

Australian Council of Social Service Annual Report 2008-2009





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Australian Council of Social Service

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) is the peak council of the community services and welfare sector. Established in 1956, ACOSS is the national voice for the needs of people affected by poverty and inequality.

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President's Message

David Thompson AM | ACOSS President

The 2008-2009 year for ACOSS, as for many organisations in the community and welfare sector, was dominated by the global financial crisis and its impacts on low income, vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

The sector had to respond to increasing demands for services and assistance from people already doing it tough as well as burgeoning numbers of people who had never experienced the need to seek income support and emergency relief. Many sector organisations also had to contend with reduced levels of income from their investments and from donations which exacerbated the pressures of rising demand for services and assistance.

During the year, ACOSS settled down to a new mode of working with the Rudd government, welcoming a number of aspects of the several stimulus measures announced during the year and called for more inclusion of and assistance for sole parents and unemployed people. We strongly welcomed the massive and unprecedented investment in social housing announced by the government early in 2009, we welcomed increases in pensions announced in the May Budget and campaigned for similar treatment for those doing it really tough on Newstart and Parenting payments.

During the year, the amazing ACOSS staff, with the assistance of our loyal and capable band of Policy Advisers cranked out a veritable mountain of high quality and authoritative submissions on all manner of issues including climate change, welfare to work and income support issues, housing and homelessness, taxation, regulation and reform of the broader nonprofit sector, employment services, income support compliance and penalties, disability services and many others. We also conducted a major initial consultation for the government with the community and welfare sector and some others in the broader nonprofit sector

on the proposed national compact between the government and the voluntary sector.

Collaboration with the state and territory COSSes, and with other organisations and individuals with expertise, common and congruent interests and shared concerns became an important mode of operation for us during the year. This approach enabled ACOSS to leverage our modest resources and to more effectively engage in and contribute to debates and major developments on a number of social policy fronts of great importance to us – they included climate change, housing and homelessness, taxation reform, working age payment reform and long term unemployment, the national reform agenda and reform of the sector itself.

Towards the end of the 2008-2009 year, the Board decided that ACOSS, in conjunction and in collaboration with the state and territory COSSes and National Member Organisations, should take an active and leading role on national sector development issues, including critical and important issues concerning the sector's workforce and terms of trade and relationships with government. To that end, the Board has allocated resources to facilitate and support that process and expect to be able to generate more resources from the sector as that work gains momentum.

In keeping with the new emphasis on sector development issues, ACOSS also made a major submission to the Productivity Commission's study of the Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector in Australia. Workforce issues and associated terms of trade and financing from government remain of critical importance to a sector which is a major employer in its own right and which is highly dependent on gaining and retaining capable and competent staff to undertake its work. Achievement of the goals of the social inclusion agenda and our own aspirations for a fairer and more equitable Australia depends on them.

Appointment of Clare Martin as the new ACOSS CEO marked another important and positive milestone for ACOSS during the year and enabled the Board to continue to transform the respective roles of President and CEO to a more contemporary mode of governance and organisational operation and management. The Board continued to review and develop its approaches to governance and its role in policy development during the year and hopes and expects that the new Board to take office at the beginning of 2010 will continue that important work. The Board also met the challenge of effectively dealing with internal governance which arose during the year and clarified its future approaches to good governance in the process.

With some measure of sadness, during the year we witnessed the departure of a number of key ACOSS staff who moved on to other roles – Gregor Macfie, long serving Policy Officer, who very capably

acted as CEO before Clare was appointed, Sharon Torney, financial and organisational management guru, and Colette O'Neill, our Melbourne-based and multi-skilled Policy Officer. We thank them sincerely for their contribution to ACOSS. We also said our farewells earlier in 2009, to my predecessor Lin Hatfield Dodds, who resigned from the President position for personal reasons, and thanked her for her contribution to the work of ACOSS.

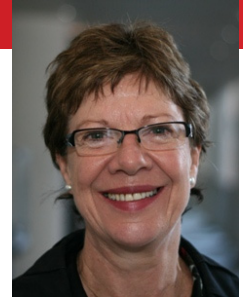
I sincerely thank my fellow Board and Executive members and the staff and voluntary Policy Advisers for their substantial contributions during the year to the achievement of our goals and objectives.

As I write this, the media is full of reports that the worst of the GFC is behind us. We know, perhaps more than many other Australians, that too many people are living in poverty and doing things very tough and that there is much more to be done before things really change for the better for them.

That means that ACOSS has a lot more to do and must continue to strive and work hard for a fairer and more equitable Australia. In doing so, we should see ourselves not as an industry but rather a movement – a movement of people who are indignant about poverty and disadvantage and who are determined that things should and will be better. Nothing less than that is acceptable.

Below - the ACOSS National Conference 2009 : clockwise: Treasury Secretary Dr Ken Henry, Professor Paul Smyth, University of Melbourne, Lin Hatfield Dodds, The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Lisa Fowkes Job Futures, The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Community Leader Barbara Shaw, Sally Cowling, UnitingCare Burnside, ACOSS staff Amy Simmons and Ray Pedley.





Report from the CEO

Clare Martin | ACOSS CEO

The economic downturn dominated Australia's social policy, public discourse and political landscape this year. Unprecedented economic stimulus announcements by the Federal Government saw an injection of funds into the community and the economy. ACOSS' response focused on ensuring low income and disadvantaged Australians were protected from the downturn and were part of the policy response to the crisis.

