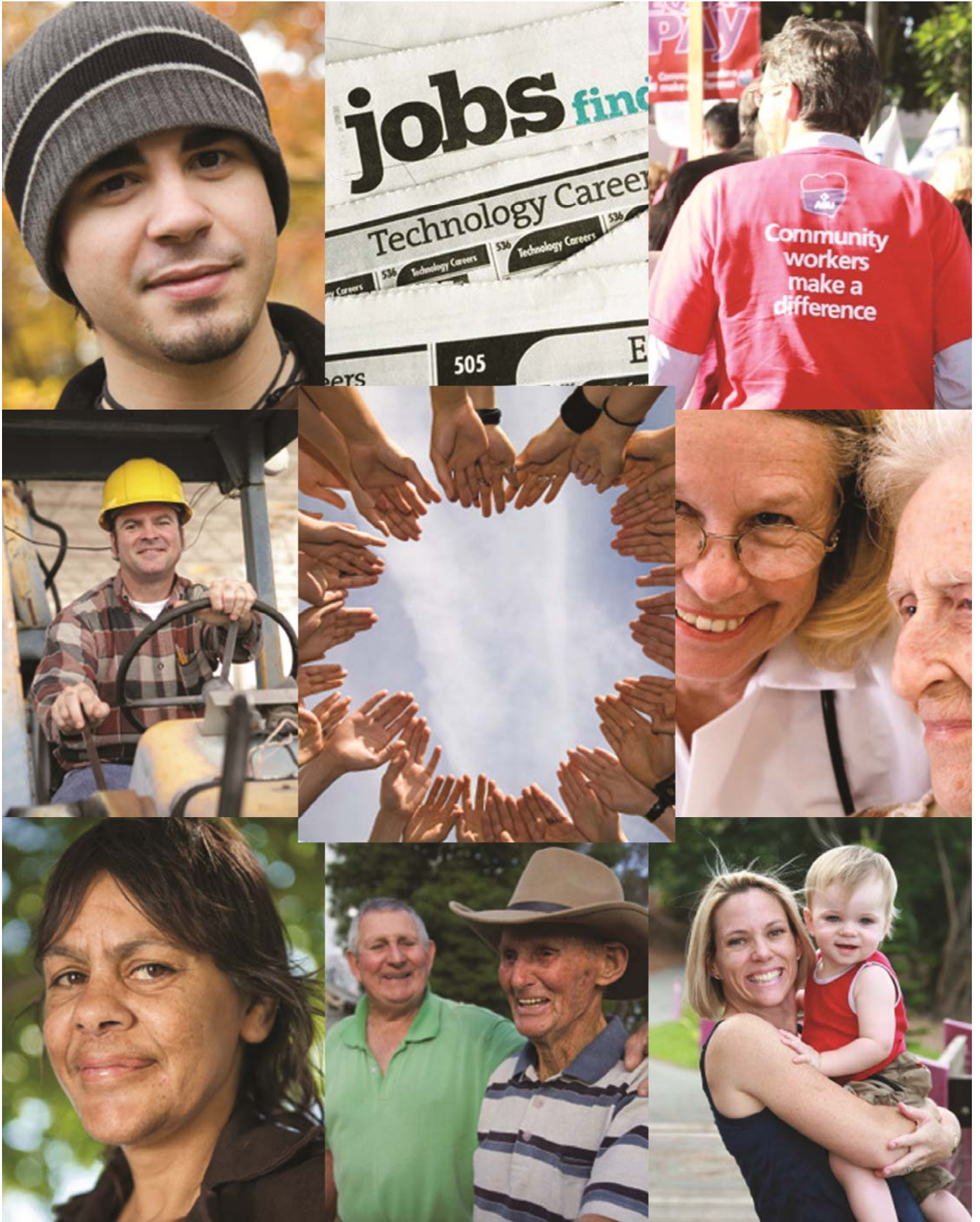




Australian Council of Social Service Annual Report 2009-2010





Contents

President’s Message	4
Summary of Activities	6
Submissions and Meetings.....	10
The Board of Governors	13
Aims, Focus and Structure	14
Treasurer’s Report	16
Financial Report	17
ACOSS National Members.....	35
ACOSS Associate Members	36
Acknowledgements.....	39

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

Simon Schrapel | ACOSS President

The last 12 months has seen Australia move beyond the shadow of the global financial crisis that had dominated public policy decision making over the preceding 2 years. Whilst the broader global economic climate remains volatile Australia has weathered the storm, according to all major indicators, better than most advanced economies. This was in no small way the result of targeted stimulus spending much of it directed to those on low incomes or on significant social issues such as the availability of low cost housing.

However, as the economy gradually regains ground the decisions being made on key economic and social policy issues will be as important as those made during the 'crisis'. ACOSS has positioned its policy development and advocacy priorities accordingly.

The past year has seen the release of two seminal reports, both of which ACOSS contributed to through major submissions and both of which have the potential to shape the future of Australian society and the Community Service sector.

The Henry Tax Review was always likely to be a controversial and richly critiqued piece of work. It was touted as providing the most significant reform agenda in the tax and transfer system in over a generation and in large delivered on this promise. ACOSS's own analysis of the Tax Review recommendations found favour with some proposals aimed at redressing current inequities and regressive elements of current taxation arrangements including the perennial problem of disincentives facing those transferring from income support payments to paid employment. However on other elements ACOSS has been less positive and the coming year will be pivotal to ensure that needed reforms which are advantageous to the poor and those on low incomes are given priority.

