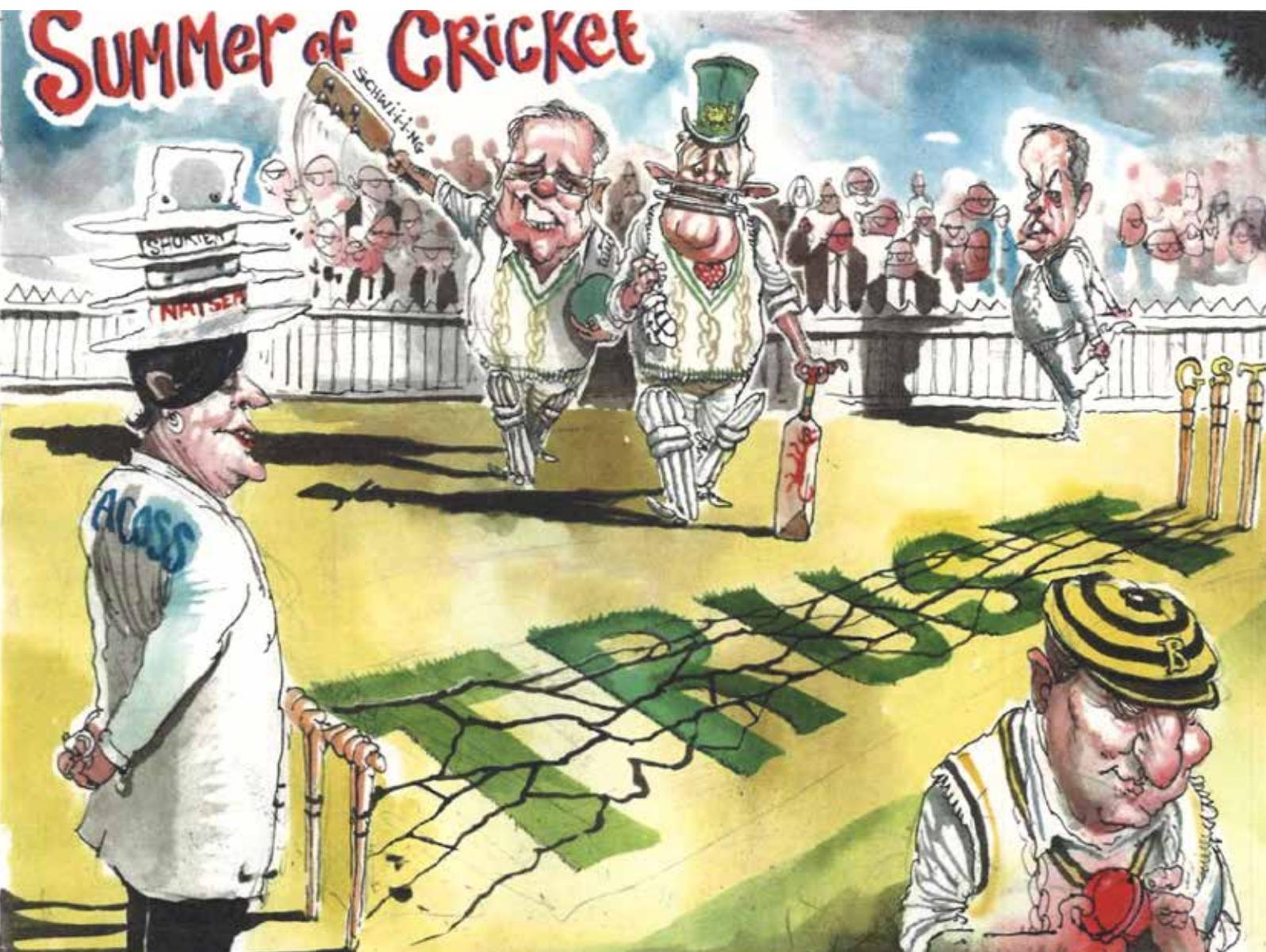




## Annual Report 2016

Goals and Highlights



## Like our work? Support ACOSS today

ACOSS and our community of supporters share a vision for a fair, just, diverse and sustainable Australia. Your support is critical to enable ACOSS to continue being a strong and influential advocate for change.

Support us today in one of the following ways:

**Join the ACOSS Membership** Organisations can become a member and join our network of community sector organisations advocating for a fairer Australia. Members play a vital role in shaping ACOSS policy and advocacy and amplifying the voice of community in public debate. Members also receive a suite of membership services including sector-specific media and policy updates, access to advocacy, training and networking opportunities and more. Find out more on our website at [www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au)

**Sign up as an Individual Supporter** Be part of the change. Add your voice to our cause as an Individual Supporter of ACOSS and we will keep you in the loop with regular policy and community sector updates and opportunities to take action. Become a supporter today – it's free – sign up on our website at [www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au)

**Make a donation** All donations to ACOSS go straight to our policy development and advocacy work. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Make a donation on our website at [www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au)

**Share our work with your colleagues, friends, family and networks** We know that strength lies in numbers. The more people who understand poverty and disadvantage in Australia, and what can be done to reduce both, the better. Share this publication with your network and help drive the conversation about how we tackle poverty and inequality in Australia.

**Follow us online** Follow ACOSS on Twitter and Facebook and tell us your story.

The Annual Report 2015-2016 was published in 2016 by the Australian Council of Social Service  
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## **OUR GOAL: Increase our impact on key policy decisions and actions**

Our Strategies:

- (a) Lead and support action to advance the adoption of equitable policy solutions by governments and other decision-makers.
- (b) Build strategic alliances with key decision-makers to directly influence policy decisions and outcomes.
- (c) Ensure a strong and effective media profile as an advocate in support of people affected by poverty, across a diverse range of media.
- (d) Build ACOSS' campaigning capacity to mobilise the community in support of key objectives, including through the use of online tools.

*Australian Community Sector Policy & Research Forum, 23 -24 November 2015*



"Another day in the office" ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie addresses the press, February 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

- Leadership of strong, coordinated advocacy against Government cuts to payments and services for people on low incomes including family payments, youth payments, the energy supplement, education supplements and cuts to education and health services with success to date in preventing some of the most damaging measures.
- Development and effective advocacy of a broad, structural tax reform agenda including housing, retirement incomes, personal income taxes, consumption and company taxes. This was strengthened through new modelling we commissioned on the impacts of regressive tax changes. Success in influencing the Government's superannuation reform agenda with significant changes to concessional arrangements announced. Success in preventing the implementation of a regressive GST and income tax reform package.
- Leadership role within the

- National Reform Summit, with the ACTU, the Business Council of Australia and other business and civil society peak bodies which publicly pushed for a more ambitious and equitable economic reform agenda. Success in developing some clear common principles including the need for a balanced approach to budget repair which addresses revenue and spending, the need for reform of housing and superannuation concessions which are no longer 'fit for purpose' and the need to protect people on the lowest incomes from expenditure cuts.
- Active commentary and advocacy during the 2016 Federal Election campaign to raise the profile of income adequacy, tax reform and housing affordability issues. We elicited responses from the major parties to key policy questions which were published during the campaign. We maintained a strong focus on the risks posed by outstanding 'zombie measures' and strongly advocated for their withdrawal from Parliament.
- Built broad support for reforms to negative gearing and capital gains tax reform

- An impactful social media campaign on housing affordability launched during the election in partnership with National Shelter and Homelessness Australia using the Australians for Affordable Housing campaign platform. There were more than 40,000 signatories to petitions calling on the major parties to act on housing affordability and the issue was a rated a high priority election issue.
- Interactive and engaging policy forum in November 2015 on reform of the federation and development of a universal service guarantee with strong participation from community and public sector policy experts. This built on joint policy work with the Councils of Social Service to develop a proposal for universal services guarantees in key areas.