Advancing policy solutions for low income and disadvantaged Australians

Climate and Energy

- The Federal Government's White Paper on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme set out measures to protect low income households from cost of living increases expected to result from the CPRS. Those measures were more generous than anticipated and included a one-off increase in all allowances and benefits with an indexation geared to respond to continuing impacts.

The Climate Change Action Fund, provides \$1.37 billion over five years to be shared between small business and the community sector for "information, outreach, and advice", and financial assistance with energy efficiency improvements. ACOSS is working with government on the detail of these measures.

- Along with the ACTU, Australian Conservation Foundation and the Climate Institute, ACOSS is a founding member of the Southern Cross Climate Coalition. The SCCC was formed to help lead an effective and fair response to climate change. ACOSS has been involved in delegations to meet with federal ministers and has made several media appearances with the coalition.
- In October, over 100 people attended a half day seminar hosted by ACOSS and VCOSS on climate change and equity. The Minister for Climate Change and Water, the Hon Penny Wong discussed some of the issues concerning the community sector in relation to climate change.
- ACOSS continues to work on reform and development of the National Energy Market, notably the National Energy Customer Framework and the National Smart Meter Project.

Community Services and Health

- ACOSS has met a number of times with the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector Ursula Stephens, discussing the challenges facing the community sector and the future of the sector.
- In conjunction with the State and Territory Councils of Social Service, we published and launched the 2009 Australian Community Sector Survey. The report again attracted substantial media coverage, which focused on the pressures on community agencies and the cost of living.
- ACOSS has continued to progress its health reform agenda through the Australian Health Care Reform Alliance and was approached by the Chair of the National Hospitals and Healthcare Reform Commission to provide input to the Commission's deliberations.

Employment, Education and Training and Social Security

- A core focus of ACOSS's work in this policy area has been the Harmer Pension Review, and to advocate on behalf of sole parents and allowees.

The Government's substantial economic stimulus package announced in mid-October included a substantial one-off cash payments to pensioners (aged, disability, carers), a lesser amount to single parent pensioners, but left out people on allowances (Newstart and Youth Allowance). The May Budget included a provision for a \$32 a week increase to some pensions. Again sole parents and allowees missed out on any increase in payments.

ACOSS worked on an advocacy campaign with relevant stakeholders (National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, St Vincent de Paul, AFDO and Welfare Rights) to have the pension increase extended to other social security recipients. We will continue to raise this important issue.

- ACOSS held a seminar series on the income support system and options for reform for member organisations and others delegates. Presenters were Bob Gregory (ANU), John Murphy (Melbourne University), Gavin Dufty (St Vincent de Paul), Professor Peter Whiteford (Social Policy Research Centre), Gerard Thomas (Welfare Rights) and Peter Davidson (ACOSS).

- ACOSS has been active in monitoring the transition to the new employment services system, Job Services Australia, to ensure the most vulnerable jobseekers are not disadvantaged in the changeover. ACOSS appeared at the Senate Inquiry into the DEEWR tender process in mid-May. There are also learnings from the tender process which informed our submission to the Productivity Commission on the Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector, especially better use of the expertise of the sector to inform the design of relevant programs and contracts.
- ACOSS made a submission on the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy which called for structural reform of income support for people of working age, more substantial investment in specialised and mainstream employment programs and a workplace adjustment package to encourage and support employers to hire people with disabilities.

Economics and Tax

- ACOSS submitted its annual recommendations and responses to the Federal Budget. Our proposals identified priorities for key social expenditure including assisting job seekers overcome barriers to work while also avoiding financial hardship. We also urged the Government to increase the single Newstart rate by \$30 a week and introduce a paid work experience scheme for long term jobless people.

ACOSS was a sought-after commentator by the media for reaction to the Budget. Media coverage included AM/FM radio, major daily newspapers and metro TV, along with the 7.30 Report, Sunrise and Radio National Breakfast.

- A significant and continuing area of work is the Henry Review of the Tax and Transfer System.

ACOSS partnered with the ACTU, ACF and the Consumers Federation in a Community Tax Forum chaired by Professor Julian Disney. The Forum was established to bring to the table ideas and proposals for tax reform from community organizations. Two symposiums were held in 2008, followed by two small conferences in February and April 2009 to explore options for reform in areas such as taxation of income from wages and investments, tax and housing, and the environmental impact of taxation.

ACOSS has prepared submissions and met formally for the Tax Review Panel and informally with Treasury officials to discuss priorities for tax reform.

Homelessness and Housing

- The Homelessness White Paper, released in December, had two headline goals: halving overall homelessness by 2020 and offering accommodation to all rough sleepers who need it by 2020. \$800 million was committed over five years to the strategy which was strongly welcomed by ACOSS and the sector.
- Work has begun in the sector to monitor the rollout of the Federal Homelessness Strategy. State and territory governments are currently developing implementation plans. We have set up a cross-sectoral body with relevant peak organizations to start a monitoring and participation process in the strategy's implementation, jointly chaired by ACOSS and Homelessness Australia.
- ACOSS coordinated an advocacy day in Canberra in September 2008 on public and community housing. The development of a position statement and background paper was completed in conjunction with National Shelter, Community Housing Federation of Australia and Homelessness Australia.

The Minister for Housing, Shadow Housing Minister and the Australian Greens housing spokesperson addressed the attendees and About 60 attendees met with 38 politicians during the day in small delegations.

