

• justice • equity • social inclusion • reconciliation •

update

Issue 80 • Winter 2017 • What is the impact of white privilege in Canberra?

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ACTCOSS newsflash

Join the Reconciliation Peer Network!

RecNet is an informal group for community organisations interested in reconciliation & RAPs.

Find out more: samq@actcoss.org.au



What is the impact of white privilege in Canberra?

By Susan Helyar, Director, ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS)

This journal theme of 'white privilege' encourages readers to consider a topic that is uncomfortable, may be unfamiliar, but is essential to understanding the persistence of oppression and exclusion experienced by people who are not white. We have particularly focused on the intersection of white privilege and the experiences of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The articles shared with us are honest and include some confronting messages. ACTCOSS deeply appreciates the willingness of authors to write about their experiences of, engagement with and efforts to undermine white privilege.

Like all privilege, it is often invisible to its beneficiaries. ACTCOSS understands we are an organisation that benefits from white privilege. In raising this topic we are not presenting ourselves as immune from or above the issues explored by the articles included in this journal. We have raised this topic because we know that our work to articulate a social justice agenda relevant to the ACT and our work to advocate for this agenda to be enacted can't be successful if we do not understand the privileges and the structures that work against social justice.

The organisation and workforce capability programs offered by ACTCOSS aim to build socially just practices. We have included information on a number of opportunities for learning and development that focus on improving understanding, providing space for reflection, and sharing transformative programs led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. I hope all our readers can find something to participate in that contribute to your professional growth and enlightenment.

White privilege

By Kim Davison

always struggled with the cause of my ill health and so many other Aboriginal workers within the NGO/public service space. When self-care is always a priority. Where strategies are in place to deal with it. All along we were dealing with something beyond our control – white privilege and we don't have a vaccine for that. No doctor can cure that.

What do I mean by white privilege: Being born white means that you were born into a system that validates and reaffirms that you are socially included and being socially included, is a very valuable privilege. Look at the ACT Government – we have no Aboriginal representation at levels that can effect change. From Ministers to all the directorates zero. An Elected Body that is restricted – therefore deemed useless to the community, your hierarchy system, you turning up to meetings uninvited, your inability to understand Aboriginal culture, your belief that you not only know what is best for our people but you are far more able to effect change in the lives of our people? Your inability to listen and respect Aboriginal workers at any level because you think that you have a greater education level and your position does not involve taking advice from Aboriginal people – we remain beneath you, your mindset dictates that. Your actions dictate that. You have no idea what an Aboriginal person has endured throughout their individual lives, nor do you want to know. If we don't fit within (may I say) shifting guidelines, then we don't meet your expectation. We are forced to be micromanaged under funding guidelines when we obviously deliver in a different manner to that of mainstream.

You can all continue with this wilful ignorance, but know your actions contribute to the disempowering of our people, our parents, our kids and those who play a support role to advocate for the various injustices you impose upon them and you must know and accept that you are in fact culturally inept.

What's more, you place Aboriginal workers within your departments and mainstream services in a very compromising position; you are damaging them. Those who would rather have a job than to speak out, those who want to rock the boat and speak out but are shut down or moved on. It's a form of control – they, too, are smothered by your white privilege.

You need to hear Aboriginal people and learn from them. You need to be strategic in change and you need to admit that we as Aboriginal people – we know what is best for our people. You need to stop the white saviour mentality and you must promote self-determination for all Aboriginal people and embrace our culture.

The change I am talking about is huge for mainstream. Because if we are going to be truthful, this is far too big for you to truly comprehend let alone implement because it goes against every grain of your white privilege.

If we have any chance of closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, then as a community we must stand together and adopt this statement:

'Nothing will be done for us – without us!'

What is The Redfern Statement?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations have united to create The Redfern Statement, calling for urgent government action to meaningfully address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

It is time that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard and respected, and that the Redfern Statement's recommended actions in relation to meaningful engagement, health, justice, preventing violence, early childhood and disability, are acted upon as a matter of national priority and urgency.

