

Australian Council of Social Service Annual Report 2010-11



Contents

President's Message	4
Report from the CEO	6
Treasurer's Report	9
Submissions and Meetings	10
ACOSS Board of Governors	13
Aims, Focus and Structure	14
Policy Advisors	15
ACOSS Staff	15
Financial Report	16
National Members	30
Associate Organisation Members	31
Associate Individual Members	33
Acknowledgements	34

Australian Council of Social Service

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

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Cover images: "That project made a difference" community services visited by ACOSS
Inside images: ACOSS National Conference 2011 "Challenging inequality: Social action in an ever-changing world."

President's Message

Simon Schrapel | ACOSS President



Last year as I wrote the annual President's Message I reflected on the prospect of Australia pushing on past the GFC and responding to a range of challenges and opportunities on the domestic front. 12 months on and those same domestic challenges remain – responding to climate change, tax and transfer system reform, aged care and disability service financing, a humane response to asylum seekers, not for profit regulation (to name a few). However, the economic storm clouds are gathering again and whilst Australia seems better positioned than most it remains vulnerable to another global downturn.

ACOSS is only too aware of the impact another GFC will have on Australia's poorest people. Australia is already struggling with a '2-speed' economy in which those without paid employment or the skills or capacity to secure such employment are facing long term exclusion. Poverty 'proofing' the nation remains a key ACOSS priority, by addressing long term unemployment; through the right mix of employment stimulation and targeted assistance; by continuing to build our social and low cost housing infrastructure and ensuring our taxation system generates sufficient revenue to deliver quality health, education and social services. It is even more critical at a time of what is likely to be a protracted period of economic instability.

It has often been noted that ACOSS 'punches above its weight' when it comes to playing on the national public policy and advocacy stage. Certainly given the resources available ACOSS performs beyond its capacity. We continue to produce high quality policy analysis and run well focussed campaigns on issues ranging from Australia's tax and transfer system to climate change, gambling controls, not for profit regulation and the community workers pay equity campaign amongst others.

ACOSS was able to coordinate and harness those forces committed to a more progressive tax and transfer system for the Tax Forum convened by the Government. This enabled a unified and concerted voice on a range of key reforms which have been at the heart of ACOSS policy position for years – lifting the base rate of allowances such as Newstart, winding back generous and poorly targeted tax concessions in areas such as superannuation, capital gains tax and use of 'negative gearing' and finding ways in which to stimulate investments in social housing whilst reducing the growing pressure on house prices. Tax and

transfer system reform is a long game. Yet it lies at the heart of a fairer Australia and an Australia in which all citizens have the opportunity to prosper and share the wealth of the nation. ACOSS will continue our relentless campaign for changes that rebalance a current iniquitous system. In particular we will maintain advocacy to create a social security platform which ensures payment levels leave no person in financial distress and at risk of poverty. We are some distance from this outcome at present.

But for all of ACOSS' positive contribution and constructive public policy debate and action across a host of contemporary issues the fact remains that this is largely achieved on the back of a small and unsustainable resource base. To remain relevant ACOSS needs to find a new way to grow revenue beyond core government funding and unleash the collective resource of an expanded membership base.

Over the past year ACOSS has continued leadership of the COSS Collaboration – an initiative aimed at aligning the work and better utilising the resources of the COSS network as a whole to achieve our goals. The willingness of all COSSes to candidly explore the options available to work collaboratively for the common good is highly encouraging. With 6 key 'projects' identified to realise this potential the next 12 months are shaping up as pivotal to finding real and lasting alternative methods of acting as an integrated network. It will require some risk taking but to remain as we are at best limits the potential of what we can do together and at worst threatens our long term relevance and viability.

Finally to the people who make ACOSS' achievements what they are. Firstly to a first rate group of staff expertly led by our CEO Cassandra Goldie. The high quality of our policy contributions, whether presented as written submissions or delivered through attendances at public hearings, meetings and conferences underscores the credibility and reputation ACOSS enjoys. The demands remain exceedingly high but ACOSS continues to deliver thanks to the many qualities of our staff.

As this Board's 2 year term draws to a conclusion I would also like to acknowledge the input provided by all to keep ACOSS focussed on the issues that matter – from a policy and governance perspective.

I would particularly like to recognise and thank my 2 Deputy Presidents – Adrian Pisarski and Terese Edwards - and our Treasurer Michael Bleasdale, who form the ACOSS Executive Team. During the past year we also farewelled Barry Hansen who had served for several years as the ACOSS Treasurer. Like many who dedicate their time and expertise so generously Barry was a great contributor to the ACOSS cause.

So to Barry and for those Board members who will finish their terms on the ACOSS Board this year, a heartfelt THANKS – and keep the social justice fires burning!



Report from the CEO

Cassandra Goldie | ACOSS CEO



Introduction

This has been an exciting year for ACOSS on a number of fronts, with sustained efforts to influence a wide range of important public policy debates, advocating in the interests of those who are facing poverty and disadvantage. The challenges of the current Australian Parliament have meant that there have been both new opportunities to achieve results, but also additional complexity to the task. Some of the details of those activities are set out below. I would particularly like to acknowledge the extremely hard working and dedicated team of staff in the national office. It is through their efforts, and the support of a strong Board, and extensive, diverse membership and volunteers, that ACOSS continues to be at the forefront of efforts to achieve a fairer, more equal Australia.

