



# Media Release

## **BOB McMULLAN MP**

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FRASER

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25 November 2008

## **Commonwealth funding to combat binge drinking in Canberra**

The Member for Fraser, Bob McMullan MP, and Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, today announced funding of \$243,300 to tackle youth binge drinking in the ACT.

Directions ACT has been awarded the funding to deliver their Party Safe Binge Drinking Project, which will address risk-taking behaviour by young people under the influence of alcohol. The Project will target binge-drinking hotspots such as night clubs and festivals and will deliver age-appropriate information and resources such as safe sex information, bottles of water and condoms.

Mr McMullan said the Government recognised that binge drinking is emerging as a significant health problem among 15-24-year-olds.

“Binge-drinking has serious health repercussions. We know that in an average week, four young Australians aged 15-24 die due to alcohol-related injuries. This funding demonstrates the Government’s commitment to tackling this growing health challenge” said Mr McMullan

Delivering funding to community-level initiatives is an important part of the Government’s National Binge Drinking Strategy to tackle binge drinking among young Australians.

“I’d like to congratulate Directions ACT on their successful application for funding for their community-level anti-binge drinking program” said Mr McMullan.

“While its name has changed over the years, in one guise or another Directions ACT has played an important role in the lives of Canberrans struggling with addiction and substance abuse for 30 years. The funding announced today is both a recognition of the good work that Directions ACT has done in the past and an expression of the Government’s confidence that Directions ACT will be able to deliver this important program in the future.”

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