



ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: March 2010

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

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 1, 2010

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing a Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the AOD sector. Under the MQS, all workers of ACT Health funded AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. The following classes will be held for participants enrolled in the Canberra Institute of Technology training for workers with partial completion of the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification:

- Monday 1, Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3 March.
- Monday 29, Tuesday 30, Wednesday 31 March.
- Monday 3, Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5 May.
- Monday 31 May, Tuesday 1 June, Wednesday 2 June.

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

March 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.
- Provide information about, and give workers an opportunity to have input into the ACT AOD Sector Project.

Date: Thursday 25 March 2010

Time: 1.30 - 3.30pm

Venue: Alcohol and Drug Program Southside, Building 7, The Canberra Hospital, Palmer Street, Garran

Guest Speaker: TBC

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

The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 4

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 4 of the Directory profiles 37 programs and contains new information about services provided to people in, and post release from, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. The Directory is available online at www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/directory.htm.

For more information contact 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.

See the [Drug Action Week](#) section for information on the Drug Action Week Planning Group facilitated by the ACT AOD Sector Project.

Drug Action Week 2010 Update

This section provides an update on key information leading up to Drug Action Week 2010.

Drug Action Week 2010

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) has launched Drug Action Week (DAW) 2010 with the new theme of "Looking After YOUR Mind!".

This year, Drug Action Week will run from Sunday, 20 June through to Saturday, 26 June. ADCA is calling on organisations to get involved by registering an

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Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.

event on the DAW website www.drugactionweek.org.au.

Invitation to the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group Meeting

ACT AOD Sector Project

Drug Action Week 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. The AOD Sector Project will be coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group that will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week. The Planning Group is open to anyone in the AOD and allied sectors.

Date: Thursday 4 February 2010

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor

RSVP: To Ben Frommel on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

If you are not able to attend the meetings, you can still participate in the group through being signed up to the mailing list, informing the group of planned activities to go on the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events and raising items for discussion. If you are interested in participating in the group in this way please contact Ben Frommel on 6247 3540 or ben@aodsector.org.au.

ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Update

The ACT AOD Sector has continued significant work to create an independent, incorporated ACT AOD Sector Peak Body by 1 July 2010, using transparent and inclusive processes. These have included:

- The ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Working Group completed the development of the peak body's constitution.
- On 16 February the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group endorsed the constitution, which has now been lodged with the Registrar General.
- Committee (Board) membership of the peak was confirmed (please see below for details).
- Discussions and developments have continued regarding transitioning the ACT AOD Sector Project into the new peak body.

About the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association is not for profit and is the peak body representing alcohol, tobacco and other drug services in the Australian Capital Territory; and provides leadership, representation, advocacy and information. The constitutional objects are to:

- To co-ordinate, support and assist organisations and individuals to provide services for the relief of suffering from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use disorders in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding region.
- To co-ordinate, support and assist organisations and individuals to provide services that prevent and reduce the harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the ACT.
- To facilitate the development and operation of partnerships, collaborations and networking with key stakeholders to support joint action aiming to assist organisations and individuals to provide services for the prevention and relief of suffering from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use disorders in the Australian Capital Territory region.
- To engage in, promote, develop and support inclusive and evidence-informed decision-making, research and policy development; capacity building, sector and workforce development; advocacy and representation.
- To promote the development and use of evidence-informed alcohol, tobacco and other drug related information, resources, policy and practice to key stakeholders.

Congratulations to the inaugural Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Association Committee!

It is with great pleasure that the ACT AOD sector congratulates the members of the inaugural ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association's Committee, who include:

President: Anne Kirwan, Catholiccare

Vice President: Jacky Cook, Toora Women Inc

Secretary: Carol Mead, DIRECTIONS ACT

Treasurer: Marcus Kanagasuntherie, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT

Member: Nicole Wiggins, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy

Member: Bob O'Heir, Salvation Army

Member: Vera Van De Velde, Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health

The Committee's term is from February 2010 until the first annual general meeting in November 2010.

Anne Kirwan, President, ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association can be contacted on anne.kirwan@catholiccare.cg.org.au.

If you would like further information or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Carrie Fowlie, ACT AOD Sector Project, (secretariat and support) on (02) 6247 3540 or carrie@aodsector.org.au.

Sector Activities and Events

CatholicCare Youth Binge Drinking Grant

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn

CatholicCare lodged an application with the National Youth Binge Drinking Grants, for a two-year grant to provide outreach and follow up to the City Watchhouse to young people detained for alcohol related incidents. The grant application was successful and will compliment the work of the Sobering Up Shelter program. CatholicCare would like to thank those who provided references regarding this initiative.

[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 ACT 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.

To view the media release, see the [Media](#) section.

Youth Tobacco Free Day

Australian Network on Young People and Tobacco

Youth Tobacco Free Day (YTFD) to be held this year on Friday 19 March 2010, is an annual event that aims to raise awareness of tobacco as a health and social issue among young people aged 10 to 25 years in Australia. This year, YTFD aims to highlight the cost of smoking and encourage young people to think about other things they could spend their money on. For more information visit www.oxygen.org.au.

