

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACT

ACT Council of Social Service Inc.

ACTCOSSA

ABCs NOT THAT EASY FOR 78,000 CANBERRANS

While the ACT may have the largest proportion of tertiary educated adults across the nation, around 78,000 adult Canberrans do not have the minimum required literacy skills to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in the emerging knowledge-based economy. Around 91,000 do not have the required numeracy skills. The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) is releasing a research paper *On the Same Page – Towards Partnerships for Adult Literacy in the ACT* detailing potential strategies to improve literacy and numeracy skills for disadvantaged Canberrans.

“Some 32% of Canberrans have insufficient literacy skills to cope with modern day to day activities, and research shows that the proportion of Canberrans with lower literacy skills has not changed in the last 10 years,” said Roslyn Dundas, Director of ACTCOSS.

“Literacy skills are important for empowering individuals to overcome areas of disadvantage – such as health, poverty and unemployment. However, there are many barriers to accessing literacy education ranging from child-care availability, a fear of failure and a lack of appropriate education services.”

“The report ACTCOSS is launching today (Thursday 26 March) discusses the need for partnerships and resourcing so that community organisations can better support Canberrans to improve their literacy skills while working through the other complex issues they may be dealing with.”

This project was funded under the Adult Literacy National Project by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

On the Same Page – Towards Partnerships for Adult Literacy in the ACT
to be launched by Annette Ellis MP

When: 10:00 – 11:00am Thursday 26 March

Where: Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, London Crt

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