



Annual Report

2012 - 2013





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Message from the President

Simon Schrapel | ACOSS President

ACOSS' existence is premised on being able to positively impact on public policy in ways which enhance the wellbeing of those affected by poverty or who experience disadvantage. All that we do should be guided by this outcome and our vision for a fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia.

ACOSS has maintained its position as a pre-eminent advocate in seeking to influence public policy for a fairer Australia. Whether this has been through engagement in the Prime Minister's Economic Reform Panel or building coalitions with bodies such as the Business Council of Australia and the ACTU towards improving employment opportunities or addressing the inadequacy of income support – ACOSS has continued to be at the forefront of influencing key economic and social policy.

ACOSS has made significant progress in consolidating its financial position and improving a range of governance arrangements in relation to governance policy and in response to an evaluation of Board performance.

To achieve this it is imperative that ACOSS is able to enlist the support and engagement of our members together with others who can play a role in meeting ACOSS's vision. This requires strategic alliances and partnerships, something ACOSS has worked hard to achieve in recent times in our quest to influence public policy in the income support arena. It also requires ACOSS to ensure we have a vibrant and active membership which informs and participates in ACOSS's policy development and advocacy processes as both partners and collaborators. I am delighted that our membership continues to grow.

However, the ACOSS Board has been acutely aware of the need to ensure ACOSS retains its relevance and effectiveness for our members, our broader constituency for whose lives and opportunities we aim to improve and to those we seek to influence in the pursuit of establishing a more just and fairer Australia.

This has received a sharper focus as we reviewed the outcomes of our strategic plan and prepared new directions for ACOSS for the coming years.



Like in the government and corporate sectors, community services continue to transform. Many organisations are diversifying; others becoming more focussed. New alliances are being formed. Expectations about what should be delivered by peak bodies or policy advocacy entities are also changing.

ACOSS has an enormously proud record of achievement established over many decades. However we also recognise this ongoing state of transformation; and that it has implications for us, including to ensure that our approaches are fresh and innovative, even when responding to entrenched problems.

The Board has identified a priority in the need to reconstruct the future basis of membership of ACOSS in all of its forms. This is not to suggest that traditional arrangements have not served ACOSS and its objectives well in the past. However it is in recognition of the changing nature of the community services sector, a quest for agencies across Australia to become more engaged in national public policy issues which impact on their operations and on the lives of those they serve. It is also an acknowledgement of the strengthening of relationships which have developed under the guise of the "COSS Collaboration" initiative in recent times which has sought to better harness the collective capacity of Councils of Social Service across the nation.

At the same time the Board has identified the importance of reviewing our governance arrangements and the associated need to further modernise the ACOSS Constitution. The regulatory environments in which all bodies and organisations such as ACOSS operate within demand a high level of both competence and agility. This is not necessarily best achieved through the current

processes and structure of the ACOSS Board, notwithstanding the significant contributions made by past and present Directors. Facilitating these reforms needs to be a high priority for ACOSS.

This agenda of change is embedded in the new strategic plan being presented to members at the upcoming AGM. Whilst it will be for a new Board to lead these reforms they come with a strong sense of commitment fuelled by the experiences and analysis undertaken by the current Board.

These achievements have been built on the back of a high calibre and committed team of staff led by our CEO, Cassandra Goldie. That ACOSS is able to position itself so strongly in the public policy discourse is testimony to the professionalism and credibility of our staff team supported by input from our Policy Advisers, Board and subcommittee members and our broader membership and supporters. I would like to thank all who have played their part in building the reputation ACOSS enjoys today – and to those who will help ensure we undertake the vital reforms ahead of us to remain a credible and relevant advocate for positive change.



ACOSS Conference 2013



Simon Schrapel and Kevin Andrews

Report from the CEO

Cassandra Goldie | ACOSS CEO

As I write, Australia is about to take over the Presidency of the G20, where the discussions continue about how to best secure strong economic growth, whilst delivering better standards of living for all. The global challenge grows: how do we secure a sustainable revenue base through strong economic growth, whilst providing jobs, including for vulnerable people and an adequate social safety net for those not about to be in paid employment.

Australia presents the classic case of the challenges faced by developed countries. Despite over twenty years of strong economic growth, and weathering the GFC better than virtually all other countries, Australia has a rise in the rate of poverty in Australia and growing inequality. Our social security system has not kept up with the rise in wages and associated living costs. Housing costs are becoming increasingly prohibitive for people on low and modest incomes. At the same time, our revenue base is shrinking, and efforts to secure the required tax reform continue to be thwarted.

Over the last year, ACOSS has sought to rise to this challenge, with responsible policy and advocacy on behalf of our constituents, and the nation as a whole. Thank you to all our members and other stakeholders who worked with us to call for:

- An increase in the base rate of the unemployment payment
- Better investment in people struggling to get paid work
- Productivity measures that draw on the strengths of the diversity of our community including an aging population, rather than at our expense
- Reforms including tax measures to tackle housing affordability and rates of homelessness



- Responsible tax reform, including in the areas of superannuation, to make sure that profits generated by individuals and businesses deliver their fair share to public revenues.

No one benefits from a community where a growing number of children live in poverty, and whole sections of the population face grim prospects of ever getting a decent job or secure housing.

I am delighted that our membership grows from strength to strength, and that our work collaborating across our sector, and with business, unions, environment groups and others has also expanded. Our sector's strengths need to be valued: our connections to local community, and solutions, our independent voice, our capacity to look at what needs to be done through the eyes of people, rather than policy, programs or profit, and importantly, our responsibility to contribute to the major governance and decision-making challenges: economic, social and environmental, both for people now and long term. Thank you to all with whom we have worked over the last year to lift our nation's aspirations and deliver real change for all.

Improving the lives of people affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality through policy and advocacy

Economics and Tax

During 2012-13 ACOSS has continued our sustained advocacy for a fair, adequate and equitable taxation system in Australia. In particular, we advocate the principle that income should be taxed consistently, according to ability to pay. In line with this principle, we

have argued that a broad tax base is generally fairer and more efficient than a narrow one, unless exemptions can be justified on specific grounds. We have continued to advocate for reform to the taxation system in order to reduce or altogether remove tax concessions disproportionately benefiting people on higher incomes; and we have promoted more general tax reform that would enable more adequate funding for those services vital to people on low incomes.

ACOSS provided input into the NFP Sector Tax Concession Working Group, which was an important opportunity to improve the transparency and equitability of tax arrangements in our own sector, and to this end we made a submission to the not-for-profit sector tax concession working group discussion paper in December.

ACOSS policy advice and submissions continued to be strongly informed by our work with the network of ACOSS members and sector colleagues, as can be seen by the range of member engagements included in the list of meetings and events in our quarterly reports.

ACOSS has continued to advocate for reform in order to reduce or remove altogether those tax concession disproportionately benefiting people on higher incomes. We have also promoted more general tax reform that will enable more adequate funding for vital services directed to people on low incomes. Along with this, we have promoted the reform on tax breaks for superannuation. ACOSS was also represented on the Government's superannuation working group.

