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Vocal (ACT) Inc.

Newsletter

The Official Journal of the Victims of
Crime Assistance League (ACT) Inc.



Autumn 2025

Volume 33

Issue 1



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Vocal Meeting Dates

Evening support groups.

These occur at VOCAL House in Narrabundah on the **first Tuesday of each month** and start at **6:00 p.m.** **Please call to** register your interest to attend.

The next meetings:

Apr Wed 6th

May Wed 4th

Lunchtime support groups.

The group which meets on the third Wednesday of each month between 12:30 and 2:00PM can also help new emerging victims of parental abuse by children. Refreshments provided at a club of your choice. Please phone VOCAL to register your interest.

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PO Box 2 Narrabundah

ACT 2604

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VOCAL (ACT) Inc. welcomes articles and artwork encouraging assistance to Victims of Crime. They will be returned upon request when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Address copy and correspondence to **The Editor.**

This newsletter is generally published quarterly. It is paid for by membership fees, newsletter advertisers, donations and the goodwill of volunteers.

We exist to unite and strengthen individuals and families by offering assistance to victims from victims whenever possible.

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Bryan Harper

Deputy Chair: Edward Nathan

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Media liaison: Bill Stefaniak

A poem

A Time Of Freedom by Abbey Silent

Morning's soft air, touching everything with such care,
Caresses a young face in a quiet, secluded place.
Smile planted strong, heart beating on.
Only one thing is on her mind, and that is summertime.

A joy reckless and wild,
that's been in the heart of every child,
now set within her,
for there is no cure.
Her spirit set free, soars higher than the trees.

The books that weighed her down,
now thrown on the ground.
The rivers cleansed from winter,
are now heated for splendour.
The happiness of knowing
no bedtimes are set,
and no schedules to be met.
The sun now beating within her veins
washes away all her pains.

Then without a sound,
the sun starts to sink down.
so she heads inside,
satisfied,
until the next time.

But her spirit is just too wild and decides to wait a while,
so it stays outside and watches the sun,
waiting for what is to come.

The birds fall asleep, the peepers start to peep,
and slowly the sunbeams caressing the mountains,
turn them into splendorous fountains.

Abbey Silent. "A Time Of Freedom." *Family Friend Poems*, August 29, 2008. <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/a-time-of-freedom>

Our Planet — Designed to survive

The earth has natural processes that prevent our water supply from disappearing. Also soil, aquatic life and even sunlight cooperate to purify our water. Consider some of the evidence that points to our planet as one that is designed to survive.

Soil, nature's freshwater filter, can efficiently rid water of many contaminants. In wetlands, certain plants have been known to remove nitrogen, phosphorus, and pesticides.

Scientists have identified physical and biological processes that purify water contaminated with naturally occurring waste. The contaminants are diluted in flowing water and broken down by microorganisms.

Fresh water clams and mussels can extract some potentially harmful chemicals from water in a matter of days—and perhaps do so even more effectively than water treatment plants can.

Our planet keeps water trapped in a constant cycle, along with other natural processes, prevents water from escaping our atmosphere or otherwise disappearing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Soil has been shown to remove metals, toxic chemicals, organic waste, and other contaminants from water that flows down through the ground. By the time the water settles in bedrock aquifers, it can even be safe to drink.

Sand and rock particles act like a fine sieve, catching some contaminants as a physical filtering system.

Biological Filtering. Microorganisms living in soil can neutralise substances that would otherwise be toxic to humans. Some bacteria can even breakdown toxic oils into carbon dioxide and water.

Chemical filtering: Soil with a slight electric charge can capture toxic chemicals that have the opposite charge. Negatively charged clay particles, for instance, can remove positively charged particles of corrosive ammonium from water.

For the full article please read Awake No.1 2023 at JW.ORG

About VOCAL

Vocal was formed in the ACT after several murders were committed in and around the surrounding districts. Families began making phone contact with each other and then decided to get together because they had all experienced the aftermath of a violent death.

Some of the members had their loved ones taken from them as far back as twenty years ago and yet for the first time they found they were able to speak out about their feelings to people who fully understood and cared.

