



Australian Council of Social Service

Annual Report
2011-2012





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Australian Council of Social Service

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

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Images from ACOSS Inaugural Treasurer’s Lunch, May 2012
 and the ACOSS National Conference 2012 “Sharing the Wealth of the Lucky Country”.

President's Message

Simon Schrapel | ACOSS President



Measuring the success or effectiveness of any Peak Body or Advocacy group is a challenging task. Not because such groups seek to avoid accountability but because of the genuine difficulty associated with attributing specific policy or societal changes to the actions of peaks.

ACOSS' Vision is for "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." It's an ambitious Vision. It's also a vision which the Board and staff of ACOSS keep at the forefront of our minds as we plan the activities and strategies for the organization. In the end the efficacy of ACOSS hinges on how well we have helped to shape such an Australia.

When we examine our progress and achievements over the past year it is critical to consider them in the context of the prevailing social and economic climate. Whilst ACOSS's objective is to influence public policy and sentiment we will always need to be cognisant of the current environment and pursue opportunities for change as they arise.

This isn't to suggest that we merely pursue the politics of the day. We need to be helping to create new policy and public discourse, not just react to what is coughed up. We also need to be prepared to fight the unfashionable battles – those in which the chances of success may appear very distant and difficult to visualise.

Despite the political mainstream support of increased 'regulation of the poor' ACOSS has and will continue the fight against the imposition of greater controls over the lives and incomes of those reliant on allowances and pensions. The rollout of income management into more Australian communities signals a deeply concerning trend. It is an expensive, ineffective and demeaning policy and ACOSS, in collaboration with many of our members, will continue to hold Government accountable for its rollout. In doing so we are confident that, despite widespread political support for such schemes, we will ultimately see the winding back of this policy.

Unfortunately compulsory income management is but one of the pernicious policies which ACOSS has sought to overturn. The 2012 Budget decision to strip back income entitlements for single parents works to undermine our quest for a more equitable and fair society. In concert with other advocacy groups and members we have challenged this policy on Human Rights grounds and once again are committed to having this policy reversed over time.

In many senses these actions might be considered ACOSS's defensive approach to addressing poor public policy: On the other side of the equation there has been much more done to support and enhance positive policy initiatives being introduced nationally. These have ranged from mobilising support for key social policy agendas such as the implementation of a NDIS and ensuring the protection of low income households in the implementation of a carbon price through well targeted tax and transfer arrangements.

To build a fairer and more inclusive Australian society requires a sustainable social services sector. Over the past year ACOSS has played a strong and leading role in sector regulatory reforms, most notably the crafting of legislation to establish the ACNC but also in other important areas of regulatory and taxation treatment of NFPs. We have also sought to influence how the Australian Government responded to supporting agencies impacted by Fair Work Australia's Pay Equity decision.

In relation to leading important public policy outcomes ACOSS can attribute key decisions announced in the 2012 budget relating to the tax treatment of superannuation contributions and private health insurance rebates for high income earners in part to our advocacy on tax and transfer reform. Such fiscal reform is essential to not only creating a fairer Australia but to ensuring sufficient revenue is secured to progress important social and public policy initiatives and keep Australia competitive globally.

Underpinning ACOSS's work on these – and many other fronts, is a highly dedicated and talented staff team led by our CEO Cassandra Goldie. I commend them for keeping ACOSS at the forefront of key public policy debates influencing outcomes for low income Australians and our

membership and sector. I also thank and acknowledge the contribution of the ACOSS Board and that of the COSS network more broadly.

As we enter the halfway mark of this Board's 2 year term I would also like to encourage all members to consider how they may contribute to the future governance of

ACOSS. In 2013 we will be engaging in elections to the ACOSS Board and I look forward to strong interest being shown in taking up the available positions to ensure that ACOSS's future is as positive as our past record.



Report from the CEO

Cassandra Goldie | ACOSS CEO



ACOSS has had a year marked by some major events and advocacy efforts which have engaged the entire national office, as well as extensive Board and member engagement, and which have resonated on the national stage. We have launched major new campaigns, we have run several successful events, we have run and reported on extensive surveys, and we have seen these efforts rewarded in the public arena. Further details of these activities are available below.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff here in the ACOSS national office, as well our committed Board, members and volunteers, all of whom continue to assist ACOSS in our efforts to create a fair Australia.

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

Economics and Tax

ACOSS has continued to advocate for reform to reduce or remove tax concessions that disproportionately benefit those on higher incomes, and has promoted more general tax reform to enable more adequate funding for vital services for people on low incomes. ACOSS has promoted the reform of tax breaks for superannuation, with the publication of a policy paper and a submission to the Senate Economics Committee.

As part of these endeavours, ACOSS was represented at the Government's Tax Forum in October, as well as preparing a submission to this forum. In December, a submission dealing with superannuation tax concessions was prepared, which resulted in an appearance before the Senate Economics Committee. ACOSS was also represented on a superannuation working group.

In April, ACOSS released a paper on budget waste.