Find out more:

- The Redfern Statement
 <u>www.nationalcongress.com.au/about-us/</u>
 <u>redfern-statement</u>
- Video: The Redfern Statement We have the Solutions www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVvGQIHoC18

White privilege & intersectionality in Canberra – the LGBTIQ+ experience

By Megan Jackson, Secretary, Diversity ACT Community Services

hite privilege is an institutional (rather than personal) set of benefits guaranteed to those of us who, by race, resemble the people who dominate the powerful positions in our institutions.¹ Intersectionality, as described by Crenshaw in the 1980s, is the overlapping or intersection of social identities including gender, race, class, nationality and sexuality. Privilege is often a challenging term for many people. For some of us, the concept of innate, undeserved advantages or rights only available to a group of people because of birth is abhorrent. Some Canberrans would deny that such advantages even exist. At Diversity ACT, we acknowledge the existence of privilege, and that many of our members encounter intersections of privilege and disadvantage.

For all that Canberra boasts of being a multicultural city, the statistical breakdown of the nation's capital belies these claims. Statistics from the 2011 census show that 74.4% of Canberrans were born in Australia.² Of the other countries in which we were born, 4.1% of us came from England, 1.5% from India, 1.3% from New Zealand, 0.8% from mainland China and 0.8% from Scotland.³ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 1.7% of our population, compared to the nation rate of 2.5%.⁴ We are an overwhelming white Anglo-Saxon town, and as a result the 'normal' experience

of Canberrans is one of white Anglo-Saxon privilege. The same census statistics also tell us that we are a middle class town with an experience of wealth and employment. We have more working couples than the rest of Australia – 31.2% of Canberra couples are both employed working full time, compared with 21.7% in the rest of the country.⁵ Our median income is \$2662, compared to \$2081 elsewhere.⁶

The lived experience of LGBTIQ+ people is one of intersectionality. We make up 11% of the population.⁷ While most of us are white and middle class, and thus still benefit from institutional privilege, we also experience disadvantage which can be invisible to our heteronormative peers. LGBTIQ+ people are three times more likely to experience depression than the general population.⁸ Six in ten of us experience verbal homophobic abuse, and two in ten experience physical homophobic abuse.9 One in ten of us experience other kinds of homophobia.¹⁰

Diversity ACT is strongly aware of the intersectionality of our members. Our membership base reflects the reality of Canberra – most of our members come from white, middle class, Anglo-Saxon backgrounds. However, through the discrimination and disadvantage our members can experience because of their sexuality and gender identities, they have a heightened understanding of the nature of privilege and what it means to lose it.

Diversity ACT is working to address the issue of white privilege in our organisation. We acknowledge that awareness of privilege and intersectionality must guide our work. We are beginning the journey towards a Reconciliation Action Plan exploring the concept with our members and being guided along the way by our Indigenous members. We know that we have work to do, and we are looking forward to changing our culture as we grow and work towards a future where someone's gender, sexuality or culture do not negatively impact on their future.

Diversity ACT Community Services: <u>www.diversityact.org.au</u>

See page 11 for footnotes.



10 things you should know about white privilege

by Luke Pearson and Sophie Verass www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2016/10/13/10-things-youshould-know-about-white-privilege

Online opinions: white privilege

Pssst ... I wannabe white

by Lillian Holt www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=1067

My white privilege comes at a price. It can be lonely to walk in two worlds

by Jimmy Kyle

http://indigenousx.com.au/my-white-privilege-comesat-a-price_two-worlds

Can a privileged white male like me talk about equality and diversity?

by Rob Hulls

www.smh.com.au/comment/time-to-talk-about-a-truly-equalaustralia-and-get-on-with-it-20160206-gmncib.html