ACOSS, National Shelter, Homelessness Australia 'Vote Home' election campaign.

# ACOSS wants 'everything' put on table

Jacob Greber  
Economics correspondent

Peak welfare and business lobby groups – locked in intense negotiations with unions and other major groups ahead of next week's reform summit – have joined forces to urge Canberra not to rule out changes to capital gains tax, negative gearing and superannuation reform.

Both the Australian Council of Social Services and the Business Council of Australia are calling for "all options" to remain on the table to ensure the tax system becomes more efficient and equitable, even though many of these have already been ruled out by the government.

Writing in Thursday's *The Australian Financial Review*, ACOSS chief executive Cassandra Goldie says the nation won't progress on tax reform as long as the debate is framed by "simple

slogans such as 'lower taxes'."

"The reality is that, as the population ages – and our reasonable expectations of the healthcare system increase – governments will need more revenue to provide this and other essential services."

Ms Goldie writes that there should be a debate about increasing the GST to ensure clarity over what the extra revenue would be used for, but said the case for using the proceeds to lower income tax "is weak".

"ACOSS accepts that all options should be considered to strengthen our revenue base," she says. "But we should first explore more equitable ones than raising the GST such as restoring the personal income tax system for people over 65."

"Less than one in five older people now pay any income tax, due their higher tax free threshold and the sheltering of income from tax through

National Reform Summit  
SYDNEY | AUGUST 26

superannuation." She argues in favour of other solutions such as closing tax shelters, replacing inefficient stamp duty with land taxes and treating investment income consistently.

The remarks suggest ACOSS has found common ground with another major group, the BCA, who earlier this month backed winding-back the 50 per cent discount on capital gains, arguing it can distort investor behaviour at times of rapid asset price gains.

Both groups, as well as the Australian Council of Trade Unions and two major thinktanks – the Grattan and Menzies Institutes – are working to produce a common plan for reform at next week's reform summit, co-hosted by *The Australian Financial Review* and

its rival, *The Australian*. While there are signs of consensus between the BCA and ACOSS on tax, differences between the two thinktanks hired to support the summit have become more marked.

A paper released this week by the Menzies Research Centre takes the Grattan Institute to task for arguing in its submissions to the summit that budget reform must involve an increase in taxes. "All tax increases impose economic costs," the centre says in the paper. "However, the Grattan Institute ignores those costs, with the result that it underestimates the damage its proposals would inflict on growth and jobs."

Calls by the Melbourne-based Grattan Institute to wind back ballooning superannuation tax concessions are condemned as "poorly thought through" and likely to trigger "significant unintended consequences."

"Far from being low, effective tax rates on long held superannuation are high, both in absolute terms and by international standards," the Menzies' paper says.

The Menzies centre's basic assertion is that Australia's public spending has increased far more rapidly than gross domestic product, a charge the Grattan Institute counters by pointing out that the claim is selectively based on the years since 2008, when the surging terms of trade boosted nominal growth – effectively driving down the expenditure-to-GDP ratio.

Grattan chief executive officer John Daley concedes spending-to-GDP is higher than it was, but this ignores all the new demands being placed on the budget, which remains seriously in deficit.

"We're now trying to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme and a lot of health expenditure."

Article from *The Australian Financial Review*, Thursday August 20, 2016

- Robust advocacy against further payment conditionality and expansion of income management, including through submissions, media and direct advocacy.
- Joint Roundtable with ACF on the independence of civil society in Australia, which identified common goals across civil society, challenges and opportunities for civil society to defend and strengthen our independence and voice into the future.
- Joint advocacy with the Australian Climate Roundtable, an unprecedented alliance of business, environment, union, social and research groups, to build political consensus about the need to limit global warming to below 2 degrees, and to develop policy responses that are both effective in meeting this target and equitable in their impact across the community.
- Joint climate change policy forum with the Brotherhood of St Laurence on the implications for people living with low incomes and equity issues arising from the Paris Agreement and the transition to a zero-carbon economy, attended by representatives from the community and environmental sectors, unions, academics, government and business representatives.
- Media coverage featured increased focus on in-depth and opinion pieces. Increased coverage in *The Australian* and *The Australian Financial Review* newspapers around the time of the National Reform Summit.
- Several in-depth pieces about Cassandra Goldie were published. ACOSS was mentioned approximately 3,765 times.
- ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie was voted 14th in *The Australian Financial Review*'s people of 'Overt power' in Australia.

National Reform Summit delegates (L-R) ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie, Business Council of Australia CEO Jennifer Westacott and Australian Council of Trade Unions Secretary Dave Oliver. © The Australian





## OUR GOAL: Development of evidence and experience based solutions

Our Strategies:

- (a) Develop effective mechanisms to hear, understand and reflect the lived experience of people affected by poverty or disadvantage and facilitate their ability to participate in the development of policy and advocacy.
- (b) Ensure that our mechanisms for consultation with members and other key stakeholders are robust, inclusive and respectful.
- (c) Collaborate with academics and other researchers to produce and promote research that contributes to public understanding of poverty, its causes, impacts and solutions.
- (d) Draw on international and Australian research and experience to develop new policy solutions that influence public policy to reduce poverty and inequality.