On the 15th of November 1988, the group met for the first time. That was a very special get-together and many friendships have been formed. From that meeting the **Victims Of Crime Assistance League (ACT) Inc.**

The main aims of Vocal (ACT):

- To help and support individual persons and their families, who through a criminal act against them, are victims of crime; to overcome their anguish and suffering and assist them towards a state of understanding and acceptance of their adversity in order to resume a more stable mental and physical condition.
- To offer support to victims during their relevant court actions.

- To refer victims to various professional organisations or individuals.

Other Organisational Aims:

- To promote public awareness of the plight of victims, and promote action in the interest of those victims and the existence of VOCAL (ACT).
- To support the authorities in preventing and dealing with crime, to review effectiveness of the justice system, and where possible, bring issues to the attention of the authorities.
- To provide a venue where victims can gather so as to assist themselves or other victims.
- To promote and/or carry out research into the immediate and long-term effects of crime on victims.

- To act independently or in cooperation with other persons or bodies where appropriate in support of the objects of VOCAL (ACT).

The Executive, Committee and Members wish to sincerely thank all those who have supported in so many ways. Warm greetings for the Autumn season.

VOCAL welcomes anyone with busy hands and warm hearts to assist in small or big ways.

An introduction to Restorative Justice

Welcome to my article on restorative Justice. To introduce myself, I was a Sergeant in the Northern Territory Police Force and for around four years I was the officer in charge of the Youth Diversion Unit. The unit based their processes on those developed by Terry O'Connell, a pioneer of the restorative justice script in the Northern Territory. This script is basis of the restorative justice conferences which involves the interactive process between the participants. Participation in the restorative conference must be voluntary and the offender must be willing to admit the offence and face the victim in the conference.

Restorative justice is a process that addresses harm caused by crime by bringing together victims, offenders, and community members to discuss what happened, who was affected, and how to repair the damage. The goal is to provide a safe space for victims to be heard, allow offenders to take responsibility and offer an apology, and collectively determine how to make things better and prevent future harm. This approach focuses on repairing relationships and well-being, contrasting with traditional systems that emphasize punishment.

In Canberra, the ACT Government runs a free restorative justice unit for people who have been harmed by offences. A conference may be conducted at any time during the criminal justice process. Pre-court, (pre-adjudicative), during court and after conviction (post adjudicative)

This includes minor and serious offences such as:

- ◆ property damage
- ◆ theft
- ◆ assault
- ◆ domestic and family violence
- ◆ sexual offences.

You may be able to access restorative justice services if you are: harmed by an offence in the ACT, including if you have been impacted indirectly, for example as a family member of a person who has caused harm through an offence in the ACT. Participation in restorative justice is always voluntary for both the victim and for the offender.

Restorative Justice continued

Restorative justice is different for every situation but usually involves:

- ◆ The victim
- ◆ The offender
- ◆ Any other person affected by the crime
- ◆ other people who were involved in the offence, like the police, a witness or first responder
- ◆ professional workers who can offer further emotional and psychological support.

For restorative justice to work, the participants need to be willing and open. This attitude is crucial for the process to succeed. For example the person harmed by the offending may feel that their home, their safe place has been violated and that this action was targeted. In most cases this is untrue and the actions were random and offending was of an opportunistic nature.

Attendants to a conference (the victim), may expect an outcome such as receiving a formal apology from the offender, perhaps some financial compensation or that the offender receives a sentence for community work and also receives relevant counselling. On the other hand, the court takes into consideration that the offender has agreed to attend a conference and this may help toward the sentencing.

The question in the mind of the victim is whether the offender agreed to the conference in the first place so as to soften the blow for the eventual judge's decision for a relevant sentence. It is not unusual for a victim to say out loud "I have forgiven him" out of their well meaning Christian values or as a means of handling their emotional state. Does a victim's willingness to forgive, eventually influence the final sentence, especially in cases such as first offence or repeat offenders? Does forgiveness affect the offender in the long term?

If you or someone who is participating in a Restorative Justice VOCAL may be able to support you through this process.

Contributed by Malcolm Guerrin



In Remembrance

It is important that our loved ones are remembered. Their lives were stolen from them for no reason and for no gain. The "Remembering Page" is our way of not allowing their name to die. We also remember those who have died tragically through motor vehicle related 'accidents, often drink-drive related. We also remember those whose lives have been changed through a criminal act.