Whether you're listening or not, Australia is a nation of white privilege

by Marcus Woolombi Waters

www.smh.com.au/comment/whether-yourelistening-or-not-australia-is-a-nation-of-whiteprivilege-20151121-gl4le3.html

The day White Privilege made me 'dead on the inside'

by Gerry Georgatos

http://thestringer.com.au/the-daywhite-privilege-made-me-dead-onthe-inside-12147

Freedom Of Speech Is A White Man's Privilege

by Masrur-Ul Islam Joarder

www.huffingtonpost.com.au/masrur-ul-islam-joarder/freedom-of-speech-is-a-whitemans-privilege a 22059029/

Education equity & Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander students

By Eliza Moloney, Policy Officer, ACTCOSS

The Commonwealth Government's recent 'Gonski 2.0' commitment has highlighted the conversation on equity in education. The new funding reforms will supposedly 'deliver real needs-based funding for children from all backgrounds.' But 2017 ACT Barnados Mother of Year Selina Walker has highlighted the importance of not forgetting the people at the heart of policy.

Voicing her concern around funding cuts to Canberra's Catholic schools, Selina Walker has noted that for Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander children in Canberra, Catholic schools can accordingly act as 'sanctuaries against racism', and shield against the 'bullying that never got dealt with in mainstream schools'.² Accordingly, Catholic education offers Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander parents an important choice to support their children's educational attainment.³ Selina Walker's comments draw attention to an important point: for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students, education equity solutions should recognise Indigenous status not deliver blind funding and policy solutions.

A study into equity in education in Victoria shows that education models that cater to the 'average student', and which are therefore blind to diversity, can exacerbate inequalities and heighten marginalisation within schools.⁴ This problem is pertinent to the ACT, where diversity is spread across the territory, resulting in averages that do not accurately reflect the range of students. Policy making according to these figures does not effectively cater to the needs of students concealed by the averages.

Viewing just the averages, Canberra's education system appears to lead Australia.⁵ However, researchers Philip Roberts and Simon Leonard note that 'in a school where 490 students come from a similar background, it may be easy to lose sight of the 10 who are different'.⁶ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander enrolment in some Canberra schools is too low to be statistically visible, but when grouped together, the data shows that the education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in fact widens in high school.⁷ The ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia in which this occurs.8

Truly excellent education must be equitable education, and achieving both means 'tailoring provision to diverse needs.'9

The Solid Sista's and Brotha's Aboriginal Program shows the importance of recognising and embracing a student's identity in their education. Solids focuses on the key elements of: culture; connection to family, school and community; and physical and psychological health and wellbeing, to help Aboriginal young people in the Canberra community achieve their goals and reach their full potential.¹⁰ The program has a 100% school completion rate over the last four years, and school attendance is in the high 90s.¹¹

It is clear that Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander students benefit from seeing their culture and identity in what they learn. But not being a part of the 'averages' that shape curriculum often means not seeing themselves reflected in their learning. Currently, high educational attainment is not for all students in the ACT. For the most inclusive and equitable education outcomes for all students, we need to listen to the expertise of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander students, parents, and communities – they themselves have the solutions.

See page 11 for footnotes.

Reflections on Grant Sarra's cultural awareness training

n May this year, ACTCOSS arranged for Grant Sarra of Grant Sarra Consultancy Services to present his Cultural Appreciation Program: To understand our present, we must understand our past.

Grant is a Bunda man with a 36-year background and experience working in areas that deal exclusively with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community problems, issues and aspirations relevant to public and private sector projects across Australia. He is a prolific trainer and speaker on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander issues with proven track record for driving cultural change that builds organisational effectiveness, efficiency and capacity to deliver culturally appropriate change.

