



## Annual Report 2014

Goals and Highlights



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**Share our work with your colleagues, friends, family and networks** We know that strength lies in numbers. The more people who understand poverty and disadvantage in Australia, the better. Share this publication with your network and let's grow the conversation about how we tackle poverty and inequality in Australia.

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

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**OUR GOAL: Increase our impact on key policy decisions and actions**

Our Strategies:

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

*Turning the tide on child poverty in Australia:  
Policy Forum November 2013*

## 1.1 Poverty and Inequality

The reduction of poverty and inequality remains a core focus for ACOSS, as we work to increase the participation of all people in our society through the reduction of poverty and inequality. Whilst ACOSS policy is designed to promote the common good, our core responsibility is to improve the living standards of people living in poverty, those who are currently missing out on the benefits of an overall increase in wealth in Australia.



Julia Unwin from the Rowntree Foundation

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

During Anti-Poverty Week in 2013, ACOSS released a joint report with the National Rural Health Alliance 'A snapshot of poverty in rural and regional Australia.' The report, launched in Tamworth, received widespread media attention and put a spotlight on the high levels of financial hardship in rural and regional areas.

Our poverty and inequality research report series continued throughout the 2013-14 financial year. In November 2013 we released a new edition of Poverty in Australia 2012 including an analysis of the extent of poverty amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and summarising the key findings of research published during Anti-Poverty Week 2013 by the community and social service sector. Groundwork was laid for a new Poverty Report in 2014, followed by an Inequality Report in early 2015. We also welcomed a visit from UK advocate against poverty Julia Unwin from the Rowntree Foundation, meeting with her on her trip to Australia during May 2014.

Our Policy Forum, held on 12 November 2013, was focused on child poverty. This event attracted over 100 attendees and received a broad range of media coverage. Speakers Bettina Cass, Gerry Redmond and New Zealand expert Dr Airini covered issues such as the lived experience of child poverty in Australia and what can be done to improve the wellbeing of our most disadvantaged children.

We maintained our call for Australian Governments to develop an agreed measure of poverty in Australia, and to set a Development Goal for the reduction of poverty, including clear targets and measures.

Through our role in the C20, we advocated for G20 Leaders to support Inclusive Economic Growth, including by setting targets to reduce poverty alongside GDP Growth targets.

## 1.2 Economics and Tax

ACOSS has maintained a strong leadership role in our advocacy around the Federal Budget, and in the promotion of economic policies to promote a fairer, more equitable and sustainable Australia, for the common good.

ACOSS continued our advocacy for a fair, adequate, equitable, efficient and consistent taxation system

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

ACOSS' Federal Election Platform, released in August 2013, was a comprehensive set of policies for an incoming government to reduce poverty and inequality, increase access to universal services including in health and education, to address major holes in the social safety net, and to pursue a sustainable revenue base to fund these supports and services and increase investment in critical economic and social infrastructure. This publication provided a summary of our priorities; and a set of factsheets with statistics and policy priorities provided more detail.

ACOSS work on the 2014-15 Federal Budget started with the development and publication of the Budget Priorities Statement 2014-15. This statement outlined priorities in key portfolio areas, including measures to better target spending and raise revenue in order to achieve budget sustainability. This publication was launched at a press conference that called for a budget based on 'needs not wants'. This was followed by a period of sustained media activity, calling for a balanced and fair approach to achieving budget sustainability. *continued ...*

ACOSS put a resolution to the 2014 National Conference in June which called on the federal parliament to **reject divisive and unfair budget proposals** that would severely impact the most **vulnerable people** in our community. The resolution was supported by more than **300 participants**

#### ACOSS National Conference Resolution on the Federal Budget

Participants of the 2014 ACOSS National Conference call on the Australian Parliament to ensure that Australia moves to become a fair and inclusive society, in which all people can participate economically, and be included in the community.

We call on the Australian Government to work with us in designing policy that is sustainable, inclusive and fair. The Government and the Parliament should abandon the following divisive and unfair proposed budget measures that severely impact the most vulnerable people in our community:

- + Removal of the income support safety net for many young job seekers;
- + Measures that erode the value of income support for people at risk of poverty;
- + Reductions in family tax benefits for low and moderate income earners;
- + Increases in user charges for essential health services, including GP payments, medicines and tests;
- + Withdrawal of federal funding to essential social services; and
- + Silencing of advocacy organisations working to ensure that the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised groups are heard.

ACOSS Conference Resolution



ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie addresses delegates at the ACOSS National Conference in June 2014

## 1.3 Income Support and Employment

ACOSS advocates for an adequate, effective social safety net for people not in paid employment. We promote a fairer and more adequate working age payment system, including increased payment levels and more equality between different payments in order to adequately meet people's essential needs.

ACOSS also advocates for improved employment services for those not in paid work, with better investment and flexibility to support people most disadvantaged in the labour market. We promote the use of a 'partnerships approach', linking employers, employment services and local communities. We call for a strong plan to grow job opportunities, including for people facing long term unemployment.

Once the budget was handed down in May 2014, we undertook an analysis of the impacts of the budget on low and moderate income people to inform our advocacy. We were active in the media on Budget night and during the following days including on ABC's *7.30 Report*; Radio National *Breakfast* and *The World Today*, Channel 9's *Weekend Sunrise*, on Sky News and ABC 24. Our *ACOSS Budget Analysis 2014-15* revealed that the greatest burden of proposed Budget cuts would fall on those on low and middle incomes. We published a number of factsheets highlighting the impact of individual measures as a resource for media, the community sector and the broader community. A budget advocacy webpage was set up on the ACOSS website to promote understanding of the effects of these measures. This page received 1,805 'hits' during the month after it was created. The 'Treasurer's Post-Budget Address to the Community Sector, hosted by ACOSS, was

the third annual community sector engagement with the Treasurer. Over 155 people from the community sector attended this event, which provided a direct opportunity for the sector to engage with the Treasurer on the budget measures and highlight community sector concerns in the media. In August 2013 we released a paper on reform of Australia's taxation system, *Tax reform: Purpose, principles and process*. The paper set out principles that provide a starting point for the reform of Australia's tax system. We have worked closely with business groups, and tax experts to build consensus for effective, fair and sustainable tax reform, and have advocated for reform to ensure a sustainable revenue base. We have been active in a range of public events and in the media as a national community voice on tax. ACOSS was also active during this period in advocating for retirement incomes reform, a key part of our work on tax reform. In our Budget

Submission, we called for the restructure of tax concessions on superannuation contributions in order to make the system both simpler and fair. We supported our members' input and participation in the Commission of Audit, delivering a comprehensive submission and engaging directly with the Chair and staff of the Commission. We submitted to and then appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the Commission of Audit, where we highlighted concerns about the exclusion of tax expenditures from the scope of the review.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

At the end of June 2014, ACOSS partnered with the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Business Council of Australia to make a joint proposal for improvements to employment assistance services to deliver better job outcomes for people disadvantaged in the labour market. This proposal was the result of an alliance between the three organisations to tackle entrenched disadvantage.

ACOSS engaged with the McClure Review of Welfare through a number of meetings and advocated directly to key Ministers and in the press. A number of member teleconferences took place to discuss the sector's position on key areas of reform within the Review's terms of reference, and to adopt shared principles to drive reform. We engaged with the Department of Employment and relevant ministers to advance our priorities for reform of the Jobs Services Australia system, including through support

for demand-led employment, and advocacy to improve the outcomes of the employment assistance services. We organised and facilitated meetings between the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews, disability organisations and others affected by proposed Budget reforms, providing an opportunity for the Minister to hear concerns about people being reassessed for the Disability Support Pension and moved onto the lower Newstart Allowance. These meetings also provided an opportunity for the ACOSS network, including people living with disabilities, to draw attention to employment challenges and opportunities for people with disabilities.