Allied to the tax reforms has been ACOSS's continuing fight to bring about much needed reform to working age social security payments. The existing inequities and underlying inadequacy of many payments was only accentuated in the decision to increase certain pensions during the financial crisis.

ACOSS has produced a detailed and comprehensive proposal for bringing about reforms in social security which would both simplify the currently over complex

system and most importantly ensure all payments meet an agreed Minimum Standard of Living.

The ACOSS proposals are fair, based on sound evidence and maintain flexibility around issues such as activity requirements for those seeking work. However Social Security is not a 'popular' area of public policy beyond a prevailing community view that those who need to rely on such payments must be subjected to controls and obligations.

It has been this very ethos that has led ACOSS to not only lead the fight for social security reform but to contest the government's policy on compulsory income management for certain categories of recipient. ACOSS opposed the application of such policy when introduced in the Northern Territory and has strongly contested its further roll-out across Australia. As with all ACOSS advocacy our position has been based on both strong principles of human rights and dignity and solid evidence about what works. ACOSS will continue to advocate against a policy which is costly, has yet to demonstrate that it can meet its policy targets of improved wellbeing and which is fundamentally disempowering

The second major report of significance released in the past year to which ACOSS made a major contribution was the much awaited Productivity Commission review of the Not for Profit Sector. It signalled a raft of proposed reforms aimed at improving the regulation of not for profits and in managing the funding and contracting relationships between organisations and governments. ACOSS has been broadly supportive of the Commission's findings and recommendations acknowledging their significance for the future operations and viability of ACOSS members and the broader sector.

However, as with constructive Social Security reforms the bulk of the Productivity Commissions' recommendations run the risk of becoming sidelined. ACOSS had participated in the National Compact, becoming one of its initial signatories, on the basis that it offered opportunities to improve government/non-government relationships and reduce unnecessary administrative red-tape. The Compact remains an important avenue for change if managed well and together with improvements outlined in the Productivity Commission report ACOSS will need to maintain sufficient pressure to help shepherd needed change.

The past year has been a typically productive year for ACOSS on both the policy development and advocacy front. In addition to the issues arising from the Henry and Productivity reviews ACOSS has continued its work in core areas such as the impact of climate change and rising utility costs on low income Australians, in health and housing reforms and in advocating for a paid work experience program for those experiencing long-term unemployment. These and other topics aimed at achieving ACOSS's vision for a "fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia" have been articulated through budget submissions, our election platform and priorities and in a successful National Conference conducted during March in Canberra, entitled "A vote for Equity".

The other side of the policy ledger has seen ACOSS's growing engagement in issues impacting on the viability of Community Service organisations. One of the key matters of interest has been the pressures of securing and retaining a well trained workforce capable of meeting the demands of managing and delivering services in an increasingly complex environment. To this end ACOSS has taken a key leadership role in harnessing the sector's experience and input to the national "Pay Equity" case which will impact on a large portion of the ACOSS membership's workforce. It is essential that this process results in an outcome that will help organisations maintain a workforce capable of delivering quality services together with the requisite funding needed to sustain such a workforce.

The key priorities for ACOSS for the forthcoming period have been captured in a new Strategic Plan prepared by the Board and Secretariat for 2010-2013. To facilitate the achievement of our vision and in line with our values ACOSS has identified 4 key result areas and 10 key supporting strategies which encapsulate our core business. In doing so the Board has also prioritised a range of public policy areas in which it will seek to take a lead development and advocacy role together with a range of other areas in which we will seek to partner and support others who are active in the field. As a relatively small organization with limited resources the Board has also identified the critical importance of increasing and diversifying our income as a key future priority. This will be a major area of focus for the Board in the forthcoming year to enable ACOSS to meet the demands of being a proactive and credible voice in the formation and influence of public policy.

ACOSS has been fortunate in being able to rely on the services of a Secretariat which has continued to produce high quality policy analysis, engage with the wider

membership and constituency and undertake effective advocacy and communications. Unfortunately during the past year ACOSS lost the excellent contribution of our CEO Clare Martin who decided to return to Darwin to take up a new opportunity with the University. Clare had done much to help build the public profile of ACOSS during her tenure and was active in working with the Board on ACOSS's new strategic directions.

ACOSS was delighted to welcome Dr Cassandra Goldie as the new CEO – just in time for the lead in to the Federal Election. Cassandra brings a wealth of policy and management experience to the organization and is a great addition to what is a highly credentialed and respected Secretariat. During the hiatus between departing and incoming CEO's special mention is to be made of the excellent leadership shown by Tony Westmore who was ably supported by all staff.

Finally I would acknowledge the ongoing contributions of all ACOSS Board members and in particular the Executive for their contribution throughout the year. One of ACOSS's great strengths remains the enormous intellectual property held across its membership and in particular by those who serve on the ACOSS Board and assist through other roles such as many dedicated Policy Advisers.

The generosity of contributions from all Board members ensures that the work of ACOSS remains strongly focussed on the issues that matter most for low income Australians.

Summary of Activities

Australia's recovery from the Global Financial Crisis dominated social policy, public discourse and the political landscape in this past year in the lead up to the Federal Election. With most of the talk centred on returning the Federal Budget to surplus, and winding back the unprecedented Federal economic stimulus, ACOSS has been focused on ensuring low income and disadvantaged people in Australia are protected as cost of living pressures continue to bite long after the downturn and a significant group of people face entrenched long term unemployment.