Employment, Education and Training, and Social Security

During 2012-13 ACOSS advocated to prevent payment levels being reduced and punitive conditions imposed on income support recipients. Along with this, we have promoted positive reform towards a fairer and more adequate working age payment system, including increases in payment levels and more equality between the different payments. To this end, ACOSS conducted analysis and advocacy work around some of the key 2012-13

Budget measures that affected social security payments. ACOSS participated in FaHCSIA's Disability Support Pension (DSP) Advisory Group, looking at the implementation of a number of measures affecting those applying for the DSP.

As part of ACOSS' Budget Priorities Statement, we recommended the restructuring of family payments in order to target families at risk of poverty and to simplify the family payments system. To inform this recommendation, we commissioned modelling from NATSEM at the University of Canberra on a possible package of reforms, which would be revenue neutral in 2013-14 but would include the restoration of proper indexation and so have an impact on future forward estimates



As part of our campaign to increase the Newstart Allowance that began in the previous financial year, ACOSS made a further push to achieve the increase and indexation of allowance payments prior to the release of the 2012-13 Budget. This push was made in the form of an Open Letter signed by prominent Australians, including approximately 50 prominent individuals and heads of welfare organisations. This letter was sent both to the media and to all MPs and Senators. Additionally, another round of lobbying took place in the two weeks



prior to the Budget, which targeted a number of frontbenchers, MPs and Senators who had not been reached in the lobbying round which took place in late 2012. These efforts were ably assisted by a number of volunteers from the Women's Electoral Lobby. This assisted in deepening the relationship between WEL and ACOSS. The state and territory Councils of

to update Australian research into poverty. The research was undertaken for ACOSS by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, and was based upon the Income and Expenditure surveys for 2009-10 and previous years conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This report provided an updated figure of



Social Service (COSSes) also supported the campaign through delegations to target MPs in their States and Territories.

Poverty

ACOSS released the 2012 Poverty Report in October 2012 as part of anti-Poverty Week. This report, the first in a series of poverty and inequality reports, was part of a concerted effort

those living below the 50% of median income poverty line in Australia – 2,265,000 people or 12.8%, including 575,000 children or 17.3%. The report was sponsored by The Morawetz Fund, Anglicare, Jobs Australia and The Salvation Army.

Health

ACOSS' aims for health policy are the reduction of systemic barriers in the health

system that can result in poorer health among those on low incomes. We also aim to promote more equal access to income, education, employment and secure housing as some of the social factors that have a strong influence on health outcomes.

The major focus of ACOSS' health policy advocacy over this period was in the area of dental health. Throughout our advocacy, ACOSS has maintained the central importance of universal access to health care. In recent years, as the inequalities grew between people on low incomes and those who could afford access to dental care, we have argued that those who have been most disadvantaged in terms of access to services need to be supported first in order to address their chronic and acute oral health problems. Other critical issues have included the poor distribution of dental practitioners beyond urban centres; the ongoing unaffordability of private services; the implications of significant co-payments for those who can't afford treatment; the failure to ensure adequate preventive care to individuals reliant on public dental services; and the failure to establish effective, national population-based oral health promotion strategies.

ACOSS was represented on the Ministerially-appointed National Advisory Council on Dental Health, and also played a lead role in the National Oral Health Alliance, where we pushed for more spending on public dental health. In August 2012, The Australian Government and the Greens announced an agreement for a major reform of access to dental services in Australia – the establishment of an entitlement to dental services for 2/3 of children in Australia; and increasing investment in dental services for adults on low incomes. This announcement incorporated many of the policies ACOSS has been advocating for well over a decade.

More generally, ACOSS has continued to maintain close relationships and alliances on health policy, including through the COSS Health Network, the Australian Healthcare Reform Alliance and our many members active in the health arena.

Energy Markets

Funded by the Consumer Advocacy Panel, ACOSS has continued to provide high quality advocacy for energy markets and their influence on low income households. This project has funded a Senior Policy Officer and Policy Officer working to protect and advance the interests of low income households in the National Electricity Market (NEM), and to a lesser extent, in the National Gas Market.

ACOSS is a member of the National Consumer Roundtable on Energy, with other Councils of Social Service and organisations such as the Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Vincent de Paul and UnitingCare, as well as other environmental and consumer organisations. This network has particularly been concerned with impacts on energy markets, retail prices, community service obligations and consumer protections.

ACOSS, along with other advocates, provided advice for the communications program, the hardship programs, monitoring and oversight for the National Energy Customer Framework (NECF), which aims to streamline the regulation of energy distribution and retail regulation functions in a national framework. It also worked to develop an efficient national retail market that includes appropriate protection for consumers.

ACOSS provided advice regarding the development of oversight and related programs by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

During the year, ACOSS made both an initial submission and a supplementary submission to the Senate Inquiry on Electricity Prices. People living on low incomes are experiencing significant pressures as a result of substantial increases in the cost of electricity, without a concomitant increase in income. Low income people are most likely to live in poorly-insulated and inefficient rental accommodation, and spend a higher proportion of their income on energy, water and fuel than others. They are least able to respond to increases in prices and to invest in more efficient homes. Given that energy is an essential service, energy price rises leave the most vulnerable households with little option but to pay the extra. We welcomed this Inquiry as an opportunity to look at the

broader drivers, protections and opportunities in energy regulation and policy.

Energy efficiency

Throughout the year, ACOSS advocated for investment in improved energy use efficiency in low income households, as well as for market efficiencies and demand side engagement. ACOSS has reiterated the need for targeted approaches for households on low incomes that are affected by the contribution of increased energy prices adding to the pressures of living costs.

To this end, ACOSS has worked with energy retailers, stakeholders and other advocates to show the difference that energy efficiency can make for households on low incomes.

Climate Change and Adaptation

In April 2013, ACOSS completed a comprehensive research project examining climate change adaptation for the community services sector in Australia, which was funded by the Commonwealth Government via the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. The final project report, *Adapting the Community Sector for Climate Extremes*,

presents findings from the largest and first-of-its-kind survey of community service organisations about their preparedness to withstand climate impacts and their capacity to support their clients' adaptive capacity. The report's key finding that the sector's resilience is critical to supporting adaptation amongst people experiencing poverty had considerable impact in the weeks and months following its release. ACOSS submitted the draft research report to the Senate's inquiry into Recent Trends in and Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events and was subsequently invited to give oral evidence at a public hearing of the inquiry. In addition, the Commonwealth Government's Climate Adaptation Outlook: a Proposed National Adaptation Assessment Framework, released in June 2013, identifies the capacity of disadvantaged groups to manage climate risks as a key outcome for adaptation and also highlights the role of the community sector in achieving this outcome. ACOSS continues to advocate for the formal recognition of the community sector's role in supporting communities to prepare for and recover from extreme weather events and for adequate resourcing to support resilience building across the sector nationally to ensure that we can continue to support the community's adaptation to climate change.



