



NTCOSS NEWS SHEET – March 2011

NTCOSS Conference

Preparations are on in earnest for the 2011 NTCOSS conference to be held on the 14th and 15th of April at the Darwin Airport Resort. We welcome Kerrie Taylor who has come on board at NTCOSS to take a key role in organising the event.

The conference theme is ‘Towards a Just NT – Designing the Future Together’. Major issues on the agenda include child protection, income management, partnerships, transport, asylum seekers, and youth policy. We urge all member organisations to send delegates to what promises to be an informative and thought-provoking couple of days. Time is running out ... to register phone Roma on 8948-2665.

The NTCOSS conference will be preceded by a one day Alcohol and Other Drugs forum on Wednesday 13 April entitled “Forging the Future – Practical responses to contemporary issues”. Dr Ian Webster AO, a highly regarded thinker in this area for many years will be the keynote speaker. More details from Barry White at NTCOSS on 8948-2665.

Media

This month Wendy has done an ABC television interview on the large fines the NT Government is planning to introduce for truancy offences. She has also done an ABC radio drive time interview commenting on Tony Abbott’s hard line policy proposals aimed at people receiving unemployment benefits. In Alice Springs, Jonathan Pilbrow has done radio work with both JJJ and the ABC in respect to the difficulties faced by young people in the town. Finally, Wendy had a letter to the editor published in the *NT News* calling into question the validity and effectiveness of income management policies in the Territory.

ACOSS conference

A small contingent from NTCOSS recently journeyed south to Melbourne to participate in the 2011 ACOSS conference. The sessions were stimulating and informative, and presenters such as Bob Brown, Cassandra Goldie, and Ross Garnaut left their audiences with much food for thought. Informal discussion with colleagues from other states also provided an opportunity to swap war stories and to develop the basis for an ongoing relationship.

Training Opportunities

Keep an eye out for training opportunities for your organization on the NTCOSS Training Board at <http://www.ntcoss.org.au/jobstraining-board>

Regards from the NTCOSS crew... see you at our conference on 14 and 15 April.