- The second Economic Stimulus Package contained a \$6.4 billion funding announcement for social housing. Building 20,000 dwellings over the next two years will be an enormous challenge.

The Housing Summit Group has been meeting as the state and territory governments announcement their roll-out plans. The Minister for Housing The Hon Tanya Plibersek has outlined a new social housing agenda with a much greater emphasis on community housing.

Indigenous communities

- ACOSS prepared a draft submission on the Northern Territory Emergency Response and is working with a number of groups to coordinate activities and determine how best to support the work of Indigenous communities in respect of the review.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs The Hon Jenny Macklin gave a briefing to ACOSS in early 2009 on the results so far across the broad range of measures involved.

Law and Justice

- ACOSS made a detailed submission to the National Human Rights Consultation and appeared before the Committee in a public inquiry. ACOSS attended a number of public consultations, had meetings with a number of national member organisations and consulted with the State and Territory COSSes.

The focus of our submission was human rights issues and their affect on low income and disadvantaged Australians.

Social Inclusion

- An ACOSS seminar, *Three Dimensions of Social Inclusion*, provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of recent studies on social inclusion. Topics included a profile of people affected by social exclusion, causes of and solutions to disadvantage in Indigenous communities in the NT, the role of location and place based initiatives and the role of early childhood development and services.
- The chair of the Social Inclusion Board, Patricia Faulkner, provided a briefing to COSS Presidents and Directors in early February 2009.

Ensuring an independent, diverse and valued community and welfare sector

- ACOSS' draft submission to the Productivity Commission Study into the Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector followed extensive consultation with member organisations about the scope and scale of issues facing the community service and welfare sectors engaged in non-profit work.

We have continued to feed into the consultation process with the commission. The final report for government will be submitted in late 2009.

- ACOSS completed initial consultations on the development of a national compact in Perth, Alice Springs, Darwin, Adelaide, Hobart, Townsville, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane. In addition there were a number of smaller, specific forums held with key population groups, including people who are homeless, people with disability and ethnic communities. An interim report was submitted to FaHCSIA.
- Over the past few months, there have been some constructive discussions held, both within our sector and with government, about building the profile of the Non Profit/Third Sector.
- ACOSS held a series of interstate National Member Organisation Meetings and COSS Director meetings during the year.

- ACOSS will be working closely with the National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations, which will be assisting in coordinated work across the nonprofit sector.

Engaging the community

- Some of the questions addressed at the ACOSS National Conference 2009 held in April in Sydney included : how do you build a fair and equitable Australia as the economy slows, unemployment rises and government and household budgets are tightened? And does the Australian idea of a fair go only operate in secure economic times and will fairness become a casualty of the global economic crisis?

Over 450 conference delegates attended the two-day conference and heard from speakers from the community and government sectors. Some of the conference highlights included presentations from The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Shadow Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as well as a panel on *Building a fairer tax system* with Dr Ken Henry, Treasury Secretary and Jeff Lawrence, Secretary, ACTU and Prof Julian Disney, UNSW.

- Media coverage over the year has been strong with comment given on a wide range of issues, including the impact of the global financial crisis, climate change, the federal budget and the ACOSS Conference. There is continued interest in ACOSS speaking at a diverse range of conferences and events.

Maintaining an effectively governed and well resourced organization

- ACOSS has been successful in securing grants from the Myer and Sidney Myer Foundations and the Perpetual Foundations. The grants are to fund organisational capacity - governance training, membership development, partnership and stakeholder relationship development and communications and marketing – and a specific project aimed at reporting the positive stories from our sector.

I would like to thank the fantastic ACOSS staff team for their work during the year and look forward to a successful and productive year in 2009/2010.

Submissions and Meetings

During 2008-09 ACOSS prepared numerous submissions on a wide range of policy matters to the Government, opposition parties, public and parliamentary inquiries, Government departments and statutory authorities. In developing these submissions, valuable input was gained from consultations with members.

Key Submissions

- Submission to the Australia's Future Tax System Review
- Submission to the Fair Pay Commission on minimum wages
- Submission to the National Human Rights Consultation
- Submission to the Productivity Commission Study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector
- Submission to the inquiry to the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendments
- Submission in response to Treasury's consultation paper on reform of the taxation of employee share schemes
- Submission to Inquiry into DEEWR tender process for employment services contracts
- Submission to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
- Submission to the National Preventive Health Taskforce
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 and the National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
- Submission to the Senate Education Employment and Workplace Relations Committee Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Bill 2008
- Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry into the disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations
- Submission to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs NT Emergency Response Review
- Submission to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Pension Review
- Submission to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – Green Paper
- Submission to the Minister for Employment Participation and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy
- Submission on Housing Affordability Fund Consultation Paper
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No.2) 2008-2009 relating to the social housing program
- Response to Australia's Children: Safe and Well, A national framework for protecting Australia's children

ACOSS Papers and Publications

- Who is missing out? Hardship among low income Australians, December 2008
- Creating a new partnership between the Commonwealth Government and the Not-for-Profit Sector: Time for a National Compact? A discussion paper, August 2008
- COAG and the National Reform Agenda – COSS Discussion Paper, August 2008
- Social Inclusion and Economic Security: Recommendations for the Federal Budget. Budget Priority Statement 2009-10. February 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, June 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 1, National. June 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 2, New South Wales. June 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 3, Queensland. June 2009

- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 4, Victoria. June 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 5, Tasmania. June 2009
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 6, Northern Territory. June 2009
- Factsheet on indexation of family payments June 2009

Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Vol 43, Number 3, Winter 2008
- Vol 43, Number 4, Spring 2008
- Vol 44, Number 1, Summer 2009
- Vol 44, Number 2, Winter 2009

IMPACT Magazine

- Winter Edition 2008
- Spring Edition 2008
- Summer Edition 2009
- Autumn Edition 2009

Major meetings

ACOSS delegations had formal meetings with ministers, parliamentary members of other political parties, federal departments and agencies and peak bodies in our sector, including the offices of the:

- Prime Minister
- Deputy Prime Minister
- Treasurer
- Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Minister for Climate Change Energy and Water
- Minister for Employment Participation
- Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace relations

Consultations

- ACCC – Consumer Consultative Committee
- Anglicare
- Attorney General’s NGO Forum on Domestic Human Rights
- The Australian Collaboration
- Australian Health Care Reform Alliance
- Australian Human Rights Commission

- Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
- Australian Services Union
- Australian Taxation Office Cash Economy Taskforce
- Australian Taxation Office Charities Consultative Committee
- Centrelink Community Reference Group
- Charitable Law Stakeholder Engagement Group
- Community Housing Federation
- Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council
- Consumers Health Forum
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade NGO Consultative Group
- Ethnic Disability Alliance
- Family Support Program (FaHCSIA)
- Frontier Services
- Homelessness Australia
- International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW)
- Job Futures
- National Affordable Housing Agreement Roundtable, Melbourne
- National Executive of Centrelink
- National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
- National Housing Affordability Summit Group
- National Member Organisations – Canberra
- National Member Organisations – Melbourne
- National Member Organisations – Sydney
- National Preventive Health Taskforce
- National Roundtable of Non-profit Organisations
- National Welfare Rights Network
- Pension Review Taskforce
- PWD Australia
- Reconciliation Australia
- Refugee and Humanitarian Inter-government NGO Group
- Salvation Army
- Smith Family
- Telstra Consumer Consultative Council

The Board of Governors

ACOSS is governed by a 20-member voluntary Board of Governors who are elected for a two-year term. The main responsibilities of the Board relate to the making of policy, the adoption of the annual budget, oversight of the work of the Council, the nomination of ACOSS representatives to advisory bodies and the appointment of honorary Policy Advisers and working parties.

The Executive has all the powers of the Board between Board meetings. It comprises the President, two Deputy Presidents, the Treasurer and two additional members elected by the Board. It makes any decisions required between Board meetings and usually concentrates on organisational issues so that the Board can devote most of its time to major policy matters.

ACOSS Board (at 30 June 2009)

<p>President Lin Hatfield Dodds (Resigned as President, June 2009) David Thompson (Elected President June 2009)</p> <p>Deputy Presidents David Thompson (Until June 2009) Terese Edwards Adrian Pisarski (Elected June 2009)</p> <p>Treasurer Alan Kirkland (Resigned from the Board 4 July 2008) Barry Hansen (Elected Treasurer effective 5 July 2008)</p> <p>Other Executive Members Alex Huntir – TasCOSS Gail Middleton – QCOSS</p>	<p>State/Territory Council of Social Service representatives Graeme Evans – ACTCOSS Chris Hall – WACOSS Mary Perkins – NCOSS Simon Schrapel – SACOSS Marilyn Webster – VCOSS Tracey Brand – NTCOSS</p> <p>Special Assembly National Member Organisation representatives Maryanne Diamond – Vision Australia Terese Edwards – Barkuma</p> <p>National Member Organisation representatives John Falzon – St Vincent de Paul National Council Phil Glendenning – Edmund Rice Centre Lincoln Hopper – Mission Australia Gerard Thomas – Welfare Rights Adrian Pisarski – National Shelter</p>
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Aims, Focus and Structure

Our Vision

A fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia where all individuals and communities have the resources they need to participate in and benefit from social and economic life.

Our Values

- We recognise the right of all Australians to opportunity, justice and equity.
- We acknowledge the importance of making a positive difference to the wellbeing of disadvantaged Australians.
- We value national policy solutions that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.
- We respect the civil, social, economic and cultural contributions of all individuals and communities.
- We recognise the heritage and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the need for action which advances reconciliation and justice for Indigenous Australians.

Our Strategic Goals

Our main objectives fall into four key areas:

- Advancing policy solutions for low income and disadvantaged Australians
- Ensuring an independent, diverse and valued community welfare sector
- Maintaining an effectively governed and well resourced organisation
- Engaging the community.

Our Membership Base

First established in 1956, ACOSS has over 57 full member organisations. This unparalleled breadth of membership brings together:

- the eight Councils of Social Service in each of the states and territories
- national peak organisations of both consumers and service providers
- national religious and secular welfare agencies
- low-income consumer groups.

Our organisational structure is based on respecting the autonomy of our national members so they are not bound by the policies made by the ACOSS Board. The relationship is two-way – we draw on their collective knowledge and experience in our policy and advocacy work, and they in turn use and often rely on our expertise.

ACOSS also has over 230 associate members. These include individuals as well as a wide range of local, regional and state based organisations not eligible for full membership because that are not 'national' in scope.

