

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: March 2009

The monthly ACT AOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to AOD workers 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	In This Edition...
<p>ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy</p> <p>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 non government AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. In October 2008, ACT Health contracted the ACT AOD Sector Project, which is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, to administer \$150 000 in funding to support workers to participate in the MQS. 40 applications to register for the AOD Four Core Competencies (Semester 1, 2009) were successful and the following class streams have been organised:</p> <p>Class dates for Stream 1:</p> <p>March 2, 3, 4 CHCAOD2C: Orientation to the AOD Sector April 6, 7, 8 CHCAOD6B: Working with Clients who are Intoxicated May 4, 5, 6 CHCAOD8C: Assess the Needs of Clients who have AOD issues June 1, 2, 3 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues</p> <p>Class dates for Stream 2:</p> <p>March 16, 17, 18 CHCAOD2C: Orientation to the AOD Sector May 11, 12, 13 CHCAOD6B: Working with Clients who are Intoxicated June 15, 16, 17 CHCAOD8C: Assess the Needs of Clients who have AOD issues July 20, 21, 22 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues</p> <p>If you have any questions, or for more information please visit www.aodsector.org.au or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on (02) 6247 3540 or info@aodsector.org.au</p> <p>March 2009 ACT AOD Sector Forum</p> <p>The ACT AOD sector forum is for AOD workers and is hosted by a different AOD service each month.</p> <p><i>Date:</i> Thursday 26 March 2009 <i>Time:</i> 9.15am for arrivals. 9.30 - 11.30am for forum. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> To be confirmed. <i>Venue:</i> DIRECTIONS ACT, 1 Bradley St, Woden <i>Note:</i> This forum is for AOD workers only.</p> <p>For more information or to RSVP contact Amanda Bode, Project Officer on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.</p> <p>ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group</p> <p>Drug Action Week (DAW) is a national week of activities to raise awareness about alcohol and other drug issues and to promote the achievements of those who work to reduce drug related harm. Following the success of Drug Action Week in the ACT in 2008, the ACT AOD Sector Project will again be coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group. The Planning Group will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week and is open to all workers.</p> <p><i>Date:</i> Thursday 12 March 2009 <i>Time:</i> 2 - 3pm <i>Location:</i> Youth Coalition Office, 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor. <i>RSVP:</i> To Erin Barry on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540</p>	<p>News from the ACT AOD Sector Project</p> <p>Update on Project activities.</p> <p>ACT AOD Sector Forum Update</p> <p>Information from services that attended the AOD sector monthly forum.</p> <p>Sector Activities and Events</p> <p>Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.</p> <p>News from the Executive Directors' Group</p> <p>Information from the EDs' group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.</p> <p>Sector Development</p> <p>Information on networks, resources, websites, factsheets and tools for workers.</p> <p>Training and Professional Development</p> <p>Training for the AOD and allied sectors, including upcoming seminars, conferences, bus tours, courses and other professional development opportunities.</p> <p>Policy, Reports and Research</p> <p>New research, reports, inquiry findings, and any key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Media releases and news items relevant to</p>

ACT AOD Services Directory, Version 2

The ACT AOD Services Directory aims to support workers to make referrals to AOD services in the ACT, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge and foster collaborations. It also aims to better communicate the diverse range of services and programs in the ACT AOD Sector. Version 2 of the ACT AOD Services Directory contains over 34 program profiles, and includes information on services delivered to people experiencing comorbid AOD and mental health issue. The Directory is available electronically and in a downloadable pdf from www.aodsector.org.au For more information contact Amanda Bode, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer, Youth Coalition of the ACT on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project, auspiced the Youth Coalition of the ACT is a capacity building Project that began in July 2007, and is funded by ACT Health. The Project provides support to ACT AOD workers to conduct activities. 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 info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

See also:

Training and Professional Development section for the 'ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar'

ACT AOD Sector Forum Update

This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attend the ACT AOD Sector Forum.

Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP), ACT Health

Service spokesperson: Clare Purcell

Phone: 6205 8384, Email: clare.purcell@act.gov.au

The Alcohol and Drug Program Intake Line has changed its hours to 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday excluding public holidays. Some programs currently being offered by the ADP include:

Aboriginal Liaison Officer:

Service spokesperson: Gabrielle Sledge

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

- Provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access and participate in AOD services.

Counselling and Treatment Service:

Phone: 6205 0955

- Provides counselling and care coordination including a range of therapeutic and educational groups to individuals, families and carers.

ADP Group Programs for 2009:

- **Effective Weed Control:** A free 2-hour x 5-week group program for cannabis users wanting more information or who want to change their cannabis use. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Relapse Prevention Program:** A free 2-hour x 3-week program for adults with substance use issues, who wish to develop and maintain healthier lifestyles. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Controlling Your Drinking:** A free 2-hour x 2-week program designed to help people decide whether their drinking is harmful, what may block their attempts to cut down and what they can do for themselves that alcohol is now doing. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Mindfulness, Meditation & Stress Management Group:** A free 1.5-hour x 5 week group designed for individuals with, or caring for someone with, an alcohol and/or other drug issue who want to learn meditation and mindfulness techniques, how to identify unhelpful thoughts and feelings and how to better manage stress and

the ACT AOD Sector.

Consumer Participation

Information items about consumer participation that are 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 and allied sectors.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

emotions. [Click here](#) for more information.