National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010

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

The National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010 aim to celebrate Australian achievements to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use and harm. The ceremony will be held:

Date: 25 June 2010

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: The Sebel and Citigate Hotel, King George Square, Brisbane

Cost: \$55 per person, \$550 for a table of ten (inc. GST)

Registration: Tickets are now on sale

Nominations for the 2010 Awards close **Friday, 16 April 2010**.

For further information visit www.drugawards.org.au or contact the event manager on (02) 6215 9802 or info@drugawards.org.au.

Invitation to Meet Ms Joy Burch MLA

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS is hosting an opportunity for the community sector to meet with Joy Burch MLA, who is the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Multicultural Affairs, Children and Young People, Ageing, and Women. This roundtable is targeted at Directors and Senior Managers of community service organisations in the ACT.

Date: Wednesday 3 March 2010

Time: 2.30 - 4.30pm

Venue: Room 6, Griffin Centre, Genge Street, Canberra City

Cost: \$10

RSVP: Essential

To download a registration form for the event visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/MeetTheNewMinister-Mar10.pdf.

Report Launch: A Case for Justice

Toora Women Inc

In celebration of International Women's Day, Toora Women will be launching this paper, which examines issues relating to domestic violence against women. The paper was created by Maryanne Athaide, who completed a final year student placement with Toora.

Date: Tuesday 9 March 2010

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: Burringiri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre, 245 Lady Denman Drive, Canberra

For more information, contact (02) 6122 7004.

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.

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.

The ACT AOD Executive Directors Group met for the first time for 2010 on 16 February. Some key items being progressed include:

- Carol Mead, Executive Director, DIRECTIONS ACT, has been appointed the new Chair of the Group.
- The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association's (the new ACT AOD sector peak body) constitution was endorsed.
- Work continues to be done on submissions to the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014 and the draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy.

- The ACT AOD Workers Group and Sector Project reported on activities.
- Other items discussed included:
 - * The evaluation of the drug policies at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
 - * Conducting another ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile in 2010.
 - * ACT Drug Action Week 2010, including the launch and conference.
 - * ACT AOD Sector Minimum Qualification Strategy.

Carol Mead, Chair, ACT AOD Executive Directors Group can be contacted on (02) 6122 8000 or carolm@directionsact.com.

Sector Development

Australian Drug Policy Timeline Update

Drug Policy Modelling Program

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline 1985-2010 has been updated. The timeline includes all key events and policy changes at the federal and state and territory level from 1985 till 31 December 2009.

To access the timeline visit www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/dpmpweb.nsf/page/Drug+Policy+Timeline.

New Drug Policy Modelling Program Bulletin

Drug Policy Modelling Program

The new Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) Bulletin has been released entitled: 'Bulletin No 3: Legislative Thresholds for drug possession and traffic: An overview of State and Territory differences in Australia'. The Bulletin provides a summary of the thresholds that differentiate illicit drug possession from trafficking in each Australian state or territory.

Visit www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au to download a copy of the Bulletin.

National Drugs Campaign – Resources in languages other than english

Australian Government

The National Drugs campaign has a number of campaign resources available in languages other than english. Through primary prevention and targeted intervention strategies, the National Drugs Campaign is designed to increase awareness among young people about the negative consequences, harms and risks associated with the use of illicit drugs, with the current phase focusing specifically on methamphetamines (speed and ice), ecstasy and marijuana. The Campaign will also convey messages to the wider community providing information and ways for youth to seek help.

To view these resources visit www.drugs.health.gov.au/internet/drugs/publishing.nsf/Content/languages-other-than-english.

PATHWAYS: An Exploration of the Recovery Experience in Australia

Association of Participating Service Users

The Association of Participating Service Users in partnership with The National Development and Research Institute Inc. investigated what helps and what makes it difficult for people who have experienced drug problems to recover. The information looks particularly at how the Australian experience of addiction and recovery differs from that in the USA (where most of the prior research has been conducted).

Visit <http://apsuonline.org.au/index.php?page=research> to view this information.

DSM-5: Proposed Revisions to Substance Related Disorders

American Psychiatric Association

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals in the United States (U.S.) and contains a listing of diagnostic criteria for every psychiatric disorder recognized by the U.S. healthcare system. The DSM is currently being revised to DSM-5, which is expected to be released in May 2013. As part of this a number of revisions to Substance-Related Disorders have been proposed for comment. To view the proposed revisions visit www.dsm5.org/ProposedRevisions/Pages/Substance-RelatedDisorders.aspx.

Free telephone interpreting services extended to pharmacies

Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australian Government

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship, through the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) and the assistance of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, recently conducted a pilot extension of free telephone interpreting services. The pilot showed that pharmacies using the service found it to be a valuable tool when communicating with non-English speakers and would use it again. Registered pharmacies around Australia will now be able to access the service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/media-releases/2008/1f08070.htm for more information.

Australian Community Sector Survey Report 2010

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

This report presents the findings of the Australian Community Sector Survey conducted in November and December of 2009. It provides information on service provision, income, expenditure, and operational, policy and workforce issues for the community services and welfare sector.

Download the [Australian Community Sector Survey Report 2010](#).