The way we work

- We act ethically.
- We lead and support initiatives within the community services and welfare sector.
- We act as an independent public voice.
- We are non-party political.
- We are part of and accountable to the sector.
- We are transparent and consult widely.
- We draw on the wisdom and expertise of our diverse member base.
- We value and draw on the direct experiences of people affected by poverty and inequality.
- We rely on evidence to support our work and uphold high standards of research and analysis.

Key policy areas

We organise our policy and advocacy work around major policy portfolios including:

- Climate Change & Energy
- Community Services
- Economics & Tax
- Employment, Education & Training
- Health
- Housing
- Indigenous Communities
- International
- Law & Justice

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. ACOSS thanks the following policy Advisors for their invaluable advice and guidance over the last year.

Climate Change and Energy

Janet Stanley, Hugh Saddler

Community Services

Eleri Morgan-Thomas, Cath Bartolo, Gary Moore, Samantha Jenkinson, Simon Schrapel

Economics & Tax

Julie Smith, Nicholas Gruen, Richard E Krever

Employment, Education and Training

Elsbeth McInnes, Gerard Thomas, Tony Eardley, David Thompson, Leah Hobson

Health

Alan Owen, Gavin Mooney, Russell McGowan, Fiona Armstrong

Housing

Adam Farrar, Carol Croce, Adrian Pisarski, Kath Halse, Mark Henley

Indigenous Communities

Olga Havnen, Larissa Behrendt, Tracey Brand, Jon Altman, Elliot McAdam, Tom Calma

International

Graeme Evans, Phil Glendenning, Alex Huntir

Law & Justice

Liz Smith

ACOSS Staff

at 30 June 2009

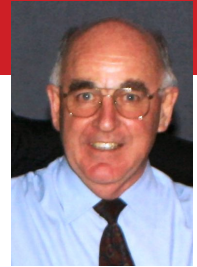
- CEO: Clare Martin
- Senior Policy Officer: Peter Davidson
- Senior Policy Officer: Tony Westmore
- Senior Policy Officer: Tessa Boyd-Caine
- Policy Officer: Jacqui Phillips
- Policy Officer: Ellen Adele
- Media and Communications Officer: Clare Cameron
- Office Manager: Al Parmeter
- Personal Assistant to the CEO: Amy Simmons
- Librarian: Penny Dorsch
- Accounts Officer: Ray Pedley

We farewellled the following staff during the year:

- Policy Manager: Gregor Macfie
- Development and Operations Manager: Sharon Torney
- Policy Officer: Colette O'Neill

We would like to thank Gregor, Sharon and Collette for their commitment and dedication to the development and growth of ACOSS.





Treasurer's Report

Barry Hansen | ACOSS Treasurer

ACOSS ended the year with a surplus of \$60,524 up from \$41,261 in 2008 and bringing the total of our retained surpluses to \$137,294.

Membership fees are down, but management fees and project income have increased significantly.

Expenditure has increased primarily in project costs. Office expenditure is lower due to the purchase in the prior year of a new relationship management database which assists the office in improving communication with members and embarking on fundraising activities.

ACOSS has again been able to add to the provision originally created in 2005-06 for leave, to minimise the impact on the organisation when staff make use of these leave entitlements.

We remain extremely grateful to our ongoing financial supporters HESTA Super Fund and to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for its grant under the National Secretariat Program.

In closing, I would like to thank those within ACOSS who have contributed to the financial result reflected in this report - in particular, Clare Martin for her constant attention to fundraising and cost control.

I also thank the Board and Executive, who have shown a commitment to providing a governance environment that enables sound financial management.

Below: Professor Jon Altman, Australian National University, Barbara Shaw, Shane Phillips, Tribal Warrior Association, Ian McAuley, University of Canberra, Julian Disney, UNSW, Geraldine Doogue, ABC, Senator Rachel Siewert, Australian Greens.



Financial Report

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated: Governors' Report

Your Board of Governors submit the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

Board of Governors

The names of Governors during the year and up to the date of this report are:

Ms. Maryanne Diamond	Mr. Alex Huntir
Ms. Lin Hatfield Dodds (President till 16/06/2009)	Mr. Alan Kirkland (Treasurer, resigned 4/07/2008)
Ms. Terese Edwards	Ms. Gail Middleton
Mr. Graeme Evans	Ms. Mary Perkins
Dr. John Falzon	Mr. Adrian Pisarski
Mr. Phil Glendenning	Mr. Simon Schrapel
Mr. Chris Hall	Mr. Gerard Thomas
Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer 4/07/2008 onwards)	Mr. David Thompson (President from 16/06/2009)
Mr. Lincoln Hopper	Ms. Marilyn Webster
Ms. Tracey Brand (from 06/11/2008)	

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- To provide effective and influential advocacy for Australia's disadvantaged people based on high standards of community consultation, policy development, analysis and research.
- To lead and support initiatives within the community Service and welfare sector and act as an independent non-party political voice.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus/(deficit) for the year amounted to \$60,524 (2008: \$41,261)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Governors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Thompson'.

Mr. David Thompson (President)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Hansen'.

Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer)

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Note	2009	2008
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants Received		499,694	497,750
Membership & Donations		217,494	297,034
Publications		51,140	70,131
Interest		10,067	8,363
Fees For Service		6,705	3,296
Management Fees		211,169	96,954
Project Income		613,681	499,105
Other		33,772	13,123
		<u>1,643,722</u>	<u>1,485,756</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Board & Executive		54,617	41,402
ICSW		7,555	7,252
Occupancy		72,446	76,494
Office		97,602	116,410
Publications		31,466	33,398
Resources (Library, etc)		25,672	22,268
Staffing		641,916	618,677
Travel & Accommodation		37,684	34,998
Project Costs		613,681	493,596
Bad Debts		559	-
		<u>1,583,198</u>	<u>1,444,495</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE INCOME TAX		60,524	41,261
INCOME TAX EXPENSE		-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>60,524</u>	<u>41,261</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these Financial Statements

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	<i>Note</i>	2009 \$	2008 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	305,133	257,710
Trade and other receivables	4	37,467	48,191
Prepayments and deposits	5	6,526	10,195
		<u>349,126</u>	<u>316,096</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	6	20,000	20,000
Property, plant and equipment	7	25,681	31,215
		<u>45,681</u>	<u>51,215</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>394,807</u>	<u>367,311</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	87,239	69,364
Unexpended Income / Project provisions	9	89,223	144,947
Provisions	10	61,882	43,319
		<u>238,344</u>	<u>257,630</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	19,169	32,911
		<u>19,169</u>	<u>32,911</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>257,513</u>	<u>290,541</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>137,294</u>	<u>76,770</u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	11	137,294	76,770
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>137,294</u>	<u>76,770</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year	<u>76,770</u>	<u>35,509</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>60,524</u>	<u>41,261</u>
Total recognised income and expense for the year	<u>60,524</u>	<u>41,261</u>
Total equity at the end of the financial year	<u><u>137,294</u></u>	<u><u>76,770</u></u>

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	<i>Note</i>	2009	2008
		\$	\$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc		666,411	870,383
Grants received		499,694	547,525
Membership and donations		228,229	97,577
Interest received		10,067	8,363
Payments to suppliers, employees, projects costs etc		(1,353,915)	(1,538,223)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<i>(a)</i>	<u>50,486</u>	<u>(14,375)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(3,063)	(3,206)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(3,063)</u>	<u>(3,206)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		47,423	(17,581)
Cash at beginning of year		257,710	275,291
Cash at end of year	<i>3</i>	<u>305,133</u>	<u>257,710</u>
(a) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Operating Surplus		60,524	41,261
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities			
Non-cash flows in profit			
- Depreciation		8,597	11,458
- Loss on asset write-off		-	4,014
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries			
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		10,724	(11,683)
- (Increase)/decrease in prepayments & deposits		3,669	(3,697)
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		17,875	(20,190)
- Increase/(decrease) in unexpended income / project provisions		(55,724)	3,035
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions		4,821	(38,573)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>50,486</u>	<u>(14,375)</u>

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, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

The financial report covers The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as an individual entity, incorporated as an association in the Australian Capital Territory under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

Basis of preparation

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified where indicated by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Statement of compliance

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards. A statement of compliance with 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.

Accounting Policies

a. Income Tax

The Association is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Charitable Institution. In accordance with the Associations income tax exemption status, no provision for income tax is raised in these financial reports.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Plant and equipment

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

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by governors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that 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 are written down to the recoverable amount.

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

b. Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, is depreciated on a diminishing-value basis over their useful lives to the Association, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Furniture & Equipment	20 %
Computer Equipment	30 %

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

c. Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values 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 to the income statement.

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 the asset belongs.

d. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from Service rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

e. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

f. Trade debtors

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

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g. Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement 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 in the balance sheet as a liability until such conditions are met or Service provided.

Donations are recognised in the period that the pledge is made on the basis that the pledge is likely to be paid.

Sponsorship income is recognised in the period in which the related event occurs or over the period of the sponsorship.

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

Publications are recognised monthly, based upon sales for that period.

Membership is recognised on both a quarterly and yearly basis. Where income received is for periods exceeding the financial year end date, income has been apportioned 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 Service tax (GST), where applicable.

h. Goods and Service 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 Australian 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 balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

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

i. Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

j. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. The ability of the Association to continue as a going concern is dependent upon the continued support of its members, donors and the Government.

k. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The executive evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

I. Financial Assets

Recognition

Financial assets are classified into the following specified categories: 'held-to-maturity' investments and 'loans and receivables'. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial asset and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

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 stated 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 method less impairment.

Impairment

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

m. New accounting standards

At the reporting date several 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.

NOTE 2: SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Expenses		
Depreciation of property plant and equipment	8,597	11,458
Remuneration of the auditor of the entity for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	7,749	7,500
Adjustments relating to prior year taken to income in 2009	21,166	-
Rental expense on operating lease rentals		
- Minimum lease payments	<u>50,360</u>	<u>49,292</u>

NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Cash at bank and in hand	73,609	135,563
Short-term bank deposits	231,524	122,147
	<u>305,133</u>	<u>257,710</u>

NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

CURRENT		
Pledges receivable (net of provision)	37,467	48,191
	<u>37,467</u>	<u>48,191</u>

NOTE 5: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

CURRENT		
Prepayments	-	4,337
Deposits	6,526	5,858
	<u>6,526</u>	<u>10,195</u>

NOTE 6: INVESTMENTS

NON-CURRENT		
Shares in Community 21 Limited (ACN 097 612 416)		
- 20,000 ordinary shares of \$1.00 at cost	20,000	20,000
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