*Karen Bevan, ACOSS Board Member, signing Redfern Statement in support of Indigenous-led solutions.  
June 2016*



*Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, Rod Little, speaks at the ACOSS Federal Budget press conference.*

## HIGHLIGHTS 2015 -16

- Advocacy day at Federal Parliament with the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, leading academic experts and single parents and their children to lobby against cuts to family payments in November 2015.
- ACOSS policy networks on income support, taxation, housing, health and community sector issues have met regularly to enable briefing, information sharing, planning and coordination.
- Intensive policy development with a expert tax advisory group including member representatives and academics to develop new tax reform proposals and design packages which meet key policy objectives: to raise revenue and improve the efficiency and equity of the system.
- Release of analysis of distributional impact of increase to GST to fund cuts to personal income taxes.
- Our individual supporter base grew, with an additional 307 people taking out individual membership.
- Engagement with members of the community grew, with Facebook 'likes' increasing from 1,116 to 2,243 over the period – an increase of just over 100%. Twitter followers increased from 15,217 to 16,900 during this period, an increase of over 1,600.
- Renewal of policy advisor networks, with the appointment of leading policy experts in core areas including tax, social security, housing, employment and community sector policy.
- Development of new policy reform proposals to reduce child poverty in Australia in partnership with The Benevolent Society and ARACY. This culminated in a policy roundtable, with presentations from leading researchers and policy thinkers.



## OUR GOAL: Support and grow the effectiveness of community service organisations

Our Strategies:

- (a) Understand the national issues impacting on the sector and its capacity to assist people in need. Work with the sector, the Federal Government and other stakeholders to implement strategies that address these issues.
- (b) Develop the Australian Community Sector Survey as a key conduit for information about the lived experiences of people affected by poverty and the organisations that support them.
- (c) Strengthen community development as the framework through which ACOSS develops and advocates policies to reduce poverty and disadvantage
- (d) Builds on the commitment to civil society, ethics and values that characterises the community sector through our leadership on policy issues.
- (e) Foster the capacity of the community sector to improve public policy outcomes.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

- Ongoing advocacy on impact of social service funding cuts and the impacts on services and people. Engagement in dialogue with Government about funding reforms.
- Developed a policy and research partnership project with Choice to improve the evidence base on the impacts of competition policy and human services.
- Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member organizations and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet about reforms to Indigenous funding programs.
- Successful completion of The Give Grid project with engaging and interactive resources available online to assist organisations operate more sustainably by reducing their energy consumption.
- Development and launch of the Resilient Community Organisations website, an online toolkit developed by and for the community sector to help organisations measure and improve their resilience to disasters, emergencies and extreme weather events.
- Member communications throughout the year included a number of different types.

We have progressed a move away from general 'newsletter' type communications to more subject-specific communications. To this end, our member comms fell into the following categories:

- Message from the ACOSS CEO: 4
- Federal budget communication: 3
- Election: 3
- Event communications: 3
- Governance communications to members from Board: 2
- General newsletters: 3
- Project communications: 4
- Policy communications: 4

ACOSS provides a national member service known as the *ACOSS Daily Media Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is a daily email service comprising media articles from newspapers, television and radio that are relevant to the community services sector and those following social and economic policy debates.

During this financial year, the *Bulletin* was opened an average of 394 times each day, a 23% increase since the previous financial year. The highest number of times it was opened in a day during this period was 1,246 times.

The *Daily Media Bulletin* would not be possible without the key support of *Accounting for Good and Jobs Australia*, and we thank them.

*ACOSS Daily Media Bulletin, April 6 2016*



*ACOSS Resilient Community Organisations website, <http://resilience.acoss.org.au>*





## OUR GOAL: Build our organisation to be dynamic and sustainable

Our Strategies:

- (a) Undertake strategic governance reforms to ensure effective governance of ACOSS.
- (b) Modernise the basis of membership in order to increase engagement of citizens and organisations committed to ACOSS' objectives.
- (c) Diversify and strengthen ACOSS' resource base to support our work in priority areas.
- (d) Develop workplace policies and procedures to ensure a well-managed, supportive and rewarding workplace.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

- Active engagement with members to inform the scope and direction of governance reforms.
- Maintenance of a strong and active membership with a growing membership base and minimal attrition of existing members.
- Streamlining of the member application process.
- Development of a new membership prospectus.
- Development of a new sustainability and strategic partnerships framework, with a focus on building resources to expand our capacity and increase our impact in reducing poverty and inequality.
- Successful negotiation of our core funding grant from the Department of Social Services.
- Reforms to organizational structure and administrative systems to improve efficiency and strengthen stakeholder engagement and business development focus.
- Development and implementation of new Collective Agreement 2015.
- Continued development of our new Content Management System, expansion of contact database and implementation of media and communications functions.
- All staff training on running effective meetings and stakeholder engagement as part of end of year retreat.

# Submissions and Publications

## Key Submissions

- Submission to the Minimum Wage Review
- Submission to the Select Committee Inquiry into Schools Funding
- Budget Priorities Statement 2016-17
- Submission to Inquiry into Family Payments Structural Reform and Participation Measures Bill
- Submission to the Inquiry into Social Security Legislation Amendment (Community Development Program) Bill
- Submission to Inquiry into Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs & Families Child Care Package)
- Submission to the Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry into Income Tax Deductibility
- Submission to the Inquiry into Social Security Legislation Amendment (Budget Repair) Bill 2015
- Submission to the 'Improved process for the Carer Payment and Carer Allowance' review
- Submission to the Private Health Insurance Review 2015
- Submission to the Inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (Youth Employment) Bill 2015
- Submission to the Inquiry into Family Payments Changes
- Submission to Inquiry into Economic Security for Women in Retirement
- Submission into the Inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (More Generous Means Testing for Youth Payments) Bill 2015
- Submission into the Inquiry into Social Security Legislation Amendment (Further Strengthening Job Seeker Compliance) Bill 2015
- Submission into Social Security Legislation Amendment (Debit Card Trial) Bill 2015
- Submission to the Child Care System National Consultation
- Tax Talks 4: Three foundations for a secure retirement. Submission to the Government's Retirement Incomes Review

## Position Statements, Papers, and Publications

- 2016 Budget Analysis
- Tax Talks 5: The effects of a higher GST on households
- Joint COSS response to Federal Financial Relations Affordable Housing Work Group Issues Paper
- Policy Briefing: The case for tax reform – Stamp Duties and Land Tax
- Policy Briefing: The case for tax reform: Personal Income Taxes
- Policy Briefing: Reform of child care and family payments
- Joint COSS paper: Fit for Purpose: a federaton that guarantees services people need0



## President's Message

Tony Reidy

To be elected as the President of ACOSS is a great honour, and to be leading the Board in the 60th year since the inception of the organisation adds an important historical note to our efforts.

ACOSS has a respected record of powerful advocacy and achievement spanning these last six decades, and has attained its reputation as the leading voice for Australians living with poverty and disadvantage. It is a well-researched and capable influencer of national social policy, with its opinion and public commentary now sought by government, media, business and community.

The community sector around the nation continues to face the challenges of change. Among them the direct cuts to funding of services, rationalisation of service provision, the introduction of competition in human services, the consumer-directed funding model, and budget priorities that fail to recognise the level of poverty in Australia.

ACOSS has worked to provide leadership on issues and campaigns dealing with these key developments, including taking an important role in influencing policy positions during the federal election campaign. Low-income and welfare-dependent Australians are struggling in a contracting and fiercely competitive job market, and ACOSS works with its member organisations to provide evidence and recommendations to governments on crucial social policy needs in this area.