Research Invitation: Perceptions of how child protection authorities work

Micro Foundations of Democratic Governance, Australian National University (ANU)

As part of the ANU 'Regulation and Social Capital Project' researchers are calling for anyone who has had dealings with child protection services through their work, but are not employed directly by them, to share their experiences and views on the child protection systems in Australia. The survey can be accessed at <https://apollo.anu.edu.au/default.asp?pid=3836>. The user ID is: **mfdg** and the password is: **cp001**.

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (March – April 2010)

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.

Grant and Report Writing and Management Workshop

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation

This workshop will focus on an overview of the grant application and report writing process. Participants will develop a complete grant application based on best-practice NGO governance, financial and risk management, customer service and resource allocation.

Date: 3 & 4 March, 2010

Venue: Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest ACT

Cost: \$500

RSVP: Essential by to linus.nesbitt@aerf.com.au.

For more information, download the [AER Workshops Flyer](#) or contact Linus Nesbitt on (02) 6122 8600 or linus.nesbitt@aerf.com.au.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This practical workshop is designed to assist services to implement quality improvement in their organisation. Many organisations are required to use Raising the Standard as part of their service funding agreements. A manual and toolkit is provided as part of the training.

Date: Thursday 11 March 2010

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: Essential, by **Thursday 4 March 2010**.

For more information download the [Raising the Standard Training Flyer](#) or contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcross.org.au.

Board Basics Workshop

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop provides an overview of a range of governance topics for anyone who would like an introduction to the roles, responsibilities and obligations of Board Members. The workshop will provide an overview of topics including legal and financial responsibilities of board members, the relationship between governance and management and core documents.

Date: 16 March 2010

Time: 11am – 2pm

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

Cost: \$30 members, \$37.50 non-members

RSVP: Essential to lisa@actcross.org.au

For more information or to register for the training download the [Board Basics Flyer](#).

Facilitation Skills

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one day course provides participants an opportunity to learn how to improve and enhance facilitation skills, including planning a facilitation process, applying communication skills and managing emotions.

Date: 18 March 2010

Time: 9am - 4:30pm

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

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

RSVP: Essential to lisa@actcross.org.au

For more information or to register for the training download the [Facilitation Skills Flyer](#).

Australian Council of Social Service National Conference 2010: A Vote for Equity

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Council of Social Service annual conference is a major event for social services and the community sector. It aims to examine Australia from the perspective of low income Australians: what policies and programs are working; and what needs to change; and how best to achieve that change.

Date: 25-26 March 2010

Venue: Rydges Lakeside Canberra 1 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT

Registration: Registrations close **19 March 2010**.

For more information including the conference program and registration details visit www.acoss.org.au/events/view/449/.

Evaluating Suicide Prevention

Living is For Everyone (LIFE)

The LIFE Team is providing free evaluation workshops across Australia, for workers and services who are working in suicide prevention. These workshops will introduce and explain the key concepts of evaluation, and provide participants with a take-home plan.

Date: 31 March 2010

Time: 9am - 5pm

Venue: Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest ACT

RSVP: Essential, by **Wednesday 17 March 2010**.

Download the [Evaluating Suicide Prevention Workshop Flyer](#) for more information or visit www.livingisforeveryone.com.au/Evaluation-workshops.html.

Community Sector Leadership Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The Community Sector Viability Working Group in partnership with Yellow Edge is offering professional leadership training to community sector directors and executives. This course is designed to assist in the strengthening of key leadership capabilities essential to community sector leaders. The course will include a two day leadership course, self awareness development, individual coaching and quarterly forums.

Dates: See the flyer for a proposed timetable

Cost: \$800 members, \$875 non-members

Registration: Essential, by **5pm Tuesday 2 March 2010**

For more information or to register for the training download the [Community Sector Leadership Flyer](#).

ACT Human Rights Commission Training Calendar

ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Right Commission Training Calendar is now available online. The ACT Human Rights Commission offers courses regarding the Human Rights Act 2004, the Discrimination Act 1991 and Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997.

For more information or to register for this training visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/content.php/category.view/id/77.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2010

Reconnexion

The Conference will explore approaches to the treatment of anxiety disorders and/or depression from a range of established practitioners and experts in their field.

Date: 17 – 18 May, 2010

Venue: The Sebel – Albert Park, Melbourne

Cost: \$445 (early bird)

Registration: Early Bird Registration closes **31 March, 2010**.

Visit www.reconnexion.org.au/www/464/1001127/displayarticle/conference-2010--1010900.html or email janet@reconnexion.org.au for more information.

Diversity in Health 2010 Conference

Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health and Diversity Health Institute

Australians now come from 230 countries of origin and speak 200 languages. The conference will explore:

- How to maintain cultural integrity in patient care and service delivery.
- The right to health and its related entitlements.
- Impacts of eHealth on disadvantaged communities.
- Emerging issues in aged care, health literacy, mental health and sexual health.
- Modern multiculturalism and its impact on wellbeing.

Date: 7-9 June, 2010

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$300 full rate, \$250 not-for-profit (early bird)

Registration: Early bird registrations close **25 April 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.diversityinhealth.com.au.

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

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

Date: 16 - 18 June 2010

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Cost: \$600

Registration: Early Bird registration closes **15 March 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.nidaconference.com.au/.

2010 Australian Winter School, Back to Basics: A Commonsense Approach

Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)

The Australian Winter School aims to increase delegates' level of knowledge and professional skills, present the most recent research, and demonstrate its relevance to those working in the alcohol and other drugs field.