Troy Forsyth, born 3 October 1969, his life taken *1 March 1987*

John Nicholson, born 27 January 1955, his life taken *13 March 1992*

Jean Lennon, born 10 August 1958, her life taken *21 March 1996*

Alex Hurley viciously assaulted and seriously injured on *24 March 1990*

Bente Mosessen, born 4 November 1963, her life taken *26 March 1988*

Doug Berensen, born 11 October 1923, his life taken *27 March 1967*

Ian Berensen, born 29 September 1957, his life taken *27 March 1967*

Rebecca Slarke, born 29 November 1973, her life taken *27 March 1988*

Minh Tran, born 25 November 1970, his life taken *3 April 1992*

Helen Anne Cusack, born 24 February 1970, her life taken *3 April 1995*

Georgie Watmore, born 7 June 1963, her life taken *15 April 1987*

Anne Dowling, her life changed by an armed hold-up on *20 May 1988*

Marjorie Dutton, her life changed by an armed hold-up on *20 May 1989*

Coordinator's Report

The Autumn months began on a very hopeful mood. VOCAL successfully recruited several volunteers to address almost all of the different areas that need attention. We have, Agnes, Anna, Asako, Birtukan and Yeseo. On a weekly rotation.

As we were behind in doing the newsletters, I took a chance on letting two volunteers who did not have their Working With Vulnerable People cards come to VOCAL house to work on the newsletters as this did not require any client contact. The room used by volunteers to do the newsletter is out of the way for clients attending VOCAL House for support services. We pleased to have an administrative Assistant who returned to work after the Christmas and new year , and a new volunteer for counselling as well.

Early this year, due to the closure of the post office in Narrabundah, paying invoices has been difficult, as we used to pay our invoices by cheque at the post office. At about the same time there were news that in the near future the use of cheques would gradually stop. Some agencies are already refusing payments by cheques. Consequently, it has been necessary to explore paying invoices by BPAY. As all of VOCAL's staff have been volunteers for some time now, with the only regular volunteers for a number of years being Bryan Harper the Chairperson and Marie the Service Coordinator, it is important to consider the safety of using BPAY.

VOCAL has always had two signatories for its cheques, but when one of the signatory requires a refund for cost incurred on behalf of VOCAL, it is also necessary to have a third signatory, because the claimant cannot process his or her own payment as refund. Keeping the process for payment cost free required considerable considerations, as VOCAL has very little funds and therefore cannot use the same process as organisations with large funds to manage/bank. Some compromises had to be reached with the three signatories, who are all members of the Management Committee.

This year VOCAL trialed BPay in the belief that any of the three signatories could operate from their home or external to VOCAL House, only to realise that it is imperative that both persons planning on being signatory on the day, must be present at VOCAL House and need to use the same PC within a few minutes of the other. The job of preparing invoices and making payments has now switched from the Administrative Assistant and also to those who will be signing the BPay request and making the payments. New forms have been designed for the change from cheque Requests to BPAY requests. It is a much slower process fraught with difficulties yet VOCAL is modernizing its procedures for the transition to internet banking.

With regards to VOCAL House, there has been quite a few inspections this year as there are plans to paint the building after quite a few years since the last paint job. The garden has been looking good due to the work of our volunteer gardener Greg. However with the autumn leaves falling, soon it will look a little neglected.

Client support services has been slow, but steady as people return from the summer holidays. This means that there has been more time to devote to administrative tasks.

MNCVOCAL

Age of Criminal Responsibility

Child or Criminal? Rethinking the Age of Responsibility

Australia's approach to youth justice is at a turning point. The nation has historically had one of the lowest minimum ages of criminal liability in the developed world, at 10 years old. The discussion about reform has heated up in response to increased concerns about human rights, child development, and the disproportionate impact on First Nations children. Proponents contend that the existing MACR (Minimum Age Criminal Responsibility) is inconsistent with international standards and that children under the age of 14 lack cognitive development. Raising the MACR, according to critics, might address systemic inequalities and lessen the disproportionate participation of Indigenous adolescents in the juvenile justice system. Critics contend that in order to deal with major crimes and preserve public safety, a low MACR is required.

