



NTCOSS NEWS SHEET – August/September 2011

NTCOSS AGM

The NTCOSS Annual General Meeting will be held at the Salvation Army Centre at midday on Thursday 13 October. We will be celebrating the 35th birthday of NTCOSS, and all members are invited to attend. The meeting will also see Barry Hansen step down from the NTCOSS Board after many years of dedicated service.

National Tax Forum

Monday 3 October marked the commencement of the National Tax Forum. The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) is urging participants to avoid divisive and fruitless arguments over whether we should tax consumption or income, and to focus instead on practical solutions to the challenges of population ageing, housing affordability, poverty, and workforce participation.

Anti-Poverty Week Event

NTCOSS is presenting a panel discussion as part of anti-poverty week, which runs from the 16th to the 22nd of October. Former Chief Minister, Clare Martin, will moderate a panel of opinion makers and media identities as they examine the way in which the media treats marginalised and disadvantaged Territorians. The event will be held at 5 pm on Tuesday 18 October at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Admission is free and NTCOSS members are particularly welcome.

Asylum Seeker Project

NTCOSS has raised funds to partner with the Darwin Asylum Seekers Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN) to undertake a short-term project. The key aims of the project are to map existing and potential stakeholders and partnerships, and identify how best to deliver support to people in detention. Tracy Worrall, on leave from her role as Director, Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) will come on board for the project. Welcome Tracy.

Media

Central Australian Co-ordinator Jonathan Pilbrow has been active in expressing NTCOSS concerns about a proposed youth curfew in Alice Springs. He has been interviewed on ABC radio and Territory FM and has also had a letter published in the *Centralian Advocate*. Executive Director Wendy Morton also received significant coverage in the *NT News* suggesting that the NT Government places an undue focus on 'law and order' at the expense of early intervention.

Weekly Bulletin

We have now begun to produce a Weekly Bulletin which should appear in your in-box each Thursday. The Bulletin is a chance for members to circulate brief advice about upcoming events and emerging policy issues. Should you wish to publicise an event please email admin@ntcross.org.au with some basic details and an email address for further enquiries.

Regards from the NTCOSS crew.

NT Council of Social Service

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