://youth.act.gov.au/cms/index.php?page=youth_issues to view the draft ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014.

Submissions are due by **5pm 8 October 2009**.

Nominations for the Yogie Awards 2009 are Open

Youth Coalition of the ACT

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 support by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community

Services, ACT Government.

Nominations are due by Wednesday 28 October 2009. The Awards Ceremony will be held on the morning of Friday 4 December 2009.

Visit www.youthcoalition.net for more information including a nomination package.

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**.

Employment Opportunities

Inside Out Positions

DIRECTIONS ACT

Inside Out Coordinator Full-Time

The Inside Out Coordinator will provide throughcare support to prisoners and their families through the Inside Out Throughcare Program. This position will work directly to the Inside Out Program Manager and will support the Inside Out Peer Support Worker, liaise with industry stakeholders, provide counseling, case management, advocacy and referral to clients at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Inside Out Peer Support Worker - Part Time

The Inside Out Peer Support Worker will provide support, advocacy and referrals to prisoners and their families, to successfully reintegrate back into the community. This is a part-time position within a small team. The successful applicant will have personal lived experience of the prison system. Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people are encouraged to apply. The Peer Support Worker will work directly to the Inside Out Program Manager.

Successful applicants for both positions will require a clear understanding of issues faced by prisoners with substance use disorder and be highly motivated, proactive, organised and professional in all aspects of their work.

For further information contact Jo Smith on (02) 6122 8043.

For the selection documentation, remuneration and closing dates visit

www.directionsact.com/employment or contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8015.

Various Positions

DIRECTIONS ACT

The following opportunities currently exist at DIRECTIONS ACT:

- Main Receptionist – 3 Consecutive Days
- Althea Receptionist – Monday to Friday

- Weekend AOD Shift Worker (Arcadia House)

For job descriptions, pay rates, selection criteria and closing dates visit

www.directionsact.com/employment or contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8015

Project Coordinator: Capacity Building Alcohol & Other Drugs

Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)

SACS Level 8 (\$60945 - \$63461 plus super)

6 weeks annual leave and work vehicle supplied

NTCOSS seeks a project coordinator to work with specified AOD treatment agencies on a two year national project. This is a senior leadership position requiring the ability to:

- Work with agencies across the NT
- Establish strategic relationships
- Develop communication networks between AOD and Mental Health agencies affecting sector wide change

If you are a community development professional with experience in the alcohol and other drugs or mental health sectors, are an excellent communicator, enjoy collaborative working relationships and a flexible working environment then please apply.

For further information and a job description contact NTCOSS on (08) 8948 2665 or

admin@ntcoss.org.au

Applications close Friday **9th October 2009**.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities List

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

The ANCD provides the a webpage of links to assist individuals/organisations in the AOD sector to source possible funding opportunities. It is envisaged that this list will evolve over time and the ANCD welcomes contributions to the list.

Visit www.ancd.org.au/index.php?

[option=com_content&view=article&id=463&Itemid=138](http://www.ancd.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=463&Itemid=138) to view the list.