

60th Annual Report
2006/2007



SACOSS

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SACOSS

Who we are and what we do

As the peak non-government representative body for community services in South Australia, SACOSS believes in justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians.

SACOSS has a strong membership base of individuals and organisations from a broad range of areas in the social services arena. Members of our organisation span both small and large agencies, peak bodies, service providers, individuals and some government agencies.

Members display an impressive commitment to social justice in South Australia, manifest in our Policy Council and range of policy and advocacy groups that tackle specific issues. These groups actively debate issues of importance to the sector and strive for better public policy. The voice of SACOSS is strong, resolute, independent and committed, and draws strength from being part of a cohesive membership of like-focussed people.

SACOSS is part of a national network, consisting of ACOSS and the State and Territory Councils of Social Service, who assist low income and disadvantaged people Australia wide.

SACOSS' purpose is to harness the views of the community to achieve:

- a strong and independent voice for fair and just public policy
- progressive improvement of the quality of life for vulnerable South Australians
- a healthy, clean and safe environment
- equal access to social, political, economic, spiritual and cultural opportunities and benefits
- a vibrant and dynamic community sector
- a strong and representative organisation.

Our major activities cover:

Policy

We analyse, negotiate and argue for good social policy.

Advocacy

We advocate on behalf of vulnerable South Australians, and work with member organisations to initiate, develop and provide expert advice and opinion to achieve fair and just public policy.

Information & Comment

We provide independent information and commentary to South Australians.

Sector Development

We advise and assist community organisations on management and governance issues.

Workshops & Seminars

We bring people together to debate community sector issues and current public policy. We promote cooperation, the sharing of resources, information and discussion and action on common issues.

Barbara Garrett MBE

Ian Yates AM

Deputy SACOSS Chair

Long-time SACOSS and community sector stalwart Mrs Barbara Garrett MBE died on Sunday 2 September. Her passing is in many ways the end of an era for the South Australian community sector and in particular for SACOSS.

Barbara's involvement in SACOSS goes back to our very early days. She was involved in SACOSS continuously for over 50 years, most of that time as a member of the governing body, which had various names over the years, and usually in a leadership role. She was Chairperson a number of times and held many other positions over the years including SACOSS representative on the ACOSS Board for the decade 1976 - 1985.

She was SACOSS President for more than 20 years, from 1985 until her death, and a very active presence until her final months. Throughout her Presidency Barbara was an active sounding board and mentor to successive teams of office-bearers and Executive Directors.

Barbara's contributions to the community sector were much wider than her SACOSS role, though interwoven with them. For example she played leadership roles in the formation of Domiciliary Care Services in South Australia in the 1970s and later the Independent Living Centre. She was an inaugural Board member of the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS). She was closely involved in the development of the Ten Year Plan on Ageing and in 1996 was appointed as an inaugural member of the new Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing chaired by Dame Roma Mitchell. She was also a member of the Older Persons Health Council and in more recent years the Women's Health Council and the Premier's Council on Women.

Barbara was involved over the years in organisations as diverse as Red Cross, Adelaide Benevolent Society, National Heart Foundation, Da Costa Samaritan Fund, various advisory committees to the Health Commission, the Gerontology Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the Julia Farr Centre Board and Foundation.

In addition she was employed for 31 years in the Social Work division of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, 14 of those as Director, in which role she introduced many innovations now taken for granted.

Throughout all her involvements Barbara Garrett was visionary, forthright, persistent and absolutely committed to the causes for which she fought, always doing so with good humour and compassion. Some of her life-long causes included rehabilitation, integrated social planning, universal health care, equal rights for people of all ethnic backgrounds, Aboriginal rights and an end to Federal/State buck-passing.

Barbara was awarded an MBE in 1977 for services to the community and health, and a Centenary Medal in 2001. She was an Honorary Life member of SACOSS.