The program provided participants with an opportunity to walk briefly in the shoes of Aboriginal Australians through roleplay. It provided a general overview of Aboriginal culture and history, and assisted participants in developing a greater understanding of modern-day cross cultural problems, white privilege, and issues and challenges that impact upon individuals. Here's some of the feedback we received about the training:

- 'Confronting but fantastic'
- 'I loved the interactive training, so interesting and visual'
- 'Really useful session. The activity helped me understand the issues from real perspectives.'
- 'Powerful, truthful'
- 'Really interactive and innovative'
- 'Grant is confronting and engaging tested the preconceived notions I had'

ACTCOSS is hoping to provide more training by Grant Sarra as part of our learning and development program. Check out our current offerings at the end of this journal, and keep an eye out for new opportunities at the ACTCOSS website: www.actcoss.org.au

ACTCOSS Data Series: Register ASAP!

Presented by Andrew Means, Co-Founder at The Impact Lab and Head of beyond.uptake

A Data Driven Market for Outcomes

31 Jul 2017, 5pm-7pm

This keynote address will walk attendees through new ways funders and program providers are entering into Pay for Performance contracts and the important role that data is playing in driving this work forward. It will also outline basic methods organisations of all sizes and types need to understand in order to better measure and improve their impact.

Making the Most of Messy Data

1 Aug 2017, 9.30am-11.30am

This workshop will go over easy to employ methods that reduce the amount of messiness you are dealing with, extract all the value you can from your messy data, and communicate it in ways that are compelling to stakeholders.

Communicating with Data

1 Aug 2017, 1pm-3pm

This workshop will cover data visualisation best practices and offer practical advice for how to communicate quantitative work in the most compelling manner possible for your audience.

Find out more and register at the ACTCOSS website: www.actcoss.org.au

Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander resources

Men's Resource Booklet: Canberra Region

This booklet aims to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander men and their families, and the agencies supporting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander men in the Canberra region, by raising awareness of:

- Agencies and services specifically for men .
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisations
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander agencies and services. •

It includes topics such as:

- Researching your family
- What you might need when you are looking for work
- Where to go for afterhours health care .
- Where to access computers and free wi-fi.

Gulanga Good Practice Guides

ACT COSSA Gulanga Program The Gulanga Good Practice Guides provide information on topics to assist organisations implement and embed good practice when working and engaging with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples,

particularly within the ACT and region. Each guide provides a general overview, which we hope will generate change and discussion within a workplace.

Topics include:

- 'Welcome to Country' and 'Acknowledgement of Country'
- Preferences in terminology when referring to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Reproducing images and recordings of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures
- Purchasing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artwork •
- And more!

Reconciliation Calendar Poster

ACTCOSS has developed this calendar to reflect on our shared history and to map events that have helped shape the reconciliation journey for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community. The events in this calendar recognise and celebrate some of the actions and achievements from the past that form the foundation for a shared future and strong relationships built on recognition, respect, trust, and understanding.

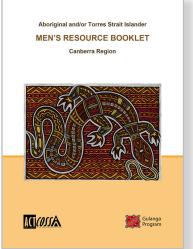
You are welcome to print this poster and put it up in your workplace.

Options for Our Community: Housing, Accommodation, Respite and Support in the ACT

This is a practical guide for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander workers in the community sector. It aims to raise awareness of services and to facilitate the engagement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families to access services that will best meet their needs.



Find these resources and more at the ACTCOSS website (www.actcoss.org.au), under Services & Resources > Capacity Building Resources > Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Resources.



BRING THEM HOME THE PICHTS OF OUR CHILDREN

SECURING THE RIGHTS OF OUR CHILDREN

7TH SNAICC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 12 - 14 September 2017 National Convention Centre Canberra

On behalf of SNAICC – National Voice for our Children and the conference advisory group, you are invited to the 7th SNAICC National Conference.

Delegates and speakers will gather from around the country – and some from overseas – to discuss our challenges and share our knowledge and experiences in raising happy, healthy and confident children in our communities.

Providing a powerful and inspiring learning experience for all those attending, the conference is a must for anyone working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and family services. We hope you can join us.