In an effort to bring the age of criminal responsibility in line with international norms, several states and territories are embracing change. Others, however, remain resistant, citing concerns about youth crime and community safety. The result? A patchwork of laws that underscores deep national divisions. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is leading the way in reform. The age will be raised from 10 to 14 through legislation, with a transition period ending in July 2025. Furthermore, before a kid between the ages of 12 and 13 can be found guilty, there must be evidence that they knew their conduct were wrong. This change is regarded as a major step in the direction of conforming to international human rights norms. Victoria has also pledged to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12 by 2024 and to 14 by 2027; however, there has been opposition to the plan.

The effectiveness of the legal system to deal with significant juvenile offenders has been questioned, and some contend that alternative rehabilitation programs need to be established prior to legislative reforms. In 2024, the Northern Territory (NT) government unexpectedly decreased the age back to 10 after initially raising it to 12, a move that has sparked national debates about best practices in youth justice, particularly for First Nations children. Similarly, a bill to raise the age to 14 was defeated in Queensland despite national discussions. The administration contends that issues related to community safety must come first. Instead, a nationwide approach to 12 has been suggested by a parliamentary committee, exposing significant differences in the state's position on juvenile justice.

Continued on page 5

Injera Recipe from Ethiopia

Ingredients:

- 4 cups teff flour
- 2 1/2 cups warm water
- 1/2 teaspoon active dry yeast



1. Mix the Batter:

Slowly add warm water to the teff flour while stirring, until the mixture is smooth and has the consistency of pancake batter.

Add the active dry yeast and mix it into the batter.

Cover the bowl with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap and leave it at room temperature to ferment. This can take 2-3 days, depending on the temperature in your kitchen. You will notice bubbles starting to form on the surface after about 24 hours, which means it is fermenting.

2. Check for Fermentation:

After the fermentation period, the batter should be thick, bubbly, and slightly sour in taste. If you're not getting the sourness you want, just give it another day to ferment. If it has a strong, pleasant sour flavor, it's ready to cook.

3. Make the Injera:

Before cooking, add a little water to thin the batter to the consistency of heavy cream (you should be able to pour it easily, but it should still be a little thick).

4. Preheat a non-stick pan over medium-high heat

Once the pan is hot, pour a thin layer of batter in a circular motion, starting from the outside and working your way in, covering the entire surface. The batter should spread out in a thin, even layer and begin to bubble immediately.

Cover the pan with a lid. Cook for about 2-3 minutes, until the edges start to lift off the pan, and the surface is covered with holes. Do not flip the injera – it's only cooked on one side. Once the injera is done, remove it from the pan and place it on a clean kitchen towel to cool.

Source: [Cookbook:Injera \(Ethiopian Teff Flatbread\) - Wikibooks, open books for an open world](#)

Source for the image: [Injera \(Ethiopian Flat Bread\) - Chef's Pencil](#)

Doro Wot (Spicy Ethiopian Chicken Stew)



Ingredients:

- 1 whole chicken (cut into pieces) or, 8 chicken drumsticks
- 3 large onions, finely chopped, 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon ginger, minced
- 2-3 tablespoons *berbere* spice mix (or paprika and adjust it to your spice preference)
- 2 tablespoons *niter kibbeh* (Ghee or unsalted butter, if unavailable)
- 1/4 cup tomato paste, 2-3 cups chicken broth (or water)
- 6 boiled eggs (optional, but traditional), Oil, and Salt to taste

Prepare the Ethiopian Doro Wot: Heat a large pot over medium heat and add a bit of oil to the water. Add the onions, stirring occasionally, until they turn golden brown.

Add oil, garlic and ginger, cooking for another 2-3 minutes. Stir in the *berbere* spice mix and cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook for 3-4 minutes, stirring frequently. Now, add the chicken pieces and cook until they're browned on all sides, for about 10 minutes. Pour in the chicken broth or water, enough to cover the chicken, and bring it to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover, and cook for 30-45 minutes, or until the chicken is tender and the sauce has thickened.

