



# Northern Territory Council of Social Service Inc.

Newsletter—June 2011

## Contents

NTCOSS Conference 2011	2 - 5
NT Mental Health Coalition	5
Interview with Stuart Blanch	6
Patient Transport	7
Pay Equity	8
Indigenous Imprisonment	8

## NTCOSS

### DARWIN -

33 Bayfield Road,  
Malak, NT 0812

PO Box 1128  
Nightcliff, NT 0814

Ph: 08 8948 2665  
Fax: 08 8948 4590

Email:  
admin@ntcoss.org.au

### ALICE SPRINGS -

4/21 Leichardt Terrace,  
Alice Springs NT 0870

PO Box 1251  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Ph: 08 8952 8400  
Fax: 08 8953 8602

Email:  
jonathan@ntcoss.org.au

www.ntcoss.org.au

## *From the Executive Director's Desk.....*



It is already June and I realise this is our first newsletter for 2011. But the first half of the year has been a busy one for everyone in the office and the second half is starting to look even busier.

The NTCOSS conference held in Darwin in mid-April, features heavily in this newsletter. The conference was a great success, not just because people found it both useful and enjoyable, but because issues were raised and solutions generated which NTCOSS is committed to pursuing.

One of the most talked about sessions at the conference was transport. Limited transport options right across the NT contribute significantly to poor health, and low education and employment outcomes. Jonathan Pilbrow at NTCOSS in Alice Springs has joined with a number of community organisations, to do some fantastic work in Central Australia to improve transport options, particularly for those living in Town Camps. We hope we can retain the creative ideas and positive energy from the conference session to achieve some significant changes right across the NT.

We have also been busy with both the NT and federal budgets. Many of you will have received the NTCOSS initial budget summary and then the analysis of proposed government expenditure against the NTCOSS pre budget submission. We hope that this information was useful. In July we start our consultations for our next pre budget submission, and this year hope to hold forums in some of the regional centres.

In this edition we meet Stuart Blanch from the Environment Centre NT. Over the past two years, the relationship between ECNT and NTCOSS has been strong as we worked closely together on several issues, such as the increase in water and electricity prices and the planning of the new city of Weddell. We hope to continue our partnership as we address key issues like the impact of climate change on low income and disadvantaged Territorians.

This newsletter regularly features articles on our member organisations.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the NTCOSS newsletter.

**Wendy Morton**  
NTCOSS



To view the NTCOSS Conference 2011 Papers simply  
click on this link:

<http://www.ntcoss.org.au/news/2011/03/ntcoss-conference-2011>

## AOD PRE CONFERENCE FORUM

### NTCOSS Alcohol and other Drugs Forum

by Barry White

The Alcohol and Other Drugs pre-conference forum was promoted using the title “*Forging the Future-Practical responses to contemporary issues*”. Keynote speakers were Dr Ian Webster AO, and Dr. Tricia Nagel who is head of the Healing and Resilience Division at the Menzies School of Health Research. Other presenters were Matthew Bonson and Patrick Stephenson from the Council of Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS), Andrew Biven from South Australian Network Drug and Alcohol Services, (SANDAS), and Micheil Brodie from the NT Justice Department. The forum also featured a Central Australian inter-agency group presentation entitled ‘No Wrong Door’.

The event was attended by more than 100 delegates from diverse backgrounds, including NT and Commonwealth governments, non-government agencies, community service organisations, and representatives from all state and territory AOD peak bodies.

The objective of the forum was to stimulate thought and discussion on ways that treatment could become more relevant and responsive to people with AOD, mental health, and other associated issues.

The keynote speakers focussed their presentations on pathways of risk to mental health and substance use disorders, prevention and anticipatory care, models of health care for the Indigenous population, engagement, disengagement, family perspectives, systems, policies, training, coercion, and bio psycho social cultural model of health care.

Micheil Brodie from the NT Justice Department offered a practical perspective on the application and implementation of the NT Government’s ‘Enough is Enough’ initiatives. This presentation focussed on the Alcohol Tribunal, SMART Court, and how implementation may impact on the resources of existing AOD treatment facilities.

The day’s proceedings were neatly summed up with the Central Australia case-scenario presentation of ‘No Wrong Door’. This featured a case study of a client who suffered from substance use and mental health disorder, and her unfortunate experiences seeking help from agencies, who were not equipped to deal with both disorders.