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

Economics and tax

ACOSS continued to promote tax reform to enable more adequate funding for vital services for people on low incomes and for the removal of tax measures that operate as a disincentive to paid work for people on low incomes. Additionally, ACOSS advocated for reform to reduce tax breaks and poorly targeted tax measures that disproportionately benefit people on higher incomes.

Employment, Education and Training, and Social Security

ACOSS focused on policies to reduce unemployment by promoting better targeted and more effective employment services support for unemployed people, with a particular focus on those who have been unemployed in the longer term. We attempted to prevent reduction in payment levels and punitive conditions on recipients of income support, and promoted positive reform towards a fairer and more adequate working age payment system, including increased payment levels and better parity between different payments.

ACOSS made a submission to the review of Job Services Australia in March 2011, and some of our recommendations were adopted in the final program. We attended the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace

Relations' Employment Partnership Committee process, with an effort to promote a positive participation agenda. We also directed considerable policy development to advocacy to the announcement of the focus on workforce as part of the participation agenda announced by the Prime Minister.

ACOSS conducted analysis and advocacy around some of the key Budget measures affecting social security payments. While these measures contained positive steps to improve work incentives and job prospects, we were particularly concerned about proposed payment cuts for some groups of sole parents, young unemployed people and people with disabilities; and the extension of compulsory income management to five additional regions across Australia.

Health

ACOSS has continued to work on strategic priorities including mental health and oral health in the absence of any dedicated resources in this area. In particular, we have worked closely with the Councils of Social Service to ensure a coordinated, integrated engagement between community services and the National Health Reform Agenda. Direct advocacy with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health concentrated on securing better services and participation in health by people on low incomes and disadvantaged in terms of timely, effective access.

ACOSS examined the mental health system with a view to improving access to high quality and effective services for people living on low incomes. A mental health workshop was conducted as part of the ACOSS Conference in March 2011. We also continued our advocacy for a universal approach to ensuring good dental care and improved oral health outcomes for all.

Energy markets

ACOSS continued to host a project funded by the Consumer Advocacy Panel, a full-time policy analyst and advocate working to protect and advance the interests of low income households in the National Electricity Market and, to a lesser extent, the National Gas Market.

ACOSS participated in the National Consumer Roundtable

ble on Energy, along with other Councils of Social Service, social service organisations including the Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Vincent de Paul's and UnitingCare, environmental and consumer organisations. This group was principally concerned with continuing energy market reform, retail prices, community service obligations and protection of consumers. The introduction of smart meters and smart grids poses particular issues for all households and for low income households in particular. We hosted the June meeting of the Roundtable.

The National Energy Customer Framework (NECF) aims to streamline the regulation of energy distribution and retail regulation functions in a national framework; and to develop an efficient national retail energy market which includes appropriate consumer protection. ACOSS, with other advocates, positively affected approaches to the finalisation, legislation and implementation of the new national regulatory framework by jurisdictions. We also assisted with the development of oversight and related programs by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). The process for the Government's Energy White Paper has recommenced from its 2008 hiatus. ACOSS was invited to join the NGO Stakeholder Reference Group, with consultations continuing towards the development of social and consumer perspectives. The White Paper is to be finalised in 2012.

ACOSS continued to be represented on the consumer councils of the Australian Energy Regulator and Origin Energy.

Energy efficiency

ACOSS continued to advocate for investments in improved energy use and efficiency in low income households. Following the termination of the Green Start program in December 2010, ACOSS revisited the need for targeted approaches for low income households contextualised by the contribution of increasing energy prices on the cost of living. ACOSS advocated through meetings with ministers, advisors, officials, academics and with the development of a detailed position paper on energy efficiency and low income households. ACOSS worked with other advocates, energy retailers and stakeholders including the Energy Efficiency Council, the Clean Energy Council, ClimateWorks to highlight the importance of energy efficiency for low income households.

Climate change

ACOSS continued its membership of the Southern Cross Climate Coalition (SCCC) with the Climate Institute, The Australian Conservation Foundation, and the Australian

Council of Trade Unions. The SCCC worked to ensure the fair implementation of climate policy in Australia. The SCCC focused advocacy most notably through direct contact with members and senators and the bureaucracy, as well as through the media and public fora including in rural areas. In conjunction with SCCC and separately ACOSS produced several detailed policy documents relating to the introduction of a price on carbon pollution including impacts and responses for low income households.

ACOSS conducted a national series of workshops with community sector organisations to begin a process of research and response regarding impacts of climate change on communities, clients and service providers. Following an independent, peer-review process ACOSS was awarded a research grant by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility to examine impacts of climate change on the community welfare sector and identify risks and strategies for adaptation. The grant comes from a fund to explore adaptive capacity for human settlements and infrastructure in response to unavoidable impacts of climate change.