Date: 21 - 23 June, 2010

Venue: Sebel Citigate King George Square Hotel, Brisbane

Cost: \$600 (early bird)

Registration: Early Bird Registration closes **4 May, 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.winterschool.info.

6th Reintegration Puzzle Conference: Innovation through Collaboration and Inclusion : Call for Abstracts

Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University

The Reintegration Puzzle Conference brings together people working to support the reintegration of offenders into the community after release from prison. This year's conference will focus on partnerships and innovative practices that are achieving positive outcomes for people involved in the justice system.

Date: 23 – 25 June, 2010

Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

Call for abstracts close **31 March, 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.reintegrationpuzzle.com.au.

Policy Activities

Working with Vulnerable People Checks

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

In 2009, the ACT Government consulted with the community on a proposed background checking system for people working with vulnerable people in the ACT. This system aims to reduce the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect of vulnerable people, through the establishment of mandatory minimum background checking standards. A consultation report is now available, which provides a summary of comments submitted during the consultation.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwwvpc#report to view the consultation paper. For more information, contact Mathew Munro on (02) 6205 8329 or workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au.

Inquiry into Respite Care Services in the ACT

ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services (the Standing Committee)

The Standing Committee is conducting an inquiry into respite care services in the ACT and would like to hear from anyone with an interest in this inquiry, particularly users of respite care services and carers. The Standing Committee is particularly seeking information on the needs of care recipients (including children, teenagers and adults with a disability, elderly people, people with mental health issues and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their carers), the needs of staff, interaction between government and non-government providers of respite care, and the experience of service users.

Visit www.legassembly.act.gov.au/committees/index1.asp?committee=115&inquiry=964 for more information or contact Grace Concannon on (02) 6205 0129 or grace.concannon@parliament.act.gov.au. Submissions are due by **Friday 26 March 2010**.

Consultation Report – National compact between the Australian Government and the third sector

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSiA), Australian Government

The National Compact Consultation Report is now available. This report summarises the feedback from consultation with stakeholders including a broad

range of Sector organisations, state and territory governments, peak bodies, academics and individuals. Consultation indicated broad support for the development of a Compact to improve relationships and ways of working between the Government and the Sector.

Visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/pubs/national_compact_consultation/Pages/default.aspx to view the report.

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 frequently do prisoners contract hepatitis C in NSW prisons?

New research has quantified the incidence of transmission of hepatitis C among inmates who inject drugs in NSW prisons. It has shown that the incidence is 34 per 100 person years, that is, one-third of injecting prisoner who enter prison free of hepatitis C become infected, in prison, within a year. The authors concluded 'Prison inmates were at high risk of HCV infection, despite some reduction in high-risk behaviours and access to prevention services. To prevent HCV transmission in prisons, better prevention strategies are required', and go on to call for an Australian trial of a prison NSP.

Dolan, K, Teutsch, S, Scheuer, N, Levy, M, Rawlinson, W, Kaldor, J, Lloyd, A & Haber, P 2010, 'Incidence and risk for acute hepatitis C infection during imprisonment in Australia', *European Journal of Epidemiology*, vol. Published online 19 January 2010.

Do substitution programs decrease drug users' involvement in crime?

A systematic review examined evidence of the effects of prescription of methadone vs. heroin and other substances on involvement in criminal behaviour. After analysing 44 studies, the reviewers concluded that 'Heroin maintenance has been found to significantly reduce criminal involvement among treated subjects, and it is more effective in crime reduction than methadone maintenance. Methadone maintenance greatly reduces criminal involvement, but apparently not significantly more so than other interventions. Buprenorphine and Naltrexone have been found to be promising, although few studies have been identified using these substances in maintenance treatment'.

Egli, N, Pina, M, Skovbo, CP, Aebi, MF & Killias, M 2009, 'Effects of drug substitution programs on offending among drug-addicts', *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, no. 3, www.campbellcollaboration.org/lib/download/675/

Are people who have survived a heroin overdose at increased risk of a subsequent fatal overdose?

Researchers analysed data from ambulance attendance records in Melbourne over the period 2000 to 2005 covering 4,884 non-fatal heroin overdoses and 164 overdose deaths. They found that males over 35 who have had previous non-fatal overdoses had increased mortality risk, and they estimated that annual mortality for the year 2000 (during the heroin glut) was nearly 10 times the rate in later years. They concluded that 'experiencing a non-fatal overdose substantially increases the risk of subsequent overdose mortality' and suggest 'Strategies to effectively reduce overdose mortality should consider personal drug use histories and drug market dynamics as important factors in determining overdose risk'.

Stoove, MA, Dietze, PM & Jolley, D 2009, 'Overdose deaths following previous non-fatal heroin overdose: record linkage of ambulance attendance and death registry data', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 347-52.

Can drug related deaths be reduced by training opioid users to manage overdoses and providing them with a supply of naloxone?