*Opportunity for All*: joint statement from ACOSS, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Business Council of Australia

## 1.4 Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness is a key policy priority given its impact on cost of living, employment participation, health and wellbeing. ACOSS advocates for access to affordable housing for low and moderate income households. We work closely with other peak bodies and our members to advance policy solutions to current housing challenges, including federal and state investment in new affordable housing supply, direct rental subsidies, incentives for investors in affordable dwellings and investment in effective homelessness services.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

In partnership with the Councils of Social Service around the country and homelessness services, ACOSS advocated for an ongoing commitment to fund the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. We wrote the Minister, participated in a joint press conference with women and family violence services, and engaged in sustained advocacy with the Minister's office and in the public arena. We made a short

submission to the Senate Inquiry on affordable housing, which highlighted housing shortages and the need for effective action to address ongoing unavailability and unaffordability of housing.

We pushed for affordable housing infrastructure to be included within the infrastructure agenda of the C20 through our role in the C20 infrastructure working group.

ACOSS coordinated a collaboration between National Shelter, Homelessness Australia, the

Community Housing Federation of Australia, the National Association of Tenant Organisations, and key members organisations to promote effective policy and reform in this critical area affecting the costs of living for people on the lowest incomes.

ACOSS also provided secretariat support for the Australians for Affordable Housing campaign and maintained its social media presence.



ACOSS provided secretariat support for the Australians for Affordable Housing campaign

## 1.5 Other policy areas

### Energy and Climate Change

ACOSS calls for effective action to ensure people on the lowest incomes can meet their essential energy needs, to promote energy efficiency and mitigate against the impacts of climate change on people on the lowest incomes. ACOSS supports effective action to reduce climate change, including through the renewable energy target, recognising the people on the lowest incomes will be adversely affected the most, and earliest, by the impacts of climate change.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

ACOSS was funded by the Consumer Advocacy Panel to do policy and advocacy work to protect and advance the interests of low income households in the National Electricity Market (NEM) until March 2014. This project evolved to a focus on improving the adequacy and appropriateness of energy concessions. Advice was provided by ACOSS on the development of oversight and related programs by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

ACOSS also advocated during the year for investment in efficient energy use for households on low incomes. Our discussion paper, *Preventing Shocks and Addressing Energy Poverty*, was published in March 2014. This paper addressed the impacts of energy hardship, the inconsistencies and inadequacies of the energy concessions framework in Australia, and outlined recommendations for reform of this framework.

ACOSS remains an active member of the South Cross Climate

Coalition and continues to urge political parties, business and the community to find consensus on effective climate change action, including renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### Health

ACOSS advocates for the reduction of systemic barriers in the health system that can result in poorer health among those on low incomes. We advocate for a universal health care system and for policy that directly addresses the 'social determinants' of equal access to education, employment, income and secure housing; as all of these social factors have a strong influence on health outcomes.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

ACOSS continued close relationships and alliances on health policy, including through the COSS Health Network, the Australian Healthcare Reform Alliance, the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health and our many members active in the health arena.

We advocated against the trends in healthcare funding that have resulted in a move away from universal coverage towards a system of co-payments with associated safety nets to protect vulnerable consumers – the so-called "GP co-payment" proposal introduced in the 2014-15 Budget. We made submissions to the inquiry into the Health Insurance Amendment (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Bill in April 2014; and the Out of Pocket Costs Inquiry in May.

### Asylum Seekers and Refugees

ACOSS continues to call for people seeking asylum in Australia to be removed from detention at the earliest opportunity, and placed into the community; for offshore processing to stop; and for Australian Government policy to meet our international legal obligations.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

The ACOSS Board released a statement in February 2014 in support of asylum seekers and refugees, which called for an end to offshore detention. This statement was released to coincide with Palm Sunday rallies in support of refugees and asylum seekers.

ACOSS was also involved in regular meetings of key refugee, asylum seeker and settlement organisations throughout the year in order to maintain a voice on this important human rights issue.



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

### Our Strategies:

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

ACOSS is committed to developing effective mechanisms to hear and understand the lived experience of people, in order to ensure our policy and advocacy reflects the priorities and aspirations of those affected. We have also committed to ensuring our mechanisms for consultation with members and other key stakeholders remain robust and inclusive. We collaborate with academic and other researchers to produce better evidence; and draw on this research alongside people's lived experience to develop new and innovative policy solutions. Our Annual Conference is a particularly important part of our strategy to hear, understand and reflect the way that poverty and inequality affects people's lives. We actively partner with key organisations representing people directly affected by government policy to influence positive reforms in our key policy areas.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

We commissioned the Social Policy Research Centre to work with us to produce the ACOSS Poverty and Inequality Series. We have also built a broader expert and sector group to improve the design of the Australian Community Sector Survey.

Throughout the year, we convened ACOSS Policy Network meetings to share information across about national policy developments and advocacy opportunities, particularly in the areas of Income Support and Employment, Health and Community Sector Policy. We also held member teleconferences to seek input and engagement in key policy processes such as the

Federal Budget and the Commission of Audit. Our income support network grew, with a particular interest in income support policy and advocacy.

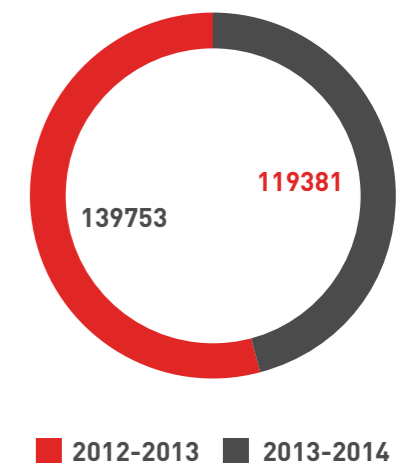
We invested in significant engagement with member organisations and experts to inform our work on the McClure Review.

Our National Conference *Global problems, local solutions: Tackling inequality in Australia and beyond* was held from 11–12 June 2014 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Over 350 delegates attended the conference, the majority of whom were from our membership network. Our conference program provided multiple opportunities for engagement with conference delegates to learn about and contribute to discussion on ACOSS policy areas. Feedback received from delegates and speakers was overwhelmingly positive, recognising in particular the diversity of speakers and themes in the program, including especially the participation of people sharing their lived experience of poverty; academics; politicians and service providers. The Annual Conference in June 'trended' on Twitter in Australia with the hashtag #ACOSSConf2014.

Our member e-newsletter ACOSS@work was sent every 6 weeks, providing an update of activities, processes and key issues. A number of other strategic email communications were sent, focusing on specific events or issues. The Daily Media Bulletin was emailed each weekday (excluding holiday periods and public holidays) to National Members.

Our engagement with social media has increased, with over 10,300 Twitter followers by the end of June 2014, an increase of 3,000 in the financial year. We also saw an increase in visits to the ACOSS website, from 119,381 to 139,753 – an increase of over 20,000 or 17%. The most popular webpage for viewing (apart from the homepage) was the poverty policy page, with 23,215 views in the 2013-14 financial year.

Our strongest media coverage was during the Federal Budget, with CEO Cassandra Goldie featured in all the major timeslots on the night of the Budget and on morning programs. These included: ABC 7:30, the Today program, Weekend Sunrise, ABC Local Radio and Radio National. Coverage from the week of the Budget period shows that there were 222 news items mentioning ACOSS during this period.



■ 2012-2013 ■ 2013-2014  
Increase in ACOSS website hits by 17%



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

Our Strategies:

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

## Community Sector Policy

ACOSS seeks to understand the national issues impacting community service organisations and the capacity of the sector to assist people in need. To this end, we are developing our Australian Community Sector Survey as a key conduit for information about how the community sector understands the experience of poverty in Australia and the impact of key policy decisions on that experience. ACOSS works with members including the state and territory Councils of Social Service to maintain pressure for adequate funding of sustainable and effective community services from all Australian governments.