ACOSS also continued to advocate for the fair implementation of climate policy in Australia, particularly through our membership of the Southern Cross Climate Coalition (SCCC), alongside The Climate Institute, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Community Services

ACOSS has continued to work closely with members including the Councils of Social Service in the states and territories to maintain pressure for adequate funding of sustainable and effective community services from all Australian Governments. In particular we continued to advocate strongly to Government about the implementation of Fair Work Australia's decision in the equal pay case, including the process of supplementation funding for community services; ensuring the adequacy of the amounts; and transparency of funding arrangements for organisations that receive both Commonwealth and state or territory funding. We also continued to engage on the principles and processes around appeal mechanisms and on the clarity and consistency of information going to the sector; as well as for an industry support package in the face of this major structural adjustment in such an important industry. ACOSS delivered a pay equity education program for community service organisations in partnership with Jobs Australia, NDS and the ASU. The program was popularly received with registrations exceeding places in a number of areas.

ACOSS welcomed the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, including its funding through an increase in the Medicare levy, as a much-needed reform to improve the supports available for people with disability.

Community Sector Development

ACOSS continued to be an active participant in the Not for Profit Reform Council and a number of its working groups; the reform to establish the Australian Charities and NFP Commission; and the proposed reform to the definition of charity. ACOSS continued to take a lead role in policy development

and advocacy towards the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. In October 2012 the legislation establishing the Australian Charities and NFP Commission passed both houses of parliament. This was the culmination of over three year's policy development and advocacy by ACOSS for a national regulator of charitable community services. Since that time we have been involved in close consultation about the governance framework and reporting requirements for charities under the ACNC. Our key message has been that the ACNC should prioritise consistency with current reporting requirements, reducing duplication of those requirements and assisting charities transition to the new regulatory environment, before considering the collection of new or more detailed information on the activities of charities. ACOSS remains closely involved with the ACNC through its representation on the Sector Users Group and the Social Services Working Group, which is tasked with identifying and recommending practical strategies to resolve unnecessary or duplicative reporting arrangements for charities engaged social service delivery.

ACOSS has long called for the institution of a statutory definition of charity as a critical element of a broader not-for-profit reform agenda. Early in 2013, we made a submission to the Exposure Draft of the Charities Bill 2013, which focused on the extent to which the Bill enshrines the current common law; and the structure of charitable purpose in the draft Bill. We welcomed the passage through Parliament of the Charities Bill 2013 on 27 June, while noting that this reform did not broaden access to charitable tax status (especially DGR) that we had advocated for most strongly.

ACOSS also prepared submissions to two Inquiry processes on deregulation. The first was in response to the Discussion Paper of the Commonwealth Financial Accountability Review (CFAR). This submission was encouraged by the office of the Finance Minister as a way of asserting our agenda over improved contracting relationships for community services, and has focused on the priorities we see for improved regulation by the Commonwealth. The second was in response to the Coalition's Deregulation



Agenda Discussion Paper and presented an opportunity to engage with the Coalition on a broad agenda beyond specific policy portfolios, including the NFP sector, employment and energy markets regulation.

Member and community engagement

Throughout 2012-13 ACOSS continued to build our engagement with members, the community sector, business and the public.

Our annual events schedule kicked off with a policy forum in Sydney in November 2012, followed by the national conference in Adelaide in March 2013 and the second Post-Budget Lunch with the Treasurer in Sydney in Sydney in May.

It was a delight to head to Adelaide where the weather was warm for our 2013 National Conference. The event focussed on the importance of community engagement in economic policy setting and gathered attention and support for our national campaign ‘\$35 is not enough’. Senators Doug Cameron and Rachel Siewert both made passionate speeches to the congress on the need to improve income support payments. A sure highlight was the passing of a conference resolution to increase the Newstart allowance by over 300 conference attendees.

Another highlight took place on the first night of the conference when we launched the HESTA Community Sector Awards with an inaugural awards ceremony and dinner. The awards were a spectacular night providing the opportunity to recognise the achievements of our colleagues and celebrate the success of our sector, complete with a lively boogie on the dance floor. Particular thanks are due to our eminent judges who gave freely of their time: Mick Gooda, Noel Mundy, Susan Pascoe and Cath Smith

The conference provided the opportunity to engage the sector around other key issues including the federal election and community engagement strategies, including a keynote address by Julia Slay from the New Economics Foundation, who provided valuable insights into the outcomes of recent social service

reforms in the UK. Then Shadow Minister Kevin Andrews also joined the discussion, presenting the Coalition’s vision for the community sector and gave a welcome assurance to the sector that the Coalition will not be seeking to reinstate gag clauses on community service contracts.

The ACOSS Membership continues to strengthen and in 2012-13 ACOSS welcomed five organisations to our national member network; the Benevolent Society, Children with Disability Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Life Without Barriers, the Disability Advocacy Network Australia and United Voice National Office. We look forward to working closely with these organisations, as well as our new associate members, to strengthen ACOSS’ voice for people on low-incomes in crucial policy and advocacy initiatives.

We have expanded our use of webinars for member engagement around key public policy including the results of the 2013 budget and the federal election, as well as maintaining some key teleconference consultation groups. We have coordinated joint press conferences surrounding the release of several of our reports to maximise media attention to the community sector.

We have also collaborated more broadly through our association with the Business Council of Australian and the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which was formed to further the campaign to increase the Newstart Allowance. Increasing awareness of the paucity of Allowance payments within these sectors has resulted in more and better publicity for this critical campaign.

COSS Network

This year marked a new era of collaborative action for the network of Councils of Social Service (nine across Australia) with a project collectively resourced to strengthen joint activity and increase our national effectiveness overall. The project’s priorities include developing new approaches to joint campaigns, a collaborative research agenda and processes for sharing best practice.

Report from the Treasurer

Michael Bleasdale | ACOSS Treasurer

The main story for ACOSS in the 2012/2013 year was the strengthening of ACOSS's financial position alongside its increased efforts and impact in the policy arena. This came about through the successful combination of continuing strong financial management and healthy results, whilst increasing the secretariat's capacity to address our growing policy agenda, to improve communications with members and to disseminate our work widely across the Australian community.

Members will be aware of the surpluses of the previous three financial years, which had set the foundations for the improvement in the financial health of ACOSS, and were enabling the bolstering of resources to allow for greater security to continue to operate into the future. This trend has continued and I have been very heartened by the results achieved in the 2012-2013 financial year, with a surplus of \$273,187, an increase of more than \$16,000 from the previous year. All the financial indicators for the year were positive, with income up by more than 22%, and the increased spending being well managed to allow for the positive result in the profit and loss. The sound financial

management is reflected in the balance sheet, where there is a significant increase in our current assets, and an increase of just over 63% in our equity.

The increase in income is reflective of the success that ACOSS has had in leading many of the important national community issues, and being prominent and effective in developing campaigns and policy that addresses the needs of the most disadvantaged members of our community. The standard of financial accountability has continued to improve, through a combination of the excellent reporting provided to us by Igor Likhovitch, from Matrix on Board, and the prudent management of funds by the ACOSS CEO and her staff. The governance oversight of all matters financial has also improved, with the Executive timing its monthly meetings now to allow for the oversight of the most recent monthly figures, and providing commentaries to the Board for its consideration at the quarterly meetings. This has helped to facilitate the decisions about expending additional resources which the Board was required to make during the year, and in the preparation and monitoring of the annual budget.