- The Stepping Stones Course: A structured and experiential course for families who are supporting drug dependent loved ones. [Click here](#) for more information

Diversion Service:

The Diversion Service is an assessment, referral and support service for people referred by ACT Policing and ACT Courts. Services provided include:

- *Police Early Diversion (PED) Program*: provides for those who have been apprehended by the Police for possession of a small amount of illicit drugs (or licit drugs used illicitly). Rather than charge the client Police can divert them to the health sector.
- Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service (CADAS): a pre-sentencing treatment option for clients charged with AOD related offences.
- Treatment Referral Program: is a post sentencing option, for clients who have either committed a crime to get drugs, or money for drugs, or while under the influence of drugs. The magistrate or judge may, as part of the sentence imposed, instruct a client to undergo a treatment order rather than receive a custodial sentence or as an option to reduce their custodial time.
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO): provides support to Indigenous clients accessing ADP and Non Government Organisations, support to Ngambra Court and information to other service providers.

Opioid Treatment Service (OTS):

- Provides prescriptions and dosing of pharmacotherapies, and coordinated care by working with other health and pharmacotherapy services.
- The OTS Case Management Project is now up and running and looking to recruit a new staff member.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Service spokesperson: Selina Walker

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

Gugan Gulwan currently runs the following services:

- **Young Mens' Mentoring Group:** This project meets each Monday evening from 5-8pm. It involves young men who have mentors attached. The age range of mentees is 8-13 years and the age range of mentors is 16-19 years. The project involves addressing issues of young men such as education, violence, identity, living skills, sport and recreation and behavioral issues. Dean Jard is the contact for this program.
- **Young Mums' Group:** Operates each Tuesday from 10 am – 2pm. The program has been designed to support young mums in the community by gaining information, referral and childcare. There are 10 placements available for children each week. Teletha Elemes is the contact for this group.
- **Numeracy and Literacy Class:** The numeracy and literacy class is held at Gugan on Wednesday and Thursday from 9am – 3pm and afternoon activities are arranged for the group. There is a new education worker employed to run this program, Tyrone Smith. Also through the numeracy and literacy class there is a Pathways Program operating which allows young people to gain their Learner License and Provisional License. This program has proven to be very successful and all young people (12-25) are invited to attend. The program requires a referral form to be filled out. Tyrone Smith is the contact for this program.
- **Young Women's Group:** The Young Women's group operates on a Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-7:30 pm. The issues that are dealt with include; drug and alcohol, health, family planning, department and identity. The aim of the program is for mentors to offer advice and support to younger young women who are experiencing difficulty with a range of issues in a group situation. The group caters for ages 12-19 years. Teletha Elemes is the contact for this group.
- **Young Men's Group:** This group meets each Wednesday from 10-3pm. The aim of the program is to engage young men who do not attend school in a range of activities. Issues addressed include; drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, family planning, living skills, identity, health, education and training. This program is now

operated from Fyshwick at the workshop, and involves mechanics, music and art. The age group catered for is 15-25 years. Dale Huddleston is the contact for this program.

- **School Holiday Program:** This program is operated each school holidays and is the only Indigenous specific program available to young people attending school. A number of programs are run within this service including; sport and recreation, cultural activities and information sessions. There are two age groups catered for, those being 8 - 12 years, and 13 - 16 years. Dean Jard / Teletha Elemes are the contact for this program.

Other Areas Gugan Gulwan can assist:

- **Housing:** Staff are available to attend meetings and assist with filling out forms and general advocacy. Should a young person require assistance in finding accommodation through a refuge, Gugan Gulwan staff can assist by way of transport, mediation between families and welfare whilst in the refuge.
- **Health Issues:** Most health issues are dealt with through Winnunga Nimmityjah unless the client advises staff that they want to see a specific doctor elsewhere.
- **Family Support:** Gugan Gulwan Reconnect Program is available for family support programs. Reconnect can assist with school issues, family mediation, counseling, refuge placements and extended family placements.
- **Transportation:** Gugan Gulwan can assist in transport, keeping in mind it is on a limited budget and not to be utilized as a taxi service.
- **Needle exchange:** Gugan Gulwan can transport clients to needle exchange. Gugan can also provide clients with an outreach needle exchange.
- **Education:** Gugan Gulwan will assist in educational issues through the education support program and referral of clients/ family to the Indigenous Education Unit.
- **Emergency Relief:** Gugan Gulwan will assist in transporting clients to centres that offer emergency relief funds. In some instances clients will be referred and phone contact will be made on behalf of the client.
- **Information Sessions:** Gugan Gulwan will attend schools and give information sessions on drugs and alcohol, roles of Gugan Gulwan and family day care. Information sessions are also available for parents of clients of Gugan Gulwan.
- **Community Service Orders:** Gugan Gulwan is an organization where young people can attend to meet Community Service Orders.
- **CDEP Placements:** Gugan Gulwan will take on CDEP placements that require two days training per week
- **Work Experience:** Gugan Gulwan is a work experience provider and is registered with the WAX team to take placements throughout the year.

The Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare Canberra

Service spokesperson: Lloyd Meehan

Phone: 6163 3711, Email: soberingupshelter@centacare-canberra.org

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.

Sector Activities and Events

Launch of Althea Wellness Centre

DIRECTIONS ACT

This new health services is committed to bringing positive health outcomes for people with AOD issues in the Canberra Community in a service to meet their specific needs. Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Minister for Health, will launch the Althea Wellness Centre.

Date: Thursday 12 March 2009

Time: 9.30am - 10am

Venue: Althea Wellness Centre, DIRECTIONS ACT, 1 Bradley Street, Woden

RSVP: By Thursday 6 March 2009 to Robin Duncan on (02) 6122 8000 or robind@directionsact.com

New Drug Action Week 2009 Website Launched

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

Getting involved in Drug Action Week 2009 (June 21-27 2009) will be even easier this year with the launch of an all-new interactive website. The website at www.drugactionweek.org.au brings together a comprehensive range of information, promotional tools and a National Calendar of Activities which is readily accessible by anyone wanting to take part in an activity during Drug Action Week.