ACOSS plays an active role in the development of the community sector; and in improving the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the sector, including through the reduction of red-tape and effectiveness of regulation. We have continued to foster the capacity of the community sector to improve public policy outcomes and its capacity to help people in need. ACOSS is committed to a strong community development, partnership approach to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control over services and outcomes and to build a culture of engagement with these principles within and beyond ACOSS' membership.

*Sydney Morning Herald,  
16 April 2014*

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

ACOSS remains concerned about the funding situation for community service organisations. We surveyed our members about the funding situation in February 2014; and, in conjunction with the Community Council for Australia, surveyed the wider community sector in April of 2014. The report of this survey found that 87% of organisations had no guarantee of key funding for services beyond June 2014.

ACOSS continued as an active participant in the Not for Profit Reform Council and a number of its working groups until September 2013.

We also continued to contribute to the governance framework

and reporting requirements for charities under the newly-established Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), through representation on the Sector Users Group and the Social Services Working Group.

ACOSS publicly expressed our disappointment at the decision to repeal the legislation that established the ACNC. We continue to highlight the strong support from the sector for a national regulatory framework; and our concern at the prospect of returning to a situation of ineffective regulation if the ACNC is abolished. ACOSS believes that there is a positive role that can be played by regulation in supporting the sector, including

## Federal funding for welfare agencies starves Aboriginal kindergartens

April 16, 2014



Daniella Miletic

Social Affairs Editor, *The Age*

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Welfare agencies specialising in services for the disadvantaged, financial and legal assistance, and the needs of youth and emergency relief believe the country's most vulnerable are at increased risk because of the uncertain future of federal funding, a new report shows.

The Australian Council of Social Service research reveals a welfare sector in crisis with 87 per cent of the 248 non-government organisations surveyed reporting that they are yet to agree to all their federal funding arrangements beyond June 30. The survey





the maintenance of public trust in the sector; the improvement of standards around governance, accountability and transparency; and the reduction of duplication of reporting. To this end, we are part of the project advisory group of the Civil Society National Centre for Excellence, assisting the Government to develop a preferred model for the National Centre for Excellence.

ACOSS Deputy CEO Tessa Boyd-Caine's expertise in the community and not-for-profit sector was recognised when she was awarded the inaugural Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Nonprofit Leadership. The scholarship enabled Tessa to spend 4 months working with philanthropic and nonprofit organisations in the United States of America, exploring how America's charitable sector engages in transparency and accountability.

We teamed up with HESTA for the second annual HESTA Community Sector Awards and Dinner on the first evening of the conference.

Nominations for the awards and the calibre of finalists were fantastic and the night was a great success acknowledging the hard work and important outcomes of community organisations and workers.

*Peter Shergold, Dave Ritter, Fiona Armstrong and Cassandra Goldie at the Civil Society Forum, February 2014*

## Civil Society

ACOSS aims to strengthen civil society through a focus on how community organisations can maintain our independence and improve our effectiveness in delivering lasting social change and improved outcomes for people who are disadvantaged.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

ACOSS hosted a Civil Society forum, entitled Creating a shared vision for Australia's future on 24 February 2014. Guest speakers included Dave Ritter, Peter Shergold and Fiona Armstrong; with facilitation by Randall Pearce of THINK: Insight & Advice. The purpose of this forum was to engage on civil society and its challenges, especially for community services. The briefing paper from the forum is available on our website, along with the summary of the issues raised during the forum, at: [http://www.acoss.org.au/take\\_action/c20\\_-\\_australian\\_civil\\_society\\_20\\_brisbane\\_2014/](http://www.acoss.org.au/take_action/c20_-_australian_civil_society_20_brisbane_2014/)



We also played a key role in the Civil Society 20 (C20) process; a part of the G20 summit in Brisbane in June 2014. The C20 is a platform for dialogue between the political leaders of G20 countries and representatives of civil society organisations that enables civil society to inform the shaping of the global economy. This process included an online crowdsourcing website called C20 Conversations, which allowed anyone to help shape recommendations around the focus areas for C20 advocacy of inclusive growth and employment; infrastructure; climate and sustainability; and governance. CEO Cassandra Goldie is the Deputy Chair of the C20 Steering Committee; and Policy Director Jacqueline Phillips led the infrastructure theme conversation.



*Digital Business Kits website*

## COSS Collaboration

ACOSS is committed to working in close collaboration with the state and territory Councils of Social Service to work effectively on national issues that impact on both federal and state and territory policies.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

Our project for collaboration between the Councils of Social Service continued during the financial year. This was a continuation of a decision between COSSes to further the collaborative effort; to increase national campaigning and influence of the Councils of Social Service; to increase information sharing across the network; and to strengthen

the impact, reach and credibility of the Councils of Social Service network. An e-Bulletin was initiated to disseminate information to COSS employees; an IT collaboration group was set up; and collaborative activity took place around shared policy interests such as child protection, housing and homelessness.

## Strategic Projects

We undertake select, strategic projects to build the capacity and effectiveness of community sector organisations.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

Digital Business Kits is a partnership between the Australian government and nine industry peak bodies to address industry-specific gaps in digital knowledge and promote increased use of innovative digital solutions to engage with clients and improve internal and external operations. ACOSS, in partnership with Infoxchange, is funded to help community and health organisations – particularly smaller organisations – come to grips with information and communication technology. During this period ACOSS and Infoxchange drafted business kits for community organisations and provided added value through the creation of a website as the platform to deliver this information to the sector.

## ENERGY SAVING IDEAS BY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

Our ultimate goal is to help a host of community organisations large and small – become more energy efficient, and enjoy all the savings that brings!



[www.thegivegrid.org](http://www.thegivegrid.org)

In July 2013, ACOSS received funding from the (then) Commonwealth Department of Energy Resources and Tourism to deliver a national energy efficiency information project to the community service sector, called The Give Grid. The Project has been implemented around the country, working closely with our state and territory Councils of Social Service, aiming to support improved energy efficiency among community sector organisations. A Steering Committee was set up with Councils

of Social Service representatives and the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association, and an energy efficiency survey of community sector organisations, members and non-members completed. Twenty free energy efficiency audits on community sector sites were completed and twenty factsheets for typical energy efficiency projects were created. A new project name (GiveGrid), brand and communications strategy was created; and a website designed and launched ([www.thegivegrid.org](http://www.thegivegrid.org)).



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

Our Strategies:

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

ACOSS is committed to fostering a strong, innovative, well-governed organisation, driven by engagement with people who are directly affected by poverty and inequality and the organisations who support them. We aim to ensure ACOSS is sustainable into the future.

