

VOLUNTEERING *and* CONTACT ACT

September - Message from our CEO



Dear Friends

September has been an exciting month for me, having taken on the role of CEO of Volunteering and Contact ACT at the beginning of the month, meeting volunteers, members and friends in the sector at various meetings and workshops, and seeing the excitement around volunteering opportunities at our Volunteering Expo 2017. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome, and make sure you say hello if you see me at an event in the coming weeks. This month we welcome four new members:

[Canberra Blind Society Inc](#), a volunteer-driven community and peer support group that maximises the personal resources and ability of people in the ACT and local region whose lives are affected by blindness or low vision, by responding to their needs through care, communication and support.

[BHA Canberra](#), supporting hearing impaired people in the community by providing information and training on managing hearing loss.

[Ginninderra Athletics](#), catering for children and adults of all abilities and ages, located in Belconnen and servicing the local community as well as members living across the ACT and Yass.

[Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform](#), a not for profit community group raising awareness on the need for better drug policies that cause less harm.

Warm Regards,

Vicky

Vicky Darling

Mental Health Week: 9-15 October

There are numerous events taking place during this week to raise awareness for mental health issues. Our team will be out at the following events:

10 October -
[Snow Foundation's World Mental Health Day Event](#) @ Brindabella Business Park, 11am-2pm.

11 October -
[Department of Environment & Energy's Mental Health & Well-being Expo](#) @ John Gorton Building, Parkes, ACT (opposite the National Gallery), 12noon-2pm.

12 October -
[VCA's Crafternoon event](#) is for anyone experiencing mental health issues and wanting to enjoy a fun day of arts and craft. 10:30am-2:30pm @ Belconnen Community Service, 26 Chandler St.

12 October -
[Mental Health & Wellbeing Expo](#) @ City Walk and Petrie Plaza, Civic, 11am-2pm.

[#ACTStrongerTogether](#) - Check out a whole range of events [here](#).

Community Directory

It's been another busy month for the [ACT Community Directory](#) with over **10 500 visits over the last month.**

10 new organisations and 20 new services listed, some of which included:

[Anglicare's Lanyon Pantry](#)

[Disability Leadership Institute](#)

[Belconnen Garden Club](#)

This is a great way for the public to find your organisation and services. Get listed today by emailing us [here](#).

Community Diary

Some newly listed diary events include:

[Arthritis ACT Thinking and Feeling Good](#)

[Mental Health Community Coalition ACT's Borderline Personality Disorder ART EXHIBITION](#)

[Lifeline Canberra's Domestic Violence Response Training](#)

If you have events happening why not load them to the [Community Diary?](#)

ACT Budget Consultation

The ACT Government is currently seeking views on Canberra's priorities for the 2018-19 Budget. VCA will be making a budget submission, and would like this to be influenced by our members. We would appreciate you taking the time to [tell us your top three priorities for government investment by clicking here](#). Your input will ensure that our submission is shaped by the community, for the community. If you would like more information on the consultations please visit the [Budget Consultation website](#).

If anyone would like to make a more detailed response to be included in our submission [please email Sarah by COB Friday 13 October](#).

#NVC2018 - Call for abstracts open next week

Calling all volunteers, administrators, consumers, researchers, industry partners, peak bodies and national associations - Do you have an interest in volunteering? We invite you to contribute your voice and submit an abstract to present at the National Volunteering Conference 2018.

The conference theme is [Ignite, Invigorate, Inspire](#). Get your thinking caps on as submissions for abstracts will open soon. Email us [here](#) for more info.

[Brilliant Sponsorship and Exhibition opportunities are now available](#). If you'd like to be part of this major national conference event in Sydney, find out more [here](#).



VCA October Events



26 Oct -
[Specialist Knowledge Series](#)
[Creating Value through Partnerships](#)
Attracting sponsors and partners can be a great way to strengthen networks, increase influence, and secure diversified revenue streams. In this workshop you will learn how to create a targeted sponsorship strategy, and build mutually beneficial partnerships. By starting with the 'why' your organisation will learn how to position itself as an organisation of choice for potential donors and sponsors.

10 Oct -
[Essentials for Volunteer Managers Workshop](#)

This one-day interactive workshop with innovative and practical tools to develop real workplace solutions.

10 Oct -
[Volunteering Open Day](#)

This is a great opportunity for anyone to find out more about volunteering.

17 Oct -
[ACT Community Directory Essentials](#)

Everything you need to know for the ACT Community Directory and Diary.

17 Oct -
[Volunteering Essentials](#)

Receive a comprehensive understanding of what is involved in volunteering for NFPs.

27 Oct -
[Meet Your Community](#)

If your organisation is interested in sharing information on your services with the community, contact us [here](#) to book in for October, or perhaps a future month that is preferable.

Save the date x2!

8 Nov - Quarterly Forum

This half day event is a popular one, so watch out for more details - coming soon! If you'd like to express interest now, email us [here](#).

28 Nov - AGM

All members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting. If you are interested, please email us [here](#).



Free Tax Help 2017 - Last chance!

VCA is offering free tax help to those who earned \$60,000 or less in the 2016-17 year. Appointments take place on Wednesday afternoons and will continue until the end of October. If you or anyone you know would like to make an appointment please phone 02 6248 7988. Please note that Eligibility Criteria applies.

Volunteering Expo 2017 - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that both exhibited at and attended the Expo. We had a great day with Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith visiting. See all the photos from the day [here](#).



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