Advancing policy solutions for low income and disadvantaged Australians

Energy, Climate Change and Water

Energy: ACOSS continued a major project funded by the Consumer Advocacy Panel to advocate the interests of low income households in national energy markets. Over the course of this year the focus was on finalisation of new regulatory arrangements for distribution and retail functions in both electricity and gas. This regime, the National Energy Customer Framework, had been in development for some time and is expected to be legislated in late 2010 for implementation from mid-2011.

The other significant component of this project was work on the National Smart Metering Program. ACOSS represented the National Consumer Roundtable on Energy on the National Stakeholder Steering Committee and contributed to work on technical and regulatory detail.

ACOSS also contributed to a separate program of work on smart meter consumer protection and safety issues. As energy prices continued to increase at rates well beyond those for goods and services generally, and to impact harshly on households with low and fixed incomes, ACOSS advocated for compensatory increases to pensions, benefits and concessions.

In December 2009 ACOSS was appointed to the consumer advisory group newly established by the Australian Energy Regulator.

Energy efficiency: Related to our work in energy markets more generally, ACOSS continued to advocate for investment in improving end use energy efficiency

for low income households and the community welfare sector.

Climate change: Over the course of the year ACOSS continued to work on climate change policy and responses through the Southern Cross Climate Coalition in partnership with the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Conservation Foundation and The Climate Institute. ACOSS continued to advocate for the introduction of a cap and trade emissions trading scheme.

Water: ACOSS maintained a watching brief on two significant projects; the COAG mandated urban water reform program and development of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. In partnership with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (NSW) and the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (Victoria), ACOSS presented *Water reform – A national consumer forum* in Melbourne in July 2009.

Community Services

ACOSS has been active on a significant number of important initiatives associated with the delivery of community services.

- ACOSS has been working with our members on the proposed national disability insurance scheme, which culminated in a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into a disability long-term care and support scheme. An interim report from that Inquiry is due in early 2011.
- ACOSS continued its work towards a Compact between the Australian Government and the Third Sector, culminating in the launch of the Compact in March this year, to which ACOSS is a signatory.
- The ACOSS Sector Survey continues to be a major source of data on the community sector and is cited across the sector as well as by governments and institutions such as the Productivity Commission and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This year's report again attracted substantial media coverage, which focused on the pressures on community agencies and the cost of living. Surveyed organisations provided services to Australians on 4.3 million occasions, an increase of 4% on the previous year. Young people, sole parents and Indigenous Australians were among

the groups with the highest need for services. There were over half a million requests for help from people needing youth employment and youth welfare services during the year.

- We have also conducted an important project to update the ACOSS Emergency Relief Handbook, thanks to funding from the Department of Family and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Handbook was last produced in 2003 and is an essential resource for services across the country. As part of the project ACOSS commenced a national consultation which enabled us to hear directly from services about the needs of their clients and the challenges they face in meeting those needs. The project is ongoing.

Health

ACOSS has continued to progress our health reform agenda and to advocate for a primary care system that will improve the health of low income Australians and of those living in communities that are disadvantaged in terms of access to health services.

- We welcomed the release of the Report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the National Preventative Health Taskforce which continued the important national debate generated about the kind of health system we want in Australia. However, whilst the reforms to the health system will improve the integration of health promotion and primary care within a clearly multi-disciplinary model, important pieces of the puzzle are missing, not least in the areas of oral health and mental health.
- We made a submission to the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health urging greater investment in adequate and appropriate support services, particularly in the community.
- We also participated in a joint submission from the Councils of Social Service across the country to the Commonwealth Government's Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010. The submission outlined key issues of principle that are important in establishing identifiers in the new e-health system and in protecting as well as promoting the interests of health care consumers.
- As funding continues to be a major focus on government policy in health reform, ACOSS

undertook particular analyses of spending on health in this year's Federal Budget. All of these documents are available from our website.

Employment, Education and Training and Social Security

ACOSS policy development in this area has focused on policies to reduce unemployment, especially long term unemployment, employment assistance to improve the job prospects of the most disadvantaged jobless people, and adequate incomes, better work incentives and reasonable activity requirements for social security recipients.

- ACOSS welcomed the greater flexibility of the new Job Services Australia system that replaced the Job Network to meet the individual needs of unemployed people, and a number of the features of the new system were recommended by us. We are disappointed, however, at the reduced level of resources for providers to assist long term unemployed people during the 'work experience phase' of the new system. A key missing element of employment services for disadvantaged job seekers is paid work experience (through wage subsidies or temporary community sector jobs) and we have lobbied for the introduction of such a program.
- ACOSS supported the objective of a new 'earn or learn' requirement for unemployed young people policy and engaged in consultations with Government over its implementation. We also supported the expansion of vocational training for unemployed people generally through the Productivity Places program, a policy we have advocated for some time.
- ACOSS continued to raise the inequities of the current income support system in our work, including through the development of a framework for the reform of social security payments for people of working age.
- ACOSS also published a paper on reform of family payments which advocated higher payments for older children and young people, the introduction of a supplement for sole parent families to reduce poverty among those families, and reform of the structure of Family Tax Benefits to improve equity and employment incentives.

Economics and Tax

ACOSS has continued to advocate policies to ease the impact of the economic downturn and reduce unemployment. Our economics and tax policy work focus is on policies to strengthen economic development and growth so that low income people benefit from more jobs and improved incomes, and reform of the tax system to raise public revenue for the benefits and services Australians need in a fairer and more economically efficient way.