ACOSS was appointed to Ministerial NGO Roundtable on Climate Change and the steering group of the carbon pricing and the cost of living project, managed by the Climate Institute and funded through the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Water policy

ACOSS made brief written and oral submissions to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector highlighting the impact on low income households of increasing prices for an essential service and referring also to potentially deleterious effects from marketisation additional complexity in 'product' design. ACOSS maintained a watching brief over the Murray Darling Basin Plan process and issued a briefing note and media release in response to the Guide to the Draft Plan released on October of 2011.

Promoting an independent, diverse, sustainable and respected community services sector

Community Services

ACOSS worked closely with members and the Councils of Social Service to maintain pressure for adequate funding of sustainable and effective community services from all Australian Governments. This included direct advocacy with governments about the inadequacy of base funding levels and ongoing problems with poor indexation policies.

Community sector development

This year saw important developments in the equal remuneration case for social and community sector workers, including a finding by Fair Work Australia that this work is undervalued, and that the undervaluation is largely attributable to gender. ACOSS continued to work closely with our members on the implications of the case and to advocate clearly for funding from all those who support the sector to ensure that higher wages were delivered to maintain effective community services. The Commonwealth Government appointed ACOSS to the Community Sector Wages Group, a committee bringing together Australian governments, community services and unions, to identify the implications of the case and strategies to respond. ACOSS also attended the first meeting of a conciliation process in this case as a 'friend of the sector', ensuring a voice on issues that underpin the importance of this case, such as the challenges of workforce attraction and retention for community services.

ACOSS successfully obtained funding from the Fair Work Ombudsman to develop a program on the Modern Award for community service employers, in response to significant demand across our networks. ACOSS partnered with Jobs Australia's Community Sector Industrial Relations service to develop a program of workshops and written materials that were conducted in capital cities and regional centres across the country, and via development of online resources for the sector.

In this year CEO Cassandra Goldie was appointed to the NFP Reform Council, a committee of experts providing advice to the Minister for Human Services and Social Inclusion. In related processes, ACOSS applauded the Commonwealth's commitment in the 2011 Federal Budget to establish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, a single, national regulator for the not-for-profit sector. The Budget also undertook to modernise the definition of charity in recognition of the legitimate role for advocacy by charitable organisations. ACOSS presented two forum events in Sydney and Melbourne to consult with our members about the impact of proposed reforms to charity law and the regulation of the not for profit sector. We were delighted at these commitments to reforms long championed by ACOSS, and we will be maintaining our involvement as these reforms progress.

Early in 2011 ACOSS was funded by the Fair Work Ombudsman to deliver a program to support community service employers prepare for the implementation of the modern award. We partnered with Jobs Australia to present seminars in all capital cities and some regional centres. The program also developed online materials that are freely available to community services.

Engaging the Community

A number of events throughout the year presented opportunities to engage the community in our work and policy development. The 2011 annual conference in Melbourne in March was a highlight, with over 400 registrations and a wide variety of speakers covering a range of perspectives and topics relating to social policy. Issues discussed included homelessness and housing, disability, tax reform, aged care, mental health, climate change, and reforms to social services. A panel discussion addressing the policy challenges of productivity, population and participation was hosted by the ABC's Peter Mares and aired on Radio National's The National Interest program.

The conference culminated with a lively panel discussion featuring well-known journalists, social commentators and community sector representatives discussing how to improve community interest in social policy and inequality. It was hosted by ABC presenter Jon Faine and broadcasted on Radio National's Big Ideas.

Parliamentary representatives at the conference included Ministers Macklin and Shorten; Shadow Minister Kevin Andrews and Senators Bob Brown and Rachel Siewert.

ACOSS organised additional events in Melbourne in conjunction with the National Conference. These included a media and communications forum with over 120 participants, a discussion about income management and social security, a mental health forum, and a climate change forum.

The 2011 Australian Community Sector Survey was conducted from October to December 2010 and received an excellent response rate of over 800 organisations. Survey data were analysed over the following months. Meanwhile the ACOSS website continued to be a valuable tool for disseminating information to government, the community sector, and the public.

Treasurer's Report

Michael Bleasdale | ACOSS Treasurer



The end of year result for 2010/2011 was better than expected, with a surplus of \$89,000. This was significantly ahead of budget expectations, and a welcome boost to our consolidated funds, following the previous year's deficit. However, the surplus relied on a number of critical developments, including, importantly, a windfall in copy-right licensing fees at the end of the financial year, and a decision not to fill a permanent policy officer role that fell vacant. This decision reflects the very significant impact of the decline in ACOSS' core funding, as a result of years of inadequate indexation and no growth in the National Secretariat Program grant provided by FaHCSIA.

Given the nature of ACOSS' work, costs associated with staffing and travel/accommodation tend to dominate the expenses. The annual conference too presents challenges when estimating costs and revenue. It is pleasing to see the costs, and income, associated with line items coming so close to estimation, and the bonus income from our publications expenses helped greatly toward our surplus result.