The feedback from delegates has been overwhelmingly positive, and most would like to see a similar event conducted on an annual basis.

## SESSION 1

### Youth lead the way

by Tess Reinsch

Picture a group of young Darwin hip-hop artists, setting a cracking pace for the 2011 NTCOSS conference, and showing the conference participants how creative, resilient and worthy of a voice the young people really are.

This isn’t quite how it happened. But happily, that’s because the musicians in question were attending school and work, so couldn’t make the conference. But Antoinette Carroll and Tess Reinsch attempted to create the same kind of energy through standing still and speaking into a microphone, and they did manage to inspire some enthusiasm!

The session entitled *Seen, Heard, Safe: Realising the Rights of Young People* focused on identifying strategies for moving forward in a socially inclusive way between people of all ages, particularly in the public discourse around youth crime. It was also a forum to share information about the new Youth Policy Officer role at NTCOSS, which has been in operation for just over seven months. Through this role, NTCOSS has been able to better represent the wisdom and experience in the sector to inform government policy and practice.

The session was well-received by participants, who had many questions for Antoinette about the Territory’s Youth Justice system, particularly in Central Australia. Highly regarded in the NT for her experience and passion for youth justice issues, Antoinette was uncompromising in her insistence that the NT must change the way that it approaches young offenders if we are to break cycle of offending. These are a highly vulnerable and often traumatised group of young folks. If we keep locking them up rather than working to heal them, we are failing them, and the community.

Everyone who was in the room will remember listening to a recording of two young men, in detention, who were speaking of what they wanted from their future. They told us that they want to build their skills, get jobs, and have the ability to participate in society. They have hope, and we have the opportunity to lobby for a system which gives them a chance.

## SESSION 2

## SESSION 3

### **Developing a Community Transport Network for the NT** *by Jonathan Pilbrow*

The NT is one of the most sparsely populated places on the planet, making provision of transport a complex and costly task. This issue has been on the radar for NTCOSS for many years, as it affects Territorians across all community service sectors and has a major impact in all geographical areas - urban, regional, and remote.

Without access to accessible and inexpensive transport, people simply cannot gain access to work, health services, other essential services, and recreational activities. Many people in the NT miss out on participating fully in society, because there is no affordable transport available to them.

At the 2011 NTCOSS Conference, delegates were treated to an inspiring presentation on community transport models by Mr David Denmark, Principal of Transport Planning and Management, in Queensland. entitled "Are we being taken for a ride?" The extent of the transport needs in the Territory can seem overwhelming, and it is clear that when it comes to transport, the poor pay more.

David introduced a range of new concepts including the term 'mobility gap' which describes the gap in transport for people who are unable to access public transport, but who do not qualify for special needs transport. He spoke also of 'mobility management'; and 'utility theory', where the challenge is to seek 'the maximum utility of the people receiving the minimum services' at the moment.

While successful community transport happens everywhere else in the country, there is no magic formula. But it works best when it starts off small at the grassroots community level. It happens through collaboration, communication and cooperation. It happens through the sharing of resources, vehicles and flexible responses. It's usually not-for-profit, volunteer-managed and locally based. The fact that Katherine and Tennant Creek still do not have any public transport system in the year 2011 is a cause for alarm. But it also represents a unique opportunity for the Territory to develop its own blueprint for a community transport model.

Healthy discussion resulted from David's presentation, with organisations identifying the possibility of using some of the underutilised vehicles across the NT as part of a community transport system. Opportunities for sharing resources across agencies as part of the development of a community transport system were identified. There were also calls for seed funding to develop a centralised, coordinated system, based on a community entrepreneurial service model. NTCOSS plans to pursue this issue with vigour in 2011, and looks forward to taking the sector on this ride.

### **Income management and human rights**

*by Pru Gell*

The IM session 'Outcome Management and the Income Management Story' featured a strong and insightful panel. Panellists were:

- \* Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service,
- \* Elaine Peckham, Central Arrente woman and founder of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Alliance,
- \* Joy McLaughlin, Indigenous Programs Manager, Fred Hollows Foundation,
- \* Irina Cattalini, CEO, Western Australian Council of Social Service,
- \* John Patterson of Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT and Aboriginal Peaks Of NT (APO NT) and
- \* Annabel Pengilley, Welfare Rights Solicitor, North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency.