National Drug and Alcohol Awards Nominations Open

Ted Noffs Foundation, the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) and the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD).

Now in its sixth year, the National Drug and Alcohol Awards (NDAA) honour the dedication and innovation within the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) sector. Award finalists and winners will be announced at a Gala Dinner to be held at the culmination of Drug Action Week, Friday 26 June 2009 in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra.

Nominations close 5pm, March 27. For information on award categories and nominations visit

www.drugawards.org.au/index.html

International Women's Day

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

March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD). Around the world IWD marks a celebration of the achievements of women. IWD provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the significant contributions of women, and the legacy left by earlier generations. The day is also an occasion to inspire commitment to the future challenges that women face in making further progress.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/international_womens_day for more information and a program of activities.

NRMA Insurance Volunteer of The Year Awards 2009

Volunteering ACT

Volunteering ACT is calling for nominations for the NRMA Insurance ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards 2009. To nominate a volunteer, please send in a completed nomination form, along with supporting evidence to address the selection criteria.

Visit www.volunteeract.org.au to download a copy of the nomination form. Nominations close Wednesday 15 April 2009.

For more information contact Kerry, Volunteering ACT on (02) 6251 4060.

Privacy and Confidentiality: Service Provider Responsibilities

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This seminar exploring the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997 will be presented by Clayton Utz and the Human Rights Commission. Presenters from Clayton Utz will provide an overview of the Privacy Act, including privacy principles. Presenters from the Human Rights Commission will discuss a range of topics regarding the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act including:

- what a health service is;
- what a health record is;
- what records your organisation needs to keep;
- who can have access to these records;
- what you need to do when someone asks for a copy of their records;
- how long you need to keep records; and
- an overview of the role of the Human Rights Commission.

Date: Friday 13 March 2009

Time: 9.30am - 1.30pm

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

Cost: \$33 HACC Services; \$50 Members; \$66 Non-Members.

RSVP: Contact Caterina on caterina.giorgi@actcoss.org or (02) 6202 7230

ACT Community Sector Multiple Business Agreement Information Forum

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) & Australian Services Union (ASU)

ACTCOSS and the ASU invite you to attend an inter-agency forum providing information for ACT community organisations on the ACT Community Sector Multiple Business Agreement (MBA). The MBA is a collective agreement intended to improve conditions and wages of ACT community sector workers, improve organisations' ability to recruit and retain staff, pass on ACT Government indexation to workers and establish a collective voice on sector-wide issues including funding. The forum will provide attendees with information about:

- What is the MBA?
- What is the process for joining the MBA?
- What is the benefit of joining for both my staff and organisation, and for the community sector in general?

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2009

Time: 10am - 12pm

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

RSVP: To Brooke McKail on 6202 7222 or brooke.mckail@actcoss.org.au by 11 March, 2009.

News from the Executive Directors Group

This section highlights information from the Executive Directors Group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

In February 2008, the Executive Directors Group:

- Received an update from the ACT AOD Sector Project regarding recent activities.
- Discussed the groups' relationship with the Workers Group, and how further links can be fostered.
- Discussed governance and the future development of the sector.
- Progressed the development of a workplan for the sector over the next 12 months.

Individual Executive Directors will also be communicating with their staff regarding opportunities to provide input into the new ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy

Sector Development

The Role of Schools in Alcohol Education

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

NCETA has been commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to undertake a project to examine the role of schools in alcohol education. This national project is part of the Government's "Youth Binge Drinking Initiative". The project aims to:

- Investigate existing research on alcohol education programs aimed at deterring and reducing alcohol use in secondary school students
- Consult with experts and key stakeholders (e.g. school staff and students, parents of school students) about their experience with school-based alcohol education programs
- Provide practical recommendations to DEEWR.

The Project comprises:

- A Call for Submissions (now open): Experts in education, alcohol research, law enforcement, policy advisors and health economists, as well as community stakeholders, such as youth groups, students and parents, will be invited to submit their views on these issues.
- An On-line survey: the on-line survey will be active from Friday 27 February and can be accessed from the

NCETA website.

- A literature review
- Stakeholder interviews: Face-to-face or telephone interviews will be conducted with school personnel and students from Government, Independent and Catholic schools in each state and territory.

For further details of the project go to www.nceta.flinders.edu.au

Australian Community Sector Survey

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Community Sector Survey is the only annual survey covering the non-profit community services and welfare sector. More responses are needed from the ACT so we can get a better picture of the local community sector.

The survey is intended to be completed by organisations that deliver services directly to the community.

The 2009 survey (covering 2007-08 financial year) is now online for ACOSS members to complete at

www.acossweb.org.au/survey9

The survey closes 6 March 2009.

Cannabis Resources

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) & Australian Drug Foundation

NCPIC has developed a range of useful resources on cannabis and cannabis use. These publications have been created to target particular audiences and information needs. The six titles are:

- Fast facts on cannabis
- Fast facts on mental health + cannabis
- What's the deal? Cannabis facts for young people
- What's the deal? Cannabis facts for parents
- What's the deal? Talking with a young person about cannabis
- What's the deal on quitting? A do-it-yourself guide to quitting cannabis

A single free copy of each resource is currently available to all DrugInfo Clearinghouse members located in Australia. To request your free set of six, email your name, organisation and postal address to druginfo@adf.org.au or phone 1300 85 85 84.

Subsequent copies can be ordered through the DrugInfo Clearinghouse at www.druginfo.adf.org.au or through NCPIC at www.ncpic.org.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Network (ATSIComSec)

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The ATSIComSec Email Network has been set up by ACTCOSS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers within the community sector, as a forum for information sharing, networking, vacancies and general news.