Employment, Education and Training, and Social Security

ACOSS advocates for the prevention of reduction in payment levels and punitive conditions on income support, and promotes positive reform towards fairer and more adequate working age payment system, including

increases in payment levels and better parity between different payments. ACOSS conducted analysis and advocacy work around some of the key 2011-12 Budget measures affecting social security payments. ACOSS participated in FaHCSIA's DSP Advisory Group, which looked at implementation of a number of measures affecting applicants for the Disability Support Pension.

ACOSS made a submission to Fair Work Australia on measurement of living standards and hardship among low paid workers and their families. A detailed proposal was made for the 2012-13 Budget to increase Newstart and other Allowances for single people – this proposal was developed and costed. A submission was prepared for a Bill adjusting the impairment tables used to determine access to the Disability Support Pension.

ACOSS launched a campaign to increase the Newstart Allowance during this financial year, a campaign that has had wide-ranging results. In February, a meeting was held with Minister Bill Shorten to discuss reform of Newstart Allowance and employment services and superannuation tax breaks. ACOSS also met with Treasurer Wayne Swan to discuss the reform of the Newstart Allowance and employment services.

ACOSS aims to promote better targeted and more effective employment services support for people who are unemployed, particularly those who are long-term unemployed. To this end, ACOSS participated in a February meeting initiated by Jobs Australia to discuss policies and advocacy strategies to improve the JSA program in its next funding round from 2015. A submission was also prepared into the APESAA Inquiry into administrative complexity in the employment services system, giving an opportunity to develop a number of longstanding and new policy ideas to reform Job Services Australia to make it more responsive to its consumers.

Health

ACOSS aims to reduce systemic barriers in the health system that lead to poorer health amongst people on low incomes and also to promote more equitable access to income, education, secure housing and employment as some of the social factors that correlate strongly with health outcomes.

ACOSS was represented on the National Advisory Council of Dental Health, and also played a lead role in the National Oral Health Alliance.

ACOSS has continued to maintain close relationships and alliances on health policy, including through the COSS Health Network, the Australian Healthcare Reform Alliance, and the National Oral Health Alliance. During 2012 the Board made a decision to maintain a light touch in health policy in the absence of dedicated resources.

Energy Markets

ACOSS has continued provide high quality advocacy in relation to energy markets, and the impacts on low income households. Funded by the Consumer Advocacy Panel, this project funds a fulltime 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 on Energy, along with other Councils of Social Service and social service organisations, including the Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Vincent de Paul and UnitingCare, and with environment and consumer organisations. This Roundtable is particularly concerned with impacts on energy markets, retail prices, community service obligations and customer protections.

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

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

Issues papers were released in December regarding consumer protection, safety and pricing; attention to impacts on low income households and those facing hardship. ACOSS worked towards the lodgement of a joint consumer advocate response, as well as continuing representation to the National Energy Industry and Consumer Forum regarding smart meters and smart grids.

Energy efficiency

ACOSS has continued to advocate for investment in improved energy use efficiency in low income households, as well as market efficiencies and demand side engagement. Throughout the year, ACOSS has reiterated the need for investment in targeted approaches for low income households contextualised by the contribution of increasing energy prices to cost of living pressures.

ACOSS participated in an advisory group to the inter-departmental task group for the development of a national energy savings scheme.

ACOSS was involved in the inaugural Alliance to Save Energy (A2SE) Summer School.

ACOSS worked with other advocates, energy retailers and stakeholders to highlight the importance of energy efficiency for low income households.

Climate change and carbon price

ACOSS has continued with work alone and in partnership with others to encourage an effective and equitable response to climate change, including the introduction of a carbon price. ACOSS' continued work included promotion of the 'yourcarbonprice' project and website, as well as a sector briefing ahead of the carbon price commencement.

In August 2011, ACOSS released a detailed position paper regarding energy efficiency measures for low income households and the community welfare sector included in the Clean Energy Future Package, and was subsequently invited to join a design workshop, along with the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC), the Clean Energy Council (CEC), the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors, the Australian Local Government Association and the Energy Retailers' Association of Australia.

ACOSS continued its membership of the Southern Cross Climate Coalition (SCCC), along with the Climate Institute, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. This coalition continued to advocate for 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. The SCCC released a review of the Clean Energy Future Package in August 2011.

ACOSS acted as an adviser for the Carbon Pricing and the Cost of Living project, which is funded through the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and which is run by the Climate Institute.

Climate Change Adaptation and Community Service Sector Research Project

ACOSS, along with Climate Risk, was awarded funding from the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) to conduct a research project into climate change adaptation and the community services sector. Recruitment for the project was undertaken, and Emily Hamilton was appointed as Senior Policy Officer (Climate Change) to run the project.

Subsequent work was undertaken to develop a project plan and governance arrangements; to develop and implement a national survey of community welfare organisations to investigate the sector's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and the build environment; and to develop relationships with key organisations and 'project champions'.

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

Community Services

ACOSS has continued to work closely with members including the Councils of Social Service in the states and territories to maintain pressure for adequate funding of sustainable and effective community services from all Australian Governments. The need for an adequate policy framework for funding of community services has been highlighted particularly by the equal pay case, demonstrating that service effectiveness is undermined by inadequate funding levels and poor processes in the funding and contracting cycle.