A pilot study in Birmingham and London, UK, trained 70 previously opioid dependent people to recognise and treat overdoses, and provided them with 400 micrograms of naloxone (Narcan) to keep and use to revive people who experienced an opioid overdose. At a follow-up study six months later, most still had the naloxone and nine individuals reported witnessing 16 overdoses since the training. However, in the five cases in which data was available none had used the naloxone. 'The reasons for non-use were not related to failing to recognise that an overdose was taking place' - the actions they took were consistent with the training received. Obstacles to the use of the naloxone included not wanting to be found with injecting equipment at work and the person was 'clean' and 'did not want to carry injecting material'. The researchers conclude that 'the training of possible bystanders to opiate overdose constitutes a valuable resource in the assessment and management of opiate overdoses that may not otherwise be recognised or addressed' however 'Obstacles have been identified at individual and at a systemic level. For instance, there are issues of transportability of naloxone related to its formulation and also perceived stigma (the association of this drug with the 'active user of illicit substances' status). This is related with overpowering fears of being searched by the police whilst in possession of naloxone, as well as police involvement when the emergency services are contacted'. They state that 'Changes in prescription laws, increasing education and communication between the police force, emergency services and opiate users and reducing the stigma that prevails in these areas, are essential ingredients for these programmes [training of possible bystanders to opiate overdose] to move forward'.

Gaston, R, Best, D, Manning, V & Day, E 2009, 'Can we prevent drug related deaths by training opioid users to recognise and manage overdoses?' *Harm Reduction Journal*, vol. 6, no. 1, p. 26, www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/6/1/26.

How many deaths are caused by MDMA?

A recently published study by researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre looked at MDMA-related deaths in Australia over a 5 year period. Of the 82 deaths identified, 83% were male. MDMA was found to be a direct cause of death in the majority of cases, with MDMA a direct cause of death in over 1 in 5 cases, though 'combined drug toxicity was more common than toxicity due to MDMA alone'. Also of interest is the finding that 'the majority of these deaths occurred in a private home...[indicating that] MDMA is used among a more heterogeneous population and wider variety of environments than the traditional image of MDMA as a "dance party drug" would suggest'. The researchers concluded that 'the current study highlights the need to educate users about the potential harms of MDMA use, particularly that in conjunction with other stimulants, opioids and alcohol, which are known to increase overall toxicity'.

Kaye, S, Darke, S & Duflou, J 2009, 'Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)-related fatalities in Australia: demographics, circumstances, toxicology and major organ pathology', *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, vol. 104, no. 3, pp. 254-61.

Does formal processing of juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system reduce or increase crime?

Police and juvenile justice officers have much discretion when handling juvenile offenders who have committed minor crimes. Formal processing in the juvenile justice system, such as bringing offenders before Children's Courts, is one option. A new Campbell Collaboration systematic review of the global literature revealed that, '...juvenile system processing appears to not have a crime control effect, and across all measures appears to increase delinquency... Given the additional financial costs associated with system processing (especially when compared to doing nothing) and the lack of evidence for any public safety benefit, jurisdictions should review their policies regarding the handling of juveniles'.

Petrosino A., T-PC, Guckenburg, S. 2010, 'Formal system processing of juveniles: effects on delinquency', *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, vol. 1, www.campbellcollaboration.org/news/formal_processing_reduce_juvenile_delinquency.php.

What up-to-date resources are available for the treatment of alcohol problems?

Guidelines published by the Department of Health and Ageing in late 2009 provide 'up-to-date, evidence-based information to clinicians on the available treatments for people with alcohol problems'. Areas covered include screening, assessment and treatment planning; brief interventions; alcohol withdrawal management; psychosocial interventions for alcohol use disorders; pharmacotherapies for alcohol dependence; self-help programs; specific populations; comorbidities; and aftercare and long-term follow-up.

Haber, P, Lintzeris, N, Proude, E & Lopatko, O 2009, *Guidelines for the treatment of alcohol problems*, 2nd edn, Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr017.htm.

Quick Reference Guide to the Treatment of Alcohol Problems Companion Document to The Guidelines for the Treatment of Alcohol Problems [www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/76AE6384CE9A3830CA2576BF003073F8/\\$File/DEZEM_Quick%20Ref%20Guide_FA.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/76AE6384CE9A3830CA2576BF003073F8/$File/DEZEM_Quick%20Ref%20Guide_FA.pdf)

Does moderate drinking really protect against heart disease?

The long held belief that moderate alcohol consumption has a beneficial effect on coronary heart disease is now being challenged on four counts: 1. Miscalculation error - 'systematic misclassification of ex-drinkers and occasional drinkers to "abstainer" categories among epidemiological studies might explain apparent protective effects of moderate alcohol consumption'; 2. Confounding – the 'influence of uncontrolled or unknown factors on the relationship between alcohol and disease...Exclusion of participants on the basis of ill-health...might artificially create the appearance of protective effects'; 3. Self-report, recall bias and drinker 'drift' - 'The ability of respondents to accurately recall their own alcohol consumption is in serious doubt and very few individuals maintain one single drinking level or style throughout life'; and 4. Drinking patterns – 'The relationship between alcohol and some conditions might be a function of drinking pattern'.

Chikritzhs, T, Fillmore, K & Stockwell, T 2009, 'A healthy dose of scepticism: four good reasons to think again about protective effects of alcohol on coronary heart disease', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 441-4.

Does mixing energy drinks and alcohol increase risk taking behaviour?