Visit www.communitylists.org.au/mailman/listinfo/atsicomsec to subscribe.

Contact George Wilson on george.wilson@actcoss.org.au or (02) 6202 7200 for more information.

Prioritising People - A Person-Centre Approach to Today's Challenges: ACT Budget Submission

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Each year, ACTCOSS undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the social policy and community sector issues in the ACT as part of the ACT Government's Budget process. This year's submission is now available at

www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2009/0309SUB.pdf

Training and Professional Development

See the 'News from the ACT AOD Sector Project' Section for information on:

- ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy

- March 2009 AOD Sector Forum

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (March - April 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 Youth Coalition of the ACT. The calendar compiles training and professional development opportunities available for workers from the AOD and allied sectors.

[Click here](#) to download the current Training and Professional Development Calendar or visit www.aodsector.org.au

For more information contact Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT on (02) 6247 3540 or info@aodsector.org.au

PsyCheck: Train the Trainer

Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre

The PsyCheck Screening Tool is a mental health screening instrument designed for use by clinicians who are not mental health specialists. It assists in the detection of the likely presence of mental health symptoms that are often seen and can feasibly be addressed within specialist AOD treatment services. It is designed to detect potential mental health problems that may be missed if not specifically investigated by the clinician or raised by the client. This two-day course will provide participants with an orientation to the PsyCheck resources.

Date: 30 & 31 March 2009

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Registration: [Click here](#) to download an Expression of Interest Form.

Full information on the content of the Psycheck resource is available at www.psycheck.org.au. For more information contact Kieran Connolly on (03) 8413 8704 or kieranc@turningpoint.org.au

National Amphetamine Type Stimulants Training

ANEX

Free National Training in amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) is available for workers from:

- Needle & Syringe Programs
- Alcohol & Other Drug Services
- Mental Health Services
- Social Work
- Youth Services
- Indigenous Organisations
- Housing or emergency accommodation
- Or any other services that work with this client group.

The training will:

- Build and improve your knowledge and confidence in relation to ATS
- Improve your brief intervention and referral skills to work effectively with people who use ATS
- Improve your knowledge and understanding of the potential harms associated with ATS use
- Improve your knowledge regarding strategies to work effectively with clients to prevent and reduce harms

Date: 1 April 2009

Venue: Level 5, Civic Community Health Building, Conference Room, 1 Moore St (Cnr Moore and Alinga Sts), Canberra City

Cost: Free

Registration: To register your interest go to www.amphetamines.org.au or phone Anex on (03) 9486 6399 or email info@amphetamines.org.au

Building Better Boards - Governance Workshop Program

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

These workshops are designed for community sector Board or Management Committee members. They give participants a broad understanding of Governance responsibilities and how to make your Board or Management

Committee function more effectively. The following sessions will be provided:

- Board Basics: Wednesday 4 March 2009.
- Legal Obligations: Wednesday 18 March 2009.
- Financial Management: Wednesday 1 April 2009.
- Effective Meetings: Wednesday 29 April 2009.
- Planning Strategically: Wednesday 13 May 2009.
- Budgeting: Wednesday 27 May 2009.

Date: See above

Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Room 6, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra

Cost: \$22 for ACTCOSS members, \$27.50 for non-members

Registration: To find out more and register for these workshops call the ACTCOSS office on 6202 7200.

Responding to Suicide & Self Harm

Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

This training will be provided by the Mental Health Community Coalition NSW. This course is valuable to anyone who works with people at risk of self harm or suicide and encompasses:

- Definitions of suicide in everyday workplace situations
- Warning signs that an individual is at increased risk of self-harm or suicide and assess the level of risk
- How to recognise and respond to cues, triggers and risk factors which may indicate an individual is considering suicide or self-harm
- How to gain information about an individual's thoughts of suicide or self-harm and undertake action required to promote safety for individuals at risk of self-harm and suicide
- Recognise where and when to arrange assistance from available local resources.

Date: Thursday 5 - Friday 6 March 2009

Time: 9am - 5pm (both days)

Venue: Room 7, Level 1, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City

To RSVP or for more information please phone (02) 6249 7756 or email admin@mhccact.org.au

Introduction to the Human Rights Act

ACT Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Act 2004 guarantees key civil and political rights for people in the ACT. This workshop will provide participants with a general understanding of the purpose and operation of the Human Rights Act. It will cover the work of the Human Rights Commission with a focus on how the Commission reviews the effects of ACT laws on Human Rights.

Date: Thursday 5 March 2009

Venue: Details will be sent following registration

Cost: Free

Registration: Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au to download a registration form or email human.rights@act.gov.au

Lifeline National Conference: Working Towards Best Practice in Accessible Care

Lifeline

Join Lifeline for a two day conference open to delegates from the mental health sector and those who have a particular interest in the role of telephone and web based support services, and consumer engagement in service delivery. The program includes:

- Day 1: Will be focused on "Innovations in telephone and web support services" and will address the role of telephone and web based support services as a necessary piece in the mental health spectrum of care.
- Day 2: Will profile stories of hope, resilience and recovery, from individuals who have experienced a personal crisis or challenge, and identify services and strategies that connect people with care, with the theme "The

Consumer Voice.” This day will include facilitated interactive plenary sessions that will engage delegates in a dialogue about how service providers can improve the consumer experience.

Date: Wednesday 11 - Thursday 12 March

Venue: The Rydges Lakeside Hotel, London Circuit, Canberra

For more information on registration, sponsorship opportunities or holding an exhibition booth at this event visit

www.lifeline.org.au/conference09

Discriminatory Harassment and Bullying

ACT Human Rights Commission

This workshop will look at the legal rules and principles about harassment. It will consider the rights and responsibilities of organisations and individuals, and what both can do to prevent harassment from occurring.