Panellists highlighted some key elements to consider evaluating large-scale compulsory Income Management in the NT. On the whole the panellists made it clear that they have serious reservations about the operation of the system. Some key areas of concern include: the lack of an evidence base, Human Rights implications, mental health effects from stigmatisation, the amount of funds spent on the administration of IM rather than on services, and the failure of the policy to achieve its stated objectives.

Some people in communities have said that they like aspects of IM, but that as the system is carried out in a discriminatory way, any possible benefits of the system are diminished.

Elaine spoke from her own experience "*I've been going through the Intervention, like many others as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother*". She moved delegates with her words "*people should have had a choice before being put on Income Management but we were not given that choice. We had no choice at all whatsoever.*"

A resolution supported by the conference included these sentiments:

*"We call on the government to withdraw the scheme. We call on the government to begin real negotiations with sector NGOs, Aboriginal organisations and with communities to agree on measures to address the issues in the long term. These measures must ensure dignity and respect".* To view presentations that panel members made and find more detail about the issue of Income Management, please visit the NTCOSS website.

## SESSION 4

### **No-one chooses to be an asylum seeker**

*by Graham Ring*

Why is our country keeping children in detention? This was one of many uncomfortable questions posed to delegates at the NTCOSS conference by a group of skilled and committed community activists from DASSAN.

The Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN) was formed earlier last year as a result of widespread public concern about government policies which saw asylum seekers being locked up for indefinite stays in detention centres while their claims for asylum were processed.

DASSAN co-ordinator Justine Davis joined with her fellow members, Kevin Kadirgamar and Saraswathi Griffiths-Chandran to explain the role of the organisation.

The DASSAN presenters employed passion and purpose to describe the actual circumstances of asylum seekers and appealed to community organisations and their staff to lend a hand in securing justice for asylum seekers.

They noted that media outlets find it easy to generalise and demonise in their coverage of asylum seeker issues. There is a widespread but mistaken belief that these people who make long and dangerous journeys to seek safety are somehow 'illegal'.

Many also believe that these people have 'jumped the queue' and are attempting to 'sneak in through the back door', even though this too is palpably untrue.

Once myths like these become cemented in the minds of the broader public it becomes very difficult to change this perception, and to ensure that asylum seekers are given a fair go.

Conference delegates passed a resolution calling on the Australian Government to honour its commitment to moving all children and vulnerable families out of detention by June this year.

To find out more about DASSAN send an email to: [dassan2011@gmail.com](mailto:dassan2011@gmail.com).

#### ***Did you know.....***

***The Community Sector directly employs more than 5,350 people, which equates to 3% of the total workforce of the NT.***

## SESSION 5

### **The importance of protecting our children**

*by Lava Kohaupt*

A highlight of the Child Protection session at the conference was the presentation by NT Children's Commissioner Dr Howard Bath, which focused on the disadvantages faced by Aboriginal children in remote Northern Territory communities.

Dr Bath used a range of statistical information to paint a comprehensive picture of the difficulties faced by residents in these remote locations. The information provided was rather sobering and served to highlight the complexity of the situation in the bush. Dr Bath also offered a number of solutions from the *Growing Them Strong Together* report which he co-authored

1. Development of new support services (secondary prevention, tertiary and therapeutic, and reunification ) to be provided principally by the NGO sector, and with particular emphasis on remote areas.
2. New ways of doing business – Dual pathway referral and support pathways; Community Child and Safety Wellbeing teams; Hospital Child Safety and Wellbeing teams.
3. Changes to the role and powers of the Children's Commissioner.

Clare Gardiner-Barnes, Chief Executive of the newly formed Department of Children and Families was the next presenter. Clare confirmed her commitment to change and to the engagement of the NGO sector in that change. She pointed out the values underpinning the new ways of doing child protection: quality and professionalism, accountability and integrity, compassion and justice, respect and diversity.

John Patterson, CEO of AMSANT, talked about the Aboriginal child, youth and family peak body to be formed. AMSANT received funding to establish the peak body, which will then operate as an independent entity.