In his letter of tribute Premier Mike Rann observed that “Barbara was a unique and highly respected South Australian who dedicated much of her life to pursuing equity and social justice for her fellow citizens...I have no doubt that Barbara’s outstanding contribution to the development of health and social policy in this state to assist the disadvantaged and aged will be long remembered and that her legacy of community service over several decades will inspire others to continue her great work.”

SACOSS extends its condolences to all members of Barbara Garrett’s family — in particular her four children and nine grandchildren.

Barbara’s passing, in the end on her terms, is truly the end of an era in this sector. We are all the wiser and more fortunate for Barbara’s contributions and presence in our lives. We shall miss her in so many ways. A life well lived, a job well done, a truly deserved time of rest.

Chair's report

Simon Schrapel

A strong economy should translate to a society in which all citizens benefit from access to good quality health care, secure housing, employment opportunities and the chance to actively participate in community life. Most indicators suggest that the South Australian economy is as buoyant as it has been for decades — yet not all South Australians can lay claim to the rewards that this should bring. As studies such as the annual Australian Community Sector Survey highlight, the number of South Australians seeking assistance from social and community services continues to be on the increase. Clearly such contradictory evidence demonstrates that our State suffers from an unfairly inequitable distribution of wealth and opportunity.

Inequality lies at the heart of SACOSS' battle — a battle we have clearly yet to win. The quest for social justice, for a fair go and an end to poverty is no easy goal. SACOSS has been pursuing this objective now for 60 years. With the support of our members who fight this same battle each and every day, we will continue our advocacy for fairer public policy. Whilst the provision of essential services and assistance to those in need remains at the core of much of what the sector delivers, SACOSS' focus has needed to remain on achieving a more just distribution of resources within our community. That the health status for different segments of our population is so disparate is unconscionable. That growing numbers of South Australians are experiencing housing stress due to the unaffordability of housing is unfair. That Indigenous South Australians continue to experience unemployment, incarceration and child neglect and abuse at rates several times greater than for the general population is unjust. These and a host of other similarly unpalatable truths are and will remain SACOSS' targets.

SACOSS, through our *Blueprint for the elimination of poverty*, has continued to put cogent and robust arguments and public policy alternatives to the South Australian Government and community. These are not always popular and seldom universally supported positions. In the main, they require a re-prioritising of agendas and public expenditures — a redistribution of community wealth.

However, SACOSS operates in an environment in which other lobbyists and advocates are also present — an integral part of our local democracy. Our presence must remain strong to ensure that the interests of our constituency, those in the South Australian community who are financially and socially excluded and disadvantaged, are vigorously pursued.

The engine room for SACOSS advocacy, our Policy Council, has continued to be the driving force behind our agenda-setting and policy development. I commend the commitment of those who contribute so willingly to debates and output of both the Council and its Policy Advisory Groups. It is critical that the Council remain both vibrant and strident in its activity in the coming years. The health and productivity of the Policy Council will continue to be the barometer by which SACOSS' strength is measured.

SACOSS also continues to benefit from the dedication and professionalism of our secretariat. From the conduct of SACOSS' major conference for 2006, *Spotlight on Social Justice*, to the way in which the physical relocation of SACOSS' offices from the Torrens Building to Marjorie Black House was managed, SACOSS has been superbly serviced by our Executive Director, staff and volunteers.

Through the stewardship of the SACOSS Board and the agreement reached with the former Board of Marjorie Black House, SACOSS is in a position in which we now occupy premises that are our own asset. The refurbishment of the building has not only created a first class amenity for our own needs, but a facility to be used and enjoyed by the broader community. These new premises provide an excellent base from which SACOSS can maintain our fight for social justice for all South Australians well into the future.

Executive Director's report

Karen Grogan

I am proud to report that the start of SACOSS's seventh decade has seen us continue to build on our reputation as the pre-eminent advocate for low income and disadvantaged South Australians. The breadth of the work that SACOSS and its members pursue continues to grow — and making sure that we forge connections with like-minded organisations so that the voices of the disadvantaged continue to be heard, and not silenced, has been a sharp focus of our work. Our 60th anniversary conference *Spotlight on Social Justice* was a clear highlight of six decades of achievements.