The conference provides a powerful and inspiring learning experience for attendees and features:

- International and local keynote speakers
- Over 70 concurrent sessions, yarning circles, panels and workshops
- Displays, poster presentations, exhibitors
- Cultural highlights and performances
- Social events and opportunities to network and connect with peers.

Our 2017 conference gathering coincides with the 20-year anniversary of the seminal *Bringing Them Home* report, which exposed the violations of fundamental human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities through the policies and practices of the Stolen Generations.

20 years on many recommendations lay unimplemented and rates of child removal continue to soar. Never before have so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children been removed from family and culture.

The SNAICC Conference will be centred on this anniversary to raise awareness and discussion of ongoing child removal, its causes and consequences for children, families and communities.

The focus will be on strategies and best practice in supporting children to be safe and cared for within family and culture – strategy and best practice in reducing interaction with the child protection system.

Find out more and register online: <u>www.snaicc.org.au/conference</u>

Learning & development calendar

Training / Forum	Date / Time	Cost: Member / Non- member / Corp. or Govt.
Reconciliation		
Working and Walking Together – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Training Facilitated by SNAICC	10-11 Aug 2017 9am-4.30pm	\$760 / \$810 / \$860 (incl. GST)
Reconciliation Peer Network Meeting Facilitated by ACTCOSS	28 Sep 2017 10am-11.30am	Free
Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Facilitated by Julie Moore, Koorimunication	5 Oct 2017 9.30am-4.30pm	\$270 / \$300 / \$330 (incl. GST)
Improving Quality and Impact of Services		
ACTCOSS Data Series: A Data Driven Market for Outcomes Presented by Andrew Means, Co-Founder at The Impact Lab and Head of beyond.uptake	31 Jul 2017 5pm-7pm	\$60 / \$75 / \$90 (incl. GST)
ACTCOSS Data Series: Making the Most of Messy Data Presented by Andrew Means, Co-Founder at The Impact Lab and Head of beyond.uptake	1 Aug 2017 9.30am-11.30am	\$110 / \$150 / \$165 (incl. GST)
ACTCOSS Data Series: Communicating with Data Presented by Andrew Means, Co-Founder at The Impact Lab and Head of beyond.uptake	1 Aug 2017 1pm-3pm	\$110 / \$150 / \$165 (incl. GST)
Community Development Peer Network Group Meeting Facilitated by ACTCOSS & CDNet	8 Aug 2017 9.30am-11.30am	Free
Cyber Security Seminar Presented by Arthur J. Gallagher	17 Aug 2017 9.30am-12pm	Free
Conscious Governance: Advanced Strategy, Risk & Governance Masterclass Facilitated by Steven Bowman	25 Aug 2017 9.30am-4.30pm	\$380 / \$450 (incl. GST)
Opening up Equality in the ACT: The New Discrimination Grounds, and Beyond Facilitated by ACT Human Rights Commission	29 Aug 2017 9.30am-1.30pm	Free
Recruitment and Engagement – How to get the right people that stay Facilitated by Jobs Australia	11 Sep 2017 9.30am-4.30pm	\$200 (JA/ACTCOSS members) / \$260
Other Programs		
Investment Logic Presentation Presented by Noetic Group	11 Aug 2017 9am-11am	Free

Find out more about our learning and development opportunities and how to register at the ACTCOSS website: <u>www.actcoss.org.au</u>

ACTCOSS staff welcome & farewell



Farewell...

Hal Judge Policy Officer

ACTCOSS was pleased to have Hal Judge working with us in the first half of 2016 working

on our Stories of Transition Project, ACT Budget response and supporting work in the transport and planning areas. Hal came to ACTCOSS with a long history of work in the international and community development fields as well as a long association with ACTCOSS as an organisation – some of you may have seen his poem for the ACTCOSS 50th anniversary prominently displayed in our meeting room.