Our organisation played a leading role in the National Reform Summit in August 2015, which brought business, union and community groups together with the aim of reaching consensus on some of the big reform challenges facing our nation – such as productivity

growth, fiscal policy, tax reform, and retirement incomes.

Member engagement continues to be strong, with continued focus on member-only policy and advocacy networks in our key areas. These networks are giving members a chance to be part of the development of policy, as well as the opportunity for members to discuss advocacy efforts.

It is important to acknowledge the enormous contribution made to the governance of ACOSS by Micaela Cronin, President until 31 December 2015. Micaela's skills and support as a chair, adviser and mentor were generously provided to the Board and Chief Executive, and she went to her international social sector role with the appreciation and best wishes of all her colleagues.

And equally the long-term contribution of former Board members who also finished their terms in 2015 is gratefully acknowledged. The last twelve months has seen much change in ACOSS's Board and staff arrangements, with a significant turnover of Board positions due to the electoral cycle and Board members reaching term limitations.

ACOSS has provided induction training and support to its new Board members, with the current voluntary Board now comprised of a remarkable group of high-profile, experienced community sector leaders – I'd like to note their commitment and express my gratitude for their contribution and support.

The widely-supported governance reform process has been energetically pursued during the year with a renewed governance subcommittee formed to continue the work to refine and streamline our governance arrangements. A report on significant progress will be provided at the annual general meeting.

The governance reform project has also resulted in one of the broadest member consultation processes achieved by ACOSS in recent years, and the support and contributions of members have been invaluable.

The special support of a number of members of the ACOSS Board

has been a stand-out during the year. Jeremy Halcrow as a Deputy President and Treasurer, Hang Vo as a Deputy President and Chair of the Governance Reform Committee, Peter McNamara for his contribution to business development and the work of the members of the ACOSS Executive Committee has added great value to the quality of our governance and the timely support of the ACOSS staff team.

The policy achievements of ACOSS during this report period, the maintenance of its effective advocacy and high public profile, and the consistent provision of valued member support and services have been made possible through the leadership of our Chief Executive Dr Cassandra Goldie and her talented and skilled staff colleagues. Our staff at ACOSS express their commitment to the cause of social justice improvement in so many ways every day, and we are fortunate to have them working with us.

Deputy Chief Executive Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine left ACOSS early this year for a new leadership role in the sector after many years of dedicated service, and we acknowledge and thank her for a wonderful contribution.

Cassandra has provided consistent leadership of ACOSS operations and support to the Board in a dynamic and challenging period and we know that many member organisations have benefitted from her skilled and experienced counsel.

ACOSS can report on an excellent year of service to its members and the hundreds of thousands of Australians who rely on its voice in the public arena.

On behalf of the Board and staff I thank members for their contribution to the achievements of ACOSS during this year, and reaffirm our resolve to continue to work in our efforts to bring about a fairer, more equitable and socially just Australia.

Tony Reidy,  
**ACOSS PRESIDENT**



## CEO's Report

Cassandra Goldie

This past year ACOSS has focused on being a strong and effective advocate protecting people on low incomes from budget measures proposed by the Federal Government that would increase poverty and inequality. We have responsibly proposed budget measures that would be good policy in areas such as superannuation and housing taxation, as well as contributing to addressing our revenue challenges. We have worked to place ACOSS at the forefront of public debates as a considered voice on behalf of the community, with deep expertise and strong values founded on our shared humanity. With the political impasse presented during the post-Federal Budget 2014 period, we pursued a serious effort to build consensus with unions, community groups and business on policies that would promote more employment opportunities and benefit people living in poverty, inequality and disadvantage in Australia, and the community as a whole. This effort culminated in the National Reform Summit of August 2015, with a shared communique setting out clear directions for reform. It is of significant frustration that the Federal Government has failed to date to seize the opportunity presented by the National Reform Summit, instead continuing to pursue harsh cuts to social security and community services; and proposing unfunded tax cuts for companies and people on higher incomes. This approach was universally rejected by the National Reform Summit, and at the time of writing has also been repeatedly rejected by the Federal Parliament. ACOSS was a determined voice

opposing a rise in the GST to fund personal and company tax cuts, an approach which has been abandoned, for now.

ACOSS has remained focussed on promoting sound tax reform proposals, establishing our own Tax Policy Working Group in order to decide upon some clear proposals for a tax package. We have also remained an advocate of real reforms to our social security system and genuinely investing in improving the employment outcomes of people out of paid work, particularly those facing long term unemployment. We worked, in partnership with the Councils of Social Service, on the issue of guaranteed essential services, such as health education and early childhood education and care, drawing on the discussions of the ACOSS/CIS Policy and Pulse forum in November 2015; and developed throughout our Budget Priorities statement of February 2016.

ACOSS welcomed a new Board in January 2016. I'd like to take this opportunity to relay my thanks to the departing Board, including Board President Micaela Cronin and Treasurer Michael Bleasdale. My thanks also go to several very long-term board members who retired at the end of 2015.

Our new Board provides an excellent cross section of member representatives and brings to our governance a matching set of skills and abilities to take the organization onwards through the process of governance reform. I would like to thank them for their ongoing contributions to the organization.

Thanks are due to our outgoing policy advisers for their excellent, well-considered and timely contributions to our policy work over the past years. I'd also like to welcome our new policy advisers. You are an impressive group and we are grateful for your

contribution.

I'd like to thank all of our funders, sponsors and volunteers. Your contribution to our work is invaluable. I'd also like to thank all of our members, and our individual supporters. You are all essential to ACOSS - we are only as strong as the relationships we have around us, diverse and deep.

Finally, I'd like to thank our excellent staff. They work above and beyond expectations, and help to make ACOSS an organization that 'punches above its weight'. Throughout the year, we said a sad good bye to some of our key staff members who have moved on - Tessa Boyd-Caine, our Deputy CEO and Director of Sector and Stakeholder Engagement; and Ro Evans, our Policy Officer. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours, and welcome the new staff who have helped fill the gaps they leave.

This year, as I reached a personal milestone - celebrating my 5th year at ACOSS - I have reflected that in a political environment which has been one of constant change, I am indeed very privileged and humbled to spend time with so many people who work tirelessly and fearlessly to bear witness to the reality of life in Australia, promoting real solutions that would reduce poverty and inequality in Australia, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, as well as leading the way on our global challenges with pride. I am honoured to be a part of an organization and community that places a commitment to our shared humanity founded on love and care at the centre of every move we make.

Cassandra Goldie  
ACOSS CEO



## Treasurer's Report

Jeremy Halcrow

The organisation's capacity to retain its membership base is a key indicator of performance, reflecting the value members place on retaining their link with ACOSS.