- We strongly supported the thrust of Federal Government actions to cushion the national economy and prevent the loss of hundreds and thousands of jobs during the Global Financial Crisis. In a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Government's economic stimulus initiatives ACOSS called for adjustments to the stimulus program to ensure Australians without jobs or secure housing were protected from the worst effects of the downturn. Despite the recovery we have noted the growing problem of long-term unemployment and the disproportionate impact of the economic decline on young Australians and have sought sustained Government action on this front.
- We participated in the Government's review of the tax and transfer system (the 'Henry Review') by publishing submissions and policy papers on tax and transfers reform, working with the ACTU, ACF and Consumer's Federation of Australia through the Community Tax Forum, and putting our views in meetings with the tax review panel.
- We were pleased that the 'Henry report' advocated reforms in many of the priority areas identifies by ACOSS, and supported the proposed introduction of a tax on resource rents as a fair and economically efficient way for Australia to benefit from the use of our mineral resources. However, to date only a minority of the best proposals in the Henry Report have been announced as Government policy.

Housing and Homelessness

- ACOSS has continued to advocate for a fair and equitable housing system where low income Australians have access to safe, secure and affordable housing. We have welcomed a number of recent housing policy developments, including the substantial investment in affordable housing as part of the Government's economic stimulus package,

the creation of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), the homelessness White Paper (The Road Home) and significant increase in funding to homelessness services.

- ACOSS is a member of the National Affordable Housing Summit Group, along with National Shelter, the ACTU, the Housing Industry Association and the Community Housing Federation of Australia.
- In September 2009, ACOSS coordinated a National Affordable Rental Housing Advocacy Day in Canberra.
- ACOSS also conducted independent advocacy on housing and homelessness issues through submissions and papers including our submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into Homelessness Legislation and the Inquiry into the Government's economic stimulus initiatives.

Law and Justice

- ACOSS advocates for a fair and equitable legal system for low income and disadvantaged people. In particular, we advocate to improve access to legal services and to ensure that legal and administrative decision making processes are transparent and fair.
- In November 2009, ACOSS made a submission as part of the COSS network to the Federal Government about the ongoing discrimination faced by migrants under the Migration Act and in relation to social security policy. The submission argues for the application of human rights to the Migration Act and for reform of the tax and transfer system to ensure that migrants with a disability are able to access the same social security entitlements as all Australians.

Indigenous communities

- The Government introduced legislation to extend the system of compulsory Income Management (where half of social security payments are quarantined for the purchase of essentials using a 'basics card' or by negotiation with Centrelink) to long term recipients of unemployment and parenting payments in disadvantaged regions nominated by the Minister. This replaced the previous system of Income Management in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

The Minister announced that the new system would apply at first across the Northern Territory and would then be extended further afield subject to an evaluation.

- As compulsory income management is a fundamental departure from the principle that Australian social security recipients decide how to spend their payments, and the compulsory scheme is likely to prove a costly and ineffective way to resolve a set of deep and complex social problems, ACOSS has continued to strongly oppose this policy in its policy, advocacy and media work. An issues paper to explain the new system was prepared and we are monitoring its rollout in the Northern Territory. We have argued for a system of voluntary income management which individuals or disadvantaged communities can opt into, to replace the blanket extension of quarantining to categories of social security recipients and for investment in services that could make a tangible difference to those living in deeply disadvantaged communities.

Ensuring an independent, diverse and valued community and welfare sector

- A major piece of work for ACOSS was contributing to the Productivity Commission's study of the contribution of the not-for-profit sector. Following submissions the previous year, ACOSS continued our involvement in the process through responses to the interim and final reports of the study. We have taken a lead in advocating for the adoption of many of the Report's recommendations and continue to work with Government and the sector in that respect.
- ACOSS has also taken a lead role in coordinating advocacy for funding associated with the historic equal remuneration case lodged by the Australian Services Union with Fair Work Australia in March 2010.
- ACOSS will continue to advocate for an adequate, nationally consistent approach to Australian Governments funding responses to the outcomes of the Case, to ensure that wages are appropriately increase, without loss of jobs and services.

Engaging the community

ACOSS is always looking for opportunities to engage the community in our work and policy development through our publications, events and activities.

- The highlight is our annual National Conference, and this year's event in Canberra was a great success with around 350 registrations and a lot of media interest.
- The overall feedback was extremely positive about the topics explored and the range of speakers. The sessions on population and on emerging equity issues in 2010, moderated by the ABC's Chris Uhlmann, were standouts.
- ACOSS has been involved in the Perpetual Project, which seeks to tell the stories of people whose lives have been improved by community services. As part of this project we have visited several services in the past year, including the Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre in Hobart; the Willoughby Men's Shed in NSW; Boystown in Logan, Qld; the Magdalene Centre in Adelaide, and the Phoenix Fridge Project in Melbourne. ACOSS staff spoke to people whose lives had improved through the use of community services. These 'good news' stories are used in presentations as examples of the huge difference made to individual lives by the community sector.
- ACOSS has upgraded and will continue to improve our website, and utilize other forms of social media to better engage the community and publicise the important contribution and work of the sector.

Maintaining an effectively governed and well-resourced organization

This year continued the ACOSS Board's work on improving its governance structures and accountability mechanisms. The Board also developed a comprehensive new Strategic Plan for 2010-13 to underpin and strengthen the role of the organisation into the future. This work lays the foundation for future work ensuring that ACOSS work accords with strategic priorities in the context of available resources.