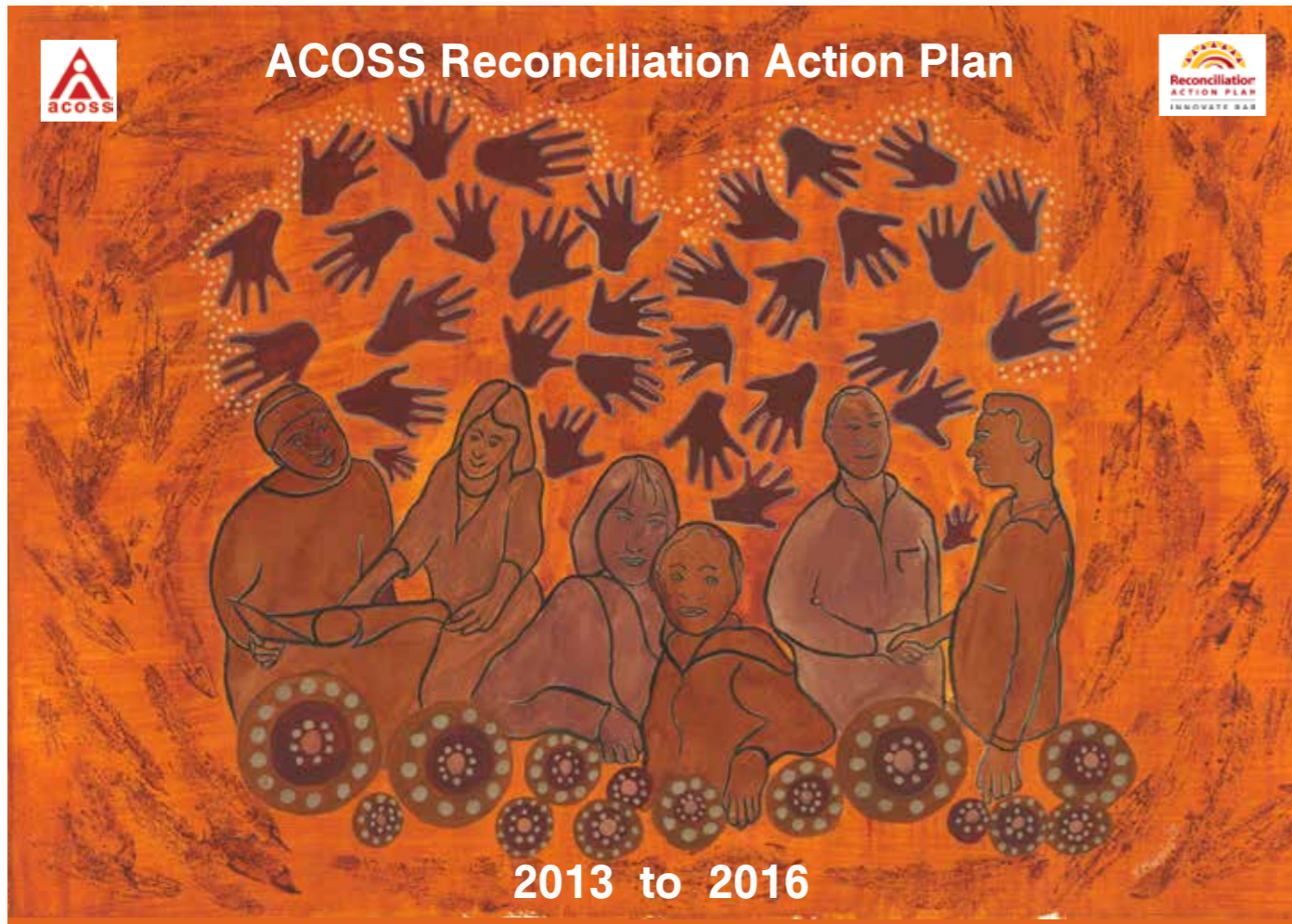
### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

This year, ACOSS has undertaken a number of measures to increase the sustainability of our organisation over the year. We have undertaken strategic reforms to

the governance of ACOSS; made changes to our membership structure; and continued to build our engagement with members, the community sector, business, government, media and the public. We have diversified our funding base, including an increase in Commonwealth core funding, expanded membership and sponsor involvement, and secured funding of strategic projects such as the Energy Efficiency Information Grant and the Digital Business Kits.

Workplace policies and procedures were created, updated and further developed in order to ensure Occupational Health and Safety compliance and compliance with applicable legislation; and to make ACOSS a robust, healthy place to work.

We also committed to build better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all people in Australia, including



ACOSS Reconciliation Action Plan

through increased membership by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations, and through our Reconciliation Action Plan 2013-15. ACOSS' Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in July 2013, thanks in a very large part to our RAP Champion, Louise Stanley, and to our RAP working group. This plan resulted in a continued collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, particularly through our work on Aboriginal community control.

We have commenced a process of identification and development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy, and have explored opportunities for diversity in our organisational supplies. Importantly, we also worked towards increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations within the ACOSS membership.

## Submissions and Publications

### Key Submissions

- ACOSS Budget Priorities Statement 2014
- Submission to the Inquiry Into the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (Repeal)
- Submission to Inquiry into the Health Insurance Amendment (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Bill 2014
- ACOSS Submission on Minimum Wage 2014
- Submission to Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry into Affordable Housing
- Submission to the Commission of Audit: Balancing the Budget
- Submission to the Senate Select Committee Inquiry into the Commission of Audit
- Further Submission to Senate Select Committee Inquiry into the Commission of Audit
- Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care
- Submission to the Senate Education and Employment Committee (Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013)
- Submission to the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
- Submission to Economics Inquiry into the MRRT Repeal
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Clean Energy Legislation Bill
- Submission to Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee: Social Security Amendment (Supporting More Australians into Work) Bill 2013

### Position Statements, Papers, and Publications

- Australian Community Sector Survey 2013: National Report. ACOSS Paper 202
- ACOSS Reconciliation Action Plan 2013 – 2016
- Back to Basics: Simplifying Australia's family system to tackle child poverty
- Tax reform: Purpose, principles and process
- ACOSS Energy Efficiency Paper
- ACOSS Annual Report 2012-13
- Make essential services available and affordable: energy factsheet
- Reduce poverty: improve employment factsheet
- Reduce poverty: child poverty and family payments factsheet
- Bold action for a fairer future: ACOSS election statement
- A Budget that divides the nation: ACOSS 2014-15 Budget Analysis
- Factsheet – Social Security Trends: Policy snapshot
- Preventing shocks and addressing energy poverty: an ACOSS discussion paper
- ACOSS funding certainty brief

### ACOSS @WORK

*ACOSS@work* is our main tool for written communications with our members. It includes updates on the work that ACOSS staff are undertaking, as well as updates on meetings and events attended, with lists of publications, submissions and media releases.

Eight issues of *ACOSS@work* were disseminated to members during this reporting period. Three communiques from the CEO were emailed, along with two policy snapshots and several events focused newsletters.

### ACOSS DAILY MEDIA BULLETIN

The *Daily Media Bulletin* is a daily news roundup service that was introduced for National Members in 2012. This listing of newspaper articles, radio and television clips relevant to our members and stakeholders is distributed each weekday by 10.30am. It has become an important communication tool in the fact that articles particularly relevant to ACOSS and our policy work can be placed in the Bulletin; and the order of the stories can reflect our policy priorities. During the 2013-14 financial year, the number of recipients of the Bulletin has increased. The average number of times the Bulletin is opened each day is 227. The highest open rate during the period was 858.

We would like to thank our Bulletin sponsors for this period: Jobs Australia, Maxxia, Matrix On Board and Community Sector Banking.



## President's Message

Francis Lynch

**With a change of Australian Government in September 2013 the last year has been a busy one as new ideas and ways of working have been rolled out.**

It is clear, a year down the track, that the need for ACOSS is as strong as ever and that we are in a time where many voices are muted or have disappeared. ACOSS has been an active voice for those who are marginalised and for service providers, many of whom are under increasing stress.

Some of the established lobbying and advocacy bodies in the community sector have lost government funding support over the last year and in most cases have had to close their doors. We mourn this loss and the consequent impact that has had on the voices of people in the community. ACOSS has been offered the opportunity of maintaining government funding and awaits the outcome with hope. However, in the long term we must pursue an independent path by exploring how we can build financial strength outside of government. This is not an easy or quick path to take, but we must have the discussions that will set the direction and the ways of getting there.

There has been much social and economic policy to digest this year; the National Commission of Audit, the Federal Budget, the Interim Report of the McClure Welfare Reform Group, the Creating Parity Report by Andrew Forrest, and many others. The ACOSS staff have been kept busy analysing these with a view to fairness, equity and the impact on vulnerable people and communities. It is apparent that

when seen as a collective these various strands of policy are likely to have devastating impacts for many people, with a disproportionate outcome for people on low incomes, who are unemployed, or who are living with a disability.

But ACOSS has not just been responding to the external forces around us. In partnership with the ACTU and the Business Council of Australia we have been providing leadership on the reform of employment services. We have also released the third edition of the *Poverty in Australia* report highlighting the growing number of people living below the poverty line. The call for a National Plan on Poverty is very timely and indicates the need for collaborative work addressing a worsening problem in Australia. It is important that these examples of independent advocacy are continued and that ACOSS can increasingly influence social and economic policy outcomes.