ACOSS Conference 2013

Thanks are due to all of the staff for their success in managing funds, to the Board members for their continued vigilance over the finances throughout the year, and to Igor for his availability and the quality of his work. I am looking forward with confidence to the year ahead.

Engagement

ACOSS made submissions during 2012-13 to the Government, opposition parties, public and parliamentary inquiries, Government departments and statutory authorities on a wide range of policy matters. Valuable input in developing these submissions was gained from consultation with ACOSS Policy Advisers and ACOSS members.

A number of ACOSS position statements, papers and publications were also produced during 2012-13. In particular, we would like to thank The Morawetz Foundation, Anglicare, Jobs Australia, the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul for their assistance in the production of The Poverty Report 2012, and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and Climate Risk for making possible Adapting the Community Sector for Climate Extremes.

Key Submissions

- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee regarding the Social Security Amendment (Fair Incentives to Work) Bill (2012)
- Submission to House of Representatives Inquiry into the ACNC Exposure Draft Bills
- Supplementary Submission to House of Reps Inquiry into the ACNC Exposure Draft Bills
- 'Surviving, not living': Submission on the adequacy of allowance payments
- Submission on the Review of the ACNC Bill
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into Electricity Prices
- Supplementary Submission to Senate inquiry into Electricity Prices
- Submission to the Power of Choice Review

- Partnerships for Participation: ACOSS submission on JSA reform
- Extreme weather, climate change and the community sector: submission to the Senate Inquiry into recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events
- ACOSS response to Not for Profit Sector Tax Concession Working Group Discussion Paper
- Joint COSS submission to the Senate Inquiry into the NDIS
- ACOSS Budget Priorities Statement 2013
- ACOSS response to exposure draft: Public Housing Tenants' Support Bill 2013
- Submission to Exposure Draft Charities Bill 2013
- Submission to Commonwealth Financial Accountability Review



Wendy Tucker and Renata Franz at ACOSS Conference 2013

Position Statements, Papers and Publications

- Australian Community Sector Survey 2012: National Report. ACOSS Paper 191
- Reflecting gender diversity: An analysis of gender diversity in the leadership of the

community sector. Joint publication with YWCA and Women on Boards.

- Poverty in Australia 2012
- ACOSS Briefing on the SACS Bill
- Interim research report: Climate Change and the Community Welfare Sector
- ACOSS Annual Report 2011-2012
- Adapting the community sector for climate extremes
- Code of best practice for engagement with not-for-profits
- Initial Analysis of the 2013-14 Federal Budget

Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Volume 46, no 4
- Volume 47, no. 1
- Volume 47, no. 2

ACOSS @Work

- July 2012
- August 2012
- Dental reform special edition
- November 2012
- January 2013
- Budget special edition
- Energy special edition

ACOSS Daily Media Bulletin

In October 2013 we launched our re-vamped ACOSS Daily Media Bulletin. This is a daily round-up of stories of special interest to the social and community services sector from the major news outlets. It consists of links and the first 2 – 3 paragraphs of interesting items in an email newsletter format. Since October 2012, this has been emailed to a designate

representative of each of our National Members each weekday (except public holidays) before 10.30am. On average, this Bulletin is opened 165 times a day. The highest total open rate was 2,911, on 29 November 2012, when the Government handed down its report into the Newstart Allowance.

Major Meetings

ACOSS delegations met with ministers and parliamentarians throughout the year on a range of issues. Meetings included those with:

- The Prime Minister
- The Office of the Prime Minister
- The Treasurer
- The Assistant Treasurer
- The Labor Caucus Women's Committee
- The Attorney-General
- The Minister for Employment Participation
- The Minister for Homelessness
- The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- The Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- The Minister for Social Inclusion
- The Minister for Finance and Deregulation

Meetings were also held with Government officials and non-government agencies and organisations, including:

- Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Implementation Taskforce
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
- Australian Community Workers Association
- Australian Conservation Foundation

- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Australian Services Union
- Australians for Affordable Housing
- Brotherhood of St Lurance
- Business Council of Australia
- Business Regulation and Competition Working Group
- Climate Risk
- Community Council of Australia
- Community Sector Wages Group
- Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council
- Community Tax Forum
- Crime Prevention Advisory Council
- DEEWR Employment Partnership Committee
- DEEWR Industry Reference Group
- DEEWR Special Employment Partnership Committee
- DOHA Partners in Recovery Expert Reference Group
- FaHCSIA Disability Support Pension Advisory Group
- Future Jobs Forum
- Government Tax Forum
- Hesta
- Human Service Delivery Advisory Group (Centrelink)
- Jobs Australia
- Maxxia
- Mental Health Council of Australia
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Oral Health
- Mission Australia
- National Advisory Council on Dental Health
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- National Legal Assistance Advisory Body



National Panel on Economic Reform

- National Regulator Sub Committee
- National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations
- New Democracy Foundation
- NFP Reform Council and associated working groups
- Not-for-Profit Reform Council
- Origin Energy National Customer Consultative Council
- Productivity Commission
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Southern Cross Climate Coalition
- Superannuation Roundtable (Workplace Relations)
- The Australian Collaboration
- The Councils of Social Service (COSS) Network
- Woolworths
- YWCA

Australian Journal of Social Issues

Gabrielle Meagher and Tony Eardley, Editors (October 2010 – November 2013)

Roxanne Lawson, Editorial and Production Assistant

The Australian Journal of Social Issues is the only Australian journal focused on publishing research on social policy and social issues. The AJSI aims to contribute to social policy debate in Australia, and is a key channel for communicating new social policy research.

Volumes 1-45 of the Journal were published by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS). Volume 46 and volume 47, numbers 1 and 2, were published by ACOSS in collaboration with ASPA during a transition period. From volume 47, number 3, the journal has been published by ASPA, following the conclusion of the transition period. Volume 46, number 4 and Volume 47 numbers 1-4 were published during the financial year 2012-2013, and the tables of contents of these issues are included as an appendix to this report. These issues included two regular issues, two special issues (one on religion and one on emotions) and one regular issue with a themed section on the impact of the GFC.

In the previous annual report, it was noted that a new electronic system for submission and review of manuscripts had been implemented, and this system became operational during 2012-2013. This system can be viewed at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajsi>

Developments in 2012-13 included the completion of the transfer of the AJSI from ACOSS to ASPA, as noted above. Further, since the complete transfer of the journal to ASPA, a new editorial team has been appointed: Dr Boyd Hunter and Dr Julie Lahn (Editors) and Ms Tracy Deasey (Editorial and Production Assistant), all at ANU.

The number of original submissions (articles received for first time¹) between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, and the current status of these submissions (29 October 2013), are listed below. Please note that these figures count an article only once, and majority of articles are submitted more than once before a final decision is made:

¹ This actually includes a very small number (a handful or fewer) of manuscripts first received before the electronic submission system was in place, and which are recorded as a first or original submission in ScholarOne.