A field study conducted in a bar district frequented by college students in Florida, USA, assessed 'associations between energy drink consumption, alcohol intoxication, and intention to drive a motor vehicle in patrons exiting bars at night'. Patrons 'who had consumed alcohol mixed with energy drinks were at a 3-fold increased risk of leaving a bar highly intoxicated...as well as a 4-fold increased risk of intending to drive upon leaving the bar district, compared to other drinking patrons who did not consume alcoholic beverages mixed with energy drinks'. The researchers concluded that 'energy drink consumption by young adults at bars is a marker for elevated involvement in nighttime risk-taking behavior' and suggest that product labelling include a warning about risks associated with combining energy drinks and alcohol.

Thombs, DL, O'Mara, RJ, Tsukamoto, M, Rosshem, ME, Weiler, RM, Merves, ML & Goldberger, BA 2010, 'Event-level analyses of energy drink consumption and alcohol intoxication in bar patrons', *Addictive Behaviors*, vol. 35, no. 4, pp. 325-30.

How can sporting clubs reduce the association between sport and alcohol?

The Australian Drug Foundation has published resources which provide sporting clubs with guidance on measures they can take to address the management and consumption of alcohol in their club. By adopting these measures, 'clubs will create a setting that will cultivate and develop healthy individuals; sporting clubs will be more sustainable and attractive to the community; and there will be greater opportunities for recruiting new players and members'

Rowland, B & Toumbourou, J 2009, *Alcohol and community sporting clubs*, Prevention Research Quarterly, Issues Paper no. 11, Australian Drug Foundation, Melbourne, www.druginfo.adf.org.au/downloads/Prevention_Research_Quarterly/IP_dec09_sport.pdf.

Are people who believe that third-hand smoke is harmful likely to be receptive to banning smoking in the home?

'Thirdhand smoke is residual tobacco smoke contamination that remains after the cigarette is extinguished. Children are uniquely susceptible to thirdhand smoke exposure.' A telephone survey conducted in the USA 'assessed the level of agreement with statements that breathing air in a room today where people smoked yesterday can harm the health of children'. Over 1,500 people completed surveys of whom 19% were smokers. 'Overall, 95.4% of nonsmokers versus 84.1% of smokers agreed that secondhand smoke harms the health of children, and 65.2% of nonsmokers versus 43.3% of smokers agreed that thirdhand smoke harms children. Strict rules prohibiting smoking in the home were more prevalent among nonsmokers: 88.4% vs 26.7%.' The researchers concluded that 'Emphasizing that thirdhand smoke harms the health of children may be an important element in encouraging home smoking bans. Health messages about thirdhand smoke contamination could be easily incorporated into current tobacco control campaigns, programs, and routine clinical practice'.

Winickoff, JP, Friebely, J, Tanski, SE, Sherrod, C, Matt, GE, Hovell, MF & McMillen, RC 2009, 'Beliefs about the health effects of "third-hand" smoke and home smoking bans', *Pediatrics*, vol. 123, no. 1, pp. e74-9, www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/123/1/e74.

How can the coordination of Australian illicit drug policy be improved?

The latest monograph in the Drug Policy Modelling Program Monograph Series 'argues that Australian illicit drug policy (and Australian illicit drug policy coordination, in particular) should...seek to follow good governance principles'. It outlines eight such principles which can foster processes of coordination:

participation, consensus-orientation, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency. The historical analysis of shifts in coordination in Australian illicit drug policy revealed that between 1985 and 2009 there has been increased compliance with such principles and that this has translated into improved ability to coordinate. This suggests that while coordination of Australian drug policy will continue to be a challenge it is heading in the right direction. There remain a number of areas where improvements can continue to be made, particularly in regards to the transparency of Australian illicit drug policy. Transparency is critical to engendering support of those within and outside the advisory systems.

Hughes, C, Lodge, M & Ritter, A 2010, *The coordination of Australian illicit drug policy: a governance perspective*, Drug Policy Modelling Project Monograph Series no. 18, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney, NSW, www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/Monographs.

Preliminary findings from the 2009 IDRS/EDRS surveys

Each year the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre conducts the Drug Trends Conference at which the preliminary findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) are released. The survey managers have made available online a copy of the Conference handout. It provides summary data separately for the ACT and other jurisdictions on such things as illicit drug use patterns, health-related drug problems, criminal activity, injecting risk behaviour, drug-related help-seeking behaviour, drug-related harm, etc.

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre 2009, *ACT drug trends 2009: preliminary findings, Drug Trend Conference handouts, findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) & Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)*, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney. URL: [www.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Conference/\\$file/Preliminary_Findings.pdf](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Conference/$file/Preliminary_Findings.pdf).

State of the World's Indigenous Peoples

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

This report, welcomed by Tom Calma (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner), brings attention to the plight of Indigenous communities all over the world highlighting statistics in the key areas of poverty, health, education, employment, human rights and the environment.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2009, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, United Nations, New York. URL:

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/sowip.html.

A Stronger, Fairer Australia – Social Inclusion Strategy

Australian Government

'A Stronger, Fairer Australia' sets out the Australian Government's vision and strategy for social inclusion, now and into the future.

Commonwealth of Australia, 2010, *A Stronger, Fairer Australia National Statement on Social Inclusion*. Social Inclusion Unit, Canberra. URL:

www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Resources/Pages/Resources.aspx.