In May, the interim decision of Fair Work Australia in the equal remuneration order for SACS workers constituted a milestone in the efforts to address the pay inequity in our sector. FWA found that the workers in our sector did not have equal pay compared to state and local government workers, and that this was largely due to the gendered nature of the community sector workforce. ACOSS continued working with Australian Governments as a member of the Community Sector Wages Group and our proposed framework for supplementation funding process largely informed the principles developed by that Group. ACOSS also continued to work with services

across the country to anticipate and prepare for the implementation of equal pay.

Community Sector Development

ACOSS took a lead role in policy development and advocacy towards the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The exposure draft was released in December and ACOSS led a submission on behalf of the Councils of Social Service, outlining our concerns with the legislation. ACOSS worked closely with other organisations engaged in charity law reform, such as PILCH Connect, QUT Centre for Non-profit Studies, and the University of Melbourne Not-for-Profit Project. ACOSS also provided detailed expert advice to Treasury throughout the process of revision the exposure draft.

ACOSS continues to be an active participant in the Not for Profit Reform Council and a number of its working groups.

The past year also provided the opportunity for a series of dedicated briefings for our members on the not-for-profit sector reforms, including our first foray into webinars which proved an excellent way to manage communication with a large group of people about some complex policy issues. The briefings covered reforms such as the establishment of the Australian Charities and NFP Commission and the proposed reform to the definition of charity, as well as the equal pay case for community sector workers. By 30 June 2012 four briefings had been held, yielding considerable positive feedback from ACOSS members.

Engaging the Community

ACOSS ran a number of events throughout the year that engaged the community in our work and policy development. The ACOSS 2012 Conference: Sharing the Wealth of the Lucky Country was held at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern, Sydney on 29-30 March. It was an enormous success, with over 450 delegates attending. The event assembled a diverse group of speakers from the community and social services sector, academia, government, business and the media to debate 'the kind of country we want to be.'

Key questions, such as how to support people out of poverty through the protection of the social safety net, in the face of rising costs of living, and through social welfare policy more generally were discussed. Also, how the organisations supporting those living in poverty are faring, including the community sector specifically and

the not-for-profit sector more broadly. Reforms and relationships within the sector were debated in several sessions, including the relationship between community services and government, the business sector and industry. Particularly interesting was a discussion of innovative approaches in the sector.

The conference was opened by Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Wayne Swan, MP. Several sessions were broadcast on Sky Television, including: the Treasurer's opening address; the plenary session on Poverty and Inequality; and the final session, Imagining Australia in 2030, which was hosted by the ABC Radio Presenter James Valentine.

Government and parliamentary representatives at the national conference included The Hon. Mark Butler, MP, Minister for Social Inclusion, Mental Health and Ageing; the Hon. Brendan O'Connor, MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness; The Hon. Andrew Constance, NSW Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services; The Hon. Kate Ellis, MP, Minister for Employment Participation and Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care; the Hon. Sussan Ley, MP, Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP, Minister for Health; and Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Human Services.

ACOSS organised a media and communications forum as part of the National Conference. This was held prior to the conference, on Wednesday 28th March. The media and communications forum, held with media and communications officers from the community and welfare sector, was particularly well-attended, with over 100 participants.

In May 2012, ACOSS hosted the inaugural post-budget briefing for community services with the Treasurer the Hon Wayne Swan MP. A lunch was held in Melbourne, at which the Treasurer addressed issues relating to people experiencing poverty and to the delivery of community services, before responding to questions from the floor. The lunch was an enormous success with 200 participants from the community sector across the country, a large proportion of whom were ACOSS members.

The 2012 Australian Community Sector Survey was conducted between April and June 2012 and received over 650 responses. ACOSS would like to thank Ms Lisa Fowkes (ACOSS member), Dr Shaun Wilson (Social Sciences, UNSW) and Dr Adam Stebbing (Sociology, Macquarie University) for their pro bono assistance in conducting the survey this year.

The ACOSS website has continued to be a valuable tool for bringing information to government, the sector and to the greater public.



Treasurer's Report

Michael Bleasdale | ACOSS Treasurer



The success which ACOSS enjoyed in its campaigning and policy delivery during the 2011/2012 financial year was complimented by another positive result in its finances. At the end of the financial year the reserves are much more robust, providing confidence that ACOSS can continue to do its important work into the future. The result has been achieved by a combination of good financial management by the staff, and strategic decisions by the Board to rebuild the organisation's reserves to a secure level. The Board is conscious, however, that the national office continues to operate on a reduced staffing level, both in policy and operational terms, and future decisions must achieve a balance between financial security and freeing up resources to focus on our core activities.

In terms of operational income and expenditure the positive result was achieved by revenue coming in \$160,000 above expectations, whilst outgoings were kept to \$80,000 below budget. The management of expenditure has been very good this year, and staff are to be commended on this. In terms of the good revenue result, it is particularly pleasing to see a correlation between

the heightened profile and increased effectiveness of ACOSS through its policy and campaign work, evidenced by the increase in membership and associate funds and from copyright fees for ACOSS publications. The annual conference is a significant ACOSS flagship, and it continues to perform ahead of expectation.