Submissions and Meetings

During 2009-10 ACOSS prepared 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

- Joint COSS Submission to the Industrial Relations Commission. July 2009.
- Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth. Inquiry into Homelessness Legislation. August 2009.
- Submission to the Senate Economics Committee Inquiry into the Government's economic stimulus initiatives. September 2009.
- Joint COSS submission on a Compact between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector. September 2009.
- Submission to Better Dealings with Government: Innovation in Payments and Information Services Discussion Paper for Industry Consultation. October 2009.
- Submission to the Productivity Commission: Response to the Draft Research Report into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector. November 2009.
- Joint COSS submission to the Joint Standing Commission on Migration: Inquiry into the migration treatment of people with a disability. November 2009.
- Submission to Workforce Futures: Towards an Australian Workforce Development Strategy. November 2009.
- Submission to the Australian Public Service Inquiry: Reform of Australian Government Administration. December 2009.
- Joint COSS Submission to the Commonwealth Government on the Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010. January 2010.
- Submission to Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee: Inquiry into Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 and related bills. February 2010.
- Submission to 16th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review. March 2010
- Submission to Fair Work Australia on minimum wages. March 2010.

ACOSS Papers and Publications

- Progressive tax reform: Reform of the personal income tax system. ACOSS Paper 158. November 2009.
- Progressive tax reform. Reform of the personal income tax system, summary. ACOSS Paper 159. November 2009.
- Reform of Family Payments. ACOSS Paper 160. November 2009.
- Joint Community Sector Statement on Income Management. December 2009.
- ACOSS National Conference 2010: A Vote for Equity. Proceedings, volumes 1 and 2. March 2010
- Budget Priority Statement, 2010-2011. January 2010
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010. Volume 1, National. ACOSS Paper 161. March 2010
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 2, New South Wales. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 3, Queensland. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 4, Victoria. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 5, Western Australia. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 6, Tasmania. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 7, South Australia. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 8, Australian Capital Territory. March 2010.
- Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2010, Volume 9, Northern Territory. March 2010.
- Report of ACOSS Consultation on National Standard Chart of Accounts. March 2010.
- Social Service Sector Development: Glossary of Terms. March 2010.
- ACOSS Proposals for reform of family payments: Family payment factsheet. April 2010.
- Out of the Maze: A Better Social Security System for People of Working Age. ACOSS Paper 163. April 2010.

- Australia's Future Tax System. Tax Reform Evaluation. ACOSS Paper 164. May 2010.
- Australia's Future Tax System. Social Security Reform Evaluation. ACOSS Paper 165. May 2010.
- Initial Analysis of Federal Budget 2010-11. ACOSS Paper 166. May 2010.

Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Vol 44, Number 3, Spring 2009
- Vol 44, Number 4, Summer 2009
- Vol 45, Number 1, Autumn 2010
- Vol 45, Number 2, Winter 2010

IMPACT Magazine

- Winter Edition 2009
- Spring Edition 2009
- Summer Edition 2010
- Autumn Edition 2010
- Spring Edition 2010

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
- Minister for Ageing
- Minister for Climate Change, Energy and Water
- Minister for Employment Participation
- Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts
- Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- Minister for Health and Ageing
- Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace relations
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Department of Human Services
- Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services

- Treasurer's Office
- Senates Community Affairs Committee – Income Management hearings
- Commissioner, the Productivity Commission
- Fair Work Australia – Minimum Wage Panel

Consultations

- ACCC – Consumer Consultative Committee
- Anglicare
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
- Australian Collaboration
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Health Care Reform Alliance
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Australian Services Union
- Australian Youth Advisory Council
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Centrelink Service Delivery Policy Committee
- Community Housing Federation
- Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council
- Community Tax Forum
- Consumers Health Forum
- Consumers Federation of Australia
- Community Research Centre for Social Inclusion
- Disability Employment Services Evaluation Reference Group
- Fair Work Australia Research Committee
- Fair Work Ombudsman
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Homelessness Australia
- Industry Reference Group on Employment Service Contracting
- International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW)
- Job Futures
- Microsoft Australia
- Mission Australia

- National Affordable Housing Agreement Roundtable, Melbourne
- National Civil Society Dialogue
- National Consumer's Roundtable on Energy
- National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
- National Housing Affordability Summit Group
- National Member Organisations – Brisbane
- National Member Organisations – Canberra
- National Member Organisations – Melbourne
- National Member Organisations – Sydney
- National Preventive Health Taskforce
- National Roundtable of Non for Profit Organisations
- National Smart Metering Program – National Stakeholder Steering Committee National Smart Metering Program - Business Requirements Working Group
- National Smart Metering Program - Regulation Requirements Working Group
- National Welfare Rights Network
- NSW Cancer Council
- Perpetual Foundation
- PWD Australia
- Prime Minister's Action Group for Energy Efficiency
- Reconciliation Australia
- Salvation Army
- Southern Cross Climate Coalition
- Telstra Consumer Consultative Council
- Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Westpac Community Consultative Committee
- Woolworths Advisory Panel

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 2010)

President

Simon Schrapel
(Elected President, Jan 2010)

David Thompson
(Resigned as President Dec 2009)

Deputy Presidents

Terese Edwards

Adrian Pisarski

Treasurer

Barry Hansen
(Elected Treasurer effective 5 July 2008)

State/Territory Council of Social Service representatives

Rebecca Vasarotti – ACTCOSS

Chris Hall – WACOSS

Mary Perkins – NCOSS

Wendy Malycha – SACOSS

Marilyn Webster – VCOSS

Tracey Brand – NTCOSS

Noel Mundy – TasCOSS

Karyn Walsh - QCOSS

Special Assembly National Member Organisation representatives

Terese Edwards – Barkuma

Michael Bleasdale – People with Disabilities Australia

Graham Douglas-Meyer – Aust Federation of Disability Organisations

National Member Organisation representatives

Lisa Fowkes – Job Futures

Samantha Page – Family Relationship Services Aust

David Thompson – Jobs Australia (ex officio)

Gerard Thomas – Welfare Rights

Adrian Pisarski – National Shelter

Maryanne Diamond – Vision Australia

Aims, Focus and Structure

Our Vision

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.