Contribution of the Not-For-Profit Sector Research Report

Productivity Commission, Australian Government

The Productivity Commission was tasked by the Australian Government to undertake a research study on the contributions of the not-for-profit sector, with a focus on improving the measurement of its contributions and on removing obstacles to maximising its contributions to society. The report provides a number of recommendations, including to address workforce issues.

Productivity Commission, 2010, *Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector*, Research Report, Canberra. URL: www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/not-for-profit/report.

Media

Government rejects findings of Assembly inquiry into delay at AMC

9 February 2010

Simon Corbell MLA

The ACT Government has rejected several recommendations and findings put forward by a Legislative Assembly Standing Committee report on its inquiry into the delay in the commencement of operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre... "The Committee, chaired by Liberal MLA Vicki Dunne, produced findings and recommendations that failed to objectively consider the circumstances surrounding the delay at the AMC," Mr Corbell said... The Committee made 25 findings and the Government has rejected or challenged 19 of these. The Committee made 11 recommendations, and of the 11 recommendations, the Government has either noted or agreed to nine...

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9230&m=53 to view the full media release.

Weekly Centrelink Payments will help Homeless Australians

10 February 2010

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

Disadvantaged Australians will have better access to Centrelink payments with legislation introduced to Parliament today by the Minister for Families and Community Services, Jenny Macklin, giving people the option to change the frequency of payments. "ACOSS welcomes this move by the Government which will help severely disadvantaged people access their payments on a weekly, rather than fortnightly, basis," said Clare Martin, CEO, ACOSS...

Visit www.acoss.org.au/media/release/weekly_centrelink_payments_will_help_homeless_australians to view the full media release.

Minister welcomes latest graduate to K9 program at the AMC

12 February 2010

Simon Corbell MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell has today welcomed the Alexander Maconochie Centre's newest recruits to the drug detection division, by celebrating the graduation ceremony of two handlers and their canine companions, Labradors, Tilly and York... "The AMC already has two dogs who work to prevent the

smuggling of contraband into the AMC, and this latest graduation will see the number of people in the team rise to four," Mr Corbell said... Since the beginning of this year, the unit has uncovered drugs and drug paraphernalia on 12 occasions, including marijuana, 'ice' or methamphetamine, buprenorphine, syringes and other items of drug paraphernalia... "The addition of the two dogs and their handlers will be extremely valuable in increasing ACTCS' capacity to keep drugs out of the AMC," Mr Corbell said. "The drug dogs are just one of many measures ACTCS uses to prevent the entry of contraband into the AMC. Other measures include random searches, non-contact visits, the perimeter fence and drug detection technologies including metal detectors, x-ray scanners and ion-scanning equipment... Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9232&m=53 to view the full media release.

Rudd Government tackles binge drinking in ACT

18 February 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

The Rudd Government is providing \$150,000 for a community-based project to tackle the problem of binge drinking among young people in the Australian Capital Territory. The two-year project, called GROG Watch, will provide support and intervention to young binge drinkers referred by ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance services. The project will be run by CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn. The ACT project is among 19 grants – at least one in each state and territory – totalling more than \$3.5 million, funded under the Rudd Government's \$53 million National Binge Drinking Strategy... The grants allow community groups and organisations to develop effective and sustainable partnerships to combat binge drinking, working with key members of their local community such as police, health and youth workers, cultural groups, local government authorities – and, fundamentally, young Australians at risk.

Report Shows Significant Declines In Detainee Drug Use

18 February 2010

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP

The Australian Institute of Criminology's (AIC) annual Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) report has revealed a significant decline in the use of methamphetamines and other illicit drug types among police detainees... Introduced in 1999, DUMA involves police detainees at nine sites around the country providing a urine sample and completing a voluntary questionnaire about their drug use. It provides law enforcement authorities and policy makers with valuable data on drug use, treatment and market participation, and the relationship between drug use and crime...

To view the report visit www.aic.gov.au/en/publications/current%20series/mr/1-20/09.aspx

Visit www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/oconnor.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2010_FirstQuarter_18February2010-ReportShowsSignificantDeclinesinDetaineeDrugUse to view the full media release.

Opening Remarks at the launch of the Australian illicit drug data Centre in Sydney

Thursday, 18 February 2010

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP

"Today marks a significant step forward in the fight against illicit drugs within our community. In opening the Australian Illicit Drug Data Centre, we are helping to close a gap in the intelligence picture. From today, we are able to combine the resources we need with an enhanced level of cooperation between agencies, to combat criminal operations seeking to exploit vulnerable members of our community."...

"The centre's role is to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate forensic intelligence and information to relevant agencies about the threat of illicit drugs. This material will include analysis from samples of drugs and pre-cursor materials provided by the states and territories from seizures within their jurisdictions, as well as analysis of border seizures."....

"The Australian Illicit Drug Data Centre joins its sister centres the Australian Bomb Data Centre and the Australian Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Data Centre as an essential part of the combined efforts of these centres to analyse and advise law enforcement authorities on threats posed by materials that can either injure or harm Australians."

Visit www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/oconnor.nsf/Page/Speeches_2010_FirstQuarter_18February2010-OpeningRemarksattheLaunchoftheAustralianIllicitDrugDataCentreinSydney to read the full speech.

