

# MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 4 MAY 2010

Number: 2010/04

**ACT**

ACT Council of Social Service Inc.

**COSSA**

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## The Good, the Bad and the Missing.

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS), while welcoming some initiatives in the 2010-11 ACT Budget is concerned by the lack of response to the growing demand for community sector services.

Roslyn Dundas, Director of ACTCOSS commented:

"This Budget includes some welcome projects – such as funding to the Women's Legal Centre to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's access to justice, increase in support for Out of Home Care and recognition of the growth in demand for mental health services."

"However, this Budget doesn't provide the 'light at the end of the tunnel' many community organisations are looking for, as they continue to support an increasing number of vulnerable Canberrans. The Australian Community Sector Survey for 08-09 showed an increase of 12% in demand for services and over 50% of organisations reported they were not meeting demand for their services. More than 23,000 overtime hours had to be paid in the 08-09 financial year, as workers struggled to meet demand. While the community sector indexation of 3.3% is welcome, it will not go far in meeting this growing need."

"The Budget papers also show a significant increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people receiving support for Child Protection or other services – yet there are no significant initiatives in this Budget to meet this need. We can't continue to wait until things reach crisis before we intervene."

"This budget's approach of drip feeding initiatives does not go far in building our community – for all Canberrans - in a growing city."

The ACT Community Sector Budget Forum, from 12pm on Wednesday 5 May at the Theo Notoaras Centre, will include presentations by the Treasurer and Minister for Community Services along with analysis of the Budget and its impact on Canberra's most vulnerable.

**For more information or comment please contact Roslyn Dundas  
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