The complexity of social, economic and environmental influences shapes every aspect of life, from the ability to interact with the community to the ability to learn, grow and prosper. The gap in wealth distribution and increased social pressures require the concerted efforts of both the government and non-government sector to improve the circumstances of our community. However, at the present time as a State we loll at the bottom of the national food chain in many reportable economic indicators.

The last decade has seen South Australia experience a reduction in affordable housing, a growing complexity in balancing work and other life activities, alterations in the labour market, increases in the incidence of addictions, greater prevalence of stress, and a persistent disparity in education and health opportunities. On top of this are the various other factors that exacerbate disparity in wellbeing, for example disability or ethnicity.

Our challenge as a representative organisation always has, and will continue to be, influencing the agendas that will see us reach our vision of justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians. Our agenda, the *Blueprint to eliminate poverty in South Australia*, has been shaped and crafted with considerable energy and enthusiasm by our Policy Council and Policy and Advocacy Groups (PAGS) and will be released in December 2007. This document sets our key areas for policy and advocacy work over the next eight years.

The SACOSS Policy Council has had a busy year not only in its work around the *Blueprint* but also in dealing with a vast range of issues including child protection, welfare, mental health, juvenile justice and housing, disability and health reforms. The dedication and hard work of this vital council drives the core of our work.

Our PAGs — Law and Justice, Health, Education and Employment, and Essential Services — have been extremely active and productive during the year. The PAGs respond to immediate issues as they arise as well as working on longer term strategic responses to issues that affect our constituencies. The PAGs' primary purpose is to develop and offer advice and strategic directions to the SACOSS Policy Council on fair and just public policy. Fantastic effort has been contributed to these groups by our membership.

During the year, SACOSS staff and members were involved in 31 continuing networks, made 23 formal presentations to external bodies, and made 24 formal submissions on varied issues such as consumer credit, work-life balance, fair pay, gambling, youth offending and electricity.

As a peak body one of our major concerns is always with the viability of the sector, and over the last two years we have put in a lot of work into the *Strong Community Healthy State* campaign — all the research and background documents can be found on the SACOSS website. The challenge for the community sector in the current economic and social environment is to continue to build, and retain, a skilled and dedicated workforce to provide services that meet the expectations of both the community and the government. Real government funding has continued to fall despite the costs of service and consumer demand rising steadily. This has created instability and budgetary restraints, creating in turn a working environment that is attractive to neither potential or existing employees. This has been consistently identified as the major barrier to employee retention and workforce development. The social impacts of these budgetary, workforce development and service delivery issues

rest with the most at risk and vulnerable people in our state. To effectively address the needs of this group it is imperative that the community services sector is able to recruit and retain the most skilled, passionate and qualified staff available. The State Government responded to our claim for a 20% increase in wages over three years with an offer of 4% over four years.

Our developmental project work continues to highlight new and emerging issues that affect our constituents and the community sector. The Youth and Business Roundtable has been active in linking industry and young people together to work to develop solutions to the 'brain drain' in South Australia.

It has also been an exciting year in sector development with a total revamp of SACOSS resources. We have taken all the great material developed over the past number of years and added some new material to form a Tool Kit, to be rolled out in early 2008. We continue to provide advice and assistance to our members on governance, advocacy and management issues. Substantial work has occurred on the disability projects, in particular on a series of recommendations to help the State Government address the gravity of the situation not only for people with disabilities gaining equitable access to education and employment pathways, but also to address workforce development issues for workers in the sector. The project will be finalised and the report delivered to the Minister for Disability by the end of 2007. As well as our ongoing work in electricity advocacy, SACOSS was fortunate enough to secure a small grant from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia's Community Grants Scheme, to undertake metro and rural community consultations to create a response to the Retail Policy Working Group's Paper concerning the fundamental changes occurring in the National Electricity Market.