Our Values

- We recognise the right of all Australians to opportunity, justice and equity.
- We believe in supporting Australians affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality to achieve an adequate standard of living and the right to make the key decisions affecting their lives.
- We recognise the heritage and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the need for action which advances reconciliation and opportunity.
- 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.

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:

- Economics and Tax
- Community Services/Sector Development
- Climate Change & Energy
- Employment, Education & Training
- Health (Oral health and mental health focus)
- Housing (partnership collaborations)
- Indigenous Policy (partnership collaborations)

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 Advisers for their invaluable advice and guidance over the last year.

Climate Change and Energy

Janet Stanley, Hugh Saddler, Mark Henley

Community Services

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

Economics & Tax

Julie Smith, Nicholas Gruen, Richard E Krever, Rosanna Scutella

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, Marcus Spiller, Narelle Clay

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 2010

- CEO: Clare Martin (resigned as at 25 June/10)
- Senior Policy Officer: Peter Davidson
- Senior Policy Officer: Tony Westmore
- Senior Policy Officer: Tessa Boyd-Caine
- Policy Officer: Jacqui Phillips (currently on secondment to AnTAR)
- Policy Officer: Ellen Adele (resigned May/10)
- Policy Officer: Emily Hamilton
- Media and Communications Officer: Clare Cameron
- Office Manager: Al Parmeter
- Personal Assistant to the CEO: Craig Bulley (as of Feb 2010)
Amy Simmons (resigned as at Feb 2010)
- Librarian: Penny Dorsch
- Accounts Officer: Ray Pedley

We farewelled the following staff during the year:

- PA to the CEO: Amy Simmons
- Policy Officer: Ellen Adele
- CEO: Clare Martin

We would like to thank Ellen, Amy and Clare for their commitment and dedication to the development, reputation and growth of ACOSS.



Treasurer's Report

Barry Hansen | ACOSS Treasurer

The financial year to June 2010 involved some difficult decisions for the Board and the Executive to manage the ACOSS budget. We experienced some significant variations in both income and expenditure but managed the budget within the tolerable limits the Board has established.

The financial statements reflect this and I would like to thank the Board for its direction around the budget and our financial reporting and particularly Ray Pedley, our accounts officer for his attention to detail and assistance in the preparation of our financial reports.

Financial Report

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated: Governors' Report

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 2010.

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 (Left Nov 2009)
Ms. Terese Edwards	Ms. Gail Middleton (Left 2010)
Mr. Graeme Evans (Left Sept 2009)	Ms. Mary Perkins
Dr. John Falzon (Left 2010)	Mr. Adrian Pisarski
Mr. Phil Glendenning (Left 2010)	Mr. Simon Schrapel (President 2010)
Mr. Chris Hall	Mr. Gerard Thomas
Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer)	Mr. David Thompson (President 2009)
Mr. Lincoln Hopper (Left 2010)	Ms. Marilyn Webster
Ms. Tracey Brand	Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti (Joined Sept 2009)
Mr. Noel Mundy (Joined 2010)	Ms. Karyn Walsh (Joined 2010)
Ms. Wendy Malycha (Joined 2010)	Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Joined 2010)
Ms. Samantha Page (Joined 2010)	Ms. Lisa Fowkes (Joined 2010)
Mr. Graham Douglas Meyer (Joined 2010)	

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.

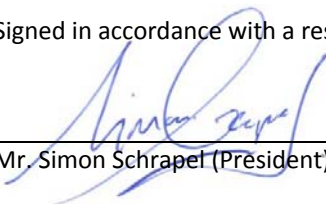
Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The surplus/(deficit) for the year amounted to \$(47,504) (2009: \$60,524)

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



Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)



Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer)

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
INCOME			
Grants Received		504,341	499,694
Membership & Donations		239,878	217,494
Publications		93,301	51,140
Interest		9,970	10,067
Fees For Service		3,000	6,705
Management Fees		88,606	211,169
Project Income		555,985	613,681
Other		8,733	33,772
		1,503,814	1,643,722
EXPENDITURE			
Board & Executive		31,039	54,617
ICSW		7,090	7,555
Occupancy		69,534	72,446
Office		100,668	97,602
Publications		30,166	31,466
Resources (Library, etc)		16,294	25,672
Staffing		693,494	641,916
Travel & Accommodation		47,048	37,684
Project Costs		555,985	613,681
Bad Debts		-	559
		1,551,318	1,583,198
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE INCOME TAX		(47,504)	60,524
INCOME TAX EXPENSE		-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(47,504)	60,524