Date: Monday 16 March 2009

Venue: Details will be sent following registration

Cost: Free

Registration: Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au to download a registration form or email human.rights@act.gov.au

Mental Health First Aid

Lifeline Canberra

This two day course is designed to increase the mental health literacy of individuals and communities. The content covered focuses on helping people in mental health crisis situations and/or in the early stages of mental health problems.

Date: 16 & 17 March 2009

Time: 9am - 5pm

Cost: \$330

Venue: Lifeline Canberra Hackett Training Centre, Old Hackett Primary School, 114 Maitland Street, Hackett

For more information, or to register visit www.act.lifeline.org.au, email training@act.lifeline.org.au or phone (02) 6204 6405.

Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Workshops

Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS)

The one-day workshop will include information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and neglect, provide an opportunity to discuss responses to a disclosure of abuse, reflect on dilemmas in making a report, reflect on what it means to be child focused and provide information on making and receiving a report.

Dates: Wednesday 18 March 2009, Thursday 2 April 2009, Wednesday 13 May 2009 and Wednesday 17 June 2009

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: Beaufort Room, Level 1, Nature Conservation House, Cnr Benjamin Way and Emu Bank, Belconnen

Cost: Free

RSVP: To register email DHCSLearning.Development@act.gov.au with your name, organisation and phone number.

[Click here](#) for the workshop flyer.

For more information contact Robyn on (02) 6205 3839.

Findings of the Second National Survey of Mental Health & Well-Being 2007

Lifeline Canberra

This free 90-minute training session will present the findings of the second National Survey of Mental Health and Well Being – 2007. From August to December 2007, the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing collected information from approximately 8,800 Australians aged 16-85 years. This workshop will provide an overview of findings from the survey, with an emphasis on persons with a 12-month mental disorder, that is, persons with a lifetime mental disorder who experienced symptoms in the 12 months prior to the survey interview. It will examine findings on the prevalence of mental illness, use of health services and medication for mental health problems, perceived levels functioning and disability, social networks and care giving, and a range of demographic and socio-economic

characteristics.

Date: 19 March 2009

Time: 3.30 - 5pm

Venue: Lifeline Canberra city office, Level 1, 71 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City

For more information, or to register visit www.act.lifeline.org.au, email training@act.lifeline.org.au or phone (02) 6204 6405.

Communicating with Young People

Lifeline Canberra

This 3 hour workshop will provide participants with information on how to better engage with young people.

Date: 19 March 2009

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$100

Venue: Lifeline Canberra Hackett Training Centre, Old Hackett Primary School, 114 Maitland Street, Hackett

For more information, or to register visit www.act.lifeline.org.au, email training@act.lifeline.org.au or phone (02) 6204 6405.

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training: Part II

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one-day follow-up workshop is for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers who have attended the initial Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training program. The workshop provides an opportunity to further advance skills when working with Aboriginal people and communities. It builds on the initial training by incorporating group work and case studies relating to workplace skills, communication and protocols, and allows people to put into practice their existing knowledge and expertise.

Date: Friday 20 March 2009

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

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

Cost: \$44 - \$231

Registration: Contact Julie on julie@actcoss.org.au or call (02) 6202 7200 for bookings or further information.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This practical workshop will assist you to implement quality improvement in your organisation. Many organisations now have a requirement to use Raising the Standard as part of their funding agreement. This workshop is for those people who want to learn about:

- The service standards developed for ACT community organisations that meet 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.

Date: Friday 20 March 2009

Time: 10am - 3.30pm

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

Cost: Prices range from \$44 to \$66, and invoices for payment are sent after each seminar.

To register for this seminar phone Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au

Discrimination in Employment

ACT Human Rights Commission

This workshop will provide participants with a general understanding of the purpose, scope and operation of the Discrimination Act 1991. It will consider strategies to prevent unlawful discrimination and ensure workplace equality. It will cover how the Commission handles complaints, with a focus on the role of the Discrimination Commissioner.

Date: Monday 23 March 2009

Venue: Details will be sent following registration

Cost: Free

Registration: Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au to download a registration form or email human.rights@act.gov.au

Skills and Strategies for Receptionists - A Difficult Calls Toolbox

Lifeline Canberra

This half day training is designed to help the first point of contact in services to deal with difficult calls.

Date: 25 March 2009

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$30

Venue: Lifeline Canberra Hackett Training Centre, Old Hackett Primary School, 114 Maitland Street, Hackett

For more information, or to register visit www.act.lifeline.org.au, email training@act.lifeline.org.au or phone (02) 6204 6405.

Project Management

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop will take you through the stages of designing, implementing, evaluating and finalising a project and will give you the opportunity to work on projects relevant to your workplace.

Date: Wednesday 25 March 2009

Time: 9.30 - 3.30pm

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

Cost: Members \$135, Non-members \$195, Corporate/Government \$270

Registration: To register for this workshop contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au

LawSupport Training Workshop

Women's Legal Centre (ACT & Region)

LawSupport is a 2 day training course specifically designed for community workers, support workers, court personnel, counsellors, mediators and members of the public, which enables them to assist people dealing with family law and domestic violence issues. The training covers:

- The basic legal system, family law and domestic violence law
- The role of a support person for people with legal issues relating to family law and domestic violence
- Values and how our values can affect the way we support someone

Date: Thursday 26 & Friday 27 March 2009 or Thursday 2 & Friday 3 April 2009

Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Venue: ACT Cultural Centre, Yarramundi Reach

Cost: \$250 including lunch, morning & afternoon tea and a resource folder.