<i>July 2012 to June 2013</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Special issue</i>	<i>Total</i>
Published	20	2	22
Withdrawn	2		2
Under revision	6		6
In review	7		7
Rejected (out of scope/low quality)	14		14
Rejected (post review)	22	1	23
Total	71	3	74

Publicity/media

Media notices of AJSI articles over the last year include the following:

- Blame game on electricity prices ‘ignores poverty crisis’ by Adele Horin. Published: Sydney Morning Herald, August 20, 2012 <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/blame-game-on-electricity-prices-ignores-poverty-crisis-20120819-24gjj.html> Citing: Volume 46 Number 4 – ‘A new form of energy poverty is the hallmark of liberalised electricity sectors’, authors: Lynne Chester and Alan Morris.
- There are plenty of ways we can leave our money, but Australians remain remarkably conservative when they prepare their wills by Michael Gilding and Christopher Baker. Published: Inside Story , 28 October 2012 <http://inside.org.au/family-matters/> Based on their paper in Volume 46 Number 3 - ‘Inheritance in Australia: family and charitable distributions from personal estates’.

Issues published July 2012 – June 2013

Volume 46, Issue 4

Life after work: older Australians’ experiences of early exit from the workforce | Catherine Mackenzie, Dominic Keuskamp, Anna Ziersch & Fran Baum

Yarning about gambling in Indigenous communities: an Aboriginal and Islander Mental Health Initiative | Tricia Nagel, Rachael Hinton, Valerie Thompson & Neil Spencer

Health and community services for trafficked women: an exploratory study of policy and practice | Toni Schofield, Julie Hepworth, Mairwen Jones & Eugene Schofield

Positive and negative impacts of job loss on family life: the perceptions of Australian car workers | Gwyn Jolley, Lareen Newman, Anna Ziersch & Fran Baum

A new form of energy poverty is the hallmark of liberalised electricity sectors | Lynne Chester & Alan Morris

Volume 47, Issue 1

Special Issue on emotions in social life and social policy

Introduction to the Special Issue on emotions in social life and social policy | Roger Patulny & Natasha Cortis

A lonely society? Loneliness and liquid modernity in Australia | Adrian Franklin

Advancing wellbeing research: would Americans be happier if they lived like Australians? | Roger Patulny & Kimberly Fisher

It’s frustrating! Managing emotional dissonance in aged care work | Debra King

Gender, emotions and fly-in fly-out work | Barbara Pini & Robyn Mayes

Imaginary friends: migrants’ emotional accounts about friends outside Australia | Harriet Westcott

Ping-pong poms: emotional reflexivity in contemporary return migration from Australia to the United Kingdom | Mary Holmes & Roger Burrows

The politics of gendered emotions: disrupting men’s emotional investment in privilege | Bob Pease

Volume 47, Issue 2

Integrated services in Australian early childhood education and care: what can we learn from our past? | Sandie Wong and Fran Press

Teenagers' household and caring work: the relevance of 'secondary activities' in Australian time use surveys | Pavla Miller and Justin Bowd

Job satisfaction and 'welfare-to-work': is any job a good job for Australian single mothers? | Kay Cook and Andrew Noblet

Choosing intercountry adoption: an Australian study of the motivations and attitudes of intending and recent adoptive parents | Alexandra Young

Integrating service delivery in a regional homelessness service system | Kate Neale, Jeremy Buultjens and Trish Evans

Volume 47, Issue 3

Special Issue on social policy and religion

Introduction to the Special Issue on social policy and religion | Peter Saunders and Minako Sakai

Religious diversity and social policy: an Australian dilemma | Gary Bouma

Reinforcing substantive religious inequality: a critical analysis of submissions to the Review of Freedom of Religion and Belief in Australia Inquiry | Jacqueline K. Nelson, Alpha Possamai-Inesedy and Kevin Dunn

The influence of faith-based organisations on Australian social policy | Brian Howe and Renate Howe

Religious belief and practice and attitudes to social policy issues | Peter Saunders

Anticipating modernity: the Jewish 'welfare state' in biblical and medieval times | Allan Borowski

Building a partnership for social service delivery in Indonesia: State and faith-based organisation | Minako Sakai

Faith-based organisations and social policy in Melanesia Islamisation and activism of a Muslim NGO in Pakistan: Jama'at-ud-Da'wa as a case study | Graham Hassall, Samina Yasmeen

Volume 47, Issue 4

Income support for Australian carers since 1983: social justice, social investment and the cloak of gender neutrality | Yvette Maker and Dina Bowman

Just deserts? 'Privatisation' and the history of deservingness in Australia's retirement incomes system | Myra Hamilton

Introduction to themed section: Children of the recession – the social consequences of an economic downturn | Michael Bittman and Bruce Bradbury

Estimating the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on poverty and deprivation | Peter Saunders and Melissa Wong

How parents' income, time and job quality affect children's health and development | Jan M. Nicholson, Lyndall Strazdins, Judith E. Brown and Michael Bittman

Research Note: What happened to time use during the Global Financial Crisis? | Duncan Ironmonger



ACOSS Board of Governors

ACOSS is governed by a voluntary Board of Governors which is elected for a term of two years. The main responsibilities of the Board relate to oversight of the work of the Council, the adoption of the annual budget, the nomination of ACOSS representatives to advisory bodies, ACOSS membership and the appointment of honorary Policy Advisers and working parties.

The Executive has all the powers of the Board between Board meetings. Its composition includes the President, two Deputy Presidents, the Treasurer and a membership representative(s). It makes any decisions required between Board meetings and generally concentrates on organisational issues so that the Board can devote more of its time to major policy matters.

President

Simon Schrapel

Deputy Presidents

Adrian Pisarski

Terese Edwards

Treasurer

Michael Bleasdale

State and Territory Councils of Social Service representatives

Rebecca Vassarotti	ACTCOSS Representative
Sarah Fogg	NCOSS Representative
Bernie Dwyer	NTCOSS Representative
Karyn Walsh	QCOSS Representative
Helen Connolly	SACOSS Representative
Noel Mundy	TASCOSS Representative
Micaela Cronin	VCOSS Representative
Frances Lynch	WACOSS Representative