The accompanying notes form part of these Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	<i>Note</i>	2010 \$	2009 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	366,386	305,133
Trade and other receivables	4	45,094	37,467
Prepayments and deposits	5	12,189	6,526
		<u>423,669</u>	<u>349,126</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	6	20,000	20,000
Property, plant and equipment	7	31,560	25,681
		<u>51,560</u>	<u>45,681</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>475,229</u>	<u>394,807</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	104,680	87,239
Unexpended Income / Project provisions	9	192,041	89,223
Provisions	10	61,928	61,882
		<u>358,649</u>	<u>238,344</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	26,790	19,169
		<u>26,790</u>	<u>19,169</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>385,439</u>	<u>257,513</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>89,790</u>	<u>137,294</u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	11	89,790	137,294
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>89,790</u>	<u>137,294</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year	<u>137,294</u>	<u>76,770</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(47,504)</u>	<u>60,524</u>
Total equity at the end of the financial year	<u>89,790</u>	<u>137,294</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	<i>Note</i>	2010 \$	2009 \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc		594,950	666,411
Grants received		504,341	499,694
Membership and donations		243,794	228,229
Interest received		9,970	10,067
Payments to suppliers, employees, projects costs etc		<u>(1,280,657)</u>	<u>(1,353,915)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(a)	<u>72,398</u>	<u>50,486</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(11,145)</u>	<u>(3,063)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(11,145)</u>	<u>(3,063)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		61,253	47,423
Cash at beginning of year		<u>305,133</u>	<u>257,710</u>
Cash at end of year	3	<u><u>366,386</u></u>	<u><u>305,133</u></u>
(a) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(47,504)	60,524
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities			
Non-cash flows in profit			
- Depreciation		5,266	8,597
- Loss on asset write-off		-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries			
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		(7,627)	10,724
- (Increase)/decrease in prepayments & deposits		(5,663)	3,669
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		17,441	17,875
- Increase/(decrease) in unexpended income / project provisions		102,818	(55,724)
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions		7,667	4,821
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u><u>72,398</u></u>	<u><u>50,486</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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 financial statements 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	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Expenses		
Depreciation of property plant and equipment	5,266	8,597
Remuneration of the auditor of the entity for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	7,924	7,749
Adjustments relating to prior year taken to income in 2009	-	33,772
Rental expense on operating lease rentals		
- Minimum lease payments	52,021	50,360
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
CURRENT		
Cash at bank and in hand	266,386	73,609
Short-term bank deposits	100,000	231,524
	<u>366,386</u>	<u>305,133</u>
NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Pledges receivable (net of provision)	45,094	37,467
	<u>45,094</u>	<u>37,467</u>
NOTE 5: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	4,705	-
Deposits	7,484	6,526
	<u>12,189</u>	<u>6,526</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	38,620	35,864
Accumulated depreciation	(23,624)	(20,168)
	<u>14,996</u>	<u>15,696</u>
Computer Equipment:		
At cost	38,624	30,235
Accumulated depreciation	(22,060)	(20,250)
	<u>16,564</u>	<u>9,985</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>31,560</u>	<u>25,681</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	15,696	9,985	25,681
Additions	2,755	8,390	11,145
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(3,455)	(1,811)	(5,266)
Carrying amount at the end of year	14,996	16,564	31,560

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade payables and accrued expense	60,568	53,174
GST payable (net)	30,561	19,373
PAYG Withholding payable	13,551	14,692
	104,680	87,239

NOTE 9: UNEXPENDED INCOME / PROJECT PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Subscriptions in advance	9,657	12,037
Memberships in advance	19,175	15,259
Events income in advance	182	2,164
Emergency Relief Handbook	65,799	-
Equal Remuneration Case	18,831	-
Australian Community Sector Survey	30,000	-
Climate Risk	(1,616)	-
Perpetual Get a Fair Hearing	16,096	27,978
Myer Capacity Building	33,917	31,785
	192,041	89,223

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Annual Leave	33,147	38,071
Long Service Leave	28,781	23,811
	61,928	61,882

NON CURRENT

Long Service Leave	26,790	19,169
	88,718	81,051

NOTE 11: RETAINED EARNINGS	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	137,294	76,770
Net surplus for the year	<u>(47,504)</u>	<u>60,524</u>
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>89,790</u>	<u>137,294</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	67,311	60,156
- between 12 months and 5 years	34,617	35,499
- greater than 5 years	-	-
	<u>101,928</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 \$4,739.21 (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 2010 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. In addition, since her resignation as President, Ms. Lin Hatfield Dodds, no longer receive any payments:

- Uniting Care Australia (to compensate for Ms. Lin Hatfield Dodds Service)	-	<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: 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 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT.)
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:

2010	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Non-Interest Rate Bearing \$	Interest Bearing maturing within one year \$	Total 30 June 2010 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	1.3	-	266,386	266,386
Term deposit	5.1	-	100,000	100,000
Trade and other receivables	-	45,094	-	45,094
Prepayment and deposits	-	12,189	-	12,189
Total Financial Assets		57,283	366,386	423,669
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	-	104,680	-	104,680
Total Financial Liabilities		104,680	-	104,680
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
Prepayment and 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

Interest Rate Risk

Based on the value of assets held in cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2010, an increase/decrease in interest rates by 1% would have an impact of \$3,050 increase/reduction in profit over 12 months.

NOTE 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT.)

(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:

	2010		2009	
	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	266,386	266,386	73,609	73,609
Term deposits	100,000	100,000	231,524	231,524
Trade and other receivables	45,094	45,094	37,467	37,467
Prepayments and deposits	12,189	12,189	6,526	6,526
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	104,680	104,680	87,239	87,239

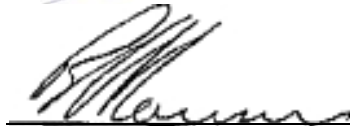
In the opinion of the Board, the financial report comprising the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2010 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Schrapel', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Hansen', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer)



PITCHER PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

Level 22 MLC Centre
19 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

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Pitcher Partners, including Johnston Rorke,
is an association of independent firms
Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Adelaide | Brisbane

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 2010, 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' 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 2010 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*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pitcher Partners".

