

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009

Number: 2009/08



ONE MINISTER FOR ONE DEPARTMENT WELCOME

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) has welcomed the announcement that new Minister Joy Burch will take responsibility for the bulk of portfolios contained within the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

"For many years ACTCOSS has been concerned that the split in Ministerial oversight of this important department had supported silos and fragmentation. The bringing together of families, children and young people, ageing, housing and homelessness services, disability along with multicultural affairs, the Office of Women and community services will hopefully support better integration across these human services," commented Roslyn Dundas, Director of the ACT Council of Social Service.

"The community and health sector employs 8% of the ACT's working population, with staff working in a range of fields including community, youth, child care, caring, aged care, disability, drug and alcohol, mental health, case management, counseling, policy and advocacy, as well as administration and development. DHCS oversaw in excess of \$75 million worth of grants and service funding in 2008-09, resourcing approximately 300 organisations to develop and sustain community across Canberra."

"To now have this Department reporting to one Minister gives us great hope that policies, programs and services which impact on vulnerable individuals and families will benefit from greater cohesion. We look forward to working with Ms Burch in this exciting and challenging role," concluded Ms Dundas.

**For copies of the report or more information
please contact Roslyn Dundas, Director
Ph: 6202 7200**