

# MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY, 29 JULY 2008

Number: 2008/05



## LAUNCH: CIRCLES OF SUPPORT - TOWARDS INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) and the Aboriginal Justice Centre (AJC) today release a new report recommending greater use of prevention, diversion and rehabilitation to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. The Attorney-General and Minister for Police, Simon Corbell MLA, will launch the report today at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Entitled "Circles of Support: Towards Indigenous Justice – Prevention, Diversion and Rehabilitation", the report attempts to engage with reasons for Indigenous overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, to highlight gaps in existing service provision and unmet need and to make recommendations for change.

"The report stresses the need for early intervention and rehabilitation services particularly for Indigenous youth, as well as highlighting the importance of community building and community engagement in program design and decision making. It calls for the ACT government to support cooperative approaches between Indigenous people, government and the wider community and provide ongoing government support to culturally specific programs", commented Ara Cresswell, ACTCOSS Director.

"The Indigenous population in the ACT continues to experience significant social and economic disadvantage relative to the non-Indigenous population. It is time to address the reasons for the high number of Indigenous people involved in the justice system. It is only through social support and initiatives across the whole diversion spectrum that we can hope to close the gap", Ms Cresswell concluded.

### EVENT DETAILS –

**When:** 10:00am, Tuesday 29 July, 2008

**Where:** Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra City

**Speaker:** Simon Corbell MLA, Attorney General (speaking at 10:25)

**For more information, please contact  
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