

Community Coalition on Corrections

C/- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

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MEDIA RELEASE

CALL FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS' INVOLVEMENT IN PRISONER REHABILITATION

22 August 2007

"All community organisations with an interest in the new prison should apply soon to gain authorised visitor status," said Kiki Korpinen of the ACT Community Coalition on Corrections.

ACT Corrections has now made available on its website an application form for organisations wishing "to be involved in providing meaningful activities in the new ACT prison". They need authorized visitor status to do this.

"The Coalition urges organisations interested in providing services to apply without delay", Ms Korpinen said.

"ACT Corrections has indicated that it wrote several months ago to some 130 organisations selected from the *Contact* list. We are concerned that these include only a handful of the organisations that are likely to be interested. We are pleased that other organisations now have the opportunity to apply."

Ms Korpinen said that if the ACT prison is to have its focus firmly on rehabilitation, as the Government has maintained, the community sector must be fully engaged. "It is this sector that provides many of the social services most needed by those in prison", she said.

"It is essential for rehabilitation that strong bridges are built with the community," Ms Korpinen continued. "Family support, accommodation, mental health care and drug and alcohol treatment are just some of the transitional services that the high needs prison population will require. Community organisations with their experience and expertise must be involved in this."

The application form can be downloaded at:
<http://www.cs.act.gov.au/amc/home/contact>.

For more information, please contact:

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