PITCHER PARTNERS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Godlewski".

MARK GODLEWSKI
Partner

Sydney

Date: 10 November 2010

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 Federation of AIDS Organisations
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Institute of Welfare & Community Workers Inc
- Australian Neighbourhood House & Centres Association
- Australian Nursing Federation
- Australian Psychological Society
- Australian Red Cross
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Carers Australia
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Community Housing Federation of Australia
- Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- COTA Over 50s
- Council of Australian Humanist Societies
- Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc.
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Homelessness Australia

- Job Futures Limited
- Jobs Australia
- Lifeline Australia
- Mission Australia
- 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
- Ostara Australia Ltd
- People with Disability Australia Inc
- Playgroup Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia Inc.
- Reconciliation Australia
- Relationships Australia Inc
- SANE Australia
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care
- Settlement Council of Australia
- Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Federal Coun
- The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory
- The Salvation Army, Australian Southern Territory
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare Australia
- Vision Australia
- Women With Disabilities Aust
- Women's Services Network
- Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

Affiliate Members

- Australian Education Union

Associate Members

Organisational Members

- ACCES Services Inc
- Access Innovation Media
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Aged & Community Services Australia
- Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc
- AIVL - Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc
- Alice's Cottages
- Anglicare
- Anglicare Central Queensland Ltd
- Anglicare SA
- Anglicare Tasmania Inc
- Anglicare Victoria
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Services Union
- Australian-Polish Community Services
- BaptistCare
- Barnardos
- Berry Street Victoria Inc
- BEST Employment Ltd
- Bowden Brompton Community Group Inc
- Broadmeadows Uniting Care
- Cabramatta Community Council
- Careforce Community Services
- Carers Association of Tasmania Inc
- Carers NSW Inc
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- CatholicCare Maitland-Newcastle
- Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace
- Central Coast Community Council
- Central Land Council
- Children's Protection Society
- CHOICE
- Churches Housing Inc
- Clarence Valley Council
- Communicare Inc.
- Community Restorative Centre
- Community Services - Dept of Human Services NSW
- Community Vision
- Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc
- Department of Planning and Community Development VIC Gov
- Dept Planning & Community Development
- Drummond Street Relationship Centre
- Eastern Access Community Health
- Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
- Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW
- Envite Inc
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Family Action Centre
- Family Emergency Accommodation
- Financial & Consumer Rights Council
- Gateway Community Health
- Good Beginnings Australia
- Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service
- Great Lakes Community Resources
- Gungahlin Regional Community Service
- Guthrie House Cooperative Ltd
- Health & Community Services Workforce Council
- Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc
- Illawarra Forum Inc.
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner South-West Community Development Organisation
- Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development
- Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Vic
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- King's International College
- Kyabra Community Association Inc
- La Trobe University Bendigo
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Lotterywest
- LOXCARE Inc

- Lutheran Community Care
- Macarthur Disability Services
- Macarthur Legal Centre
- MacKillop Family Services
- Maroondah City Council
- Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc
- Matthew Talbot Hostel (St Vincent de Paul)
- Melbourne City Mission
- Mercy Community Services
- Mercy Health & Aged Care Central Queensland Ltd
- Metro South Inst of TAFE
- Micah Projects Inc
- Mid North Coast Regional Council for Social Development
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - MSC Mission Office
- Mobile Children Services Association of NSW
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- Mountains Outreach Community Service
- Murra Mia Tenants Advice Service
- Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre
- Nepean Youth Accommodation Service Inc
- New South Wales Deaf Society
- Newcastle Family Support Services
- Newfangled Ideas
- North Queensland Combined Women's Services
- Northside Community Forum Inc.
- NSW Federation of Housing Associations
- NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc.
- Parliament of Tasmania - Library
- Peak Care Queensland Inc
- Penrith City Council
- Phoenix House Youth Services
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)
- Quality Innovation Training & Employment
- Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
- Queensland Shelter
- Relationships Australia (SA)
- Riverwood Community Centre Inc.
- Rural Housing Network Ltd
- School for Social Entrepreneurs Australia
- Sector Connect Inc
- Service to Youth Council Inc
- Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Springvale Community Aid & Advice Bureau
- SPYNS Inc
- SSWAHS Population Health
- St John Ambulance Australia
- St John's Youth Services
- St Michaels Association
- St Patricks Community Support Centre
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Sussex Street Community Law Service
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Tangentyere Council
- Tenants' Union of Queensland
- Tenants Union QLD - Nth QLD Office
- The Benevolent Society
- The Burdekin Association
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc
- The Infant's Home Child & Family Services
- The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
- Toukley Womens Refuge Inc
- Tri Community Exchange
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families Service
- UnitingCare Gippsland
- UnitingCare Victoria & Tasmania
- UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Inc
- UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- Victoria University
- Welfare Rights & Legal Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
- Western Hospital Footscray
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- WESTIR Ltd
- Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc. (WCIG)
- Whitehorse City Council

- WISE Employment
- Women's Legal Services NSW
- Yilli Rreung Housing Corporation
- Youth Affairs Council of SA
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Projects Inc
- YWCA of Canberra

Individual Members

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- Marilyn Alt
- Julia Baird
- Shyla Bauer
- Kate Baxter
- Carol Bell
- Elizabeth Bleby
- Michael Bowd
- Paul Bullen
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Donors

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