I am pleased to announce that ACOSS has achieved a small deficit of \$10,500 for financial year 2015/16. This is effectively a break-even result and represents a positive variance to budget of more than \$131,000. Although part of the explanation for the large positive variance was the resignation of the Deputy CEO and the decision to ensure a careful and considered process to recruit a replacement senior executive, management are nonetheless to be congratulated for the cost savings and controls that produced this far better than expected result.

Reflecting the close to break-even result, total equity was \$843,713 at June 30, marginally down from \$854,213 last year, but up from \$659,932 in June 2014.

This is an especially excellent result given the Board intentionally budgeted a significant deficit of over \$140,000. The Board planned to draw down from our significant reserves in order to invest in additional staff resources to pursue business development projects. A key strategy of the Board in the current budget period has been to assist management in exploring opportunities to diversify and strengthen our capacity and funding base. The current financial year result reflects income of \$1,632,079, but the majority of income came from the core grant of \$895,260 from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

It should also be noted that a strategic decision to move the ACOSS Conference from June to November 2016 has impacted on independent income in this financial year, as well as reducing the cash held at end of the financial year (which in turn is offset by a reduction in liabilities relating to trade creditors).

Nonetheless, the result has been underpinned by steady growth in

membership. Given the constrained and uncertain fiscal environment for many member agencies, it is heartening to see that membership revenue has not been impacted. The organisation's capacity to retain its membership base is a key indicator of performance, reflecting the value members place on retaining their link with ACOSS. Undoubtedly the high-profile leadership role the CEO and senior leadership team has played over the past 12 months as advocates for the most vulnerable in our community, is a factor.

In my first year as Treasurer, I want to acknowledge the hard work of my predecessor Michael Bleasdale and our CEO Cassandra Goldie in strengthening ACOSS' financial position over recent years and establishing systems where financial risk is well managed. Solid foundations are in place for ACOSS to grow and innovate in future years as it seeks to be an even more effective voice for the needs of people affected by poverty and inequality, helping our nation provide all its citizens with a fair go.

Jeremy Halcrow,  
**ACOSS TREASURER**

## ACOSS Staff 2015-16

Cassandra Goldie,  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Tessa Boyd-Caine,  
*Deputy CEO and Director of Sector  
and Stakeholder Engagement*  
(to March 2016)

Peter Davidson,  
*Senior Adviser*

Fernando de Freitas,  
*Media Adviser*

Penelope Dorsch,  
*Communications and Information*

Rosemary Evans,  
*Policy Officer* (to April 2016)

Renata Franz,  
*Operations*

Emily Hamilton,  
*Policy and Project Officer*

Ellen Livesey,  
*Executive and Research Assistant to  
the CEO* (to February 2016)

Jennifer Macey,  
*Media Officer* (from April 2016)

Anastasia McCloghry,  
*Administration Support*  
(February 2016 to April 2016)

Jacqueline Phillips,  
*Director of Policy and Advocacy*

Clare Riordan,  
*Executive Assistant to the CEO*  
(from June 2016)

Amy Simmons,  
*Engagement and Events*

Tuyen Tran-Huynh,  
*Admin Assistant* (from June 2016)

Rebecca Vassarotti,  
*Development Adviser*  
(from July 2015)

Lucy Vincent,  
*Admin Assistant*  
(from March 2016 to April 2016)

Jo-Anne Weber,  
*Acting Executive Assistant to the CEO*  
(from April 2016 to June 2016)

Katrina Webster,  
*Resilience Project Manager*  
(to September 2015)

### ACOSS INTERNS

We have been proud to host the following people in internships. We extend our warm gratitude for their meaningful contribution to our work:

Ferhat Balande,  
*Policy Intern*

Sharon Masige,  
*Media Intern*

Larissa Parry,  
*Media Intern*

Lucy Vincent,  
*Policy Intern*

# Governance

## ACOSS Board of Governors

The ACOSS Board is comprised of representatives of our National Member Organisations and State Councils of Social Service. The Board is voluntary, elected for a two year term, during which its main responsibilities include strategic oversight of the work of the CEO and the Council.

The Executive has the powers of the Board between Board meetings. It comprises the President, two Deputy Presidents, the Treasurer and a national member representative. It makes any decisions required between Board meetings and generally concentrates on operational issues so that the Board can devote its time to strategic matters.

### ACOSS Board

#### PRESIDENT

Micaela Cronin  
(to December 2015)

Tony Reidy  
(from January 2016)

#### DEPUTY PRESIDENTS

Mark Bagshaw  
(to December 2015)

Hang Vo  
(from March 2016)

Jeremy Halcrow  
(from March 2016)

#### TREASURER

Michael Bleasdale  
(to December 2015)

Jeremy Halcrow  
(from January 2016)

### Representatives

#### STATE AND TERRITORY COUNCILS OF SOCIAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Jeremy Halcrow  
*ACTCOSS Representative*  
(to December 2015)

Darlene Cox  
*ACTCOSS Representative*  
(from January 2016)

Sarah Fogg  
*NCOSS Representative*  
(to December 2015)

Karen Bevan  
*NCOSS Representative*  
(from January 2016)

Bernie Dwyer  
*NTCOSS Representative*

Mark Tucker-Evans  
*QCOSS Representative*

Helen Connolly  
*SACOSS Representative*

Noel Mundy  
*TASCOSS Representative*  
(to December 2015)

Mat Rowell  
*TASCOSS Representative*  
(from January 2016)

Paul McDonald  
*VCOSS Representative*  
(to December 2015)

Stella Avramopoulos  
*VCOSS Representative*  
(from January 2016)

Stephen Joske  
*WACOSS Representative*

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY NATIONAL  
MEMBER ORGANISATION  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Jane Stanley

Fiona Given  
(to December 2015)

Mark Bagshaw  
(from March 2016)

**NATIONAL MEMBER  
ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES**

Bettina Cass  
(to December 2015)

John Falzon

Peter McNamara  
(from January 2016)

Lyn Morgain  
(from January 2016)

Elenie Poulos  
(from January 2016)

Tracey Stevens  
(from January 2016)

Gerard Thomas  
(to December 2015)

**EX OFFICIO**

Simon Schrapel,  
*Immediate Past President*  
(to December 2015)

Micaela Cronin,  
*Immediate Past President*  
(from January 2016 – March 2016)

# Organisational Members

ACOSS has a growing national member network bringing together a broad spectrum of organisations from across Australia with a commitment to social justice.

The ACOSS national member network comprises:

- **Eight state and territory** Councils of Social Service which represent thousands of front-line community agencies;
- **National peak organisations** of consumers and service providers;
- **National religious and secular** welfare agencies; and
- **Low income consumer groups**

Our organisational structure is based on respecting the autonomy of our national members so they are not bound by the policy positions of the organisation. National membership creates a mutual relationship whereby we draw on the collective knowledge and experience of our membership; and members benefit from access to our expertise, research, policy and advocacy work.