We completed our work in three project areas in 2006/2007. Our formal arrangement with the Low Income Support Network was finalised, following discontinuation of State Government funding, and our Service Excellence Project was also finalised, however we are committed to ongoing support of

agencies involved in both projects to help them build capacity in the areas of networking, community development, and quality assurance. Our Microfinance Development Project also was finalised following three years of building support and advocating for more inclusive financial systems for low income consumers.

Assuming ownership of Marjorie Black House in 2006 and our move to Unley in May 2007 heralded a bold new era for SACOSS and its members. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Marjorie Black Inc and in particular, Miss Daphne Gum. SACOSS pledges to continue to uphold the vision of Marjorie Black House as a safe and welcoming environment for community groups. Alongside the physical move, we took the opportunity to upgrade our technology, including installation of a cutting-edge database in order to meet the increasing expectations of our members and stakeholders.

The SACOSS Board met monthly to track the financial status and planning for the organisation, assess and manage emerging risks, and to tend to contractual negotiations and issues as they arose. The Board has carried out its duties in the past year with vision, skill and dedication as they charted the move to Marjorie Black House and oversaw the upgrades in technology. I am grateful to have the guidance of such a dedicated board.

We were very fortunate to have a dedicated staff team. Finalisation of projects and other opportunities have seen us say goodbye to Barbara Stephenson, Andris Banders, Amanda Shaw, Jodi Goddard, Jennifer Duncan and Cassandra Banders, but we have welcomed Richard Cannon, Anna Kennett and Rob Manwaring.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff, volunteers and members for their contribution to the work of SACOSS in the last year, as well as to the many members of the Board and Policy Council who make invaluable contributions to governance and policy deliberations, and continue to confirm our role as a representative body.

Committees with SACOSS representatives

ACOSS Board of Governors

Centrelink Community Consultative Committee

Child Protection Inter-Agency Guidelines

Courts Administration Authority Community Relations Committee

Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund for Children and Young People

Energy Consumers' Council

Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCoSA) Consumer Advisory Committee

Ethics Centre of SA

Legal Services Commission Board

OARS SA Council

SA Carers' Reference Group, Department for Families and Communities

SA Community Foodies Alliance

SA Dental Services Consumer Advisory Panel

SA Health and Community Services Skills Board

SA Water Customer Council

ACOSS

Terese Edwards

Is Australia Fair? Is fairness a characteristic that still resonates with Australians, and how, as a society, do we refocus our attention on this iconic characteristic? These are amongst the questions that drive ACOSS and its members, and have resulted in the development of a new initiative known as *Australia Fair*.

We want a country where no Australian is left to struggle on their own. We work towards giving every Australian an adequate standard of living and a fair chance at participating in our economy and society. We seek support from all Australians to help the people who most need it: men, women and children who do not have a secure home, a job, an education, good health and other services they need.

The aim of *Australia Fair* is to engage Australians, seeking support and action for all to think about fairness with the ultimate aim of advancing a fairer Australia that can be enjoyed by all. ACOSS is encouraged by the knowledge that Australians, when asked, indicated their strong agreement for fairness to be an important value in our contemporary society.

Even a cursory examination poses the questions as to why there are increasing numbers of Australians who are not sharing in the wealth. This exclusion occurs despite economic growth, increased prosperity, reduced unemployment and successive large Federal budget surpluses.

We are reminded of the disparity and impact of poverty and disadvantage through...

Poverty postcodes — Increased gap in wealth and income, a growing divide between the haves and the have nots — The ongoing entrenchment of disadvantaged groups — Knowledge that many indigenous Australians experience a lifestyle and opportunities more congruent to that of a third world country — There are approximately two million Australians, including half a million children (aged under 15), who live in households with a weekly disposable income below 50% of the median disposable income — Australia, unlike 22 of the 30 OECD nations, does not have a plan with targets and national strategies to reduce disadvantage in the general society.

ACOSS conducted community consultations in every state and territory and came up with a list of ten essentials to make Australia fair. The list was then blind-tested against telephone polling of a representative sample of the Australian community. There was overwhelming commonality in the ten key essentials that now form the architecture of *Australian Fair*.