Add the boiled eggs and let them heat through, about 10 minutes. Stir in the butter simmer for another 5-10 minutes. Adjust salt and spice levels as needed. It is a delicious culinary tradition for every occasion.

Serving suggestion: Doro Wot is traditionally served with *injera*, but you can also serve it with rice if you prefer. Make sure to tear off a piece of *injera* and scoop up the stew and the sauce!

See recipe for making the *Injera* on page 17

Age of Responsibility continued

On a similar stand, the legal minimum age in Western Australia is still 10, but it must be demonstrated that the youngster knew their conduct were illegal. Although reform has been discussed, no significant legislative changes have been enacted. NSW has concentrated on strengthening the rules pertaining to juvenile criminality rather than raising the age. In addition to introducing electronic monitoring and obligatory curfews for juvenile offenders, the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Youth Crime) Bill 2025 broadens the scope of repeat offenses. Critics contend that pleas for a greater age of responsibility are ignored by this punitive approach.

Tasmania has moved to raise the minimum detention age to 14, although South Australia and Tasmania have both maintained the minimum age of 10. In South Australia, the Greens have also proposed a measure to raise the age to 14, albeit it is still up for debate.

Australia's "Raise the Age" campaign advocates for a minimum age of 14; but, some states are raising it to international standards, while others maintain lower thresholds. With growing public pressure and international scrutiny, Australia faces a crucial decision: Should it unify under a single national standard, or will the states remain divided on the age.

Time will tell.



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Article edited by Birtukan Haile

Future Renovation of VOCAL House

In my report I advised that VOCAL House may soon be repainted. The last repaint was approximately 10 years ago and the woodwork was beginning to suffer weather damage. VOCAL volunteers would happily have undertaken the task of painting the building, but this was not permitted.

There will be in May 2025, the last month of Autumn, a couple of house inspections and perhaps even the start of work on repainting. VOCAL received an email on 17 April for a meeting with ICBR Community engagement (ACT Property Group) with the Estate Team to take some photos of the external of the building in order to assess the work to be done. This was eventually followed by advice that under no circumstance should VOCAL attempt to repaint the building as it is believed that the existing paint, that is peeling off may contain lead paint, and must be handled by professionals under the supervision of ACT Property Group. Soon after we received work plans and the following represent the timeline for work to be undertaken.

Vocal House Narrabundah program 15/5/2025

- 1 Contact Evo Energy 0 days
- 2 Site establishment 0.5 days 1
- 3 Isolations and disconnections 0.5 days 2
- 4 HAZMAT site set up 1 day 3
- 5 HAZMAT removal 2 days 4
- 6 Clearance 1 day 5
- 7 Demo of existing concrete 1 day 6
- 8 Excavation of garden beds 1 day 7
- 9 Cabling and pipe work 1 day 8
- 10 New insulation 1 day 9
- 11 Timber cladding and spandrel panel inserts 11 days 10
- 12 Trims 1 day 11
- 13 Concrete work 2 days 12
- 14 Electrical fit off 1 day 13
- 15 HVAC fit off and cage 1 day 14
- 16 Paint work 4 days 15ES-2 days
- 17 Landscaping works 2 days 16
- 18 Clean up and site pack down 1 day 17
- 19 COU 1 day 18
- 20 Handover 19
- # Traits Title Given Work Given Earliest

Australian Law Reform Commission Report (ALRC)

Reflections on the report (Continued from page 14)

The strides notwithstanding, the ALRC is not without limitations. Certain critics contend that the ALRC report falls short of enacting meaningful change and adequately safeguarding the rights of victims, urging the implementation of more comprehensive reforms. The ALRC often recognizes deep-rooted problems in the legal system but usually recommends procedural tweaks rather than major structural reforms. Critics argue this leads to only superficial changes, especially in sensitive areas like sexual assault and family violence, without truly transforming how the system treats victims.