Historic reforms to curb drink-driving, drug-driving

24 February 2010

Jon Stanhope MLA

Chief Minister and Minister for Transport Jon Stanhope will introduce a historic package of reforms to anti-drink-driving laws and legislate for roadside drug-testing to curb Canberra's culture of dangerous driving and to prevent deaths on ACT roads. Mr Stanhope said the reforms were currently being drafted and would be presented to an upcoming road safety roundtable on 10 March 2010. The reforms include greater restrictions on access to restricted licences and new sanctions for high-level or repeat drink-driving offences such as the immediate suspension of licences by police. The blood alcohol limit for learners (L-platers and P-platers) and drivers of public vehicles would be lowered from 0.02 to zero and alcohol education courses would be mandatory for drink-drivers wanting to be re-licensed...

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9260&m=51 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Training for Consumer Representatives

Health Care Consumers Association (HCCA)

This training is for consumer representatives interested in finding out more about the public health service system from a consumer point of view.

Date: March 18th and 25th

Time: 10am to 2.30pm

Venue: ACT Sports House, Maitland St, Hackett, ACT

For more information email adminofficer@hcca.org.au or call (02) 62307800.

Pharmacotherapy Advocacy and Action Team (PHAAT)

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

PHAAT is a group that exists to represent the interests of people in the ACT who are currently on an Opioid Replacement Therapy (Methadone or Buprenorphine); and is currently inviting young pharmacotherapy consumers to participate in the group. PHAAT can advocate on behalf of individuals if they have any issues regarding the quality of services they are receiving; and also sends consumer representatives to the committee that oversees the Opioid Replacement Therapy Program. Group meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at the CAHMA office (Level 1, 112 - 116 Alinga St, Canberra: upstairs from 'The Barracks' Internet Cafe). A healthy lunch, juice, tea and coffee are provided.

For more information contact the office on (02) 6279 1670 or Geoff on (02) 6279 1672.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

National Youth Week 2010

Youth Coalition of the ACT

National Youth Week, the annual celebration of young people throughout Australia, will be held from 10 - 18 April 2010. Visit <http://youthweek.com/> for more information about National Youth Week.

For information on National Youth Week in the ACT, contact Anna on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net.

ACT Council of Social Service Submission: Review of the Mental Health Act

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS has developed a submission to the Review of the Mental Health Act, which focuses on the benefits of adopting a capacity based approach to mental health legislation in the ACT.

Download the [ACTCOSS Submission: Review of the Mental Health Act](#).

Drugs, Suicide and Body Image: The Issues of Most Concern to Young Australians

Mission Australia

This report, released in late 2009, indicates that the biggest worries for 11 - 24 years olds are drugs, suicide and body image. The report finds that many 11 - 14 year olds feel unequipped to deal with the issue of drugs. For 15 - 19 year olds, body image was the major issue, while depression and coping with stress was the top issue for young people aged 20 - 24. Download the [Mission Australia Report](#).

ACT Council of Social Service Submission: Inquiry into the High Levels of Involvement of Indigenous Juveniles and Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This submission to the Australian Government focuses on preventative measures to reduce the high number of young Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system. The submission calls for the Australian Government to address Aboriginal disadvantage in a culturally appropriate framework.

Download the [ACTCOSS Submission](#).

Employment Opportunities

Peer Education Officer

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

22.5 hours per week, \$48,000 pa (full time equivalent)

CAHMA seeks a person committed to the principles of harm minimisation and promoting the health and human rights of people who use illicit/injecting drugs. The position involves providing peer support, education and representation. People with personal or intimate experience of illicit drug use are encouraged to apply. For an application package in which the selection criteria must be addressed or for more information contact Nicole on 6279 1670.

MIEACT Volunteer and Program Manager

Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT)

30 hours per week, \$52,995 - \$55,493 pro rata

MIEACT is a community organisation that aims to reduce the stigma towards people with mental illness. Their core business involves a group of volunteers with personal experience of living with a mental illness conducting mental health promotion with schools, community and government agencies. This position is responsible for managing MIEACT programs, including the School Education Program, Community Program and Mentoring Program.

Visit www.mieact.org.au/cms/index.php for more information or contact (02) 6257 1195. Applications are due by **Monday 8 March 2010**.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

NRMA Crime Prevention Community Grants

NRMA Insurance

Through the Community Grants program, NRMA Insurance offers grants of between \$500 and \$5000 to groups undertaking projects in the area of crime prevention. Programs will be considered if they increase the safety and security of local communities by reducing the opportunity for crime or if the initiative changes the attitudes and practices of people with regard to the protection of property, people and workplaces. Contact the Community Grants team on 1300 306 496 or visit www.nrma.com.au/grants for more information or to apply for a grant. Applications close **31 March 2010**.

2010/2011 Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Round

ACT Health

The Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding round is open to sporting, recreational, arts and cultural organisations with an interest in promoting good health and wellbeing through their activities. The main aim of this sponsorship is to enable the sponsored organisation to deliver a priority health message to their participants under the name of a licensed brand. In addition to promoting a key health message, organisations are encouraged to create healthy environments through a whole of organisation commitment to change.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/hpgrants for more information or to apply for the funding. Applications close **5.00pm Monday 29 March 2010**.