

# MEDIA RELEASE

MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2007

Number: 2007/12

**ACT**

ACT Council of Social Service Inc.

**ACTCOSSA**

## NEW DATA ON LOW INCOME CANBERRANS

Today, in Anti-Poverty Week, the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) will launch a new report that provides the latest snapshot of low-income households in the ACT. The report was produced by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), who used their extensive computer modelling expertise to generate a profile of Canberra households who were in the lowest 20% of income-earners nation-wide. The report finds that 13.6% of ACT households fall into this lowest income group.

The results show that low-income households are more likely to be older; headed by women; not in the labour force; living in public housing; reliant on government benefits; or composed of single parents, single people, or families with 4 or more children.

"While there are slightly fewer low-income households in the ACT, poverty exists in Canberra, and these people are just as disadvantaged as people living in poverty anywhere else in Australia," commented Ara Cresswell, ACTCOSS Director. "These new figures show us that income is not distributed evenly among different groups in the community, with some groups being at greater risk of living on low-incomes."

"This week is Anti-Poverty Week, and these new figures show us a side to Canberra that we too often overlook. There are people who are doing it tough in the ACT, and governments of all persuasions need to ensure that they are working with community organisations to ensure that these groups are included in our community, and are given the help they need to reach their potential and lead meaningful lives," Ms Cresswell concluded.

The research project was supported by a University of Canberra Industry Collaborative Research Grant in partnership with ACTCOSS and a consortium of ACT community and government organisations, including the ACT Community Inclusion Board, Communities@Work, Innanna Inc., Softlaw Community Projects, YWCA of Canberra, and Gungahlin Regional Community Service.

### Event Details

**Time:** 4:00pm, Monday, 15 October 2007  
**Venue:** Forest Room, Pavillion Hotel, 242 Northbourne Ave, Dickson  
**Speakers:** Lin Hatfield-Dodds, Chair, ACT Community Inclusion Board  
Rebecca Cassells and Justine McNamara, NATSEM Researchers

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