

I am Carol Mead the Executive Director of DIRECTIONS ACT, which is a large community organisation which works with people who have alcohol and other drug issues through a range of programs and services.

Today I join with Bob McMullin MLA, my staff and invited guests and friends to announce that DIRECTIONS ACT has received funding for the National Binge Drinking Strategy.

The Party Safe Program aims to engage and assist young people in making wiser choices and to limit the risks of binge drinking. These risks potentially can have life changing and permanent affects on a person's life:

- Assault and violence
- Driving under the influence, car accidents
- Unintended pregnancy
- Charges through the court

Under the Party Safe Program DIRECTIONS ACT will engage with young people aged 15 – 26 around Canberra and offer a range of resources and services to help limit the risk factors associated with drinking.

The will include:

- A Party Safe Van which will venture into hot spots, events and other venues to engage with young people
- Dissemination of resources and information focused on safe drinking and avoiding the risks of binge drinking
- Referrals into appropriate services such as sobering up shelter and counselling
- First Aid Courses through our partnership with St John Ambulance

We are excited to have been successful in our funding application and look forward to making a real and positive difference to the lives and potential of young people, their families and the wider community.