The constrained funding environment in which ACOSS operates provides a significant challenge to find additional sources of revenue, to meet the ever-growing demand for our leadership and engagement with critical issues of concern in the community sector. Expanding our revenue-base will be a significant challenge for the Board over the next few years.

It was only in May 2011 that I stepped into the role of Treasurer, following the resignation of Barry Hansen from the position. Barry had served as ACOSS Treasurer since July 2008 and I would like to convey our thanks to him for his service.

The role of Treasurer is also greatly assisted by the hard work of secretariat staff. I would like to thank the support provided to me by Cassandra Goldie and Tessa Boyd-Caine, and Ray Pedley and Debbie Wilson. I would also like to thank the Executive and the Board for their considered and informed engagement with all aspects of the budget over the past year.



Submissions and Meetings

During 2010-11 ACOSS prepared submissions on a wide range of policy matters to the Government, opposition parties, public and parliamentary inquiries, Government departments and statutory authorities. In developing these submissions, valuable input was gained from consultation with members.

Key Submissions

- Submission to the Australian Taxation Office Draft Taxation Ruling TR 2011/D2 – Income and fringe benefits tax: charities. June 2011
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into Family Assistance other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011. June 2011
- Submission to Fair Work Australia on minimum wages. March 2011
- Submission on the COAG Deregulation Reform Agenda. April 2011
- Submission to the House of Representatives Education and Employment Committee on the Social security legislation amendment (job seeker compliance) Bill 2011.
- Submission to Minister for Employment Participation on the future of Job Services Australia. March 2011
- Forging New Links with the Community Services Sector to Build a Better Health Care System: Joint COSS submission to the Department of Health and Ageing Health on Medicare Locals. February 2011
- Submission on a national not-for-profit regulator: ACOSS response to Treasury Scoping Study. January 2011
- Joint COSS Submission to the Parliament of Australia Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform Inquiry into Pre-commitments Schemes. January 2011
- Joint COSS Submission to the Commonwealth Government on the Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010. December 2010
- Joint COSS submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry into a long-term disability care and support scheme. August 2010
- Submission to the Independent review of the job seeker compliance framework. July 2010

Position Statements, Papers and Publications

- Pay equity for Australian Community Sector workers. June 2011.
- Equal pay funding campaign materials. June 2011
- Analysis of proposed changes to Family Tax Benefit. May 2011
- Energy efficiency and affordability for Australian households. Joint paper. May 2011
- ACOSS Strategic Plan 2010-13. May 2011
- Federal Budget 2011-12: ACOSS Analysis. May 2011
- A Policy Platform for a Low Pollution Economy. Joint paper by the Southern Cross Climate Coalition, an alliance of the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, ACOSS, and The Climate Institute. May 2011
- Beyond stereotypes: Myths and facts about people of working age who receive social security. Analysis paper. May 2011
- Analysis of proposed changes to Family Tax Benefits. May 2011
- Indicators of inequality. April 2011
- ACOSS Budget Priority Statement 2011-12. Recommendations for the Federal Budget 2011-12. April 2011
- Poverty and its Causes. October 2010
- REPAIR: A proposal for the Federal Election from the National Oral Health Alliance. August 2010
- Times are still tough for young unemployed people. Policy analysis paper. August 2010
- Water Reform - A National Consumer Forum. Summary paper and presentations. August 2010
- ACOSS' Election Platform : The Contest for a Fair Australia. Key priorities for the election. August 2010
- Stop the Rot: time to fill the gaps in oral health. Statement. July 2010.

Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Volume 45, Number 3, Spring 2010
- Volume 45, Number 4, Summer 2010
- Volume 46, Number 1, Autumn 2011

IMPACT Magazine

- Autumn Edition 2010: Contest for a fairer nation
- Spring Edition 2010: Social enterprises and the community sector

ACOSS@Work

- June 2011 edition
- Sector Development Bulletin, June 2011
- Special Budget edition, June 6 2011
- March 2011 edition
- February 2011 edition
- December 2010 edition
- November 2010 edition
- September 2010 edition
- August 2010 edition

Major Meetings

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

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Treasurer
- Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Office of the Minister for Health and Ageing
- Minister for Social Inclusion and Human Services
- Minister for Employment Participation, Child Care and the Status of Women
- Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- Shadow Treasurer
- Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services

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

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
- Australian Community Workers Association
- Australian Energy Regulator Consumer Council
- Australian Health Care Reform Alliance
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Business Council of Australia
- Centrelink Human Services Delivery Research Agenda
- Child Support National Stakeholder Engagement Group
- Choice Australia
- COAG Reform Council
- Community Organisations Housing Alliance
- Community Response Taskforce
- Community Sector Wages Group
- Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council
- Consumers Health Forum
- DEEWR Employment Partnership Committee Meeting
- DEEWR Industry Reference Group
- Diabetes Australia
- Fair Work Australia
- Families Australia
- Financial Counselling Australia
- HESTA
- Homelessness Australia
- International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW)
- Mission Australia
- MPCCC NGO Roundtable Household Assistance Working Group
- National Disability Scheme
- National Housing Affordability Summit Group
- National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations

- NFP Reform Council
- NGO Forum on Human Rights
- Origin Energy National Customer Consultative Council
- Australian Red Cross
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
- Smart City Smart Grid Strategic Policy and Regulatory Steering Committee
- Southern Cross Climate Coalition
- St Vincent de Paul
- Tasmanian Climate Action Council
- Telstra Consumer Consultative Council
- The Australian Collaboration
- The Climate Institute
- The Councils of Social Service (COSS) Network
- UnitingCare Australia
- Western Australian Association for Mental Health
- Woolworths Social Responsibility Advisory Panel



ACOSS Board of Governors

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

The Executive has all the powers of the Board between Board meetings. It comprises the President, two Deputy Presidents and the Treasurer. 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 as at 30 June 2011

President

Simon Schrapel

Deputy Presidents

Terese Edwards

Adrian Pisarski

Treasurer

Barry Hansen (until February 2011)

Michael Bleasdale (from March 2011)

State and Territory Councils of Social Service representatives

Rebecca Vassarotti	ACTCOSS representative
Mary Perkins	NCOSS representative
Bernie Dwyer	NTCOSS representative
Karyn Walsh	QCOSS representative
Wendy Malycha	SACOSS representative
Noel Mundy	TasCOSS representative
Marilyn Webster	VCOSS representative
Chris Hall	WACOSS representative

Special Assembly National Member Organisation Representatives

Terese Edwards	National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
Maryanne Diamond	Vision Australia

National Member Organisation representatives

Lisa Fowkes	Job Futures Australia
Samantha Page	Family Relationship Services Australia
Gerard Thomas	Welfare Rights Network
Adrian Pisarski	National Shelter
Graham Douglas-Meyer	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
David Thompson AM	Jobs Australia (ex officio)

Aims, Focus and Structure

Our Vision

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

Our Values

- We recognise the right of all Australians to opportunity, justice and equity.
- We believe in supporting Australians affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality to achieve an adequate standard of living and the right to make the key decisions affecting their lives.
- We recognise the heritage and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the need for action which advances reconciliation and opportunity.
- We value national policy solutions that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.
- We respect the civil, social, economic and cultural contributions of all individuals and communities.

Our Strategic Goals

Our main objectives fall into four key areas:

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

Our Membership Base

First established in 1956, ACOSS has over 45 full member organisations. This unparalleled breadth of membership brings together:

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

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

ACOSS also has over 180 associate members. These include individuals as well as a wide range of local, regional and state based organisations not eligible for full membership because that are not ‘national’ in scope.

The way we work

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

Key policy areas

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

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

Policy Advisers

The work in each portfolio is guided by volunteer Policy Advisers who are appointed by the Board. Policy Advisers are experts in their fields and advise the Board on ACOSS policy and strategies. ACOSS thanks the following Policy Advisers for their invaluable advice and guidance over the last year:

Climate Change and Energy

Hugh Saddler, Janet Stanley

Community Services

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

Economics and Tax

Nicholas Gruen, Richard Krever, Julie Smith

Employment, Education and Training

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

Health

Fiona Armstrong, Russell McGowan, Alan Owen

Housing

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

Housing and Regional Development

Mark Henley

Indigenous Communities

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

International

Graeme Evans, Phil Glendenning, Alex Huntir

ACOSS Staff at 30 June 2011

- Chief Executive Officer: Cassandra Goldie
- Senior Policy Officer: Peter Davidson
- Senior Policy Officer: Tony Westmore
- Senior Policy Officer: Tessa Boyd-Caine
- Policy Officer: Jacqui Phillips (on secondment to ANTaR, then resigned from ACOSS in February 2011)
- Policy Officer: Corinne Dobson (on contract to June 2011)
- Project Officer: Emily Hamilton (on contract until May 2011)
- Media and Communications Officer: Clare Cameron (until August 2010)
- Media and Communications Officer: Fernando de Freitas (as of November 2010)
- Office Manager: Al Parmeter (until June 2011)
- Personal Assistant to the CEO: Craig Bulley (until June 2011)
- Librarian/Researcher: Penny Dorsch
- Accounts Officer: Ray Pedley

We farewelled the following staff during the year: Craig Bulley, Clare Cameron, Corinne Dobson, Emily Hamilton and Al Parmeter and Jacqui Phillips. We would like to thank these colleagues for their commitment and dedication to the development, reputation and growth of ACOSS.

Financial Report

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated: Governors' Report

GOVERNORS REPORT

Your Board of Governors submit the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2011.