RSVP: Contact Carol on (02) 6257 4377 or coordinator@womenslegalact.org

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>

How is tobacco used in prisons? How can smoking cessation programs be tailored to take account of prison environments?

Recent research involving focus groups in a maximum security prison in rural NSW and a community justice restorative centre and accommodation service for ex-prisoners in Sydney examined the role of tobacco use in prison, and possible influences of the prison environment on smoking among inmates. Prisoners reported that tobacco serves as a *de facto* currency in correctional settings and can be exchanged for goods, pay debts and for gambling. Smoking helps manage the stressful situations such as transfers, court appearances and prison visits.

The researchers state that their findings are relevant to inform prison health authorities concerned with improving the health of prisoners, and for support organisations attempting to facilitate smoking cessation both in prison and post-release. They conclude that 'smoking cessation programs in prisons should be tailored to the unique stresses of the prison environment'.

Richmond, R, Butler, T, Wilhelm, K, Wodak, A, Cunningham, M & Anderson, I 2009, 'Tobacco in prisons: a focus group study', *Tobacco Control*, doi: 10.1136/tc.2008.026393.

Do children exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke report nicotine dependency?

Researchers in Montreal, Canada, surveyed 10-12 year old students who had never smoked on the number of persons who smoke inside their homes, the number of days they had been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke (SHS) in a motor vehicle in the past week, the number of parents, siblings, and friends who smoked, and self-reports of nicotine dependency (ND) symptoms. They found that '69 of 1488 never smokers (5%) reported one or more ND symptom', and that 'exposure to SHS smoke in a motor vehicle was independently associated with ND symptoms'. They state that, 'if replicated, this finding provides support for interventions that promote non-smoking in motor vehicles'.

Bélanger, M, OLoughlin, J, Okoli, CT, McGrath, JJ, Setia, M, Guyon, L & Gervais, A 2008, 'Nicotine dependence symptoms among young never-smokers exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke', *Addictive Behaviors*, vol. 33, no. 12, pp. 1557-63.

Does the Australian community support banning smoking in cars carrying children?

A recent article in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* summarises print media coverage of the 12-year Australian history of advocacy for banning smoking in cars carrying children. This advocacy has culminated in the South Australian and Tasmanian Governments banning such smoking, and the ACT Government is currently consulting our community about doing the same. The paper demonstrates that tobacco control organisations have strong community support when they advocate for policies that support children. The authors conclude that 'a ban on smoking in cars, designed explicitly to protect children, thus takes a legislative first step into legally outlawing what has hitherto been assumed to be a private self-regulated behaviour (parents' freedom to expose their children to high concentrations of tobacco smoke in settings assumed to be private)'. They state that 'legislation focused on a setting where those thus harmed are most likely to be family members moves the boundaries of health protection legislation in an important new direction'.

Freeman, B, Chapman, S & Storey, P 2008, 'Banning smoking in cars carrying children: an analytical history of a public health advocacy campaign', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 60-5.

How well do injecting drug users understand hepatitis C?

A 2008 article in *Addictive Behaviors* reports on a survey of 149 people who inject drugs (IDUs) on their understanding of hepatitis C (HCV), and their knowledge of virus transmission, clinical markers, symptoms and treatment. The participants were recruited through and interviewed at a range of settings in inner-city, suburban and regional sites of NSW. The researchers stated that 'recent HCV testing was reported by 74% of participants, but a number of IDUs were confused about the results of the various tests, e.g. 19% of participants who stated they had HCV believed they could not infect others or were immune'. The researchers concluded that 'significant gaps in IDUs' knowledge of HCV were uncovered with respect to transmission risks (48% believed HCV could be contracted from re-using one's own, unshared needle), symptoms and clinical markers (42% believed HCV antibodies gave protection against HCV infection), and treatment. Findings warrant further development of, and research into, strategies to improve IDUs' understanding of HCV'.

O'Brien, S, Day, C, Black, E & Dolan, K 2008, 'Injecting drug users' understanding of hepatitis C', *Addictive Behaviors*, vol. 33, no. 12, pp. 1602-5.

A new training resource for detoxification services

The United States' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment has released a Detoxification and Substance Abuse Treatment Training Manual. This is a new curriculum, based on its Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 45: Detoxification and Substance Abuse Treatment. TIPs are best-practice guidelines for the treatment of substance use disorders. TIP 45 attempts to define how care settings may

be matched to patient needs and special characteristics.

The training manual is for use by clinical supervisors for training staff members about detoxification services for individuals with substance use disorders. It includes information on the physiology of withdrawal, pharmacological management of withdrawal, patient placement, and incorporating detoxification services into comprehensive systems of care. It also gives instructions for providing in service training. The manual is available for downloading from the Center's website.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment 2008, *Detoxification and substance abuse treatment training manual*, DHHS Publication No. [SMA] 08-4331, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD.

<http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/productDetails.aspx?ProductID=17933>

Why does the AOD field neglect the role of pleasure in illicit drug use?

Researchers and policy makers in the area of illicit drug use tend to give little consideration to the pleasure associated with drug use. David Moore, from the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, has looked at possible reasons for the relative absence of discussion of pleasure in the drugs field. In an article in the *International Journal of Drug Abuse*, he states that his focus is 'on drug research as a "social field"', and he argues 'power relations between research disciplines work against considerations of pleasure, and that researching pleasure does not generate useful forms of research capital'. He further argues that 'harm reduction policy and practice, in its construction of a neo-liberal drug-using subject, limits opportunities for considering the role of pleasure in drug use'. Finally, he 'explores the broader historical and contemporary context for drug research, policy and practice by considering the discursive formations that contribute to the legitimacy granted to particular forms of pleasure in the privileging of a "civilised" body over a "grotesque" body'.