Special Assembly National Member Organisation Representatives

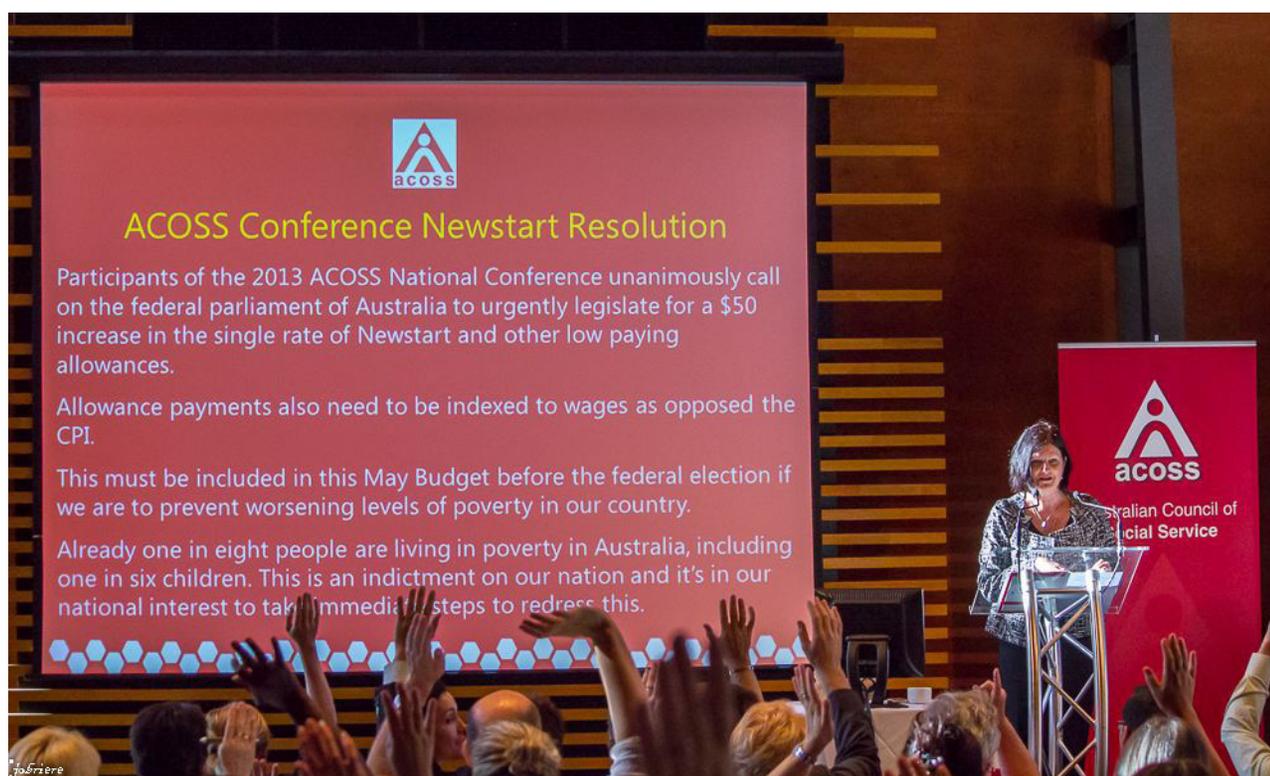
Terese Edwards	National Council for Single Mothers and their Children
Graham Douglas-Meyer	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

National Member Organisation Representatives

Adrian Pisarski	National Shelter
Samantha Page	Family Relationship Services Australia
Renee Williams	Vision Australia
Gerard Thomas	National Welfare Rights Network
Ricci Bartels	Settlement Council of Australia
Brad Halse	Salvation Army
Michael Bleasdale	People with Disability

Special Appointment

Jillian Riseley	Telstra
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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 55 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 representative 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 180 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 and Community Sector Development
- Climate Change & Energy
- Employment, Education & Training
- Health (Oral 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

Hugh Saddler, Janet Stanley

Community Services

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

Economics and Tax

Nicholas Gruen, Richard Krever, Julie Smith

Employment, Education and Training

Tony Earley, Leah Hobson, Elspeth McInnes, Gerard Thomas, David Thompson

Health

Fiona Armstrong, Russell McGowan, Alan Owen*

Housing

Narelle Clay, Carol Croce, Adam Farrar, Kath Halse, Adrian Pisarski

Housing and Regional Development

Mark Henley

Indigenous Communities

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

International

Graeme Evans, Phil Glendenning, Alex Huntir

* ACOSS was deeply saddened by the passing of Alan Owen, long-time Health Policy Advisor, during this period.



ACOSS Staff, 2012-13

Chief Executive Officer: Cassandra Goldie

Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Tessa Boyd-Caine

Senior Policy Officer: Peter Davidson

Senior Policy Officer: Tony Westmore (to August 2012)

Senior Policy Officer: Andrea Pape (from September 2012)

Senior Policy Officer: Adam Farrar (January - June 2013)

Senior Research and Policy Officer: Emily Hamilton

Policy Officer: Ro Evans (from October 2012)

Media and Communications Coordinator: Fernando de Freitas

COSS Collaboration Project Officer: Tade' Adeyoyibi

Executive Assistant to the CEO: Marcie Richards (to October 2012)

Executive Assistant to the CEO: Renata Franz (from October 2012)

Publications and Information Officer: Penny Dorsch

Events and Memberships Officer: Louise Stanley

Administration Assistant: Shannon Longhurst



Tessa Boyd-Caine with US Consul General Niels Marquardt and Robert Fitzgerald AM at Fullbright presentation

Financial Report

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

GOVERNORS' REPORT

The Governors present their report together with the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2013 and auditors report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Governors names

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

Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)

Ms. Terese Edwards (Deputy President)

Mr. Adrian Pisarski (Deputy President)

Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer)

Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti

Mr. Gerard Thomas

Ms. Sarah Fogg

Ms. Helen Connolly

Mr. Francis Lynch

Mr. Brad Halse

Mr. Noel Mundy

Mr. Graham Douglas-Meyer

Ms. Jillian Riseley (Appointed February 2013)

Ms. Karyn Walsh

Mr. Bernie Dwyer

Ms. Samantha Page

Ms. Ricci Bartels

Ms. Micaela Cronin

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

Operating Result

The surplus for the year amounted to \$273,187 (2012: \$256,710).



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

GOVERNORS' REPORT

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.

Signed on behalf of the board of governors.