Board of Governors

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

Ms. Maryanne Diamond	Mr. Adrian Pisarski
Ms. Terese Edwards	Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)
Mr. Chris Hall	Mr. Gerard Thomas
Mr. Barry Hansen (Treasurer 2010)	Mr. David Thompson
(Resigned November 2010)	Ms. Marilyn Webster
Mr. Noel Mundy	Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti
Ms. Tracey Brand	Ms. Karyn Walsh
(Resigned August 2010)	Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer 2011)
Ms. Wendy Malycha	Ms. Lisa Fowkes
Ms. Samantha Page	Mr. Bernie Dwyer
Mr. Graham Douglas Meyer	(Appointed November 2010)
Ms. Mary Perkins	

Principal Activities

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

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

Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The surplus/(deficit) for the year amounted to \$86,600 (2010: (\$47,502))

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

A blue ink signature of Mr. Simon Schrapel, the President, is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)

A black ink signature of Mr. Michael Bleasdale, the Treasurer, is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<i>Note</i>	2011 \$	2010 \$
INCOME			
Grants Received		505,551	504,341
Membership & Donations		263,385	239,878
Publications		30,168	31,121
Royalties		85,806	62,180
Interest		8,264	9,970
Fees For Service		11,727	3,000
Management Fees		110,003	88,606
Project Income		611,340	555,985
Other		8,716	8,733
		<u>1,634,960</u>	<u>1,503,814</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Board & Executive		32,829	31,039
ICSW		5,992	7,090
Occupancy		82,578	69,534
Office		110,624	100,668
Publications		25,637	30,166
Resources (Library, etc)		23,447	16,294
Staffing		611,130	693,494
Travel & Accommodation		44,783	47,048
Project Costs		611,340	555,985
		<u>1,548,360</u>	<u>1,551,318</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE INCOME TAX		86,600	(47,502)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE		-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>86,600</u>	<u>(47,502)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>86,600</u>	<u>(47,502)</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

	<i>Note</i>	2011 \$	2010 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	242,464	366,386
Trade and other receivables	4	159,657	45,094
Prepayments and deposits	5	16,693	12,189
		<u>418,814</u>	<u>423,669</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	6	20,000	20,000
Property, plant and equipment	7	43,102	31,560
		<u>63,102</u>	<u>51,560</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>481,916</u>	<u>475,229</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	112,685	104,680
Unexpended Income / Project provisions	9	83,565	192,041
Provisions	10	93,596	61,928
		<u>289,846</u>	<u>358,649</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	15,680	26,790
		<u>15,680</u>	<u>26,790</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>305,526</u>	<u>385,439</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>176,390</u>	<u>89,790</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	11	176,390	89,790
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>176,390</u>	<u>89,790</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year	89,790	137,292
Total comprehensive income for the year	86,600	(47,502)
Total equity at the end of the financial year	<u>176,390</u>	<u>89,790</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc		512,992	594,950
Grants received		505,551	504,341
Membership and donations		275,112	243,794
Interest received		8,264	9,970
Payments to suppliers, employees, projects costs etc		(1,402,209)	(1,280,657)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (a)		<u>(100,290)</u>	<u>72,398</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(23,632)	(11,145)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(23,632)</u>	<u>(11,145)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		(123,922)	61,253
Cash at beginning of year		366,386	305,133
Cash at end of year	3	<u>242,464</u>	<u>366,386</u>

(a) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	86,600	(47,504)
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
- Depreciation	12,090	5,266
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(114,563)	(7,627)
- (Increase)/decrease in prepayments & deposits	(4,504)	(5,663)
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	8,005	17,441
- Increase/(decrease) in unexpended income / project provisions	(108,476)	102,818
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	20,558	7,667
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(100,290)</u>	<u>72,398</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2011

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

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

Basis of preparation

Reporting Basis and Conventions

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

Statement of compliance

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

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

Accounting Policies

a. Income Tax

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

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Plant and equipment

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. Impairment of Assets

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

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

d. Employee Benefits

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

e. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

f. Trade debtors

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

g. Revenue

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and Service tax (GST), where applicable.

h. Goods and Service Tax (GST)

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

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

i. Comparative Figures

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

j. Going Concern

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

k. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

l. Financial Assets

Recognition

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

Held-to-maturity investments

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

Loans and Receivables

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

Impairment

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

m. New accounting standards

At the reporting date several new accounting pronouncements have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) but are not yet effective. The Governors intend to apply these accounting pronouncements in the annual reporting period in which the pronouncement becomes effective.

The Governors consider it unlikely that the new pronouncements will have a significant impact on the financial performance, financial position or the cash flows of the Association, other than requiring, in certain instances, disclosures to be made in addition to those presently disclosed.

NOTE 2: SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Expenses		
Depreciation of property plant and equipment	12,090	5,266
Remuneration of the auditor of the entity for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial report	8,080	7,924
Rental expense on operating lease rentals		
- Minimum lease payments	57,224	52,021

NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

2011 **2010**
\$ \$

CURRENT

Cash at bank and in hand	138,649	266,386
Short-term bank deposits	103,815	100,000
	<u>242,464</u>	<u>366,386</u>

NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES
CURRENT

Pledges receivable (net of provision)	159,657	45,094
	<u>159,657</u>	<u>45,094</u>

Trade receivables ageing analysis at 30 June is:

	Gross 2011	Impairment 2011	Gross 2010	Impairment 2010
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Not past due	38,690	-	44,207	-
Past due 31-60 days	26,147	-	927	-
Past due 61-90 days	-	-	-	-
Past due more than 91 days	95,020	200	160	200
	<u>159,857</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>45,294</u>	<u>200</u>