Moore, D 2008, 'Erasing pleasure from public discourse on illicit drugs: on the creation and reproduction of an absence', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 19, no. 5, pp. 353-8.

How common are injecting-related injuries and diseases among injecting drug users?

Researchers from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research at the University of New South Wales sought to identify lifetime prevalence and predictors of self-reported injecting-related injuries and diseases and/or injecting-related problems among a national cross-sectional sample of injecting drug users. They obtained data from 1,961 clients of 45 needle and syringe programs (NSPs) who participated in the 2006 Australian NSP Survey – each client self-completed an item regarding lifetime experience of eight separate injecting-related diseases or problems.

69% of participants reported having had injecting-related injuries or difficulties such as problems finding a vein (43%), scarring/bruising (41%), and infection of an injecting site that lasted more than a week (27%). The researchers state that their results suggest 'the risk of injecting-related injuries and diseases and/or injecting-related problems increases with both duration and frequency of injecting'. Other groups with an increased risk of these problems were injectors with bisexual identity, people who inject pharmaceutical preparations, female injecting drug users, and hepatitis C positive injectors.

The researchers conclude that 'results suggest that vascular injury and localised infections are common among IDUs; and that treatment-seeking is often delayed until serious complications arise'. They state that their findings 'support the imperative for co-ordinated and timely treatment and prevention activities to reduce the severity and burden of these prevalent injecting outcomes'.

Topp, L, Iversen, J, Conroy, A, Salmon, AM & Maher, L 2008, 'Prevalence and predictors of injecting-related injury and disease among clients of Australia's needle and syringe programs', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 34-7.

Which is more dangerous – horse riding or using ecstasy?

Professor David Nutt, chairman of the United Kingdom Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, raised some hackles

recently with an article in the *Journal of Pharmacology* in which he compared the harmful effects of 'ecstasy' and 'equasy' – which stands for Equine Addiction Syndrome. He pointed out 'many millions of people in the UK including children and young people' have this addiction: 'about 10 people a year die of it and many more suffer permanent neurological damage' as a result of from falling from horses.

According to Professor Nutt 'there are many risky activities such as base jumping, climbing, bungee jumping, hang-gliding, motorcycling which have harms and risks equal to or worse than many illicit drugs'. He questioned 'why are harmful sporting activities allowed whereas relatively less harmful drugs are not', and stated 'I believe this reflects a societal approach which does not adequately balance the relative risks of drugs against their harms'.

Professor Nutt asserted 'the general public, especially the younger generation, are disillusioned with the lack of balanced political debate about drugs. This lack of rational debate can undermine the trust in government in relation to drug misuse and thereby undermining the government's message in public information campaigns'.

Nutt, DJ 2009, 'Equasy - An overlooked addiction with implications for the current debate on drug harm', *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 3-5.

What strategies are available to prevent the abuse and misuse of pharmaceutical drugs?

The DrugInfo Clearinghouse, an initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation and the Victorian Government, has published an Issues Paper and a Reading and Resource List on the prevention of pharmaceutical drug misuse. These publications are part of the DrugInfo Clearinghouse's quarterly publications on drug prevention.

The Issues Paper describes a range of prevention strategies that may be used to address pharmaceutical misuse. It focuses on the misuse of pharmaceutical opioids (including over the counter codeine) and benzodiazepines. It is available for downloading from the DrugInfo Clearinghouse website.

Nielsen, S & Thompson, N. 2008, 'Prevention of pharmaceutical drug misuse', Issues Paper no. 7, Melbourne.

www.druginfo.adf.org.au/druginfo/alcohol_research/druginfo_clearinghouse_research.html

How can we make statistics more meaningful and interesting?

'Making data meaningful: writing stories about numbers' is intended as a practical tool to help managers, statisticians and media relations officers use text, tables, graphics and other information to bring statistics to life using effective writing techniques. It contains suggestions, guidelines and effective and ineffective ways to present examples.

Unlike the other resources covered in this issue of the eBulletin, this publication (a chapter from a book published by UNICEF) is not concerned specifically with the AOD field. Instead, it is included as we believe that many readers whose work entails the presentation of quantitative data to various audiences may find it useful in their work.

Blessing, C, Crompton, V, Ellingsen, D, Fearnley, P, Flanders, J, Kavaliunas, J, Marder, D, Matheson, S, Meyer, K, Pedersen, H, Elshout, Svd, Weijers, D & Zawitz, M 2009, Making data meaningful: writing stories about numbers, in M Segone (ed.), *Country-led monitoring and evaluation systems: better evidence, better policies, better development results*, UNICEF, pp. 268-90, www.unicef.org/ceecis/resources_10597.html Large file warning: 5MB.

Media

The Health Report

ABC Radio National

The Health Report has been presenting a series focused on drug dependence and treatment. Visit The Health Report's website at abc.net.au/rn/healthreport to find information, stories and images relating to the two programs on drug dependence.

Consumer Participation

Consumer Representative Training

Health Care Consumers Association ACT (HCCA)

HCCA provides training for people interested in becoming consumer representatives. The training is free and conducted in a relaxed atmosphere. People share their views and experiences of health services in the ACT, and learn about consumer participation and how it benefits the health system. Participants meet experienced consumer representatives and hear about the consumer representative role first hand. The following sessions will be provided:

- **Session 1:** Tuesday 17 March, 10.00am-12.30pm
What does it mean to be a consumer representative?
- **Session 2:** Tuesday 24 March, 10.00am-12.30pm
Overview of the ACT Health System and how consumer representatives are working to put forward the consumer perspective.
- **Session 3:** Tuesday 31 March, 10.00am-12.30pm
How to be an effective consumer representative – including how committees work, negotiation skills, speaking persuasively, top tips on how to get your message across.
- **Session 4:** Tuesday 7 April, 10.00am-12.30pm
How to build your understanding of the consumer perspective: tools you can use to enhance your representative role.

