



ACOSS NATIONAL ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP



Australian
Council of
Social Service



ACOSS MEMBERSHIP

Perhaps the most important reason for any organisation to be a member of ACOSS is to recognise and lend support to the unique policy and advocacy work that ACOSS does – challenging poverty and inequality in Australia and giving voice to the issues affecting people living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage. ACOSS mostly does this in its own name, but it draws heavily, not only its evidence based research, but also on the input from and credibility of member organisations.

Through ACOSS your organisation can also play a vital role in shaping public policy by strengthening the community services sector voice in national debates to combat poverty and inequality in Australia.

As a member of ACOSS, your organisation can:

- Support us in our passion to create a **fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia** where all individuals and communities have the opportunities and resources they need to participate in and benefit from social and economic life
- **Influence ACOSS policies and decisions** that affect the lives of people living in poverty and disadvantage
- Participate in **public policy debates and advocacy initiatives** that shape our country
- Gain **access to information** on public policy developments and community services sector news; CEO forums; events; the ACOSS network throughout Australia; and ACOSS national parliamentary processes.

ACOSS is committed to evidence based, non-party political, persistent advocacy in a wide range of areas that shape crucial public policies.

About Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Council of Social Service is a national advocate for action to reduce poverty and inequality and the peak body for the community services sector in Australia.

By drawing on the direct experiences of people affected by poverty and inequality and the expertise of its diverse member base, ACOSS develops and promotes socially, economically and environmentally responsible public policy and action by government, community and business.

ACOSS provides policy advice and represents the views of its members and people experiencing poverty and inequality to government. ACOSS also informs members about government policies related to the community services sector. ACOSS members include Australia's major charities, as well as national not-for-profit community organisations of all sizes, based in the major cities and in regional and remote areas.



Membership Categories

The newly adopted ACOSS Constitution (2017) provides for three types of membership:

- National Organisation Members (NOMs) (see below)
- Associate Members (organisations that operate only in one state or territory and share the ACOSS commitment to fairness, justice and equity)
- State and Territory Councils of Social Service

National Organisation Members (NOMs) – national or multi-state organisations

An organisation that works in multiple states, or at a national level, and shares the ACOSS commitment to fairness and equity can join ACOSS as a full voting National Organisation Member.

ACOSS voting rights and governance opportunities

NOMs can:

- Nominate individuals for election to the ACOSS Board.
- Vote in General Meetings and Board Elections.
- Directly contribute to ACOSS policy development and advocacy opportunities through member Policy and Advocacy Networks, member-only meetings, press conferences and caucuses.

Applications to become a National Organisation Member go to the ACOSS Board for approval.



MEMBER BENEFITS

Members receive a range of other benefits including but not limited to:

- **Subscription to the ACOSS Daily Bulletin** for all team members (see below)
- **Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting**, including the election of members of the ACOSS Board of Governors
- **Opportunities to collaborate, connect and partner** with 80 other NOMs through the National CEO Network, joint media conferences, focused policy workshops and Federal Budget advocacy.
- **Invitations and discounts** to special events including the annual ACOSS National Conference and Post Budget Breakfast
- **Direct access to information** through policy snapshots, CEO updates and media releases
- **Free advertising** of jobs and events on the ACOSS website



ACOSS Policy and Advocacy Networks

National Organisation Members are invited to **appoint representatives to any or all** of the eight **ACOSS Policy and Advocacy Networks**.

ACOSS Policy and Advocacy Networks are the primary mechanism for members to engage in the ACOSS policy development process. The networks are a forum for sharing information, developing evidence and experience based policy as well as discussing advocacy strategy. The eight member Policy and Advocacy Networks are:

- National CEO Network
- Income Support and Employment
- Tax
- Community Sector
- Health
- Housing and Homelessness
- Media and Communications
- Climate and Energy



The ACOSS Daily Bulletin (ADB)

The ACOSS Daily Bulletin is a **complete digest of the day's media articles that are relevant to the community and social services sector**, and the NFP sector more broadly. It also sets out brief summaries of all current:

- Consultations and inquiries
- Research and reports of relevance to the community services sector

The ACOSS Daily Bulletin is delivered directly to the subscriber's inbox each morning. ACOSS membership includes a **subscription** to the ACOSS Daily Bulletin for **all NOM team members**.



Opportunities to collaborate, connect and partner

ACOSS has over 80 NOMs including peak bodies, major charities and key constituent groups. **Together we are a strong voice** against poverty and inequality in Australia and in favour of fair and sustainable economic and social policies.

- Join our members only collaborative media conferences and cross sectoral initiatives to provide a strong, coordinated voice on public policy.
- Receive invitations to participate in specialist policy working groups and caucuses around emerging issues.
- Collaborate on and have access to leading Poverty and Inequality research.
- Attend our National CEO Network convened by ACOSS CEO, Cassandra Goldie.



Direct access to expert information

ACOSS National Organisation Members have **direct access to expert policy analysis** on reform proposals and legislative debate.

NOMs are also the first to receive ACOSS publications and submissions, policy snapshots, newsletters and ad hoc communications from the CEO.

Stay on top of public policy developments, and community services sector news and advocacy initiatives through regular member communications, National CEO Network and Policy and Advocacy Network meetings.