These sessions combined to produce a thoughtful overview of the current discussion around child protection reform.

#### ***Did you know.....***

***The Community Sector is a rapidly expanding sector with more than 195 organisations in the NT involved in the provision of services to the community.***

## SESSION 6

### **Partnerships - Let's talk** by Janine Sims

The NT MLA Minister for Child Protection, Kon Vatskalis, stated in the NT Child Protection Reform Strategic Framework document that partnerships with the non-government sector would underpin reforms to the child protection system. More specifically, he spoke of “... *the development of new partnerships with non-government sector, including an enhanced role for the non-government sector in delivery of family and parent support programs and out of home care, a more transparent grants process and a shared framework for investment in services.*”

Consequently, NTCOSS believed that it was an appropriate time to look at the realities of partnerships.

The partnership session was an open floor ‘Deep Democracy’ conversation and was interactive and physical, with all of the 115 conference delegates participating. The facilitators Myrna Lewis, from South Africa and Pam Venables, from England, engaged participants to explore three main questions:

1. What are the experiences of partnerships between NT Government and Community Sector?
2. Are relationships important?
3. What are the “must haves” in future partnerships?

Participants were asked to vote with their bodies in response to statements from other participants about collaboration and partnerships. Other participants were then invited to agree or disagree. The session was at times confronting, but very open and honest and it produced some powerful statements. Feedback following the session indicated that the session needed to be longer and required a solid closure. But the session provided ‘food for thought’ and was useful as a way of understanding some of the realities of partnerships. Examples of statements that were ratified by the majority of participants were:

1. We (NGO's) do want to collaborate but what does collaboration really look like.
2. Some people within government and NGO's are just so busy they don't want to talk and at the end of the day there are problems around this.
3. Collaboration is a downer and takes so much time to be done properly.
4. Both the NT government and NGO's need to spend more time really understanding one another.
5. It's all about making the best use of resources.

Learn more about deep democracy by visiting [www.deep-democracy.net](http://www.deep-democracy.net) or get your hands on some great resources developed by VCOSS on partnerships by visiting [www.vcross.org.au](http://www.vcross.org.au)

### **Exciting Developments at the NT Mental Health Coalition** by Nfanwy Welsh

Hello. My name is Nfanwy Welsh and I have recently commenced in the Executive Officer role at the NT Mental Health Coalition. I have lived mostly in Darwin for 30 years and have worked predominantly in the not-for-profit sector, primarily in the Women's and Homelessness areas, in both service delivery and management.

The efforts of my predecessor at the Coalition, Phil Dempster, and dedicated members saw the Coalition evolve from an offshoot of NTCOSS to a fully incorporated entity in April 2010. I feel fortunate to be involved in the Coalition at a very exciting time for the sector, following incorporation, and the announcement of some very promising policy initiatives in the 2011 federal budget.

The NT Mental Health Coalition is an NTCOSS member organisation which operated as a peak body for community mental health services and promotion in the NT since 2004 under the auspices of NTCOSS. We represent the concerns and interests of community-based mental health sector organisations, key stakeholders, families and carers.

More specifically, our role is to:

1. promote mental health through representing the interests of members working towards ensuring that consumers and carers are provided with quality mental health services
2. promote mental health literacy and reduce stigma as well as coordinate the activities of mental health promotion each year
3. assist member organisations in capacity-building activities and training
4. lobby government to influence policy and decision making at state and national levels

I look forward very much to the second half of 2011, and the year ahead where the NTMHC will continue to focus on the needs and interests of the NT Mental Health sector. We look forward to a strengthened and robust relationship with members and key stakeholders. We are also excited to be launching our new website in late July, on a date to be confirmed. Keep an eye out on [www.ntcross.org.au](http://www.ntcross.org.au). Please feel free to contact me on 08 8927 2074 or [contmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:contmentalhealth@gmail.com) to find out more about the Coalition. Better still come and visit us for a cuppa on the Ground Floor at 33 Bayfield Road, Malak.

## Working for a greener future

*Graham Ring talks to Stuart Blanch at ECNT.*

As Coordinator of the Environment Centre NT, it's simply not possible for Dr Stuart Blanch to please all of the people all of the time. Stuart is an easy-going sort of a person who enjoys a laugh, even when it comes at his own expense. But he's also a committed environmentalist, who is not afraid to look down the barrel of a television camera and make clear and firm statements which don't always endear him to governments or trans-national corporations.