Morning tea / light refreshments will be provided at each session.

If you, or someone you know, would like to do the training please contact HCCA by email on adminofficer@hcca.org.au or by phone on 6290 1660.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

National Youth Week 2009

National Youth Week (NYW) 2009 runs from 28 March to 5 April and is set to go off, with the theme 'Make a Move'. Get involved in the celebrations by hosting your own NYW 2009 event. Young entrepreneurs and Youth Services can also book a stall at the Youth Expo Market Place. For all enquiries, contact the Youth Week Coordinator, Chanel Cole, Monday-Thursday on (02) 6247 3540 or email youthweek@youthcoalition.net
For more information visit www.youthweek.com

4th National Mental Health Plan Consultations

ACT Health

ACT Health is conducting public consultations on this discussion paper, on behalf of the Australian Health Ministers' Conference's Mental Health Standing Committee. The 4th National Mental Health Plan is a Plan of Action aimed at capturing national priorities to be complemented at a local level. In order for consultation feedback to be incorporated into a consolidated consultation report, ACT Health will conduct local public consultations in Canberra.

Date: Tuesday 3 March 2009

Time: 5.30 - 7pm

Venue: Room 7, 1st floor, Griffin Centre, Genge St, Canberra City,

For further information contact Beck Dawson in ACT Health's Mental Health Policy Unit on (02) 6205 5030 or visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10010771&pid=1234913836

Youth Coalition 2009/10 Budget Submission

The Youth Coalition's 2009/10 Budget Submission has highlighted the following areas for consideration in the development of the upcoming ACT Budget:

- Mental Health;
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs;

- Comorbidity;
- Sexual Health;
- Health Services for Young People;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Justice;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People;
- Multicultural Young People; and,
- Youth Sector.

[Click here](#) for a full copy of the Youth Coalition's 2009/10 ACT Government Budget Submission.

Employment Opportunities

Canberra Recovery Services

The Salvation Army

Canberra Recovery Services are currently seeking expressions of interest in 3 different areas:

Case Worker (SACS Level 4): day and afternoon shifts.

Support Worker (SACS Level 3): overnight awake shifts.

Catering Supervisor (SACS Level 3): day shifts.

Contact Bob O'Heir for position descriptions on (02) 6295 1256 or crs@ae.salvationarmy.org

Grants and Funding Opportunities

ACT Health Promotion Grants Program 2009/10 Funding Rounds

ACT Health

The 2009/10 Community Funding Round is open to community-based groups, not-for-profit organisations and government agencies. Grants will be available to support activities related to the promotion of good health and the prevention and early detection of chronic disease, with particular emphasis on healthy nutrition and increased physical activity.

Applications close 5pm, Monday 9 March 2009.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10091694> for more information or to download an application form.

Up To \$4000 Funding Available For Children Of Drug And Alcohol Clients

Counting the Kids Program Brokerage Fund, Odyssey House Victoria

The Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund aims to enable drug and alcohol workers to pay for activities and services that will enhance children's health, connectedness to family, community, education and employment prospects, and self-esteem and well-being. A range of opportunities have been previously funded, such as music lessons, dental work, counselling, sports equipment and tutoring.

Visit www.odyssey.org.au/brokerage/content/index.asp for more information or contact Jordan Trew on (03) 9420 7626 or email jtrew@odyssey.org.au

New Round of Funding Under Proceeds of Crime Act

Attorney General's Department

A new round of funding under Section 298 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 is now open. Applications for funding from incorporated, not-for-profit community groups and local government associations/agencies are sought for projects which address one or more of the following areas:

- Indigenous prisoner throughcare (rehabilitation, treatment and reintegration projects)

- Crime prevention

Eligible organisations are able to seek funding of up to \$500,000 for each project.

Visit

www.crimeprevention.gov.au/agd/WWW/ncphome.nsf/Page/POCA_funding_for_Non-Government_Agencies

for an application form.

For more information contact the Attorney General's Department on (02) 6250 6711 or poca@ag.gov.au

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 20 March 2009.

2008-09 Carer Recognition Grants Now Open

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The ACT Government is now accepting applications from community organisations for funding of projects which recognise and support the work of carers. Funded projects may be aimed at benefiting all carers or specific groups.

Funding is available for either Carer Support Projects (aimed at improving the capacity of carers) or Strategic Projects (aimed at generating innovative support for carers). There is a total of \$200,000 available with individual projects being allocated up to \$60,000. Application can be obtained from www.grants.act.gov.au or emailing

communitypolicy@act.gov.au

For more information contact Michael Unger (02) 6205 0454.

The ACT Volunteer Grants Program

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

The ACT Volunteer Grants Program 2008 recognises the valuable work of volunteers as part of the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteers and encouraging volunteering in local communities. Organisations can apply for funding of \$100 per volunteer up to a maximum of \$5000 to help their volunteers meet the rising costs associated with volunteering. Applications will be assessed in order of receipt and funds may only be used to contribute towards reimbursement to volunteers for fuel, transport (eg bus tickets), and parking costs.

An organisation applying for a grant under the ACT Volunteer Grants Program 2008/09 must be an Australian, not-for-profit organisation, based in the ACT, which is a legal entity, engaging volunteers, whose work directly benefits residents of the ACT.

Organisations can apply to Volunteering ACT by contacting the Program Manager, Peter Wicks on

peterw@volunteeract.org.au for an Application Form and Guidelines, or telephone Peter on (02) 6251 4060.