Committee member: _____

Mr. Simon Schrapel

Committee member: _____

Mr. Michael Bleasdale

Dated this

10th day of October 2013

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
INCOME			
Grants received		868,242	560,027
Membership & donations		475,334	461,385
Project income		600,157	480,807
Management fees		154,057	145,552
Interest		21,578	9,551
Other income	2	<u>73,721</u>	<u>144,826</u>
		<u>2,193,089</u>	<u>1,802,148</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Employee benefits		(817,756)	(688,046)
Occupancy expenses		(78,523)	(76,607)
Board & Executive		(23,979)	(19,035)
International Council on Social Welfare		(12,066)	(2,760)
Publications		(51,417)	(32,733)
Resources (Library, etc)		(30,135)	(28,403)
Travel & accommodation		(74,785)	(97,792)
Project costs		(603,857)	(480,807)
Telephone expenses		(26,259)	(22,771)
Computer expenses		(26,353)	(39,068)
General office costs		<u>(174,772)</u>	<u>(57,416)</u>
		<u>(1,919,902)</u>	<u>(1,545,438)</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>273,187</u>	<u>256,710</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>273,187</u></u>	<u><u>256,710</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	198,738	701,712
Pledges and other receivables	5	150,747	75,727
Prepayments and deposits	6	1,423	15,286
Investments	7	757,854	-
Other assets	8	<u>5,138</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>1,113,900</u>	<u>792,725</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	7	20,000	20,000
Intangible assets	10	25,223	-
Property, plant and equipment	9	49,061	42,713
Other assets	8	<u>16,429</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>110,713</u>	<u>62,713</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,224,613</u>	<u>855,438</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	194,822	146,493
Provisions	12	93,306	111,354
Income in advance / project provisions	13	<u>214,325</u>	<u>161,945</u>
		<u>502,453</u>	<u>419,792</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	12	<u>15,872</u>	<u>2,545</u>
		<u>15,872</u>	<u>2,545</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>518,325</u>	<u>422,337</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>706,288</u>	<u>433,101</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	14	<u>706,288</u>	<u>433,101</u>
Total members funds		<u>706,288</u>	<u>433,101</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Total equity		
Balance at beginning of the year	433,101	176,391
Movements in equity from:		
Surplus for the year	<u>273,187</u>	<u>256,710</u>
Balance at the end of the year	<u>706,288</u>	<u>433,101</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc.		867,407	784,815
Grants received		955,066	616,030
Membership and donations		522,867	528,047
Interest received		16,440	9,551
Payments to suppliers, employees, project costs etc.		<u>(2,059,150)</u>	<u>(1,472,584)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>302,630</u>	<u>465,859</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(47,750)	(6,611)
Payment for investments		<u>(757,854)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(805,604)</u>	<u>(6,611)</u>
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		701,712	242,464
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		<u>(502,974)</u>	<u>459,248</u>
Cash at end of financial year	15(a)	<u>198,738</u>	<u>701,712</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. The financial report covers The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as an individual entity, incorporated as an association under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

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

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

(a) Basis of preparation

Reporting Basis and Convention

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

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



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) 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 as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided.

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

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

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

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

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

Management fees are internal revenue which represents the cost of running projects to the Association. This has been included for disclosure purposes.

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

(c) Income tax

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

(d) Trade debtors

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

(e) Financial assets

Classification

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

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(e) Financial assets (Continued)

Held-to-maturity investments

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

Loans and receivables

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

Impairment

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

(f) Property, plant and equipment

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

Plant and equipment

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Furniture, fixtures & fittings at cost	20%	Diminishing value
Computer equipment - cost	30%	Diminishing value



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Impairment

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

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

(h) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

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

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

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

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

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

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

(j) Comparatives

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

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

(l) New accounting standards

At the reporting date 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.

(m) Leases

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

Operating leases

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

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

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
NOTE 2: REVENUE		
<i>Other Income</i>		
Publications	15,717	42,476
Royalties	8,784	68,893
Fee for service	32,576	18,658
Dividend Income	1,000	-
Other revenue	<u>15,644</u>	<u>14,799</u>
	<u>73,721</u>	<u>144,826</u>



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
NOTE 3: SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Expenses		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	5,409	7,000
Rent expense on operating lease rentals		
- Minimum lease payments	<u>57,504</u>	<u>56,175</u>
NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	305	300
Cash at bank	198,433	646,784
Short term bank deposits	<u>-</u>	<u>54,628</u>
	<u>198,738</u>	<u>701,712</u>
NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Pledges and other receivables	150,747	63,927
Provision for doubtful debts	<u>-</u>	<u>(200)</u>
	150,747	63,727
Sundry debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>12,000</u>
	<u>150,747</u>	<u>75,727</u>
NOTE 6: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS		
Prepayments	1,223	9,428
Rental and other deposits	<u>200</u>	<u>5,858</u>
	<u>1,423</u>	<u>15,286</u>
NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS		
CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Short term bank deposits	<u>757,854</u>	<u>-</u>
NON CURRENT		
<i>Shares in Community 21 Limited</i>		
- 20,000 ordinary shares of \$1.00 at cost	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
NOTE 8: OTHER ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accrued Income	<u>5,138</u>	<u>-</u>
NON CURRENT		
Rental deposit	<u>16,429</u>	<u>-</u>
NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant & equipment		
Furniture, fixtures & fittings at cost	69,435	58,996
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(36,059)</u>	<u>(33,825)</u>
	33,376	25,171
Computer equipment - cost	49,809	48,491
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(34,124)</u>	<u>(30,949)</u>
	<u>15,685</u>	<u>17,542</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>49,061</u>	<u>42,713</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>49,061</u>	<u>42,713</u>
(a) Movements in carrying amount		
<i>Furniture, fixtures & fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	25,171	28,671
Additions	10,439	-
Depreciation expense	<u>(2,234)</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>33,376</u>	<u>25,171</u>
<i>Computer equipment</i>		
Opening carrying amount	17,542	14,431
Additions	1,318	6,611
Depreciation expense	<u>(3,175)</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>15,685</u>	<u>17,542</u>
NOTE 10: INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Software at cost	<u>25,223</u>	<u>-</u>
Total intangible assets	<u>25,223</u>	<u>-</u>



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
NOTE 11: PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	57,069	40,407
Other creditors	18,988	-
GST credits	49,298	47,323
Accrued expenses	51,197	43,857
PAYG withholding payable	<u>18,270</u>	<u>14,906</u>
	<u>194,822</u>	<u>146,493</u>
NOTE 12: PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Annual leave	(a) 47,453	43,407
Long service leave	(a) <u>45,853</u>	<u>67,947</u>
	<u>93,306</u>	<u>111,354</u>
NON CURRENT		
Long service leave	(a) <u>15,872</u>	<u>2,545</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	109,178	113,899
NOTE 13: INCOME IN ADVANCE / PROJECT PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Subscriptions in advance	-	2,573
Memberships in advance	128,450	60,135
Climate Risk	-	10,433
Consumer Advocacy Panel	-	11,085
COSS Collaboration	38,152	34,091
Climate Change	-	43,628
National Energy Consumer Body Project (NECBP)	8,017	-
Poverty and Inequality Project	<u>39,706</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>214,325</u>	<u>161,945</u>
NOTE 14: RETAINED SURPLUS		
Retained surplus at beginning of year	433,101	176,391
Surplus for the year	<u>273,187</u>	<u>256,710</u>
	<u>706,288</u>	<u>433,101</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$

NOTE 15: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:

Cash on hand	305	300
Cash at bank	198,433	646,784
At call deposits with financial institutions	-	54,628
	198,738	701,712

NOTE 16: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

(a) Operating lease commitments

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

Payable

- not later than one year	59,889	-
- later than one year and not later than five years	119,783	-
	179,672	-

A property lease has been entered into for the period 1 June 2013 to 30 May 2016. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$4,978 (excluding GST), with the monthly payable amount increasing annually at 1 June by 3%.

(b) Capital expenditure commitments contracted for:

- capital expenditure projects	2,803	-
Payable		
- not later than one year	2,803	-
	2,803	-

NOTE 17: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2013 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2013, of the Association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2013, of the Association.



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$

NOTE 18: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 - 16:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2013 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Member:  _____

Simon Schrapel (President)



Member: _____

Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer)

Dated this

10th day of October

2013



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**THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED
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 statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

Responsibility of Those Charged With Governance

The governing committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Incorporated Associations Act 1991* and for such internal control as the governing committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by those charged with governance, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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



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

Independence

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

Opinion

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2013, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Incorporated Associations Act 1991*.