We thank Hal for his significant contributions during his time with us and wish him well as he continues his commitment to international development through a next project advancing mine clearance in Cambodia.



Farewell...

Kim Peters Gulanga Program Officer

After three years of working with ACTCOSS, Kim Peters resigned from her role in the Gulanga

Program in May. Kim was instrumental in building our connections with the Nannies Group and development of the children's activity book. She led integrating events into our calendar of reconciliation activities related to the Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations and Aboriginal Children's Day. Kim generously shared her kindness and wisdom with all the staff in ACTCOSS. She was a trusted advisor and mentor to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people working in community services. It has been a pleasure to work with Kim.



Welcome...

Ryan Joseph Capability Development Officer

Ryan joined ACTCOSS in May 2017 and undertakes a range of administrative tasks to ensure that

ACTCOSS training, forums, and peer networks run smoothly – while working closely with the Capability Manager to identify emerging capability and sector development needs. Over the coming 12 months Ryan will work on developing tools and resources that are relevant to improving and strengthening organisation and workforce capability.

Before joining ACTCOSS, Ryan was a Research Assistant at the School of Regulation and Global Governance at the Australian National University (ANU), prior to which he worked in the tech startup space and as an Ambulance Medic in Singapore. Ryan has a Master of International Relations (Advanced) from the ANU and a Bachelor of Social Science from the Singapore Management University.

You can contact Ryan about learning and development administration, peer network administration, training, tools and resource needs.

Navigating the ACT school system

New resource coming soon!

Keep your eye out for a new resource from the Gulanga Program team that helps families and services navigate the ACT school system.



Reminder: ACTCOSS membership renewals now due!

Have you renewed your membership?

ACTCOSS membership fees are now due for the 2017-18 financial year. If you or your organisation would like to continue receiving this journal, along with other membership benefits, please renew your ACTCOSS membership.

How do I renew?

We have sent members a renewal form to the contact email address we have listed. Please fill out the form and return it to us with your payment (direct debit and cheque accepted). It's vital to send us your completed form so we can keep your contact details updated.

I can't find my renewal form! Help!

Please contact us on 02 6202 7200 or email membership@actcoss.org.au and we'll arrange for the form to be sent to you.

What are the benefits of membership with ACTCOSS?

Examples of benefits include:

- 3 hours per year of free face-to-face consultancy services, such as tailored training
- invitations to ACTCOSS Members Policy Forums every 2 months and networking events
- opportunities to contribute to policy development and advocacy
- discounts on ACTCOSS training and events

... And more! Find out at the ACTCOSS website: <u>www.actcoss.org.au/member-benefits</u>

Through membership, you add your voice to hundreds of organisations and individuals committed to making a fair and equitable community.

Article footnotes

White privilege and intersectionality in Canberra – the LGBTIQ+ experience, p. 3

1. FE Kendall, Understanding white privilege, 2002, <http://www.cpt.org/files/Undoing%20Racism%20-%20 Understanding%20White%20Privilege%20-%20Kendall.pdf>.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census QuickStats, ABS, 2013, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/CED801?opend ocument&navpos=220>.

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7. Department of Health, Australian Government, National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Ageing and Aged Care Strategy, Department of Health, Australian Government, 2012, p.4.

8. Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014 Face the Facts: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Intersex People, image, 2014, <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/ FTFLGBTI-large.jpg>.

9, 10. ibid.

Education equity & Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander students, p. 5

1. E Baker & M Knott, 'Canberra non-government schools fear funding cuts under new Gonski 2.0 model', Canberra Times, 2017, viewed 12 July 2017, <http://www.canberratimes. com.au/act-news/canberra-nongovernment-schools-fearfunding-cuts-under-new-gonski-20-model-20170502gvxb0v.html>. 2. E Baker, 'Canberra Catholic school funding cuts opposed by Barnados Mother of the Year', Canberra Times, 2017, viewed 12 July 2017, http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-catholic-school-funding-cuts-opposed-by-barnados-mother-of-the-year-20170613-gwq3a5.html>. 3, ibid.