NOTE 5: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS
CURRENT

Prepayments	10,880	4,705
Deposits	5,813	7,484
	<u>16,693</u>	<u>12,189</u>

NOTE 6: INVESTMENTS
NON-CURRENT

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

NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
NON-CURRENT
Furniture & Equipment:

At cost	58,996	38,620
Accumulated depreciation	(30,325)	(23,624)
	<u>28,671</u>	<u>14,996</u>

Computer Equipment:

At cost	41,880	38,624
Accumulated depreciation	(27,449)	(22,060)
	<u>14,431</u>	<u>16,564</u>

Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>43,102</u>	<u>31,560</u>
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Movements in carrying amounts

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

	Furniture & Equipment \$	Computer Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	14,996	16,564	31,560
Additions	20,376	3,256	23,632
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(6,701)	(5,389)	(12,090)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>28,671</u>	<u>14,431</u>	<u>43,102</u>

NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2011 \$	2010 \$
CURRENT		
Trade payables and accrued expense	78,237	60,568
GST payable (net)	18,496	30,561
PAYG Withholding payable	15,952	13,551
	<u>112,685</u>	<u>104,680</u>

NOTE 9: UNEXPENDED INCOME / PROJECT PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Subscriptions in advance	13,749	9,657
Memberships in advance	19,763	19,175
Events income in advance	-	182
Emergency Relief Handbook	-	65,799
Equal Remuneration Case	9,765	18,831
Australian Community Sector Survey	-	30,000
Climate Risk	15,433	(1,616)
Perpetual Get a Fair Hearing	12,114	16,096
Myer Capacity Building	(99)	33,917
Electricity Panel	(3,852)	-
Energy Roundtable- June 2011	2,101	-
Sector Development Week	10,000	-
Modern Award Program	21,395	-
Mental Health Conference	(9,596)	-
Disability Conference	(7,208)	-
	<u>83,565</u>	<u>192,041</u>

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Annual Leave	46,830	33,147
Long Service Leave	46,766	28,781
	<u>93,596</u>	<u>61,928</u>
NON CURRENT		
Long Service Leave	15,680	26,790
	<u>109,276</u>	<u>88,718</u>

NOTE 11: RETAINED SURPLUS

Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	89,790	137,294
Net surplus for the year	86,600	(47,504)
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>176,390</u>	<u>89,790</u>

NOTE 12: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

	2011 \$	2010 \$
a. Finance Lease Commitments		
The Association does not have any finance leases.		
b. Operating Lease Commitments		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements		
Payable — minimum lease payments		
- not later than 12 months	20,307	67,311
- between 12 months and 5 years	-	34,617
- greater than 5 years	-	-
	20,307	101,928

The property lease is a non-cancellable lease beginning on 1 October 2006 and terminating on 30 September 2011 with a 5 year option. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$4,480.70 (excluding GST) with annual indexation applicable. The photocopier lease is a non-cancellable lease beginning on 21 February 2007 and terminating on 21 February 2012. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$790.91 (excluding GST).

NOTE 13: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2011 and up to the date of this financial report which in the opinion of the Governors need to be included in this financial report or referred to in the notes to the financial report.

NOTE 14: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

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

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(a) Financial Risk Management

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

i. Treasury Risk Management

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

ii. Financial Risks

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is managed by investing mainly in short term fixed interest investments. For further details on interest rate risk refer to Note 15(b).

Liquidity risk

The Association manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows.

Credit risk

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

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

(b) Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Risk

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

2011	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Non-Interest Rate Bearing \$	Interest Bearing maturing within one year \$	Total 30 June 2011 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	3.4	-	138,649	138,649
Term deposit	5.6	-	103,815	103,815
Trade and other receivables	-	159,657	-	159,657
Prepayment and deposits	-	16,693	-	16,693
Total Financial Assets		176,350	242,464	418,814
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	-	112,685	-	112,685
Total Financial Liabilities		112,685	-	112,685
2010	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Non-Interest Rate Bearing \$	Interest Bearing maturing within one year \$	Total 30 June 2011 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	1.3	-	266,386	266,386
Term deposit	5.9	-	100,000	100,000
Trade and other receivables	-	45,094	-	45,094
Prepayment and Deposits	-	12,189	-	12,189
Total Financial Assets		57,283	366,386	423,669
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	-	104,680	-	104,680
Total Financial Liabilities		104,680	-	104,680

Interest Rate Risk

Based on the value of assets held in cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2011, an increase/decrease in interest rates by 1% would have an impact of \$2,425 increase/reduction in profit over 12 months.

The maturity dates for the term deposits are 1 July 2011 and 29 September 2011.

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT.)

(c) The net fair values of:

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

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

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

	2011		2010	
	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	138,649	138,649	266,386	266,386
Term deposits	103,815	103,815	100,000	100,000
Trade and other receivables	159,657	159,657	45,094	45,094
Prepayments and deposits	16,693	16,693	12,189	12,189
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	418,814	418,814	423,669	423,669

Governors' Declaration

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

1. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)



Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer)



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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 2011, 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 and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* 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 about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 directors, 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.