The balance sheet reflects the hard work that has gone on over the past two years to increase the reserves, with the total equity rising to just over half a million dollars. It also demonstrates the increased scrutiny on transactions, illustrated by the decrease in amounts owed to us by debtors. The Executive and Board have been provided with improved reports over the course of the year, increasing the ability to monitor progress and to make strategic spending decisions when the time arises. Cashflow statements have been important in making decisions about investment of funds, and dashboard reports provide indicators of the overall health of the organisation. These tools have been progressively provided to the Board by the staff and our external accounting contractors, to whom I give our appreciation.



Submissions and Meetings

During 2011-12 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 Policy Advisers and members.

Key Submissions

- Joint COSS Submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee into the Inquiry into the Commonwealth Government's administration of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. July 2011
- Joint COSS submission to the Fair Work Australia Equal Remuneration Application. July 2011
- Submission to Fair Work Australia: Indicators of living standards. October 2011
- Joint COSS submission into the Treasury Consultation Paper: A definition of charity. December 2011
- Submission to the Senate Economics Committee on reform of the tax treatment of super contributions. January 2012
- Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee on the Stronger Futures NT Intervention. January 2012
- Joint COSS Submission-response to the Australian Charities and NFP Commission exposure draft. January 2012
- Towards more efficient and responsive employment services: submission to APESAA. ACOSS Paper 184. February 2012
- Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee: Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2011. March 2012
- ACOSS submission to Fair Work Australia on minimum wages. ACOSS Paper 186. March 2012
- Notes on the 2010 SEAM evaluation: Supplementary submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee. April 2012

Position Statements, Papers and Publications

- Building the Foundations for a Low Pollution, Clean Energy Economy: A Review of the Clean Energy Future Package. Joint Publication with the Southern Cross Climate Coalition. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: National Report. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 2 ACT. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 3 NSW. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 4 Northern Territory. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 5 Queensland. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 6 South Australia. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 7 Tasmania. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 8 Victoria. August 2011
- Australian Community Sector Survey 2011: Volume 9 Western Australia. August 2011
- The Clean Energy Future package, households on low incomes and the community services sector: A briefing on the Australian Government's climate change plan. ACOSS Paper 177. August 2011
- A fairer, more efficient tax and social security system: Paper prepared for the National Tax Forum, October 2011. ACOSS Paper 178. September 2011
- ACOSS Poverty Report: October 2011 Update.
- 2012-13 Budget Priority Statement: Recommendations for the Federal Budget. ACOSS Paper 179. January 2012
- Analysis of FWA decision on ASU's Equal Remuneration Order application for community sector workers. February 2012

- Emergency Relief Handbook, 4th edition. February 2012
- Building super on a fair foundation: Reform of the taxation of superannuation contributions. ACOSS Paper 185. February 2012
- Improving community sector effectiveness and efficiency: priorities for reducing red tape. February 2012
- Who is missing out? Material deprivation and income support payments. ACOSS Paper 187. March 2012
- Waste not, want not: Making room in the Budget for essential services. ACOSS Paper 188. April 2012
ACOSS 2012-13 Initial Budget Analysis. May 2012
- Update on Clean Energy Future, including details of payments to low income households. June 2012

Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Volume 46, Number 2, Winter 2011
- Volume 46, Number 3, Spring 2011

ACOSS@Work

- August 2011 edition
- October 2011 edition
- November 2011 edition
- December 2011 edition
- January 2012 edition
- February 2012 edition
- April 2012 edition
- May 2012 Budget Special edition
- June 2012 edition

Major Meetings

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

- The Prime Minister
- The Office of the Prime Minister
- The Treasurer
- The Assistant Treasurer
- Minister for Financial Services & Superannuation
- Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations and his office
- Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations
- Minister for Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and her Office
- Minister for Health and her Office
- Minister for Human Services and his Office
- Office of Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- The Treasury
- The Department of Finance and Deregulation
- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Department of Sustainability
- The Department of Human Services

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

- Amnesty International
- Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Implementation Taskforce



- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
- Australian Community Workers Association
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Australian Greens Housing and Taxation Roundtable
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Australian Services Union
- Australians for Affordable Housing
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Business Council of Australia
- Business Regulation and Competition Working Group
- Climate Risk
- Community Council for Australia
- Community Sector Wages Group
- Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council
- Community Tax Forum
- DEEWR Employment Partnership Committee
- DEEWR Industry Reference Group
- Disability Support Pension Advisory Group
- Government Tax Forum
- Hesta
- Jobs Australia
- Maxxia
- Mental Health Council of Australia
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Oral Health
- Mission Australia
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- National Legal Assistance Advisory Body
- National Regulator Sub Committee
- National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations
- New Democracy Foundation
- NFP Reform Council and associated working groups
- Origin Energy National Customer Consultative Council
- Productivity Commission
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Southern Cross Climate Coalition
- The Australian Collaboration
- The Councils of Social Service (COSS) Network
- Woolworths
- YWCA



The Australian Journal of Social Issues

Australian Social Policy Association (ASPA)

Gabrielle Meagher and Tony Eardley, Editors
Roxanne Lawson, Editorial and Production Assistant