Furthermore, some argue that the report's emphasis on restorative justice may unintentionally suggest that sexual violence is a private matter to be resolved individually, rather than a serious criminal offense requiring a public and legal response. Additionally, concerns have been raised by institutions about the potential for restorative justice to be viewed as an alternative to, rather than a supplementary measure alongside, traditional criminal proceedings. Even when progressive recommendations are made, the ALRC operates within a limited mandate and political reality that constrains its ability to drive meaningful, systemic legal reform. The ALRC does not have the power to implement them, and without binding enforcement or government commitment to legislate the changes, the report's impact could be largely symbolic or advisory.

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Article Edited by Birtukan Haile VOCAL.

Reform of the Australian Justice System

Safe, Informed, Supported: Reforming Australia's Justice System for Sexual Violence Survivors

Australia's sexual violence issue is a significant concern, with victims facing barriers in seeking justice, criticized for inadequate support, fair treatment, and accountability, and trauma-inducing legal processes. Reports indicate that many women who experience violence choose not to report the assault to the police. Of those who do report, most cases do not progress to formal charges.

The Safe, Informed, Supported report advocates for justice system reform to enhance victim-centred, equitable, and efficient response to sexual violence.

Key Recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC Report 143)

The ALRC proposes a series of reforms aimed at creating a more victim-centred and supportive justice system, particularly for survivors of sexual violence. These reforms focus on improving access to information, emotional and legal support, and trauma-informed procedures. Key measures include the introduction of victim-support navigators, access to counseling and legal aid, and independent legal representation to ensure survivors are properly supported throughout the legal process. To make court proceedings less traumatic, the ALRC recommends changes to trial procedures such as allowing pre-recorded testimony, limiting cross-examination, and enabling legal advocates to provide both legal and emotional support in court.

The report also highlights the value of restorative justice options, which offer voluntary, non-punitive pathways to accountability and healing through victim-offender dialogue, provided appropriate safeguards and consent are in place. Beyond legal reforms, the ALRC emphasizes the need for broader cultural and institutional change. This includes public education campaigns to shift societal attitudes toward sexual violence and mandatory training for legal professionals on trauma-informed practices. The report also calls for increased funding for victim-focused legal services and expanded compensation programs to ease the financial and psychological burden on survivors, aiming to build a more equitable and compassionate justice system.

Continued on page 15

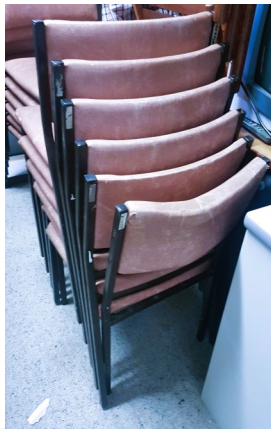
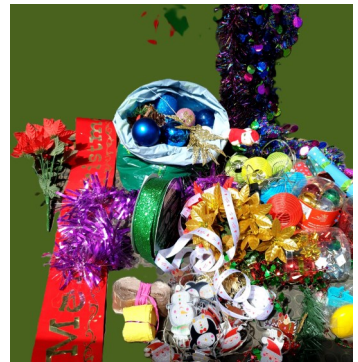
Renovation of VOCAL House

VOCAL's Work timeline continued

Start Predecessors
Vocal House Narrabundah program
Contact Evo Energy
Site establishment
Isolations and disconnections
HAZMAT site set up
HAZMAT removal
Clearance
Demo of existing concrete
Excavation of garden beds
Cabling and pipe work
New insulation
Timber cladding and spandrel panel inserts
Trims
Concrete work
Electrical fit off
HVAC fit off and cage
Paint work
Landscaping works
Clean up and site pack down
COU
Handover
WK 19, 5 May WK 20, 12 May WK 21, 19 May WK 22, 26 May WK 23, 2 June WK 24, 9 June WK 25, 16 June WK 26, 23 June
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

According to this timeline, VOCAL staff expect to be able to hand over the building on 15 May so that work can begin. It is expected at this time that we will be able to resume work in between these dates for brief periods of time, with time away between 15/5/25 to 28/5/25 and 16/6/25 to 18/6/25. As we do not expect to be able to find another premises to operate from during those periods of time, VOCAL will need to rely on the after hours support mobile phone line to keep in touch with clients and provide support as needed. We look forward to a refreshed look for VOCAL House, as the front garden will also be under review with regards to water damage to the building. MNCVOCAL

Garage Sale 8-9 NOV & 15-16 NOV 2025



For product prices and more, call your local VOCAL at 026 295 9600.

