

## **Forum: Children of Prisoners in the ACT**

The Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), Australian Catholic University, will tomorrow host a forum focused on issues experienced by children and young people who have a parent incarcerated in the ACT.

Vicky Saunders, Research Fellow at ICPS, will present the findings of her research where she interviewed children and young people between the ages of 6 and 18, and parents and carers, to explore their experiences of parental incarceration and deepen understanding about their needs.

“Children and young people who have an imprisoned parent are a particularly invisible group in Australian society, who often struggle in isolation to cope with the challenges they experience as a result of parental incarceration,” said Vicky Saunders.

“Children of prisoners often describe experiences of bullying, shaming and stigmatisation – which can prevent them from accessing help and support.”

Guest speakers at the forum will include Gloria Larman, CEO of SHINE for Kids, an advocacy and early intervention service which supports children of imprisoned parents and their families; and Christine Moore, Convenor of the ACT Women and Prisons Group.

The forum is targeted at professionals and services who engage with children and young people in the ACT, including schools, youth and family services, community organisations and government agencies. It is also for professionals involved in the justice and courts systems, who engage with incarcerated adults who are parents.

### **Forum Information:**

Date: Wednesday 4 December 2013  
Time: 10am-12pm  
Venue: Room B10, Blackfriars Building, Australian Catholic University Canberra campus,  
223 Antill St, Watson ACT

See also the attached flyer for more information about the forum.

### **Media Contact:**

Vicky Saunders, Research Fellow  
Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University  
(02) 6209 1219 or [vicky.saunders@acu.edu.au](mailto:vicky.saunders@acu.edu.au)

ICPS aims to enhance the wellbeing of children, young people and families through quality research, evaluation, training and community education. For more information about ICPS visit [www.acu.edu.au/icps](http://www.acu.edu.au/icps).