

Strong Community Healthy Territory Respecting and Valuing the NT Community Sector

The ASU, Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) and the Liquor Hospitality Miscellaneous Union (LHMU) have launched a campaign to build a strong community sector able to continue to provide quality services to vulnerable Territorians and support social inclusion. On a sunny April day in Darwin, Captain Community (who had also launched the South Australian campaign and zoomed up for the event!), kicked down the wall of disadvantage using tools from her utility belt (which included tools such as decent pay, better health and safety, access to training and respect for the role the sector plays in advocacy, sector wide attraction and retention) and kicked off the much needed campaign.



Our campaign focuses on urgent workforce issues (issues which have particular impact in remote areas where attraction and retention can be extremely difficult) which must be addressed if the Territory is to be truly socially inclusive and if the community sector is to be sustainable into the future.

Consultative forums have been held in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek over the last six months. Organisations and individuals at the forums agreed that the need to campaign is urgent, endorsed the campaign principles and committed to working together. A campaign reference group to contemplate the strategic direction of the campaign and provide advice to the parties involved has been formed.

Support for the campaign is growing across the Territory with workers and organizations from a broad range of sectors within the sector involved. Further trips to more remote areas of the Territory are being planned over the next few months and it is intended that in the lead up to the 2009/2010 Territory budget, the campaign group will put forward its initial proposals to the Territory Government.

There are many ways for workers and organizations to get involved in the campaign. Please contact Katrine Hildyard on 08 8363 1322 for more information.