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

Developments in 2011-12 include the launching of an electronic submission system, ScholarOne Manuscripts, after a period of refinement and testing. The new system will expedite the review process and enable the overall management of the journal to be streamlined. This system can be viewed at:
<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajsi>

Volume 46(3)

Social security law: what does the politics of 'conditional welfare' mean for review and client representation?	Terry Carney
The public problem of 'Aboriginal gambling': winning the struggle for an urban space	Martin Young and Michael Christie
Inheritance in Australia: family and charitable distributions from personal estates	Christopher Baker and Michael Gilding
The social impact of the global financial crisis in Australia	Peter Saunders and Melissa Wong
Indian student concerns about violence: exploring student perceptions	Fara Azmat, Angela Osborne and Ruth Rentschler

Articles received between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, and decisions on these submissions, are listed below:

July 2011 to June 2012	General	Special issue	Total
Published	6	0	6
Withdrawn	1	0	1
Under revision	13	5	18
In review	5	18	23
Rejected (out of scope)	17	0	17
Rejected (post review)	11	1	12
Total	53	24	77

Two issues of the journal were published between July 2011 and end June 2012. Contents of the most recent issue, volume 46(3), published in April 2012, is as follows:

Special issues

There was a strong response to calls for special issues and themed sections in the journal in August 2011, three of which will be published during 2012-13. Topics include 'Emotions in social policy and social life'; 'Religion and social policy in Australia and its region', and 'The impact of the GFC'.

Publicity/media

Media notices of AJSI articles July 2011-June 2012 include the following:

'Inheritance in Australia: family and charitable distributions from personal estates' by Christopher Baker and Michael Gilding of Swinburne University (AJSI vol. 46 no. 3)

- The Sunday Telegraph, 29 Apr 2012, page 12
- The Age, 1 May 2012, 'Charity in the home'
- 'A new Swinburne University of Technology study shows that only about one in 20 people who have a will leave a charitable bequest. The results are published in the Australian Journal of Social Issues.'
- ProBono <http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2012/04/study-finds-charities-forgotten-aussie-wills>

- Our Community: <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/chancellery/mediacentre/lss/news/2012/04/not-much-charity-in-australian-wills>

'The social impact of the global financial crisis in Australia' by Peter Saunders and Melissa Wong (AJSI vol. 46 no.3)

- Study shows nation's economic resilience, Adele Horin, Sydney Morning Herald, May 30, 2012
- Mining boom is lifting prosperity, Australian Financial Review, May 31, 2012

'Are the homeless mentally ill?' by Guy Johnson and Chris Chamberlain (AJSI vol. 46 no. 1)

- <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/home-loss-often-trigger-for-mental-illness-study-finds-20110605-1fnf2.html>

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 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 2011-2012

President

Simon Schrapel

Deputy Presidents

Terese Edwards
Adrian Pisarski

Treasurer

Michael Bleasdale

State and Territory Councils of Social Service representatives

Rebecca Vassarotti	ACTCOSS Representative
Mary Perkins	NCOSS Representative (term expired February 2012)
Sarah Fogg	NCOSS Representative (appointed February 2012)
Bernie Dwyer	NTCOSS Representative
Karyn Walsh	QCOSS Representative
Wendy Malycha	SACOSS Representative (term expired November 2011)
Helen Connolly	SACOSS Representative (appointed November 2011)
Noel Mundy	TASCOSS Representative
Marilyn Webster	VCOSS Representative (term expired November 2011)
Micaela Cronin	VCOSS Representative (appointed November 2011)
Chris Hall	WACOSS Representative (term expired November 2011)
Frances Lynch	WACOSS Representative (appointed November 2011)

Special Assembly National Member Organisation Representatives

Terese Edwards	National Council for Single Mothers and their Children
Michael Bleasdale	People with Disabilities

National Member Organisation Representatives

Adrian Pisarski	National Shelter
Lisa Fowkes	Job Futures Australia (term expired November 2011)
Samantha Page	Family Relationship Services Australia
Graham Douglas-Meyer	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Maryanne Diamond	Vision Australia (term expired November 2011)
Renee Williams	Vision Australia (appointed November 2011)
Gerard Thomas	National Welfare Rights Network
David Thompson	Jobs Australia, Ex-Officio (term expired November 2011)
Ricci Bartels	Settlement Council of Australia (appointed November 2011)

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 representative groups.