As mentioned in last year's report, the ACOSS Board has been reviewing its own governance structures, which this year has progressed to the introduction of a Governance Reform Sub Committee of the Board. This group is exploring new ways of arranging the governance of ACOSS, including the size of the Board, which is currently very large. We have started to engage members and will continue to do so in the coming year as we work towards proposing Constitutional change.

As a membership organisation, ACOSS is only as strong as the organisations and people who support and work with us. A significant change made this year has been to make individual Membership of ACOSS free. We want anyone who has an interest in the same ideals and aspirations as ACOSS to join in and support the actions we are taking. There continues to be a steady stream of organisations joining as members and we thank them, and those continuing members, for their trust and support.

I thank all of the staff for their commitment to the work and mission of ACOSS. The amount of impact that ACOSS has belies the small number of people within it. Thank you for your service, and the support that you give to members, and for the benefit of marginalised people across Australia. In particular, I acknowledge the leadership of Cassandra Goldie within ACOSS and across the community sector, in what has been a busy, and demanding year. Lastly, thank you to all those who have served with me on the ACOSS Board and committees in 2014 for your energy, wisdom and time.

Francis Lynch,  
**ACOSS PRESIDENT**



## CEO's Report

Cassandra Goldie

**Our work has been marked by being deeply informed by our membership, facilitating and supporting the advocacy of key groups affected and grounded in professional research and advocacy.**

ACOSS has been heavily engaged in the lead up to the election of a new Federal Government, once again advocating strongly on behalf of people facing poverty and providing commentary on key issues affecting these lives. We negotiated the policy announcements of an election cycle, a Federal Budget that was divisive and unfair, and uncertainty about future funding of our sector. We advocated against policy decisions that will place more people in poverty and inequality; and expressed concern about welfare reforms and policies affecting asylum seekers and refugees that undermine the capacity of people to live with dignity. We have led a strong voice calling for a positive plan for the country, pursuing a sustainable budget by cutting spending which is wasteful, securing a sustainable, fair revenue base, and investing in the social safety net and services for people who are disadvantaged.

I was honoured to be selected as Deputy President of the C20 Steering Committee, and to travel to the G20 Leaders Summit in St Petersburg in September 2013 along with President of the Steering Committee, Tim Costello.

ACOSS has spent this year engaging in our strategic planning process, a process that significantly informed our work in the first half of 2014. We have built our relationships across the political spectrum and with other sectors, with a major focus on Tax Reform, Employment and Income Support, Sector Policy and Housing.

Our organisation secured Deductible Gift Recipient Status in 2013, the culmination of efforts over the past two years. We would like to thank all who assisted in this process. We have an active plan for building the financial sustainability of ACOSS, both through

support from the Federal Government, and a broader, more diverse source of funding, and sponsorship.

Our office was renovated following the signing of a 3 year lease on our premises in Redfern. The renovated office is a great improvement for our workplace! This has tied in with a year of human resources excellence, with attention paid to internal policies and procedures and to our occupational health and safety status.

Our public profile has increased over the period, with consultation on the welfare review and the Commission of Audit and most recently perhaps the harshest Federal budget in recent times – certainly the last two decades. Our work has been marked by being deeply informed by our membership, facilitating and supporting the advocacy of key groups affected and grounded in professional research and advocacy. Our profile has been widely recognised as providing a strong lead in response to these areas whilst playing a behind the scenes or facilitation role in relation to measures that impact on particular groups.

I would like to thank our excellent ACOSS staff for all their work over this financial year. We said goodbye to valued staff but also welcomed new members to the team. I would also like to warmly thank all of our members who have continued to support ACOSS and, more importantly, be strong voices for positive social change, meeting our role and responsibility as key members of Australia's civil society.

Cassandra Goldie  
**ACOSS CEO**



## Treasurer's Report

Michael Bleasdale

... the culture of prudent fiscal management has enabled us to retain as many resources as possible to seek out new funded opportunities and responding to critical issues facing the community sector as and when required

ACOSS maintained a solid financial position in 2013-2014 despite the funding uncertainty that infused the community sector. The audited reports reflect a deficit result for the year of \$46,359, which was slightly higher than budget expectations. Income actually rose by over \$90,000 from the 2012-2013 result, mainly thanks to increases in memberships and in grants. The ACOSS Board, however, maintained its commitment to increasing the National Office's capacity to lead the sector in the many challenges that it faced in the changed political climate, and this is reflected in the additional spending in its staffing. A small surplus had been anticipated but a requirement to cost some additional staffing provisions moved us into a deficit position during the audit process.

The difficult conditions were reflected in the lower than expected yield from sponsorships, both generally and during the Conference. The impact of this was mitigated by diligent financial management by the ACOSS secretariat throughout the year, and a rigorous and informative reporting process overseen by a vigilant Board. Despite the deficit for the year ACOSS' finances remain strong, with the equity of just under \$660,000 in our balance sheet. Importantly, although the funding environment remains more difficult than it has been in recent years, the culture of prudent fiscal management has enabled us to retain as many resources as possible to seek out new funded

opportunities and responding to critical issues facing the community sector as and when required.

We continue to benefit from high quality financial reporting from Accounting For Good (formally Matrix On Board), and note with thanks the contribution over the past two years of Igor Likhovovitch. During the year we also undertook a market testing of our financial auditing services, and as a result of this we will be recommending to the membership that Pitcher Partners continues to provide these services to ACOSS.

Thanks are also due to staff for their success in winning projects and managing them efficiently; and to the Executive and Board for their expert contributions to our many discussions about finances at all of our meetings.

Micheal Bleasdale,  
**ACOSS TREASURER**

## ACOSS Staff 2013-14



Top row L-R: Peter Davidson, Cassandra Goldie, Penny Dorsch, Shannon Longhurst, Jacqui Phillips, Renata Franz, Ro Evans, Daisy Farnham, Andrea Pape  
Bottom row L-R: Fernando de Freitas, Louise Stanley, Rebecca Vassarotti, Emily Hamilton, Ivy Tran

Dr Cassandra Goldie,  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Tadé Adeyoyibi,  
*COSS Collaboration Project Officer*  
(to August 2013)

Brenton Baldwin,  
*Media Officer* (December 2013  
to January 2014)

Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine,  
*Deputy CEO and Director of Sector  
and Stakeholder Engagement*  
(on leave April to June 2014)

Kate Colvin,  
*COSS Collaboration Project Officer*  
(August 2013 to January 2014)

Peter Davidson,  
*Senior Advisor*

Chris Dodds,  
*Senior Policy Officer,*  
on secondment from EWON  
(July 2013 to November 2013)

Penny Dorsch,  
*Publications and Information Officer*

Ro Evans,  
*Policy Officer*

Daisy Farnham,  
*Project and Research Officer*

Renata Franz,  
*Operations Manager*

Fernando de Freitas,  
*Media Advisor*

Emily Hamilton,  
*Policy Officer*

Shannon Longhurst,  
*Executive and Research Assistant  
to the CEO*

Emily Morrice,  
*Communication and Events Officer*  
(April to June 2014)

Flynn Murphy, *Acting Media Advisor*  
(March to April 2014)

Jacqueline Phillips, *Director,*  
*Policy and Campaigns*  
(from August 2013)

Andrea Pape,  
*Project Manager, The Give Grid*

Joel Pringle,  
*Policy Officer*  
(November 2013 to March 2014)

Kristie Rue,  
*Administrative and Project Assistant*  
(July 2013 to January 2014)

Louise Stanley,  
*Membership & Stakeholder  
Engagement Officer*

Rebecca Vassarotti,  
*Acting Deputy CEO* (April to June 2014)

### ACOSS INTERNS

The following people have made a critical contribution to the work of ACOSS through internship arrangements. We extend our sincerest gratitude for their meaningful contribution to the work of ACOSS.

