

## Celebrating 25 years of Home and Community Care

Workers, managers and clients of the ACT Home and Community Care (HACC) program gather today to celebrate 25 years of HACC in the ACT. The ACT HACC Sector consists of 32 service delivery organisations. In 2010-11 there were a total of 13,012 clients that accessed HACC services in the ACT – approximately 3.7% of the total population.

The HACC Sector Celebration day is an opportunity for workers in the HACC sector to come together and celebrate the history of HACC in the ACT. The sector has expanded rapidly over the past 10 years, particularly driven by demographic change, and demand will continue to grow in the coming decades. In 2003-04 personal care hours were 52,204, increasing by 57% by 2010-11 to over 82,000 hours.

“HACC is a vital service for many Canberrans who rely on the support and contact the program provides. Over the past 25 years the program has grown and developed, and with the National Health Care Reforms impacting on the program we face a range of changes in the future. Coming together at this important time in the program’s history is a great opportunity to celebrate the workers in the HACC program as well as prepare for the future,” Roslyn Dundas, Director of the ACT Council of Social Service commented.

Presentations will include snapshots from a range of HACC organisations such as Just Better Care, Tandem, Gungahlin Regional Community Service and Carers ACT. Participants will also be given the opportunity to engage in discussions on topics such as the use of information technology for client-based service delivery, client pathways from hospital for HACC clients, and the pressing issue of community based transport.

The HACC Program aims to provide community care services to frail aged and younger people with disabilities, as well as their carers, enabling them to live as independently as possible in the community. Consumers can receive a variety of services from the HACC Program including nursing care, personal care, meals and other food services, home modification and maintenance, counselling, allied health care, respite care and transport. The aim of the program is to promote independence and to assist frail older people and people with disabilities to continue living in the community.

The HACC Program is a joint Australian, State and Territory initiative, managed in the ACT through the Health Directorate. ACTCOSS provides sector development programs and support to HACC agencies.

**For more information or comment please contact  
Roslyn Dundas, Director - 6202 7200**