Stuart grew up at Nambucca Heads in Northern New South Wales, where his father was a banana farmer. As a youngster, Stuart was keen on hunting, fishing, surfing and camping out. His ambition was to become a marine biologist, but eventually he settled on the study of fresh-water ecology at the University of New England.

After completing a doctorate on the effects of dams and weirs on the Murray River, Stuart did some work as a post-doctoral fellow in France. He then studied environmental law before washing up in Darwin at the beginning of 2006 with his young family, "to try and save the Daly River from turning into the Murray River."

At the beginning of 2009 Stuart took on the role of co-ordinator of Environment Centre NT and relished the variety of the work. "I get to be involved in all sorts of issues like climate change, renewable energy, marine parks, urban sustainability, and pollution of the harbour" he explains.

Stuart reckons climate change needs to be looked at like insurance. "With every passing year the science is showing increasingly dire predictions. So we need to take action now as a form of risk management. By the end of this century sea levels in Darwin could rise by one metre. This is bad news for people who own places close to the water in Nightcliff, Rapid Creek or Stuart Park. And that's just one example of how climate change will affect the Territory."

It seems that climate change has particular implications for low-income and disadvantaged people. "The cost of power is going up" says Stuart, expressing concern that the federal government moves to protect low-income earners from price rises and ensures that the carbon tax is designed to "punish the big polluters".

Stuart also notes that families who need to spend their entire income making ends meet day-to-day, are not in a position to purchase energy efficient white goods and appliances. "If you are in community housing, or living in an Aboriginal community then you are unlikely to have much disposable income.



*Stuart Blanch - coordinator of the Environment Centre NT*

I think governments need to investigate subsidising people to replace inefficient air-conditioners, install louvres, and provide more shade for windows and houses."

NTCOSS and ECNT have worked together on a number of projects in the past and Stuart is keen to see the relationship continue, particularly in the area of climate change. "We agree with NTCOSS that a price on carbon has to buffer low and middle income earners, and has to protect people who have little chance to change the way they spend money because they really don't have any money. They can't afford to buy a Prius or an architect designed home.

I'm conscious that the environment movement is often seen as being more concerned about dolphins than people. But for me sustainability revolves around people. We must look after the marginalised and the poor. Around the world we see that where the wildlife suffers the people suffer too."

When Stuart can escape his busy schedule at the office, he likes to spend time with his partner and his two young daughters. "I like gardening, walking on the beach and going fishing when I get the chance" he says.

Stuart and his co-workers at ECNT are doing a fine job in a tough patch, so we reckon he is entitled to reel in the odd barramundi.

## **PATS – A personal experience**

*by Wendy Morton*

Recently I needed to use the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) to travel to Adelaide for eye surgery. I imagine that my experience was similar to many others, in that it all happened so quickly. One minute I was at the optometrist complaining that I didn't think I was seeing very well. The next I was off to the RDH emergency department, where I was told that I needed to be on the next plane to Adelaide for surgery the following day. I had very little idea of what was about to happen and I didn't ask a whole lot of questions. But by the time I was on the plane I was wishing that I had.

The doctors and PATS staff in Darwin were great, and organised our trip very quickly. Without my even asking, they said they would pay for my partner to accompany me. I ended up being in Adelaide for 13 days, and when it was time to return, the flights were again organised efficiently. For me, the system worked.

However, I couldn't help wondering how well it works for others, particularly those who don't have spare cash, a helpful partner, and the ability to navigate the system. We had no idea of where the hospital was in relation to the airport, but it turned out to be a \$50 taxi ride. We paid for our own accommodation, and were reimbursed a portion on our return. We also paid for taxi fares to hospital every day, since I wasn't in good enough shape for a long, bumpy bus ride.

It was December in Adelaide so we expected it would be warm. But it wasn't. From memory, only one day in the 13 was warmer than 20 degrees. So Partner was dispatched to get us some warmer clothes. Partner was also sent off to regularly do loads of washing. Happily, I was on paid sick leave from my job, but my partner being self-employed wasn't so lucky.