Chantel Cotterell, *Policy Intern*

Natalia Newling, *Media Intern*

Ivy Tran, *Policy Intern*

## Governance

### 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.

A new Board of Governors was elected at the November 2013 Board meeting.

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

### ACOSS Board

#### PRESIDENT

Simon Schrapel  
(until 31 December 2013)  
Francis Lynch  
(from 1 January 2014)

#### DEPUTY PRESIDENTS

Adrian Pisarski  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Terese Edwards  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Mark Bagshaw  
(from 1 January 2014)  
Micaela Cronin  
(from 1 January 2014)

#### TREASURER

Michael Bleasdale (continuing)

## Representatives

### STATE AND TERRITORY COUNCILS OF SOCIAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Jeremy Halcrow  
*ACTCOSS Representative*  
(from 1 January 2014)  
Sarah Fogg  
*NCOSS Representative* (continuing)  
Bernie Dwyer  
*NTCOSS Representative* (continuing)  
Karyn Walsh  
*QCOSS Representative*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Mark Tucker-Evans  
*QCOSS Representative*  
(from 1 January 2014)  
Helen Connolly  
*SACOSS Representative* (continuing)  
Noel Mundy  
*TASCOSS Representative* (continuing)  
Micaela Cronin  
*VCOSS Representative* (continuing)  
Francis Lynch  
*WACOSS Representative*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Stephen Joske  
*WACOSS Representative*  
(from 1 January 2014)

### SPECIAL ASSEMBLY NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

Terese Edwards  
*National Council for Single Mothers and their Children*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Graham Douglas-Meyer  
*Australian Federation of Disability Organisations* (until 31 December 2014)  
Jane Stanley  
*Social Work Department, University of Melbourne* (from 1 January 2014)  
Fiona Given  
*Australian Centre for Disability Law*  
(from 1 January 2014)

### NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

Ricci Bartels  
*Settlement Council of Australia*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Brad Halse  
*Salvation Army*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Adrian Pisarski  
*National Shelter*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Samantha Page  
*Family Relationship Services Australia*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Renee Williams  
*Vision Australia*  
(until 31 December 2014)  
Gerard Thomas  
*National Welfare Rights Network*  
(continuing)  
Michael Bleasdale  
*NSW HMMS State Council*  
(continuing)  
Bettina Cass  
*Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW*  
(from 1 January 2014)  
Mark Bagshaw  
*Innov8* (from 1 January 2014)  
John Falzon  
*St Vincent de Paul National Council*  
(from 1 January 2014)  
Rebecca Vassarotti  
*Consumers' Health Forum*  
(retired February 2014)  
Hang Vo  
*Australian Red Cross*  
(from 1 January 2014)

### SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

Jillian Riseley  
*Telstra* (until 31 December 2014)

### EX OFFICIO

Simon Schrapel  
*Uniting Communities*  
(from 1 January 2014)

## Members

ACOSS has a growing national member network, currently consisting of 60 national members. Our national membership network brings together a broad spectrum of organisations from across Australia with a commitment to social justice.

The ACOSS national member network is comprised of:

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

ACOSS' organisational structure is based on respecting the autonomy of our national members so they are not bound by the policy positions of the organisation. Membership is a mutual relationship where ACOSS draws on the collective knowledge and experience of our membership and members benefit from access to our expertise, research, policy and advocacy work.

Over 100 state and local organisations and dozens of individuals also support ACOSS' work as Associate Members.

### COSS Members

ACT Council of Social Service  
Council of Social Service of NSW  
NT Council of Social Service  
Queensland Council of Social Service  
SA Council of Social Service  
Tasmanian Council of Social Service  
Victorian Council of Social Service  
WA Council of Social Service

### National Members

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 Neighbourhood House & Centres Association  
Australian Nursing Federation  
Australian Psychological Society  
Australian Red Cross  
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition  
Baptist Care Australia  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Carers Australia  
Case Management Society of Australia  
Children With Disability Australia  
Community Housing Federation of Australia  
Consumers Health Forum of Australia  
COTA Australia  
Council of Australian Humanist Societies  
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  
Life Without Barriers

Lifeline Australia  
Mission Australia  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service  
National Association of Community Legal Centres  
National Council of Single Mothers and their Children  
National Council of the YMCAs of Australia  
National Respite Association  
National Rural Health Alliance  
National Shelter  
National Welfare Rights Network  
People with Disability Australia Inc  
Public Health Association of Australia Inc.  
Reconciliation Australia  
Relationships Australia Inc  
Settlement Council of Australia  
Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council  
Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Inc.  
The Benevolent Society  
The Salvation Army Eastern and Southern Territories  
The Smith Family  
Vision Australia  
WESNET (Women's Services Network)  
Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

### Affiliate Members

Australian Education Union  
United Voice

### Organisation Associate Members

Access Community Services Ltd  
Accordwest  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia  
Aged and Community Services Australia  
AIVL – Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League  
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 Consumer Action Network Ltd  
Australian Services Union  
Australian Wound Management Association  
BaptistCare  
Berry Street  
BEST Employment Ltd  
Cabramatta Community Centre  
Carers NSW Inc  
Catholic Social Services Victoria  
Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace  
CentaCare New England North West  
Central Coast Community Council  
Central Land Council  
Children's Protection Society  
CHOICE  
Churches Housing Inc.  
Communicare Inc.  
Community Business Bureau

Community Information and Support Victoria  
Community Services – Department of Human Services NSW  
Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc  
Early Childhood Australia  
Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education  
ER Victoria  
Families Australia Inc  
Family Support Newcastle Inc.  
Glastonbury Community Services  
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  
Lighthouse Community Care  
LOXCARE Inc  
Lutheran Community Care  
MacKillop Family Services  
Maroondah City Council  
Metro Migrant Resource Centre  
Mid Coast Communities Incorporated  
Mobile Children Services Association of NSW  
Mountains Community Resource Network  
MSC Mission Office Australia  
Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services  
North Queensland Combined Women's Services

## Members

... continued

Northern Rivers Social Development Council  
Northside Community Forum Inc.  
NSW Federation of Housing Associations  
PeakCare Queensland Inc  
Penrith City Council  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre  
Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)  
Quality Innovation Training & Employment  
Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia  
Riverwood Community Centre Inc.  
Rural Housing Network Ltd  
Sector Connect Inc  
Settlement Services International  
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  
Tenants Union (ACT) Inc  
Tenants' Union of Queensland  
Tenants Union QLD – Nth QLD Office  
The Carevan Foundation  
The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc  
The Infant's Home Child & Family Services  
Tremplin Housing  
TRI Community Exchange  
Tweed Valley Women's Service

Uniting Communities  
UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families  
UnitingCare Wesley Country SA  
University of South Australia  
Victoria University  
Welfare Rights & Legal Centre  
Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)  
Western Sydney Community Forum  
Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc. (WCIG)  
WESTIR Ltd  
WISE Employment  
Youth Affairs Council of WA  
YWCA of Canberra

### Individual Associate Members

Alan Kirkland  
Alex Newton  
Alison Peters  
Bettina Cass  
Brian Howe  
Carol Bell  
Catherine Chung  
David Langworthy  
David Stanton  
Denis Klein  
Denise Young  
Doris Cornford  
Evelyn O'Loughlin  
Ian Campbell  
Isolde Kauffman  
Janet Taylor  
Jenny Kitchin  
Jeremy Halcrow  
Jill Lang  
Joanne Patten  
John Huddleston  
John Mills

John Ryan  
Jonathan Casson  
Julian Disney  
Julie McCrossin  
Kate Baxter  
Kieran Merritt  
Leigh McLaughlin  
Leonie Short  
Lisa Fowkes  
Lyn Jones  
Maria Harries  
Marianne Bush  
Merilyn Alt  
Michael Bleasdale  
Michael Eyers  
Pam Simmons  
Paul Bullen  
Paul Butler  
Peter McDonald  
Philip Mendes  
Philip O'Donoghue  
Randall Pearce  
Rebecca Espinosa  
Ruth Robins  
Tanya Carroll  
Toni Wren  
Warren J Gardiner

## 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:

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

### 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



## Funders, Donors, Sponsors and Volunteers

ACOSS appreciates the financial assistance for our core functions provided by the Commonwealth Government through the National Secretariat Program of the Department of Social Services (previously the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs).