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

M A GODLEWSKI

Partner

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

PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY

11 October 2013



National Members

Councils of Social Service

- Australian Capital Territory Council of Social Service
- Council of Social Service of New South Wales
- 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

- Anglicare Australia
- Australasian Men's Health Forum
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Bahai Community
- Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
- Australian Community Workers Association
- Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc
- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Neighbourhood House & Centres Association
- Australian Nursing Federation
- Australian Psychological Society

- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Carers Australia
- Case Management Society of Australia
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Community Child Care Association (CCC)
- Community Housing Federation of Australia
- COTA Australia
- Council of Australian Humanist Societies
- Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc.
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Disability Employment Australia
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Financial Counselling Australia
- Homelessness Australia
- Jobs Australia
- Lifeline Australia
- Mission Australia
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service
- 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 LGBT Health Alliance
- National Respite Association
- National Rural Health Alliance
- National Shelter
- National Welfare Rights Network
- Ostara Australia Ltd
- Playgroup 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 Federal Coun
- The Salvation Army Eastern and Southern Territories
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare Australia
- Vision Australia
- WESNET (Women's Services Network)
- Accordwest
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Aged & Community Services Australia
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc
- Alice's Cottages
- Anglicare NSW
- Anglicare SA
- Anglicare Tasmania Inc
- Anglicare Victoria
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- Australian Communications Consumers Action Network
- Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League
- Australian Services Union
- BaptistCare
- Berry Street
- BEST Employment Ltd
- Cabramatta Community Centre
- Carers NSW Inc
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace
- Centacare
- CentaCare New England North West
- Central Coast Community Council
- Central Land Council
- Children's Protection Society
- CHOICE
- Churches Housing Inc
- Clarence Valley Council

Affiliate Members

- Australian Education Union

Associate Members

- Organisation Members
- Access Community Services Ltd



- Communicare Inc.
- Community Business Bureau
- Community Restorative Centre
- Community Services - Dept of Human Services NSW
- Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW Inc
- Discovery Community Services (previously Careforce)
- Drummond Street Relationship Centre
- Early Childhood Australia
- Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
- Envite Inc
- Families Australia Inc
- Family Emergency Accommodation
- Family Support Newcastle Inc.
- Good Beginnings Australia
- Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service
- Great Lakes Community Resources
- Health & Community Services Workforce Council
- Illawarra Forum Inc.
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner South-West Community Development Organisation
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- Lotterywest
- LOXCARE Inc
- Lutheran Community Care
- MacKillop Family Services
- Maroondah City Council
- Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc (T/A MTC Work Sol
- Mercy Community Services
- Metro Migrant Resource Centre
- Micah Projects Inc
- Mid Coast Communities Incorporated
- Mobile Children Services Association of NSW
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- MSC Mission Office Australia Inc
- Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services
- Nepean Youth Accommodation Service Inc
- Newfangled Ideas
- North Queensland Combined Women's Services
- Northside Community Forum Inc.
- NSW Federation of Housing Associations
- NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc.
- PeakCare Queensland Inc
- Penrith City Council
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Public Interest Law Clearing House
- Quality Innovation Training & Employment
- Queensland Shelter
- Riverwood Community Centre Inc.
- Rural Housing Network Ltd
- Sector Connect Inc
- Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
- Sisters of St Joseph Health Care

- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Springvale Community Aid & Advice Bureau
- St John's Youth Services
- St Laurence Community Services
- St Patricks Community Support Centre
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Tangentyere Council
- Tenants Union (ACT) Inc
- Tenants' Union of Queensland
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc
- The Infant's Home Child & Family Services
- The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
- Tri Community Exchange
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- Uniting Communities
- UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families Service
- UnitingCare Victoria & Tasmania
- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
- University of South Australia
- Victoria University
- Welfare Rights & Legal Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
- Welfare Rights Centre (QLD)
- Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc. (WCIG)

- WESTIR Ltd
- WISE Employment
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Projects Inc
- YWCA of Canberra

Individual Members

- Ryoko Adachi
- Valerie Adams
- Merilyn Alt
- Julia Baird
- Shyla Bauer
- Kate Baxter
- Carol Bell
- Michael Bleasdale
- Michael Bowd
- Paul Bullen
- Olga Bursian
- Marianne Bush
- Paul Butler
- Ian Campbell
- Bettina Cass
- Jonathon Casson
- Libby Channel
- Catherine Chung
- Michael Cope
- Doris Cornford
- Chris Couch
- Fairlie Crozier
- Peter Cummings
- Sharon R Daley



- Julian Disney
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- John Foster
- Lisa Fowkes
- John Fox
- Maree Fudge
- Warren J Gardiner
- Roz Giles
- Sandra Graham
- Regina Graycar
- Rosemary Green
- Maria Harries
- Roy D Harvey
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- Lyn Jones
- Andrew Jones
- Isolde Kauffman
- Alan Kirkland
- Jenny Kitchin
- Denis Klein
- Beverley Kliger
- Sabina Leitmann
- Ray Manley
- Peter McArdle
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- Peter Norden
- Sarah Nunn
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- John O'Neill
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- Joanne Patten
- Randall Pearce
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- Vera Raymer
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- John Ryan
- Penny Ryan
- Rhonda Sharp
- Tamikichi Shida
- Leonie Short
- Pam Simmons
- Rajiv S Solomon
- David Stanton
- Beverley Stott
- Janet Taylor
- Andrew Thomas
- Sally J Thompson
- Fiona Tito-Wheatland
- Julie Wailes

- Eric Walker
- Julie Williams
- Toni Wren
- Suzanne Yates
- Denise Young

Acknowledgements

ACOSS appreciates the financial assistance for our core functions provided by the Federal Government through the National Secretariat Program of the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

ACOSS simply could not operate without the extraordinary efforts of our core volunteers – Board members, Policy Advisers, committee representatives and working party members. We owe them our deepest gratitude.

Government, Private Sector and Foundations

The assistance ACOSS receives from government, and the private sector including business corporations and non-profit organisations and foundations, is critical for our effective operation, as well as an excellent example of productive cross-sector partnerships. We wish to thank the following for their assistance during the year:

- Ashurst Lawyers
- Anglicare
- Business Council of Australia
- Consumer Advocacy Panel
- Morawetz Social Justice Fund
- Department of Family, Community, Housing and Indigenous Affairs
- HESTA Super Fund as a major sponsor of the ACOSS National Conference
- Jobs Australia
- Maxxia
- National Australia Bank
- National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) for the Climate Change Adaptation and Community Service Sector Research Project
- The Salvation Army



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Donors

A number of individuals and organisations made a donation to ACOSS during the past year. Their faithful support lifts both our spirits and our bank accounts.

Our special thanks goes to the following people and organisations for their support of ACOSS, and to all those who give anonymously.

- Kate Baxter
- Ian Campbell
- CHOICE - Australian Consumers Association
- Maria Harries
- Lyn Jones
- Jill Lang
- Peter McGovern
- Jinny McGrath
- John Mills
- Philip O'Donoghue
- Alison Peters
- Cath Smith
- David Stanton
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association

