

Media Release

DIRECTIONS ACT

Purple Party Safe Bus Reaching Out To Kids

Today Joy Burch MLA and Senator Jan McLucas will launch the Party Safe Bus at 11am in Eddison Park Woden. The Party Safe Project is funded through the National Binge Drinking Initiative by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing.

DIRECTIONS ACT is a community based organisation providing free counselling, information and practical support to people, and their families, whose lives are affected by alcohol and other drugs.

The Party Safe Bus travels throughout Canberra to hot spots and other venues such as colleges, universities and events where young people gather. The project aims to reduce the risk behaviours associated with binge drinking. These are:

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

‘The workers on the Party Safe Bus engage with young people aged 15 to 25 offering information, safe sex packs, party safe information and water,’ says Carol Mead, Executive Director, DIRECTIONS ACT. ‘In its first month it has attracted enthusiastic interest with up to 100 young people accessing the bus in Civic each Friday night.’

Our partner St John Ambulance (ACT) will be providing first aid courses to 160 young people, we are excited that these begin in May. Young people are able to access these subsidised first aid courses through the Party Safe Bus.

‘Binge drinking has serious and often life changing repercussions,’ says Gerard Rees, President of DIRECTIONS ACT. ‘The Party Safe Bus is a successful initiative which helps young people to be Party Safe.’

Party Safe will continue to visit Civic and other venues throughout the year. Look out for the purple Party Safe Bus in your area.

Embargoed until 9:00am, Tuesday 28 April 2009

For interviews **Carol Mead, Executive Director**
Ph: 0423 388 354

1 Bradley St WODEN ACT 2606 - PO BOX 538 WODEN ACT 2606
Ph: (02) 6122 8000 - Fax: (02) 6122 8001
carolm@directionsact.com - www.directionsact.com