



## MEDIA RELEASE

4<sup>th</sup> January 2007

### 16 Winners Celebrate YOGIES

The Youth Coalition of the ACT presented 16 youth services and individuals in the ACT with YOGIE Awards to recognise excellence in working with young people in the ACT.

Adut Atem was one of the individual winners, receiving an *Outstanding New Talent Award* for her contribution to Multicultural Youth Services. Adut works as a caseworker with young people from refugee and migrant background and regularly advocates for her clients to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect in the community. With her experience as a refugee from Sudan and being an Ambassador for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, she is an inspiration to the young people she works with.

Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT) was presented with the *Outstanding Achievement in Youth Participation Award* for their Body Image Body Scrimmage Project on self esteem and body image. MIEACT worked with young people aged 10-14 to write 22 stories, poems and cartoons that was then published and distributed across Canberra. This award recognised the emphasis placed by MIEACT on working with these young people's strengths and talents.

A commendation was also presented to Gungahlin Youth Centre for their BLOCK PARTY which was held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and attracted over 1500 young people and showcased the exceptional talents of young people in the ACT. The BLOCK PARTY livened up Gungahlin for a Saturday night when young people would usually have travelled to other areas of Canberra to find entertainment.

Carrie Fowlie, Acting Director of the Youth Coalition, said "These awards highlight and recognise the high levels of commitment, talent and innovation we have here in the ACT. Community based organizations provide young people with outstanding support and it is excellent that on this occasion we can give some public recognition to their work. The Youth Coalition highly commends the entire youth sector for another year of hard work to the young people they are dedicated to supporting across the ACT"

*Please find attached an overview of all YOGIE Winners.*

**For further information or comment contact Carrie Fowlie on 6247 3540 or 0406-585-020**