

Launch Party Safe Project

Speech – by Carol Mead

Welcome to invited guests, VIPs, staff, Board Members, friends, funders and supporters.

I acknowledge that we stand on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal people and I give respect to their elders both past and present.

We are here today to officially launch the Party Safe Project funded through the National Binge Drinking Initiative. Despite stiff competition from other organisations DIRECTIONS ACT was the only ACT organisation which received the funding.

DIRECTIONS ACT applied for the funding to limit the risks of binge drinking for young people. These risks include:

- Unsafe sex and unintended pregnancy
- Violence and assault
- Drink Spiking
- Car accidents and first aid emergencies
- Driving under the influence of alcohol

The vision was for a purple Party Safe Bus which would go out to hot spots around Canberra, colleges, universities, events and festivals.

Through the Party Safe Bus workers give out a range of resources such as safe sex packs, party packs, water and information.

Our partner St John Ambulance will be providing first aid courses to 160 young people, we are excited that these begin in May.

Even in these early days of the project, the project is showing promising signs of success. Over 100 people visit the party safe bus every Friday night in Civic..... it is very popular with young people at events, universities and colleges.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fundersthe Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing, in particular to Peta Nelson and Paul Hensen.