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25 January 2005

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) has been saddened and devastated by the accidental death of Deputy Director Charlie Pahlman last Thursday (Canberra time) while holidaying with his family in Samoa.

Charlie has been a pivotal member of the ACT community sector since he joined ACTCOSS in October 2001.

Charlie was a tireless advocate for the ACT community sector and for the intrinsic worth of community determined action.

His unflagging belief that each community should determine their own future was an inspiration to all who had the chance to work with Charlie over the years.

Through his work with organisations such as ACTCOSS, ANTAR and Community Aid Abroad, Charlie Pahlman was able to translate his beliefs into practice and provide many groups and community based organisations with the resources and skills they needed to set and achieve their future goals.

In his role as a community facilitator Charlie gained the respect and admiration of many and earned the love and affection of more.

As a Green's candidate for the 2004 election of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Charlie demonstrated his resolute faith that we could create a better world for ourselves and for our children.

His passion for social justice, his ability to bring diverse groups of people together in a common striving for better community relations, his unwavering commitment to the recognition of Indigenous rights, his sense of our shared obligation to the environment, and amidst all this, his love for his family and friends inspired us all.

ACTCOSS joins with his family and his large circle of friends and colleagues in Australia and South East Asia to mourn the passing a fearless and dedicated man who saw a better option and shared this vision with us.

He will be greatly missed.

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