State and local organisations also support ACOSS' work as Associate Members.

ACOSS has also been building our individual supporter base. Individual supporters are non-financial members who support our work and provide input into how our priority areas affect their lives.

We sincerely thank all of our members and supporters for their contribution to social justice.

## COSS Members

ACT Council of Social Service  
Council of Social Service of NSW  
NT Council of Social Service  
Queensland Council of Social Service  
SA Council of Social Service

Tasmanian Council of Social Service  
Victorian Council of Social Service  
WA Council of Social Service

## National Members

Adult Learning Australia  
AIDS Trust of Australia  
Anglicare Australia  
Australian Association of Social Workers  
Australian Baha'i Community  
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council  
Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc  
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations  
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations  
Australian Men's Health Forum  
Australian Neighbourhood Houses & Centres Association  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Australian Psychological Society  
Australian Red Cross  
Australian Unemployed Workers' Union  
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition  
Baptist Care Australia  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Carers Australia Incorporated  
Catholic Social Services Australia  
Children and Young People with Disability Australia  
Community Housing Industry Association Ltd  
Consumers Health Forum of Australia  
COTA Australia  
Disability Employment Australia

Family & Relationship Services Australia  
 Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)  
 Financial Counselling Australia  
 Good Shepherd Microfinance  
 Goodstart Early Learning  
 Home Modifications Australia  
 Homelessness Australia  
 Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency  
 Jobs Australia  
 Life Without Barriers  
 Mission Australia  
 MS Australia  
 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service  
 National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)  
 National Association of People With HIV Australia  
 National Council of Single Mothers and their Children  
 National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum  
 National Shelter  
 National Welfare Rights Network  
 People with Disability Australia Inc  
 Playgroup Australia  
 Public Health Association of Australia Inc.  
 Reconciliation Australia  
 Relationships Australia Inc  
 Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care  
 Settlement Council of Australia  
 Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council  
 Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association (Federal Council) Inc.

The Benevolent Society  
 The Salvation Army Eastern and Southern Territories  
 The Smith Family  
 Vision Australia  
 WESNET  
 Women With Disabilities Australia  
 YMCA Australia

## Affiliate Members

Australian Education Union  
 United Voice National Office

## Organisation Associate Members

Access Community Services Limited  
 Accordwest  
 ADRA Australia Limited  
 Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc  
 Anglicare Diocese of Sydney  
 Anglicare Victoria  
 Association of Children's Welfare Agencies Inc (ACWA)  
 Australian Communications  
 Consumer Action Network Ltd  
 Australian Services Union  
 Berry Street  
 BEST Employment Ltd  
 Binaal Billa Family Violence Legal Service  
 Blue Chip Consulting Group  
 Cabramatta Community Centre  
 Campbell Page Limited  
 Canberra Community Law.  
 Carers NSW Inc  
 Catholic Social Services Victoria  
 Central Land Council  
 Centre for Social Impact

Churches Housing Incorporated  
 Community Business Bureau  
 Community Information and Support Victoria  
 Early Childhood Australia  
 Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education  
 Families Australia  
 Financial Rights Legal Centre  
 Financial Rights Legal Centre (NSW) Inc  
 Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service  
 Great Lakes Community Resources Inc  
 Homelessness NSW  
 Illawarra Forum Inc.  
 Illawarra Legal Centre  
 Immigrant Women's Health Service  
 Inner South-West Community Development Organisation Ltd  
 Joblink Plus  
 Justice Connect  
 LOXCARE Inc  
 Lutheran Community Care  
 MacKillop Family Services  
 Melbourne's Leading Nanny Agency  
 Mid Coast Communities  
 Mid Coast Communities Incorporated  
 Mobile Children Services Association of NSW  
 Mountains Community Resource Network (MCRN)  
 Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services  
 Northern Rivers Social Development Council  
 NSW Federation of Housing Associations  
 PeakCare Queensland Inc

# Organisational Members

... continued

Penrith City Council  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre  
Rape & Domestic Violence Services  
Australia  
Rural Housing Network Limited  
Samaritans Foundation  
Sector Connect Inc  
Seriously Worthy  
Settlement Services International  
Social Futures  
South East Community Links  
South Port Community Housing  
Group Inc.  
South Western Sydney Local Health  
District  
Southern Youth and Family Services  
St Johns Youth Services  
Tangentyere Council Inc.  
Tenants Queensland Inc  
Think+DO Tank Foundation Ltd  
Tweed Valley Women's Service  
Uniting  
Uniting Communities  
UnitingCare Wesley Country SA  
Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)  
Western Sydney Community Forum  
Westgate Community Initiatives  
Group Inc  
WESTIR Ltd  
WISE Employment  
Wyoming Community Centre Inc  
YMCA NSW  
Youth Affairs Council of WA  
YWCA of Canberra

# Policy Advisers

The work in each portfolio is guided by volunteer Policy Advisers who are appointed by the Board. Policy Advisers are experts in their fields and advise the Board on ACOSS policy and strategies.

In November 2015, the ACOSS Board approved an update of the Policy Advisor Network in accordance with the policy areas outlined in the ACOSS Strategic Plan 2014-17.

ACOSS thanks the following Policy Advisers for their invaluable advice and guidance over the last year:

## **ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Hugh Saddler, Janet Stanley  
(both to November 2015)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Samantha Jenkinson, Gary Moore, Eleri Morgan-Thomas, Simon Schrapel (all to November 2015)

## **COMMUNITY SECTOR POLICY**

Minh Nguyen, Natasha Cortis  
(both from November 2016)

## **ECONOMICS AND TAX**

Nicholas Gruen, Richard Krever, Julie Smith

Helen Hodgson, Miranda Stewart  
(both from November 2015)

## **EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Tony Earley, Leah Hobson, Elspeth McInnes, Gerard Thomas, David Thompson  
(all to November 2015)

## **INCOME SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT**

Peter Whiteford, Roger Wilkins  
(both from November 2015)

## **HEALTH**

Fiona Armstrong, Russell McGowan  
(both to November 2015)

Tadgh MacMahon, Sharon Friel  
(both from November 2015)

## **HOUSING**

Narelle Clay, Carol Croce, Adam Farrar, Kath Halse, Adrian Pisarski  
(all to November 2015)

## **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

Kath Hulse, Vivienne Milligan, Cameron Parsell, Judy Yates  
(all from November 2015)

## **HOUSING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mark Henley (to November 2015)

## **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Jon Altman, Larissa Behrendt, Tracey Brand, Tom Calma, Olga Havnen, Elliot McAdam  
(to November 2015)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

Graeme Evans, Phil Glendenning, Alex Huntir (to November 2015)

# Funders, Donors, Sponsors and Volunteers

ACOSS appreciates the financial assistance for our core functions provided by the Commonwealth Government under the Families and Communities Service Improvement Program Funding through the Department of Social Services.