Scholarships

Over recent years ACOSS has been able to offer NOMs access to a number of McKinsey & Company training scholarships for courses through the McKinsey Academy. These have included both the Executive Leadership Program (\$10,000) and the Young Leaders Forum (\$4,000). ACOSS NOMs are invited to nominate suitable leaders and emerging leaders for these programs. Twenty scholarships have been awarded in 2017-18.



Discounted tickets to the ACOSS National Conference and other events

The ACOSS National Conference is the key event for the community services sector in Australia. Each year hundreds of thought leaders, policy makers, political leaders, social innovators, practitioners, academics and people with lived experience of poverty and inequality come together to discuss and debate the drivers of and responses to inequality in Australia. ACOSS National Organisation Members **receive a 30% discount** on tickets to the ACOSS Conference, ACOSS Post Budget Breakfast and other ACOSS events.

The ACOSS Post Budget Breakfast is held annually in the days following the Federal Budget and provides a critical opportunity for community sector CEOs and senior executives to receive detailed briefings and analysis on key budget measures and their likely impacts on people experiencing poverty and inequality. In recent years, Treasurers Joe Hockey, Wayne Swan and Scott Morrison have attended and participated in explaining the Budget and its impact from a social, as well as economic policy perspective, and responded to questions and comments directly from participants.



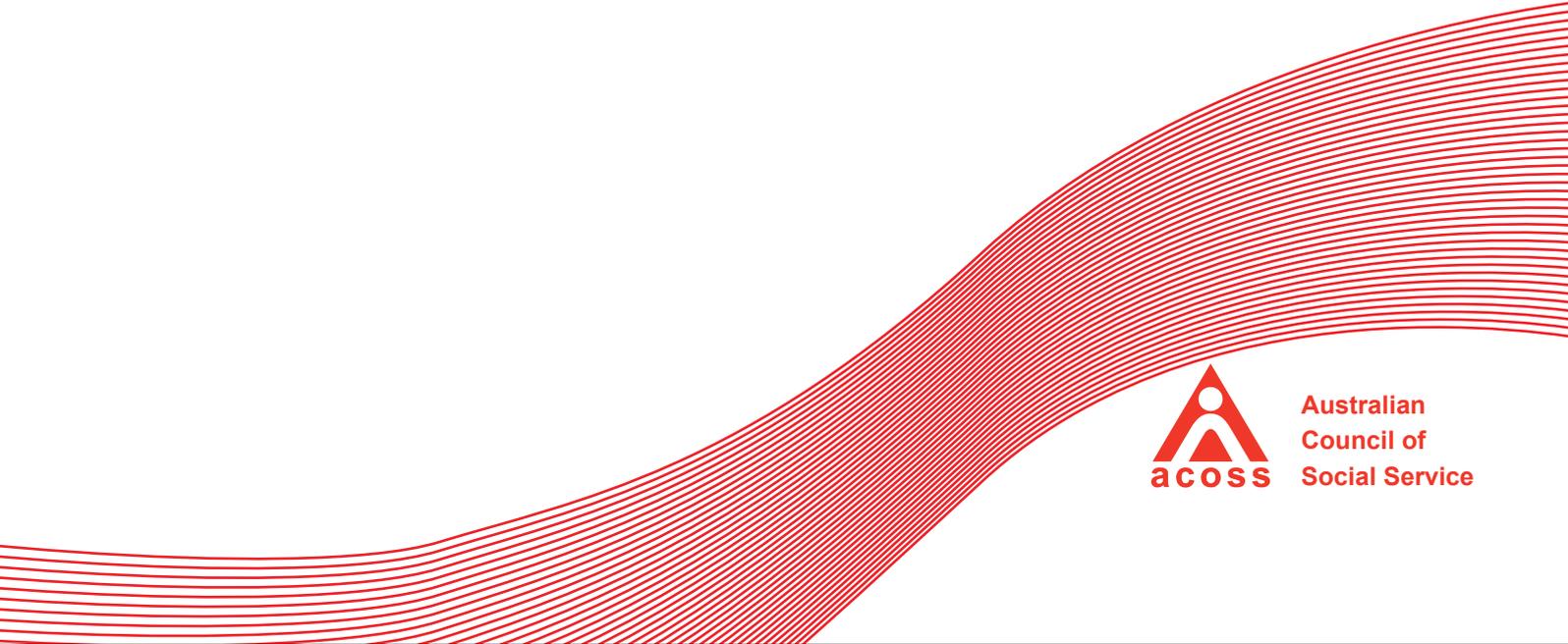
Access to research

ACOSS National Organisation Members collaborate on and have **access to leading research** such as the Poverty and Inequality report series.

ACOSS Annual Membership Fees

ACOSS National Organisation Member fees are set annually on a sliding scale determined by the annual income of the member organisation, as provided to and published by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). NOM Membership fees for 2018-19 are:

Total Annual Income	Membership Fee
Under \$100,000	\$50
\$100,000 - \$250,000	\$750
\$250,000 - \$500,000	\$1,200
\$500,000 - \$1m	\$2,000
\$1m - \$2m	\$3,200
\$2m - \$4m	\$4,500
\$4m - \$7m	\$6,250
\$7m - \$11m	\$8,000
\$11m - \$16m	\$9,000
\$16m - \$100m	\$12,000
Over \$100m	\$16,000



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