Fair Community
Fair Education
Fair Environment
Fair Healthcare
Fair Housing
Fair Reconciliation
Fair Rights
Fair Service
Fair Welfare
Fair Work

ACOSS is committed to the task of providing a range of solutions and recommendations for low income and disadvantaged Australians. The process will include educating the general public about those Australians who are not able to achieve an acceptable standard of living. ACOSS will encourage participation in policy decision relating to fairness and equity and provide analysis on the systemic changes that are needed to achieve greater fairness. The goal of ACOSS is to include a range of voices and involve all sectors of society.

The *Australia Fair* initiative is just one of ACOSS' approaches. If you wish to learn more about the initiative and lend your support to the goal of advancing fairness go to the website – it is a source of readily accessible information and provides a range of options on how to become involved.

www.australiafair.org.au

Centrelink Community Consultative Committee

Andris Banders

The Centrelink Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is one of several opportunities SACOSS uses to have a strong and credible voice in the federal arena to influence, where possible, the effect of Commonwealth Government services on South Australians. Membership of the CCC enables SACOSS to represent the issues and interests of disadvantaged South Australians to the service provider most essential for ensuring basic income security and services for those not in the paid workforce. In this context SACOSS is able to provide feedback on the policies and services of key departments that affect much of the SACOSS constituency. The departments are:

- Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Education, Science and Training
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Communication, Information Technology & the Arts
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Membership of this committee also gives SACOSS the opportunity to comment on other key service agencies including Medicare Australia, Child Support Agency, Health Services Australia, CRS Australia, and Australian Hearing.

2006/07 has been a significant year for the SACOSS constituency in terms of the broader welfare system. There has been a raft of changes to eligibility, payment levels, bonus payments and the further implementation of the Welfare to Work policy. SACOSS attended a post-federal budget live broadcast on 15 May in which these changes were discussed by Chris Ellison, Minister for Human Services and Nigel Scullion, Minister for Community Services.

In the course of the year some of the issues discussed were:

- Changes to the participation requirements for primary carers of children
- Closure of Community Development Employment Programs (CDEP) for Indigenous communities
- Changes to fraud and compliance approaches
- Payments to seniors, carers, students and youth
- Disability Support Pensions (DSP) and Job Capacity Assessments potentially moving people from DSP to unemployment payments
- Breaching and support services
- Availability and resourcing of the Personal Support Program
- Changes to Child Care Tax Rebate
- Increased rate of Child Care Benefit
- Shared Care arrangements and benefits
- Rent Assistance levels and payment to Austudy recipients
- Mobility allowance
- Parenting Payment

In May 2007, the Executive Director and Deputy Director of SACOSS met with Centrelink's Area Manager for South Australia to further advance the representation of issues for disadvantaged households. Specific mention was made of the problems and service issues in regional and rural South Australia and the role SACOSS might play to help ensure people can access the needed services.

In June 2007, SACOSS invited the Centrelink Business Manager, Customer Service Delivery to address its Low Income Support Program workshop. Through participating on the Centrelink Community Consultative Committee, SACOSS has been able to access senior people from Centrelink to help inform the community sector with accurate and timely information as well as maintaining an open communication channel for systemic advocacy and feedback.

Child Protection Interagency Guidelines

Rob Foggo

SACOSS was invited to be a member of both the Steering Committee and the Working Party for the Child Protection Interagency Guidelines. The Terms of Reference for the working party primarily were to “develop a revised Child Protection Interagency Guidelines package and develop protocols and procedures for appropriate information sharing and collaboration between agencies”.

The work of the Steering Committee and Working Party culminated in the production of the *South Australian Interagency Child Protection Information Book Volume 1*. The book provides a broad overview of the range of service providers and their role within the child protection system. It is proposed that a Volume 2 will be developed at a later stage, in which information sharing processes particularly focussing on confidentiality and multi-agency case planning will be explored.

