

MEDIA RELEASE

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ANNUAL YOGIE AWARD WINNERS Celebrating Outstanding Achievements in Youth Work

Ms Joy Burch MLA, Minister for Children and Young People, today presented a number of YOGIE Awards to youth services and youth workers, for excellence in youth work. The Annual YOGIE Awards, coordinated by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, recognise outstanding contributions to young people and youth work.

“Our Annual YOGIE Awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate and recognise outstanding achievements in the youth sector during 2010,” said Emma Robertson, Director, Youth Coalition of the ACT.

“The range of programs and workers that won awards today reflect the diverse and dynamic sector that supports young people aged 12 – 25.”

Organisational Awards recognised outstanding work in a number of areas relating to young people; including transition points for young people leaving primary school and entering high school, and research into young people and alcohol related violence. Individuals who received awards support a wide range of young people, including those experiencing homelessness, education transitions and multicultural young people.

Winners included (please see the attached booklet for more information):

- *Outstanding Achievement in Youth Participation:* Bit Bent Belconnen, U-Turn Youth Service
- *Innovation in Practice:* Steer Program, Northside Community Service and PCYC
- *Collaboration for Change:* Community Engagement Team, Centrelink
- *Excellence in Research and Evaluation:* Dutch Courage: Young People, Alcohol and Alcohol Related Violence, Dr Justin Barker and the Youth Coalition of the ACT
- *Excellence in Organisational Practice:* School Education Program, Mental Illness Education ACT
- *Outstanding Youth Worker:* Fiona Thomson, Richmond Fellowship; and Lisa Howarth, CIT
- *Outstanding New Talent:* Cephas Arok, Sudanese Youth Association ACT
- *Outstanding Contribution to Young People:* Sandra Guillemin, YWCA Mura-Lanyon Youth Centre
- *Lifetime Achievement:* Rob Large, Tumladan

For further comment please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469