NON-CURRENT		
Furniture & Equipment:		
At cost	35,864	49,555
Accumulated depreciation	(20,168)	(30,681)
	<u>15,696</u>	<u>18,874</u>
Computer Equipment:		
At cost	30,235	33,151
Accumulated depreciation	(20,250)	(20,810)
	<u>9,985</u>	<u>12,341</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>25,681</u>	<u>31,215</u>

NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of year	18,874	12,341	31,215
Additions	787	2,276	3,063
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(3,965)	(4,632)	(8,597)
Carrying amount at the end of year	15,696	9,985	25,681

NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

CURRENT

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Trade payables and accrued expense	53,174	43,152
GST payable (net)	19,373	14,482
PAYG Withholding payable	14,692	11,730
	87,239	69,364

NOTE 9: UNEXPENDED INCOME / PROJECT PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Subscriptions in advance	12,037	15,132
Memberships in advance	15,259	16,422
Events income in advance	2,164	-
Australian Fair Project provisions		113,393
Perpetual Get a Fair Hearing	27,978	
Myer Capacity Building	31,785	
	89,223	144,947

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Annual Leave	38,071	24,261
Long Service Leave	23,811	19,058
	61,882	43,319

NON CURRENT

Long Service Leave	19,169	15,780
Maternity / Paternity Leave	-	17,131
	19,169	32,911
	81,051	76,230

NOTE 11: RETAINED EARNINGS	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	76,770	39,509
Net surplus for the year	60,524	41,261
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>137,294</u>	<u>76,770</u>

NOTE 12: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

a. **Finance Lease Commitments**

The Association does not have any finance leases.

b. **Operating Lease Commitments**

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

Payable — minimum lease payments

- not later than 12 months	60,156	60,152
- between 12 months and 5 years	35,499	95,655
- greater than 5 years	-	-
	<u>95,655</u>	<u>155,807</u>

The property lease is a non-cancellable lease beginning on 1 October 2006 and terminating on 30 November 2011 with a 5 year option. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$4,142.66 (excluding GST) with annual indexation applicable.

The photocopier lease is a non-cancellable lease beginning on 5 March 2007 and terminating on 5 December 2012. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$870.00.

NOTE 13: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There were no material contingent liabilities known as at the date of this financial report.

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2009 and up to the date of this financial report which in the opinion of the Governors need to be included in this financial report or referred to in the notes to the financial report.

NOTE 14: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No member of the Board of Governors received remuneration for their Service and no Governor or entity associated with a Governor entered into a contract with the Association since the end of the previous financial year, except for the following:

- Uniting Care Australia (to compensate for Ms. Lin Hatfield Dodds Service)	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
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NOTE 15: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:
Level 2, 619 Elizabeth Street
REDFERN NSW 2016

NOTE 16: SEGMENT REPORTING

The Association undertakes the fulfilment of its principal activities in predominantly one geographical segment, being throughout Australia.

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Financial Risk Management

The Association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

i. Treasury Risk Management

The officers of the Association monitor the organisation's financial position on a regular basis to ensure any risks regarding treasury are mitigated and to ensure that the Association has adequate cash resources to meet its short and long term needs.

ii. Financial Risks

The main risks the Association is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is managed by investing mainly in short term fixed interest investments. For further details on interest rate risk refer to Note 17(b).

Liquidity risk

The Association manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows.

Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The Association does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the Association.

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

b) Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Risk

The Association's exposure to interest rate risks and the effective interest rates of financial assets and financial liabilities both recognised and unrecognised at the balance date are as follows:

2009	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Non-Interest Rate Bearing \$	Interest Bearing maturing within one year \$	Total 30 June 2009 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	2.1	-	73,609	73,609
Term deposit	4.0	-	231,524	231,524
Trade and other receivables	-	37,467	-	37,467
Deposits	-	6,526	-	6,526
Total Financial Assets		43,993	305,133	349,126
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	-	87,239	-	87,239
Total Financial Liabilities		87,239	-	87,239
2008	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Non-Interest Rate Bearing \$	Interest Bearing maturing within one year \$	Total 30 June 2008 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	0.8	-	135,563	135,563
Term deposit	7.9	-	122,147	122,147
Trade and other receivables	-	48,191	-	48,191
Deposits	-	5,858	-	5,858
Total Financial Assets		54,049	257,710	311,759
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	-	69,364	-	69,364
Total Financial Liabilities		69,364	-	69,364

Interest Rate Risk

Based on the value of assets held in cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2009, an increase/decrease in interest rates by 1% would have an impact of \$3,050 increase/reduction in profit over 12 months.

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(c) The net fair values of:

- Term receivables and fixed interest securities are stated at cost.
- Other assets and other liabilities approximate their carrying value.

No financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form.

Aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities at balance date:

	2009		2008	
	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	73,609	73,609	135,563	135,563
Term deposits	231,524	231,524	122,147	122,147
Trade and other receivables	37,467	37,467	48,191	48,191
Deposits	6,526	6,526	5,858	5,858
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	87,239	87,239	89,554	89,554

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

GOVERNORS DECLARATION

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report comprising the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
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 fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Governors and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of Governors by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Thompson', is written above a horizontal line.

Mr. David Thompson (President)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Hansen', is written above a horizontal line.

Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer)

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

We have audited the accompanying financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Governors' declaration.