ACOSS acknowledges the extraordinary contribution of our core volunteers who participate on the ACOSS board, as policy advisers, committee representatives and working party members and through other avenues, including our events. There are certain people and organisations who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist ACOSS in our policy and advocacy. Whilst always wary of singling out individuals, we take this opportunity to particularly thank the following volunteers for their generosity of time and expertise:

Paul Bullen  
Kasy Chambers  
Ara Creswell  
Jennifer Doggett  
Sarah Fogg  
Lisa Fowkes  
Solange Frost  
Brendan Goodger  
Primod Govender  
Karl Mallon  
Ian McAuley  
Tony McBride  
Jan Maguire  
Fern Martins  
Dev Mukherjee  
Dave Ritter  
Lesley Russell  
Jeremy Skellern  
Toni Wren  
David Yencken

### SPONSORSHIP, GRANT AND PRO-BONO SUPPORT

In 2013-14 ACOSS has received significant support from government, the private sector, non-profit organisations and foundations. This financial and in-kind support is critical to our operations, provides funding for important research and project work and is an excellent example of a cross-sectoral partnership. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the following organisations for their contribution to the work of ACOSS over the past year:

Ashurst Lawyers  
Australian Collaboration  
Australian Government Department of Communications  
Australian Government Department of Industry  
Australian Government Department of Social Services  
Business Council of Australia  
Community Business Bureau  
Consumer Advocacy Panel  
HESTA Superfund  
Jobs Australia  
Morawetz Social Justice Fund  
National Australia Bank  
National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility  
REA Australia  
St Vincent de Paul National Council  
Telstra  
The Salvation Army

### DONATIONS

A number of individuals and organisations made a donation to ACOSS during 2013-14. Their faithful support lifts both our spirits and our bank accounts. Our special thanks goes to the following people for their support of ACOSS and all those who give anonymously.

Merilyn Alt  
Marianne Bush  
Ian Campbell  
Bettina Cass  
Catherine Chung  
Doris Cornford

Lisa Fowkes  
Brian Howe  
David Langworthy  
Kieran Merritt  
Anne McGerr  
Peter McGovern  
Deane Mitchell  
Peter Nisbet  
Alison Peters  
Lanie Pianta  
Jennifer Raines  
Oscar Roos  
Rhonda Sharp  
Rebecca Vassarotti



Story Café Conference Session

# Poor have right to decent pensions



Cassandra Goldie

**I**n the debate about costs of an ageing population and intergenerational inequality, a vital point has been lost. People need to secure an adequate retirement income, for a very long time.

While some of us will have enough super and retire at the "right time" by choice, many people who have struggled through their working lives are forced into retirement without enough behind them. These are people who have had long periods out of the paid workforce or have been in low-paid or modest-income jobs. Women and those who haven't paid off their homes are particularly at risk.

Australia has a relatively low level of workforce participation among older people compared with other OECD nations, including low rates of participation for those not yet of pension age. Grattan Institute analysis shows that increasing the workforce participation of older people in Australia would result in an increase to GDP of about \$25 billion by 2022. Yet those most at risk in later life from mooted proposals - lifting the age for receiving the pension and reducing indexation to CPI - are those forced into retirement, with little behind them.

About 40 per cent of all men and more than 50 per cent of women aged 55 to 64 fall into the at-risk category: they can't get paid work or can't work any more because of sickness or disability, caring responsibilities, or other pressing reasons. These people

will be hit hardest.

ACOSS acknowledges the government faces a challenge to reduce the deficit, but it must not be done at the expense of those struggling to survive on the lowest incomes. The pension is a shield against poverty for some older people, and it is modest by international standards. ACOSS has long argued that the pension should be better targeted to those who need it. But the rate of the pension must be high enough to lead a decent, dignified life.

There is, of course, the other world: those able to structure their lives around choices in the lead-up to retirement. They can use the transition phase of their super, their investment assets and income streams to maximise their benefits out of the system. For many this means cutting their tax bill while claiming a part-pension.

Changes to the age pension and superannuation should be aimed at reducing financial incentives for people in this world to retire early and draw down their super. Changes are also needed to ensure that people in later life continue to pay their fair share of tax in light of their accumulated wealth and investment income. Less than 20 per cent of people over 65 pay any income tax at all.

The maximum rate of the age pension should not be cut. The inadequacy of the Newstart Allowance shows what happens when we only index payments to the CPI. The Newstart Allowance has not been increased above price movements since 1994, which means people who are



Illustration: David Rowe

unemployed have had their living standards frozen at 1994 levels. Raising the pension age would mainly affect people at the very bottom on the lowest incomes, as those unable to find work would be stuck on Newstart, \$166 a week less than the pension.

Before we consider raising the pension age, income support payments, especially Newstart, must be raised to adequate levels,

and the preservation age for superannuation should be lifted so it is the same as the pension age.

The government must target payments to people who really need them, not force those who are already struggling to survive on even less income in retirement.

**Cassandra Goldie is chief executive of the Australian Council of Social Service.**

Opinion piece by ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie published in the Sun-Herald on Sunday April 20, 2014

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# Governors' Report

Australian Council of Social Service

The Governors present their report together with the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2014 and auditor's 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. Francis Lynch  
(President, appointed 1 January 2014)

Mr. Simon Schrapel  
(President to 1 January 2014)

Mr. Michael Bleasdale  
(Treasurer)

Ms. Helen Connolly

Ms. Micaela Cronin

Mr. Bernie Dwyer

Ms. Sarah Fogg

Mr. Noel Mundy

Mr. Gerard Thomas

Mr. Jeremy Halcrow  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Mr. Mark Tucker-Evans  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Ms. Jane Stanley  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Professor Bettina Cass  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Dr. Mark Bagshaw  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Ms. Hang Vo  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Mr. John Falzon  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Ms. Fiona Given  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Mr. Stephen Joske  
(appointed 1 January 2014)

Ms. Terese Edwards  
(Deputy President,  
term expired 31 December 2013)

Mr. Adrian Pisarski  
(Deputy President,  
term expired 31 December 2013)

Mr. Graham Douglas-Meyer  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

Ms. Samantha Page  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti  
(resigned 1 February 2014)

Ms. Karyn Walsh  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

Ms. Ricci Bartels  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

Mr. Brad Halse  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

Ms. Jillian Riseley  
(term expired 31 December 2013)

## 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.

Signed on behalf of the board of governors.

Committee member:



**Mr. Francis Lynch**

Committee member:



**Mr. Michael Bleasdale**

Dated this 21st day of October 2014

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

## OPERATING RESULT

The deficit for the year amounted to \$46,359 (2013: surplus of \$273,187).