Joke



"I finally have my ideal beach body."

<https://sofiawarren.com/>

Repair to VOCAL House



Become a Volunteer With VOCAL

Would you like to make a difference in someone's life?

Do you have a desire to contribute to the community?

Want to improve the system in a constructive way?

For VOCAL to carry out these roles, it needs people who have the following skills:

Administration

Gardening / Cleaning

Counselling

Research / Policy

Accounting

Information Technology

If you answer yes to any of the above skills, or feel you may have some other skill or talent that may be of assistance to VOCAL and victims of crime, we would love to hear from you.

We provide full training and support, both in house and 'on the job', to enable you to assist victims of crime with Court Support, Advocacy, Emotional Support, Lobbying and administrative support, among others. Along with on the job training comes a good reference.

If you are unable to assist in direct service provision, but would still like to support and be a part of VOCAL in some way, you are more than welcome to join as a member for a small contribution, or even as a committee member. Together our voices will be heard afar.

If you are interested in making a contribution to life, developing new knowledge and skills, and or gaining work experience and a reference at the same time, phone the Coordinator [Marie-Noëlle Curé](#) on:

(02) 6295 9600

Operating Hours are Monday to Wednesday

10.30 am to 4.00 pm

An application form is on the next page.

VOCAL (ACT) Membership Application / Renewal Form.

I, _____

Given name (Mrs / Mr / Ms / Miss)

Surname

of _____

Address

City / Town

State

Post Code

E-mail: _____

Ph (H): _____ Ph (W): _____

Mobile: _____

desire to become a (circle one) **New** / **Renewed** member of VOCAL (ACT) Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of VOCAL for the time being in force. (Available from VOCAL)

Membership fees (please tick appropriate option)

☐ **Individual**☐ 1 year \$25.00☐ 3 years \$70.00☐ **Family ***☐ 1 year \$40.00☐ 3 years \$100.00☐ **Corporate**☐ 1 year \$75.00☐ 3 years \$200.00☐ **Pension**☐ 1 year \$15.00°☐ 3 years \$30.00☐ **Donation**

Amount \$_____ (over \$2 is tax deductible)

* Family members to include in membership: _____

Interest in becoming a Committee Member (Y) (N)

I enclose one / three year's subscription herewith. Subscriptions are due on 1st July of each year. Subscriptions paid on or after 1st May, cover membership from that date to the end of the next financial year.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form with cheque or money order to VOCAL (ACT) Inc. to 1 Iluka Street Narrabundah ACT 2604. If a receipt is required, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your application.

Note: VOCAL membership fees do not include GST, having been determined a GST-free supply under the relevant provisions of the taxation legislation.

VOCAL (ACT) Inc. ABN 41 473 082 653

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for your interest in VOCAL ACT and for your offer of voluntary assistance. To help us find the most satisfying area of involvement for you please fill out the following details and ensure to include all relevant information about you including 2 referees contact details. Please call VOCAL to arrange a face-to-face meeting and bring \$10.00 for the compulsory police check, and an original of the qualification you may wish to use as a volunteer.

1. NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____(Wk) _____(Mob)_____

EMAIL: _____

DRIVER'S LICENCE NUMBER: _____

DOB: _____

2. (a) What type of voluntary work are you interested in (please tick)

Court Support General Assistance Submissions Policy Accounting
Practical Assistance Office Assistance Counselling Newsletters

(b) Languages Spoken: _____

(c) Education/qualifications _____

3. Please indicate the time/day you are available to assist at VOCAL

Mornings

Afternoons

Weekdays

4. Do you have your own car? (Y) (N)

5. Are you available at short notice? (Y) (N)

6. Are you able to attend all training provided for volunteers? Y) (N)

7. Do you object to working with the AFP, the DPP, or other justice officers? (Y N); Do you have a Working With Vulnerable People Card?

8. Why do you want to work as a VOCAL Volunteer with victims of crime?

1 Iluka St Narrabundah, ACT 2604. Phone: (02) 6295 9600 ; 0439 95 9410

Email: vocalact@gmail.com