4. G Savage, 'When worlds collide: Excellence and equitable learning communities? Australia's 'social capitalist' paradox?', Journal of Education Policy, 2011, p. 34.

5. E Baker, 'Canberra schools rank as Australia's best in maths, science testing', Canberra Times, 2017, viewed 12 July 2017, <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-schools-rank-as-australias-best-in-maths-science-testing-20170315-guyg1e.html>.

6. S Leonard & P Roberts, 'PISA results show ACT schools fare poorly in teaching disadvantaged', Canberra Times, 2017, viewed 12 July 2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/ pisa-results-show-act-schools-fare-poorly-in-teachingdisadvantaged-20131209-2z1xa.html>.

7, 8. ibid.

9. G Savage, Why markets can't deliver excellence and equity in schools, The Conversation, 2014, viewed 11 July 2017, <https://theconversation.com/why-markets-cant-deliverexcellence-and-equity-in-schools-25711>.

10. Solids, About the Solid Sista's and Brotha's Aboriginal Program, Solids, 2017, viewed 12 July 2017, http://www.solids.org.au/about/.

11. Solids Youth Program (@Solidsprogram), 'The Solids continue to over achieve with 100% school completion over the past 4yrs. % School attendance in high 90's', 13 February 2016, 4:04pm, Tweet, viewed 12 July 2017, https://twitter.com/Solidsprogram/status/698372154958544896>.

Next issue:

Update Issue 81, Spring 2017 edition

Addressing early intervention gaps in the ACT

Members are welcome to contribute articles on the theme.

Copy deadline: 29 August 2017

Space is limited! To guarantee your spot, let us know as soon as possible.

Email: communications@actcoss.org.au Ph: 02 6202 7200

Issue 81 will be distributed in September 2017.

Advertise in Update

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1/2 page	\$40	\$85
Full page	\$60	\$120

ACTCOSS committee

President: Camilla Rowland, Marymead

Vice President: Martin Fisk, Menslink

Secretary: Glenda Stevens, Associate Member

Treasurer: Lee-Ann Akauola, Relationships Australia Canberra & Region

Ordinary members:

Roger Munson, ACT Disability, Aged & Carer Advocacy Service

Gen Lai, Anglicare Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT (ceased May 2017. We thank Gen for her service on the ACTCOSS Committee)

Dalane Drexler, ACT Mental Health **Consumer Network**

Leith Felton-Taylor, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Alex White, UnionsACT Beth Slatyer, Associate Member

Peter Dwyer, Religious Society of Friends Canberra

Alicia Flack-Konè, ACT Down Syndrome Association

If you would like to contact the Committee, please contact ACTCOSS. www.actcoss.org.au



The ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS) is the peak representative body for people living with low incomes or disadvantage, and not-forprofit community organisations in the Australian Capital Territory.

ACTCOSS acknowledges Canberra has been built on the land of the Ngunnawal people. We pay respects to their Elders and recognise the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and ongoing contributions to the ACT community.

ACTCOSS

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Email:	actcoss@actcoss.org.au
Web:	www.actcoss.org.au
Twitter:	twitter.com/actcoss
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/actcoss

ACTCOSS welcomes feedback. Please visit the 'Contact' page on our website for our feedback form, or contact us using the details above.

ACTCOSS staff

Director **Policy Team** Susan Helyar Geoff Buchanan Tara Prince **Gulanga Program** Eliza Moloney Team Craig Wallace Julie Butler Hilary Williams Capability **Communications & Membership Officer** Ryan Joseph Suzanne Richardson

Office Coordinator Lisa Howatson

Development Team Samantha Quimby

Update is a quarterly journal that provides an opportunity for issues relevant to ACTCOSS' membership to be discussed and for information to be shared. Views expressed are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy views of ACTCOSS.