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

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

The way we work

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

Key policy areas

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

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

Policy Advisers

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

Climate Change and Energy

Hugh Saddler, Janet Stanley

Community Services

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

Economics and Tax

Nicholas Gruen, Richard Krever, Julie Smith

Employment, Education and Training

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

Health

Fiona Armstrong, Russell McGowan, Alan Owen

Housing

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

Housing and Regional Development

Mark Henley

Indigenous Communities

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

International

Graeme Evans, Phil Glendenning, Alex Huntir

ACOSS Staff 2011-2012

- Chief Executive Officer: Cassandra Goldie
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Tessa Boyd-Caine
- Senior Policy Officer: Peter Davidson
- Senior Policy Officer: Tony Westmore
- Senior Research and Policy Officer: Emily Hamilton
- Policy Officer: Corinne Dobson (to July 2011)
- Communications Coordinator: Fernando de Freitas
- Communications Officer: Luke Bacon
- Executive Assistant to the CEO: Michelle Bainbridge (to January 2012)
- Executive Assistant to the CEO: Marcie Richards (from February 2012)
- Publications and Information Officer: Penny Dorsch
- Events and Memberships Officer: Louise Stanley
- ICT Coordinator: Napoleon Bercasio (to February 2012)
- Finance Officer: Ray Pedley (to August 2011)

Financial Report

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated: Governors' Report

GOVERNORS REPORT

The Governors present their report together with the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2012 and auditors report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Board of Governors

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

Mr. Simon Schrapel (President)
Ms. Terese Edwards (Deputy President)
Mr. Adrian Pisarski (Deputy President)
Mr. Michael Bleasdale (Treasurer)
Ms Helen Connolly (Appointed November 2011)
Ms Micaela Cronin (Appointed November 2011)
Ms. Maryanne Diamond (Term expired November 2011)
Ms. Bernie Dwyer
Ms. Sarah Fogg (Appointed May 2012)
Ms. Lisa Fowkes (Term expired November 2011)
Mr. Chris Hall (Term expired November 2011)
Ms Frances Lynch (Appointed November 2011)
Ms. Wendy Malycha (Term expired November 2011)
Mr. Graham Douglas Meyer
Mr. Noel Mundy
Ms. Samantha Page
Ms. Mary Perkins (Term expired February 2012)
Mr. Gerard Thomas
Mr. David Thompson
Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti
Ms. Karyn Walsh
Ms. Marilyn Webster (Term expired November 2011)
Ms Renee Williams (Appointed November 2011)
Ms Ricci Bartels (Appointed November 2011)
Ms. Mary Perkins

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

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

GOVERNORS' REPORT

Operating Result

The surplus for the year amounted to \$256,710 (2011: \$86,599).

Principal activities

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

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

Significant changes

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

Signed on behalf of the board of governors.

Committee member: *Adrian Pizarski*

Committee member: *Michael Bleasdale*
Mr. Michael Bleasdale

Dated this 12th day of November 2012

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
INCOME			
Grants received	2	560,027	514,267
Membership & donations	2	461,385	263,385
Other project income	2	480,807	611,340
Management fees	2	145,552	110,003
Interest	2	9,551	8,264
Other income	2	144,826	127,701
		<u>1,802,148</u>	<u>1,634,960</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Employee benefits		(688,046)	(611,131)
Occupancy expenses		(76,607)	(82,578)
Board & Executive		(19,035)	(32,829)
International Council on Social Welfare		(2,760)	(5,992)
Publications		(32,733)	(25,637)
Resources (Library, etc)		(28,403)	(23,447)
Travel & accommodation		(97,792)	(44,783)
Other project costs		(480,807)	(611,340)
General office costs		(119,255)	(110,624)
		<u>(1,545,438)</u>	<u>(1,548,361)</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>256,710</u>	<u>86,599</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>256,710</u>	<u>86,599</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	<i>Note</i>	2012 \$	2011 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	701,712	242,464
Pledges and other receivables	5	75,727	159,657
Prepayments and deposits	6	15,286	16,693
		<u>792,725</u>	<u>418,814</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	7	20,000	20,000
Property, plant and equipment	8	42,713	43,102
		<u>62,713</u>	<u>63,102</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>855,438</u>	<u>481,916</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	146,495	112,686
Provisions	10	111,354	93,596
Income in advance / project provisions	11	161,945	83,565
		<u>419,794</u>	<u>289,847</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	2,545	15,680
		<u>2,545</u>	<u>15,680</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>422,339</u>	<u>305,527</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>433,099</u>	<u>176,389</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	12	433,099	176,389
Total members funds		<u>433,099</u>	<u>176,389</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
TOTAL EQUITY		
Balance at beginning of the year	176,389	89,790
Movements in equity from:		
Surplus for the year	256,710	86,599
Balance at the end of the year	<u>433,099</u>	<u>176,389</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	<i>Note</i>	2012 \$	2011 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc.		784,815	512,992
Grants received		616,030	505,551
Membership and donations		528,047	275,112
Interest received		9,551	8,264
Payments to suppliers, employees, project costs etc.		(1,472,584)	(1,402,209)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>465,859</u>	<u>(100,290)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(6,611)	(23,632)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u>(6,611)</u>	<u>(23,632)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF CASH			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		242,464	366,386
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		459,248	(123,922)
Cash at end of financial year	13(a)	701,712	242,464

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

(a) Basis of preparation

Reporting Basis and Convention: The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified where indicated by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied. Statement of Compliance The financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards. A statement of compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the Association applying the not-for-profit sector specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards. The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided. Donations are when the Association gains control of the donations or the right to receive the donations. Project income is recognised in the period that the project occurs. Publications are recognised monthly, based upon sales for the period. Membership is recognised on both quarterly and yearly basis. Where income received for periods exceeding the financial year end date, income has been proportioned on a pro rata basis. Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets. Management fees are internal revenue which represents the cost of running projects to the Association. This has been included for disclosure purposes. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(c) Income tax

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

(d) Trade debtors

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

(e) Financial assets

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

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 Governors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. If the carrying amount of plant and equipment exceed its recoverable amount the plant and equipment is written down to the recoverable amount.