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants received		879,876	868,242
Membership & donations		504,913	475,334
Project income		677,953	600,157
Interest		37,824	21,578
Other income	2	32,133	73,721
		<b>2,132,699</b>	<b>2,039,032</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(28,116)	(5,409)
Employee benefits		(1,141,476)	(817,756)
Occupancy expenses		(79,033)	(73,113)
Board & Executive		(25,057)	(23,979)
International Council on Social Welfare		—	(12,066)
Publications		(329)	(51,417)
Resources (Library, etc)		(36,522)	(30,135)
Travel & accommodation		(101,790)	(74,785)
Project costs		(674,949)	(603,857)
Telephone expenses		(27,264)	(26,259)
Computer expenses		(26,734)	(26,353)
General office costs		(37,788)	(20,715)
		<b>(2,179,058)</b>	<b>(1,765,844)</b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(46,359)	273,188
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		—	—
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(46,359)</b>	<b>273,188</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	323,200	198,738
Pledges and other receivables	5	2,164	150,747
Prepayments and deposits	6	12,710	1,423
Investments	7	779,655	757,854
Other assets	8	6,252	5,138
		<b>1,123,981</b>	<b>1,113,900</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Investments	7	20,000	20,000
Intangible assets	10	31,903	25,223
Property, plant and equipment	9	106,744	49,061
Other assets	8	16,429	16,429
		<b>175,076</b>	<b>110,713</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,299,057</b>	<b>1,224,613</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	125,654	194,822
Provisions	12	124,262	93,306
Income in advance / project provisions	13	350,325	214,325
		<b>600,241</b>	<b>502,453</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	12	38,887	15,872
		<b>38,887</b>	<b>15,872</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>639,128</b>	<b>518,325</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>659,929</b>	<b>706,288</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus	14	659,929	706,288
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>659,929</b>	<b>706,288</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Total equity</b>			
Balance at beginning of the year		706,288	433,100
Movements in equity from:			
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(46,359)	273,188
Balance at the end of the year		659,929	706,288

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc.		1,147,837	867,407
Grants received		967,864	955,066
Membership and donations		563,605	522,867
Interest received		37,824	16,440
Payments to suppliers, employees, project costs etc.		(2,478,147)	(2,059,150)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>238,983</b>	<b>302,630</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of software, property, plant and equipment		(85,799)	(22,527)
Payment for investments		(21,801)	(757,854)
Purchase of software		(6,921)	(25,223)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(114,521)</b>	<b>(805,604)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		198,738	701,712
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		124,462	(502,974)
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	15(a)	<b>323,200</b>	<b>198,738</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2014

## NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

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

### (a) Basis of preparation

#### *Reporting Basis and Convention*

The financial report has been prepared 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.

### (b) Revenue

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

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

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

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.

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

### (c) Income tax

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

### (d) Trade debtors

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

### (e) Financial assets

#### *Classification*

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

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

### *Held-to-maturity investments*

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

### *Loans and receivables*

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

### *Impairment*

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

### (f) Property, plant and equipment

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

#### *Plant and equipment*

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

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

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

### *Depreciation*

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

### (g) Impairment

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

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

### (h) Employee benefits

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

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

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

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

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2014

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

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

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

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

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

## (j) Comparatives

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

## (k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

## (l) New accounting standards

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

These include AASB 9: *Financial Instruments* and associated Amending Standards (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2017).

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.

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Dividend income	—	1,000
Copyright fees	8,599	8,784
Fee for service income	20,102	32,576
AJSI income	—	15,717
Other revenue	3,432	15,644
	<b>32,133</b>	<b>73,721</b>
<b>NOTE 3: SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	28,116	5,409
Rent expense on operating lease rentals		
– Minimum lease payments	63,232	57,504
<b>NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on hand	305	305
Cash at bank	322,895	198,433
	<b>323,200</b>	<b>198,738</b>
<b>NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Pledges and other receivables	2,164	150,747
<b>NOTE 6: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS</b>		
Prepayments	12,510	1,223
Deposits	200	200
	<b>12,710</b>	<b>1,423</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS</b>		
CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Short term bank deposits	779,655	757,854
NON CURRENT		
<i>Shares in Community 21 Limited</i>		
– 20,000 ordinary shares of \$1.00 at cost	20,000	20,000
<b>NOTE 8: OTHER ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Accrued income	6,252	5,138
NON CURRENT		
Rental deposit	16,429	16,429
<b>NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	115,699	69,435
Accumulated depreciation	(45,546)	(36,059)
	70,153	33,376
Computer equipment at cost	81,714	49,809
Accumulated depreciation	(45,123)	(34,124)
	36,591	15,685
Total plant and equipment	106,744	49,061
Total property, plant and equipment	106,744	49,061

continues ...

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<i>NOTE 9 continued ...</i>		
<b>(a) Movements in carrying amount</b>		
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	33,376	25,171
Additions	52,215	10,439
Depreciation expense	(15,438)	(2,234)
Closing carrying amount	70,153	33,376
<i>Computer equipment</i>		
Opening carrying amount	15,685	17,542
Additions	33,584	1,318
	(12,678)	(3,175)
Closing carrying amount	36,591	15,685
<b>NOTE 10: INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>		
Software at cost	33,582	25,223
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(1,679)	–
	31,903	25,223
Total intangible assets	31,903	25,223
<b>NOTE 11: PAYABLES</b>		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	35,952	57,069
Other creditors	–	18,988
GST credits	25,385	49,298
Accrued expenses	44,099	51,199
PAYG withholding payable	20,218	18,268
	125,654	194,822



# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2014

		2014	2013
		\$	\$
<b>NOTE 12: PROVISIONS</b>			
CURRENT			
Annual leave	(a)	70,049	47,453
Long service leave	(a)	54,213	45,853
		<u>124,262</u>	<u>93,306</u>
NON CURRENT			
Long service leave	(a)	38,887	15,872
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		<u>163,149</u>	<u>109,178</u>
<b>NOTE 13: INCOME IN ADVANCE / PROJECT PROVISIONS</b>			
CURRENT			
Memberships in advance		45,329	128,450
Digital Business Kits (DBK)		21,934	-
Energy Efficiency Information Grants (EEIG)		145,133	-
COSS Collaboration		44,718	38,152
Australians for Affordable Housing campaign (AAH)		25,488	-
National Energy Consumer Body Project (NECBP)		8,017	8,017
Poverty and Inequality Project		59,706	39,706
		<u>350,325</u>	<u>214,325</u>
<b>NOTE 14: RETAINED SURPLUS</b>			
Retained surplus at beginning of year		706,288	433,100
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(46,359)	273,188
		<u>659,929</u>	<u>706,288</u>

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 15: CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:		
Cash on hand	305	305
Cash at bank	322,895	198,433
	<u>323,200</u>	<u>198,738</u>
<b>NOTE 16: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS</b>		
<b>(a) Operating lease commitments</b>		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable		
- not later than one year	61,686	59,889
- later than one year and not later than five years	58,097	119,783
	<u>119,783</u>	<u>179,672</u>
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>(b) Capital expenditure commitments contracted for:</b>		
- capital expenditure projects	-	2,803
Payable		
- not later than one year	-	2,803
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,803</u>

# Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2014

## NOTE 17: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Key management personnel include any persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, including its committee members.

Compensation received by key management personnel of the Association

	2014 \$	2013 \$
– short-term employee benefits	278,692	262,562
– post-employment benefits	25,501	23,632
	304,193	286,194

## NOTE 18: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Transactions with other related parties

There are no other related party transactions with the Association for the 2014 financial year.

## NOTE 19: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2014 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2014, of the Association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2014, of the Association.

## NOTE 20: CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are based on past performance and management's expectation for the future.

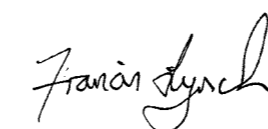
In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 – 16:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2014 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commissions Act 2012*, the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Committee member:

Committee member:



**Mr. Francis Lynch**



**Mr. Michael Bleasdale**

Dated this 21st day of October 2014

# Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of the Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated



**PITCHER PARTNERS**  
ACCOUNTANTS AUDITORS & ADVISORS

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

We have audited the accompanying financial report of The Australian Council of Social Services Incorporated, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2014, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Governors' declaration.

### Governors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Governors of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Incorporated Associations Act 1991*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation 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 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.

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PITCHER PARTNERS

### Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the Australian Council of Social Services Incorporated is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*, including:

- (i) so as to give a true and fair view of matters required by section 72 (2) of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* to be dealt with in the financial statements; and
- (ii) in accordance with the provisions of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*, the provisions of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2013*, and the provisions of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*; and
- (iii) in accordance with proper accounting standards and AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

MARK GODLEWSKI

Partner

Registered Company Auditor Number: 172 348

21 October 2014

PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY

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