Governor's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Governors' of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

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. These Auditing 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 entity'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 governors, 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.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

PITCHER PARTNERS

MARK GODLEWSKI

Partner

ACOSS National Members

Councils of Social Service

- Australian Capital Territory Council of Social Service
- New South Wales Council of Social Service
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service
- Queensland Council of Social Service
- South Australian Council of Social Service
- Tasmanian Council of Social Service
- Victorian Council of Social Service
- Western Australian Council of Social Service

National Member Organisations

- ACE National Network
- Anglicare Australia
- Australasian Men's Health Forum
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Bahai Community
- Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
- Australian Community Children's Services
- Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Federation of Aids Organisations
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Institute of Welfare & Community Workers Inc
- Australian Nursing Federation
- Australian Psychological Society
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Carers Australia
- Community Housing Federation of Australia
- Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- COTA Over 50s
- Council of Australian Humanist Societies
- Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc.
- Deafness Forum of Australia
- Doctors Reform Society Australia
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Frontier Services
- Homelessness Australia
- Job Futures Limited
- Jobs Australia
- Lifeline Australia

- Mission Australia
- National Association of Community Development Organisations
- National Association of Community Legal Centres
- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
- National Council of the YMCAs of Australia
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- National LGBT Health Alliance
- National Rural Health Alliance
- National Shelter
- National Welfare Rights Network
- People with Disability Australia Inc
- Playgroup Australia
- Pregnancy Help Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia Inc.
- Reconciliation Australia
- Relationships Australia Inc
- SANE Australia
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care
- Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association
- The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory
- The Salvation Army, Southern Command
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare Australia
- Women With Disabilities Australia
- Women's Services Network
- Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

Affiliate Members

- Australian Education Union
- National Council of the YMCAs of Australia
- The Infant's Home Child & Family Services

ACOSS Associate Members

- ACES Services Inc
- Access Innovation Media
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Aged and Community Services Australia
- Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Inc
- Alice's Cottages
- Anglicare Central Queensland Ltd
- Anglicare SA
- Anglicare Tasmania Inc
- Anglicare Victoria
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Services Union
- Barnardos
- The Benevolent Society
- Berry Street Victoria Inc
- Best Employment Ltd
- Bowden Brompton Community Group Inc
- Broadmeadows UnitingCare
- The Burdekin Association
- Canterbury-Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre
- Careforce Community Services
- Carers Association of Tasmania Inc
- Carers NSW Inc
- Catholic Care
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc
- Children's Protection Society
- Churches Community Housing Ltd
- Clarence Valley Council
- Communicare Inc
- Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc
- Community Restorative Centre
- Department for Community Development (WA)
- Department Planning and Community Development (Vic)
- Eastern Access Community Health
- Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
- Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW
- Environmental Training and Employment
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Families Australia Inc
- Family Action Centre
- Family Emergency Accommodation
- Financial and Consumer Rights Council
- GHD Hassall
- Global Care - Mid North Coast Region
- Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service
- Great Lakes Community Resources
- Gungahlin Regional Community Service
- Guthrie House Cooperative Ltd
- Health and Community Services Workforce Council
- Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc
- Illawarra Forum Inc
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner South-West Community
- Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development
- Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
- Kilmany Uniting Care
- Kyabra Community Association Inc
- La Trobe University Bendigo
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Lotterywest
- Loxcare Inc
- Lutheran Community Care
- Macarthur Community Forum Inc
- Macarthur Disability Services
- MacKillop Family Services

- Melbourne City Mission
- Mercy Community Services
- Mid North Coast Regional Council for Social Development
- Mobile Children's Services Association of NSW
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- Mountains Outreach Community Service
- Murra Mia Tenants Advice Service
- Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre
- Newcastle Family Support Services
- Newfangled Ideas
- Northside Community Forum Inc
- NSW Deaf Society
- NSW Department of Community Services
- NSW Federation of Housing Associations
- NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc
- Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering
- Peak Care Queensland Inc
- Penrith City Council
- Phoenix House Youth Services
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Public Interest Law Clearing House
- Quality Industry Training and Employment
- Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
- Queensland Shelter
- Relationships Australia (SA)
- Riverwood Community Centre Inc
- Ruah Community Services
- Rural Housing Network Ltd
- Samaritans Foundation
- Shelter WA Inc
- Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
- Social Action Office
- Social Security Appeals Tribunal
- Society of St Vincent de Paul
- South West Area Health Service Population Health
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau
- SPYNS Inc
- St John's Youth Services
- St Michaels Association
- St Patrick's Community Support Centre
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- St Vincent de Paul Society VIC Inc
- Sussex Street Community Law Service
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Tangentyere Council
- Tasmanian Parliamentary Library
- Tenants' Union of Queensland
- Tenants Union QLD - Nth QLD Office
- Toukley Women's Refuge Inc
- TRI Community Exchange
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- UnitingCare Children, Young People and Family Services
- UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania
- UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Inc
- UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of South Australia
- Upper Hume Community Health Service
- Victoria University
- Welfare Rights & Legal Centre (ACT)
- Welfare Rights Centre Inc (QLD)
- Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc
- WESTIR Ltd
- Whitehorse City Council
- Wimmera UnitingCare
- Women's Legal Services NSW
- Yilli Rreung Housing Corporation
- Youth Affairs Council of SA
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- YWCA of Canberra

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- **Conference Partner:** NSW Government
- **Conference Supporter:** Jobs Australia
- **Conference Supporter:** Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- **Lunch sponsor:** Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council

Donors

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