## **SPONSORSHIP, GRANT AND PRO-BONO SUPPORT**

ACOSS relies on significant support from government, corporate, non-profit and philanthropic organisations through both financial and in-kind contributions. Much of this support comes in the form of partnerships that improve our work and strengthen our impact. We extend sincere gratitude to the following organisations for their contribution to ACOSS over the past year:

Agency  
Ashurst Lawyers  
Australian Communities Foundation  
Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (National Emergency Management Program)  
Australian Government Department of Communications  
Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science  
Australian Government Department of Social Services  
CHOICE  
Jobs Australia  
National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
The Carnegie Foundation  
The Reichstein Foundation

## **DONATIONS**

The generosity of individuals and organisations who donate to ACOSS is invaluable. Our special thanks go out to the following supporters and to all those who give anonymously.

Ulrich Adami  
Michael Allen  
Leonard Baglow  
Berry Street Victoria Inc  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Bettina Cass  
Peter Cairns  
Suzanne Crowe  
Carlos Encina  
Lisa Fowkes  
Fiona Given  
Yvette Higgins  
Petra Hilton  
Sarah Jarvis  
Denis Klein  
Settlement Services International  
Andrew Shannon  
Pam Simmons  
Saskia Solopotias  
David Stanton  
Stephanie Steiner  
Helen Swift  
Nonie Wales  
Volunteer West

# Finances

for the year ended 30 June 2016

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# Governors' Report

Australian Council of Social Service

The Governors present their report together with the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2016 and auditor's report thereon.

## GOVERNORS' NAMES

The names of the Governors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

The names of the Governors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Mr Tony Reidy (President from 1 January 2016)

Ms Stella Avrampouloulos (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Ms Elenie Poulos (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Mr Mark Tucker-Evans

Mr Jeremy Halcrow (Treasurer from 1 January 2016, Deputy President from March 2016)

Mr Peter McNamara (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Ms Hang Vo (Deputy President from March 2016)

Ms Helen Connolly

Ms Tracey Stevens (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Ms Darlene Cox (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Ms Karen Bevan (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Mr Mat Rowell (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Mr Bernie Dwyer (Resigned May 2016)

Mr John Falzon

Mr Steven Joske

Ms Jane Stanley

Ms Lyn Morgain (Board Member from 1 January 2016)

Ms Micaela Cronin (President to 31 December 2015, Ex-officio from 1 January 2016, resigned March 2016)

Dr Mark Bagshaw (Deputy President to 31 December 2015)

Mr Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer to 31 December 2015)

Professor Bettina Cass (Resigned 31 December 2015)

Ms Sarah Fogg (Resigned 31 December 2015)

Ms Fiona Given (Resigned 31 December 2015)

Mr Noel Mundy (Resigned 31 December 2015)

Mr Simon Schrapel (Ex-officio, resigned 31 December 2015)

Mr Gerard Thomas (Resigned 31 December 2015)

Mr Paul McDonald (Resigned 31 December 2015)

The Governors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

## OPERATING RESULT

The deficit for the year amounted to (\$10,500) (2015: surplus of \$114,282).

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

To provide effective and influential advocacy for Australia's disadvantaged people based on high standards of community consultation, policy development, analysis and research.

Signed on behalf of the board of governors.

Committee member:



**Mr. Tony Reidy**

Committee member:



**Mr. Jeremy Halcrow**

Dated this 27th day of October 2016

# Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant income		895,260	888,085
Project income		289,310	1,053,301
Memberships, sponsorships and donations		386,765	416,287
Interest		17,959	31,922
Other income		42,785	82,149
		<b>1,632,079</b>	<b>2,471,744</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee benefits expenses		(1,223,091)	(1,253,987)
Professional service expense		-	(538,623)
Travel & accommodation expenses		(67,793)	(94,263)
Occupancy expenses		(74,528)	(77,631)
Depreciation & amortisation expenses	2	(27,249)	(32,037)
Board & Executive expenses		(16,776)	(24,445)
Subscription expenses		(16,622)	(7,199)
Resources (library, etc) expenses		(17,834)	(46,387)
Telephone expenses		(21,922)	(24,967)
Computer expenses		(45,593)	(27,653)
Other expenses		(131,171)	(230,270)
		<b>(1,642,579)</b>	<b>(2,357,462)</b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(10,500)	114,282
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</i>			
Change in fair value of available for sale financial assets, net of tax		-	80,000
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		-	80,000
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(10,500)</b>	<b>194,282</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	120,818	332,644
Pledges and other receivables	4	162,991	158,036
Investments	5	803,074	792,761
Other assets	6	56,982	24,533
		<b>1,143,865</b>	<b>1,307,974</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Investments	5	100,000	100,000
Intangible assets	8	22,637	30,465
Property, plant and equipment	7	65,315	83,111
Other assets	6	-	16,429
		187,952	230,005
		<b>1,331,817</b>	<b>1,537,979</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	77,067	252,750
Provisions	10	158,962	148,050
Income in advance / project provisions	11	239,968	247,312
		<b>475,997</b>	<b>648,112</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	10	12,107	35,654
		12,107	35,654
		<b>488,104</b>	<b>683,766</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>488,104</b>	<b>683,766</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>843,713</b>	<b>854,213</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	13	80,000	80,000
Retained surplus	12	763,713	774,213
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>843,713</b>	<b>854,213</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2014</b>	-	659,931	659,931
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	114,282	114,282
Change in fair value of available for sale financial assets, net of tax	80,000	-	80,000
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	80,000	114,282	194,282
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2015</b>	80,000	774,213	854,213
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(10,500)	(10,500)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	(10,500)	(10,500)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2016</b>	80,000	774,213	854,213

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc.		1,764,515	2,400,625
Interest received		7,646	33,315
Payments to suppliers, employees, project costs etc.		(1,981,370)	(2,404,423)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(209,209)</b>	<b>29,517</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,617)	(1,410)
Payment for investments		-	(13,106)
Purchase of intangibles (software)		-	(5,557)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(2,617)</b>	<b>(20,073)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		332,644	323,200
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(211,826)	9,444
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	14(a)	<b>120,818</b>	<b>332,644</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

## NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*.

The financial report was approved by the committee as at the date of the governors' report.

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

### (a) Basis of preparation

#### *Reporting Basis and Convention*

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

#### *Statement of Compliance*

The financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards. A statement of compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the Association applying the not-for-profit sector specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

### (b) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised as revenue when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided.

Donations are when the Association gains control of the donations or the right to receive the donations.

Project income is recognised in the period that the project occurs.

Membership is recognised on both quarterly and yearly basis. Where income received for periods exceeding the financial year end date, income has been proportioned on a pro rata basis.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (c) Income tax

The Association is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Charitable Institution.