Now that it's all over, I have to give credit to a system that worked for me. But I wondered how someone who doesn't have spare money, good support systems, and the ability to know what questions to ask, would cope. I am more used to dealing with the medical profession than many but I still found the experience to be overwhelming in the early days, and often pretty scary.

Our initial financial outlay would have been impossible for many. I don't think I could have coped with having to catch public transport or stay in a hostel with shared bathroom facilities. But that is what many people in similar situations have to do. It was scary enough to have to find my way to the toilet in my motel room when I wasn't seeing well, let alone having to walk down a public corridor.

I am more convinced than ever about the need to provide a PATS system which is responsive to individual circumstances.

It needs to go the extra mile for people when they need it the most. It needs to recognise that catching a bus to Tennant Creek at 2am just isn't good enough. And it needs to provide more financial resources when required: reimbursement of one taxi fare and around \$36 per night just isn't enough for some people. Also PATS and medical staff need to provide more information to people who don't know the right questions to ask.

All in all, my PATS experience was a good one, but it left me feeling that there are opportunities to make the system even better.

*Did you know .....*

*The Community Sector is a large employer of Indigenous Australians in regional Northern Territory, employing over 1900 people.*



*Northern Territory Council of Social Service Inc.*

*Working for a fair and inclusive  
Northern Territory"*

## Breakthrough in Pay Equity Case

*The ASU has provided the following information about the Pay Equity case and the National Day of Action...*

The Australian Services Union (ASU) has been working collaboratively with community sector employers, peak bodies and clients to address workforce issues inhibiting attraction and retention to the sector and threatening the sector's ability to continue to provide quality services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

On Monday 16 May, Fair Work Australia (FWA) said "yes to equal pay".

We have had a significant victory on three fronts:

- We have overturned the law that has existed for 30 years for equal pay in that you now do not have to prove direct discrimination
- The court has found that community sector work is unvalued
- The court has found that part of the undervaluation is for gender reasons

FWA now asks us to say what the rates of pay should be. They have not yet made a decision on new rates of pay.

We have already begun to approach this new challenge in the case and look forward to gaining the best possible outcome. The ASU acknowledges Fair Work Australia on their groundbreaking decision which for the first time in 30 years accepts the principle of gender based underpayment of wages. This decision will not only lead to improved pay for workers in the community sector, but opens the door for other women who have suffered gender based pay discrimination. Please see more about the decision at [http://asu-sant.asn.au/news/1305522963\\_15929.html](http://asu-sant.asn.au/news/1305522963_15929.html)

This is a great achievement for women and a great day for community workers. At last we have had the value of community sector work recognised and everyone is on notice that an increase in wages is on the way.

It is imperative that we continue to work together on the case and that we secure full government funding for the wage increases that we anticipate.

Events were held around the country on 8 June in support of the claim.

## Call to Action to reduce Indigenous imprisonment

*From ANTaR - (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation )*

A wide range of community organisations have endorsed a Call to Action aimed at dramatically reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian jails.

The Joint Call to Action was released in April to mark 20 years since the final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was handed to the Governor General. It is endorsed by a range of Aboriginal and community legal services and human rights organisations.

ANTaR National Director, Jacqueline Phillips, says that it is unacceptable that imprisonment rates have continued to increase in the 20 years since the Royal Commission reported. Since 1989, the imprisonment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has increased twelve times faster than the rate for the rest of the community.

ANTaR believes that the current focus on imprisonment rates must be used to get this issue on the national agenda. Governments at all levels must commit to concerted action in cooperation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups at community level who are working for change.

While commending governments for their commitment to targets to close the gap in health, education and employment, ANTaR noted that imprisonment rates impact on all of those issues and that there are no targets to reduce these rates, with the efforts of governments in this area being piecemeal at best. "The fact that this is a difficult issue is no excuse for continuing to leave it in the too-hard-basket", said Ms Phillips.

ANTaR's National Campaign to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison was launched at a Public March in Perth in April. Approximately one in every sixteen Aboriginal males in Western Australia is in prison, the worst rate in the country.

The Call to Action can be accessed via the ANTaR website:  
[www.antar.org.au/issues\\_and\\_campaigns/reducing\\_indigenous\\_incarceration](http://www.antar.org.au/issues_and_campaigns/reducing_indigenous_incarceration)