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

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

(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 high of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which it belongs.

(h) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

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

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

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

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

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

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

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

(j) Comparatives

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

(k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

(l) New accounting standards

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

The Governor's 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: REVENUE

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Membership and donations	461,385	263,385
Project income	480,807	611,340
Interest income	9,551	8,264
Management Fees	145,552	110,003
Other Income		
Publications	42,476	30,168
Royalties	68,893	85,806
Fee for service	18,658	11,727
Other revenue	14,799	-
	144,826	127,701
Grants	560,027	514,267
	1,802,148	1,634,960

NOTE 3: SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

EXPENSES

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	7,000	12,091
Rent expense on operating lease rentals		
- Minimum lease payments	56,175	57,224

NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand	300	250
Cash at bank	646,784	138,399
Short term bank deposits	54,628	103,815
	701,712	242,464

NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES

CURRENT

Pledges and other receivable	63,927	159,857
Provision for doubtful debts	(200)	(200)
	63,727	159,657
Sundry debtors	12,000	-
	75,727	159,657

NOTE 6: PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Prepayments	9,428	10,880
Deposits	5,858	5,813
	15,286	16,693

NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS

NON-CURRENT

Shares in Community 21 Limited (ACN 097 612 416) - 20,000 ordinary shares of \$1.00 at cost	20,000	20,000
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NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Plant & equipment		
Furniture, fixtures & fittings at cost	58,996	58,996
Accumulated depreciation	(33,825)	(30,325)
	25,171	28,671
Computer equipment - cost	48,491	41,880
Accumulated depreciation	(30,949)	(27,449)
	17,542	14,431
Total plant and equipment	42,713	43,102
Total property, plant and equipment	42,713	43,102

(a) Movements in carrying amount

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year

Furniture, fixtures & fittings		
Opening carrying amount	28,671	14,996
Additions	-	20,376
Depreciation expense	(3,500)	(6,701)
Closing carrying amount	25,171	28,671
Computer equipment		
Opening carrying amount	14,431	16,564
Additions	6,611	3,256
Depreciation expense	(3,500)	(5,389)
Closing carrying amount	17,542	14,431

NOTE 9: PAYABLES

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities		
Trade creditors	40,407	45,986
GST credits	47,323	18,496
Accrued expenses	43,857	32,251
PAYG withholding payable	14,908	15,953
	146,495	112,686

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

		2012	2011
		\$	\$
CURRENT			
Annual leave	(a)	43,407	46,830
Long service leave	(a)	67,947	46,766
		<u>111,354</u>	<u>93,596</u>
NON CURRENT			
Long service leave	(a)	2,5451	5,680
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		<u>113,899</u>	<u>109,276</u>

NOTE 11: INCOME IN ADVANCE / PROJECT PROVISIONS

CURRENT			
Subscriptions in advance		2,573	13,749
Memberships in advance		60,135	19,763
Equal Remuneration Case		-	9,765
Climate Risk		10,433	15,433
Perpetual Get a Fair Hearing		-	12,114
Myer Ccapacity Building		-	(99)
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)
Consumer Advocacy Panel		11,085	-
COSS Collaboration		34,091	-
Climate Change		43,628	-
		<u>161,945</u>	<u>83,565</u>

NOTE 12: RETAINED SURPLUS

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Retained surplus at beginning of year	176,389	89,790
Surplus for the year	256,710	86,599
	<u>433,099</u>	<u>176,389</u>

NOTE 13: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash

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

Cash on hand	300	250
Cash at bank	646,784	138,399
At call deposits with financial institutions	54,628	103,815
	<u>701,712</u>	<u>242,464</u>

NOTE 14: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

(a) Operating lease commitments

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

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Payable		
- not later than one year	-	20,307
	<u>-</u>	<u>20,307</u>

The property lease terminated on 30 September 2011. The lease has been continued on a month to month basis with no future commitment. Rent is payable monthly at an amount of \$4,481 (excluding GST).

NOTE 15: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2012 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

(a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2012, of the Association, or (b) the results of those operations, or (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2012, of the Association.

NOTE 16: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 - 15:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2012 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Member: Adrian PizarSKI

Member: Michael Busby

Dated this 12 day of November 2012



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

We have audited the accompanying financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the governing committee's declaration.

Responsibility of Those Charged With Governance

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

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by those charged with governance, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

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

Opinion

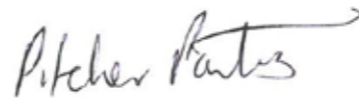
In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2012, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Incorporated Associations Act 1991*.