In accordance with the income tax exemption status, no provision for income tax is raised in this financial report.

### (d) Trade debtors

Trade debtors are recognised when invoiced.

All debtors are recognised at the actual amounts receivable. Collectability is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Full provision is made for particular debts where some doubt as to collection exists.

### (e) Financial assets

#### *Classification*

The Association classifies its financial assets into the following categories: 'Held-to-maturity investments' and 'loans and receivables'. The classification depends on the nature and purpose for which the instruments were acquired.

Management determines the classification of its financial instruments at initial recognition.

<b>Class of fixed asset</b>	<b>Depreciation rates</b>	<b>Depreciation basis</b>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	20%	Diminishing value
Computer equipment at cost	30%	Diminishing value

#### *Held-to-maturity investments*

These investments have fixed maturities, and where the Association has any held-to-maturity investments, it is the Association's intention and ability to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the Association are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less impairment.

#### *Loans and receivables*

Trade receivables and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

#### *Impairment*

At each reporting date, the Association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired.

#### **(f) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

#### *Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses if applicable.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

If the carrying amount of plant and equipment exceed its recoverable amount the plant and equipment is written down to the recoverable amount.

#### *Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. *Refer to table.*

#### **(g) Impairment**

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying value of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which it belongs.

#### **(h) Employee benefits**

##### *(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

##### *(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

## **(i) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

## **(j) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

## **(k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The Association evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future event and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association. Details of estimates and judgements are included in the accounting policies and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

## **(l) New accounting standards**

At the reporting date new accounting pronouncements have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) but are not yet effective.

The Governors intend to apply these accounting pronouncements in the annual reporting period in which the pronouncement becomes effective.

The Governors consider it unlikely that the new pronouncements will have a significant impact on the financial performance, financial position or the cash flows of the Association, other than requiring, in certain instances, disclosures to be made in addition to those presently disclosed.

## **(m) Leases**

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

### *Operating leases*

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2: SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Depreciation	27,249	32,037
Rent expense on operating lease rentals		
– Minimum lease payments	-	-
<b>NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on hand	300	746
Cash at bank	120,518	331,898
	<b>120,818</b>	<b>332,644</b>
<b>NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES</b>		
CURRENT		
Pledges and other receivables	162,991	158,036
<b>NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS</b>		
CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Short term bank deposits	803,074	792,761
NON CURRENT		
<i>Available for sale financial assets</i>		
At cost		
At fair value		
<i>Shares in Community 21 Limited</i>	100,000	100,000

The shares in Community 21 Limited, are measured at their fair value based on the share price paid on offer.

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	30,795	11,704
Accrued income	9,558	12,629
Deposits	16,629	200
	56,982	24,533
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Rental deposit	-	16,429
<b>NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	115,699	115,699
Accumulated depreciation	(70,801)	(59,577)
	44,898	56,122
Computer equipment at cost	73,581	83,124
Accumulated depreciation	(53,164)	(56,135)
	20,417	26,989
Total plant and equipment	65,315	83,111
Total property, plant and equipment	65,315	83,111
<b>(a) Movements in carrying amount</b>		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year		
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	56,122	70,153
Depreciation expense	(11,224)	(14,031)
Closing carrying amount	44,898	56,122

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<i>Computer equipment</i>		
Opening carrying amount	26,989	36,591
Additions	2,617	1,410
Disposals	(992)	-
Depreciation expense	(8,197)	(11,012)
Closing carrying amount	20,417	26,989
<b>NOTE 8: INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>		
Software at cost	39,138	39,138
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(16,501)	(8,673)
	22,637	30,465
Total intangible assets	22,637	30,465
<b>(a) Reconciliations</b>		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of intangible assets at the beginning and end of the current financial year		
<i>Software at cost</i>		
Opening balance	30,465	31,902
Additions	-	5,557
Amortisation expense	(7,828)	(6,994)
Closing balance	22,637	30,465
<b>NOTE 9: PAYABLES</b>		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	10,231	120,934
GST credits	14,374	37,462
Accrued expenses	20,252	49,890
PAYG withholding payable	32,210	44,464
	77,067	252,750

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

		2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>NOTE 10: PROVISIONS</b>			
CURRENT			
Annual leave	(a)	53,418	70,680
Long service leave	(a)	105,544	77,370
		158,962	148,050
NON CURRENT			
Long service leave	(a)	12,107	35,654
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		171,069	183,704
<b>NOTE 11: INCOME IN ADVANCE / PROJECT PROVISIONS</b>			
CURRENT			
Memberships in advance		110,811	44,450
Competition Policy and Human Services Research and Policy Project		20,000	-
Digital Business Kits (DBK)		25,558	45,672
National Conference		22,877	-
Australians for Affordable Housing campaign (AAH)		-	19,146
National Energy Consumer Body Project (NECBP)		8,017	8,017
Poverty and Inequality Project		52,705	-
National Emergency Management Projects (NEMP)		-	95,027
Tax Reform Modelling		-	35,000
		239,968	247,312
<b>NOTE 12: RETAINED SURPLUS</b>			
Retained surplus at beginning of year		774,213	659,931
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(10,500)	114,282
		763,713	774,213
<b>NOTE 13: RESERVES</b>			
Available for sale financial asset reserve		80,000	-
		80,000	-

The available for sale financial asset is used to record movements in fair values of financial assets classified as available for sale

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:		
Cash on hand	300	746
Cash at bank	120,518	331,898
	<b>120,818</b>	<b>332,644</b>
<b>NOTE 15: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS</b>		
<b>(a) Operating lease commitments</b>		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable		
– not later than one year	-	58,097
	-	58,097
The property lease of the premises ended on 30 May 2016. The agreement has been rolled forward on a month to month basis.		
<b>NOTE 16: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</b>		
Key management personnel include any persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, including its committee members.		
Compensation received by key management personnel of the Association		
– short-term employee benefits	294,999	246,255
– post-employment benefits	25,196	23,314
	<b>320,195</b>	<b>269,569</b>
<b>NOTE 17: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</b>		
<b>(a) Transactions with other related parties</b>		
There are no other related party transactions with the Association for the 2016 financial year.		

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

## **NOTE 18: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE**

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2016 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2016, of the Association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2016, of the Association.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 24 - 37:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2016 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Committee member:



Mr. Tony Reidy

Committee member:



Mr. Jeremy Halcrow

Dated this 27th day of October 2016

# Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of the Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated



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## THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCORPORATED

We have audited the accompanying financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

### *Responsibility of Those Charged with Governance*

The governing committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Regulation (1991)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the governing committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the governing committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCORPORATED**

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report of the Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated gives a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and its performance and its cash flows for the year then ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Regulation (1991)* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*.



R M SHANLEY

Partner



PITCHER PARTNERS

Registered Company Auditor Number: 293831

Date: 27 October 2016



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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