Independence

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



PITCHER PARTNERS

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

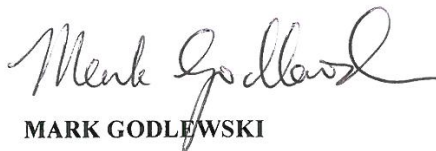
Auditor's Opinion

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

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).



PITCHER PARTNERS



MARK GODLEWSKI

Partner

Sydney

11 October 2011

National Members

Councils of Social Service

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

National Member Organisations

- Anglicare Australia
- Australasian Men's Health Forum
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Bahai Community
- Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Community Children's Services
- Australian Community Workers Association
- Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc
- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Neighbourhood House & Centres Association
- Australian Nursing Federation
- Australian Psychological Society
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Carers Australia
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Community Housing Federation of Australia
- Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- COTA Australia
- Council of Australian Humanist Societies
- Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc.
- Disability Employment Australia
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Financial Counselling Australia
- Homelessness Australia
- Jobs Australia
- Job Futures Ltd
- Lifeline Australia
- Mission Australia
- National Association of Community Legal Centres
- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
- National Council of the YMCAs of Australia
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- National LGBT Health Alliance
- National Rural Health Alliance
- National Shelter
- National Welfare Rights Network
- Ostara Australia Ltd
- People with Disability Australia Inc
- Playgroup Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia Inc.
- Reconciliation Australia
- Relationships Australia Inc
- SANE Australia
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care
- Settlement Council of Australia
- Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Federal Council
- The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory
- The Salvation Army, Australian Southern Territory
- The Salvation Army National Secretariat
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare Australia
- Vision Australia
- Women With Disabilities Aust
- Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

Affiliate Members

- Australian Education Union

Associate Members

Organisational Members

- Access Innovation Media
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Aged & Community Services Australia
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc
- Anglicare
- Anglicare SA
- Anglicare Tasmania Inc
- Anglicare Victoria
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- Australian-Polish Community Services
- BaptistCare
- Berry Street Victoria Inc
- BEST Employment Ltd
- Broadmeadows Uniting Care
- Cabramatta Community Council
- Careforce Community Services
- Carers Association of Tasmania Inc
- Carers NSW Inc
- Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace
- Centacare
- Central Coast Community Council
- Central Land Council
- Children's Protection Society
- CHOICE
- Churches Housing Inc
- Clarence Valley Council
- Communicare Inc.
- Community Restorative Centre
- Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) Inc
- Dept Planning & Community Development
- Drummond Street Relationship Centre
- Eastern Access Community Health
- Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW
- Envite Inc
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Family Action Centre
- Financial & Consumer Rights Council
- Gateway Community Health
- Good Beginnings Australia
- Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service
- Great Lakes Community Resources
- Gungahlin Regional Community Service
- Guthrie House Cooperative Ltd
- Health & Community Services Workforce Council
- Illawarra Forum Inc.
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development
- Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Vic
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- King's International College
- Kyabra Community Association Inc
- La Trobe University Bendigo
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Lotterywest
- LOXCARE Inc
- Lutheran Community Care
- Macarthur Disability Services
- MacKillop Family Services
- Maroondah City Council
- Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc (T/A MTC Work Sol
- Melbourne City Mission
- Mercy Community Services
- Metro South Inst of TAFE
- Micah Projects Inc
- Mid North Coast Regional Council for Social Devt.

- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - MSC Mission Office
- MJD Foundation
- Mobile Children Services Association of NSW
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- Mountains Outreach Community Service
- Murra Mia Tenants Advice Service
- Nambucca Valley Neighbourhood Centre
- Nepean Youth Accommodation Service Inc
- New South Wales Deaf Society
- Newcastle Family Support Services
- North Queensland Combined Women's Services
- Northside Community Forum Inc.
- NSW Federation of Housing Associations
- NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc.
- Parliament of Tasmania - Library
- Peak Care Queensland Inc
- Penrith City Council
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)
- Quality Innovation Training & Employment
- Queensland Shelter
- Relationships Australia (SA)
- Riverwood Community Centre Inc.
- Rural Housing Network Ltd
- School for Social Entrepreneurs Australia
- Sector Connect Inc
- Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Springvale Community Aid & Advice Bureau
- SPYNS Inc
- SSWAHS Population Health
- St John's Youth Services
- St Patricks Community Support Centre
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Sussex Street Community Law Service
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Tangentyere Council
- Tenants Union (ACT) Inc
- Tenants' Union of Queensland
- Tenants Union QLD - Nth QLD Office
- The Burdekin Association
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc
- The Infant's Home Child & Family Services
- The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
- Toukley Womens Refuge Inc
- Tri Community Exchange
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families Service
- UnitingCare Gippsland
- UnitingCare Victoria & Tasmania
- UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Inc
- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
- University of Queensland
- University of Western Australia
- Victoria University
- WCIG
- Welfare Rights & Legal Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- WESTIR Ltd
- Whitehorse City Council
- WISE Employment
- Yilli Rreung Housing Corporation
- Youth Affairs Council of SA
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Projects Inc

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