MARK GODLEWSKI

Partner

7 November 2012



PITCHER PARTNERS

SYDNEY

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 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 Child Care Association (CCC)
- Community Housing Federation of Australia
- Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- COTA Australia
- Council of Australian Humanist Societies
- Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc.
- Deafness Forum of Australia
- Disability Employment Australia
- Doctors Reform Society Australia
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Financial Counselling Australia
- Homelessness Australia
- Jobs Australia
- Lifeline Australia
- Mission Australia
- National Association of Community Legal Centres
- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
- National Council of the YMCAs of Australia
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- National LGBT Health Alliance
- National Respite Association
- National Rural Health Alliance
- National Shelter
- National Welfare Rights Network
- Ostara Australia Ltd
- People with Disability Australia Inc
- Playgroup Australia
- Pregnancy Help Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia Inc.
- Reconciliation Australia
- Relationships Australia Inc
- SANE Australia
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care
- Settlement Council of Australia
- Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Federal Coun
- The Salvation Army Eastern and Southern Territories
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare Australia
- Vision Australia
- WESNET (Women's Services Network)
- Women With Disabilities Aust
- Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

Affiliate Members

- Australian Education Union

Associate Members

Organisational Members

- ACCES Services Inc
- Accordwest
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Aged & Community Services Australia
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc
- Alice's Cottages
- Anglicare NSW
- Anglicare SA
- Anglicare Tasmania Inc
- Anglicare Victoria
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies
- Australian Services Union
- Australian-Polish Community Services
- BaptistCare
- Barnardos
- Berry Street
- BEST Employment Ltd
- Cabramatta Community Centre
- Canterbury-Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre
- Careforce Community Services
- Carers Association of Tasmania Inc
- Carers NSW Inc
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace
- Centacare
- CentaCare New England North West
- Central Coast Community Council
- Central Land Council
- Children's Protection Society

- CHOICE
- Churches Housing Inc
- Clarence Valley Council
- Communicare Inc.
- Community Business Bureau
- Community Restorative Centre
- Community Services - Dept of Human Services NSW
- Community Vision
- Doris Cornford
- Drummond Street Relationship Centre
- Early Childhood Australia
- Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
- Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW
- Envite Inc
- Families Australia Inc
- Family Action Centre
- Family Emergency Accommodation
- Family Support Newcastle Inc.
- Gateway Community Health
- Good Beginnings Australia
- Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service
- Great Lakes Community Resources
- Guthrie House Cooperative Ltd
- Health & Community Services Workforce Council
- Illawarra Forum Inc.
- Illawarra Legal Centre
- Inner South-West Community Development Organisation
- Joblink Plus Ltd
- Lotterywest
- LOXCARE Inc
- Lutheran Community Care
- Macarthur Disability Services
- Macarthur Legal Centre
- MacKillop Family Services
- Maroondah City Council

- Marrickville Community Training Centre Inc (T/A MTC Work Sol)
- Mercy Community Services
- Micah Projects Inc
- Mid Coast Communities Incorporated
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - MSC Mission Office
- Mobile Children Services Association of NSW
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- Murra Mia Tenants Advice Service
- Nambucca Valley Community Services Council Inc
- Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services
- Nepean Youth Accommodation Service Inc
- Newfangled Ideas
- North Queensland Combined Women's Services
- Northside Community Forum Inc.
- NSW Federation of Housing Associations
- NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc.
- PeakCare Queensland Inc
- Penrith City Council
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)
- Quality Innovation Training & Employment
- Queensland Shelter
- Riverwood Community Centre Inc.
- Rural Housing Network Ltd
- Sector Connect Inc
- Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
- Sisters of St Joseph Health Care
- 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
- St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.
- SWSLHD South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Tangentyere Council
- Tenants Union (ACT) Inc
- Tenants' Union of Queensland
- The Benevolent Society
- The Burdekin Association
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc
- The Infant's Home Child & Family Services
- The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
- Toukley Womens Refuge Inc
- Tri Community Exchange
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- Uniting Communities
- UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families Service
- UnitingCare Gippsland
- UnitingCare Victoria & Tasmania
- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
- University of South Australia
- Victoria University
- Welfare Rights & Legal Centre
- Welfare Rights Centre (QLD)
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc. (WCIG)
- WESTIR Ltd
- WISE Employment
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Projects Inc
- YWCA of Canberra

Individual Members

- Valerie Adams
- Marilyn Alt
- Julia Baird
- Kate Baxter
- Michael Bowd
- Paul Bullen
- Marianne Bush
- Paul Butler
- Ian Campbell
- Bettina Cass
- Jonathon Casson
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- Ruth Robins
- John Ryan
- Tamikichi Shida
- Leonie Short
- Rajiv S Solomon
- David Stanton
- Janet Taylor
- Andrew Thomas
- Toni Wren
- Denise Young

Acknowledgements

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

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

Government, Private Sector and Foundations

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

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

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Donors

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

Our special thanks goes to the following people for their support of ACOSS.

- Australian Community Workers Association
- Marianne Bush
- Bettina Cass
- Doris Cornford
- Michael Evers
- Family Relationship Services Australia
- Lisa Fowkes
- Jobs Australia
- Lyn Jones
- David Langworthy
- Loxcare Inc
- MacKillop Family Services
- Peter McGovern
- Jinny McGrath
- John Mills
- Vera Raymer
- David Stanton
- Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association
- Janet Taylor





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