As SACOSS representative, I attended one meeting of the Steering Committee and three meetings of the Working Party. It was quite a frustrating process, with a number of meetings postponed and/or cancelled. In addition, a number of the participants seemed to change over time.

Given these frustrations, and what seemed at times a lack of clarity in how to best deliver on the terms of reference, the production of Volume 1 was a useful outcome. However, in terms of completing the task, the development of Volume 2 will be important.

Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund Board

Chris Halsey

The twelve months covered by this report have seen several changes, mostly positive and enabling the Board to continue to make a helpful contribution to the lives of many South Australian young people who have spent part of their lives under the guardianship of the Minister.

At the end of the last financial year the Executive Officer responsibilities for the DRMTF moved from the Office for Youth to the Community Connect Branch of the Department for Families and Communities. This change has facilitated the capacity of the Board to access key staff within Families SA and progress dialogue about many issues which had been causing concern for some time. Some of these related to ensuring that Families SA regional centre staff had a realistic understanding of what the DRMTF is able to provide, as well as clarifying the responsibilities of both DFC and the Trust in relation to providing for young people who are or have been under guardianship, both while they are in care and when they move to independent living.

Another outcome of the move to DFC has been the helpful role played by the Executive Officer in the onerous task of collating information about applicants' previous requests and getting applications to Board members in a way that enables good decisions to be made. The Trust has "gone green", through the use of transferring information to CDs, meaning all applications are no longer photocopied but are available for reference if more information is needed after the summary is read. We have greatly appreciated the work done by the Executive Officer in streamlining this process whilst not diminishing the Board's capacity to make informed decisions.

A growing concern for the Board members has been, on the one hand, the desire to fund "icing on the cake" things but on the other hand having to fund the provision of basic living requirements as these were the basis of most applications. Discussions were held with Pam Simmons, Guardian for Children and Young People, and also senior Families SA staff in an effort to see how Families SA could more effectively provide for the basics for independent

living and enable the DRMTF to fund more applications for more “qualitative” things, such as recreational fees and uniforms, dental assistance, holidays, house repairs, motor vehicles, education/business opportunities, etc. We are waiting to see if the discussions bring any changes.

Probably the most pleasing news for the year was the announcement that the government would provide one million dollars for young people with disabilities, to be managed by the DRMTF Board, with a separate deed drawn up, and finalised in June 2007. This made quite a difference to decisions that could be made for the May/June round of applications.

One of the more practical outcomes in the past 12 months has been the introduction of some “standard” amounts for a variety of electrical goods, furniture etc, taking into account the access issues for country applications. This has helped the Board to be more equitable in its allocations. No doubt refinements will continue to be made over time.

At the end of 2006 the Chair of the Board, Bill Cossey, announced his resignation. Bill had made a valued contribution and his concerns for the welfare of the applicants as well as his professional capacity were greatly appreciated. The Board has had some other changes in membership, and looks forward to having all vacancies filled. The Hon. Anne Levy has acted as the Interim Chair until a new Chair is appointed.

Despite some difficulties the DRMTF Board has played a positive role over the past 12 months and has actively pursued ways of being more effective. The Board is keen to ensure that the DRMTF is ongoing and not limited to the 10 year life envisaged for the original capital provided, as we know that the assistance sought by applicants makes a big difference to their quality of life. Any advocacy from SACOSS for additional funds for the Trust would be greatly appreciated, especially considering its pivotal role in the initiating of the fund in the first place.

Energy Consumers' Council

Karen Grogan

The establishment of the Energy Consumers' Council (the Council) was a key commitment of the current Government in 2002. The Council is called upon to provide high level policy advice to the Government on energy policy issues, including pricing and the reliability of supplies and services in the South Australian energy sector.

The Council reports directly to Government on a regular basis, thereby allowing representatives of energy users direct access to Government and the ability to have real and practical input into energy policy development.

During 2006/07 the Council provided advice to the Minister for Energy on a range of topics, including comments on reviews conducted by ESCoSA, the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE), the Productivity Commission, and to facilitate the collaborative provision of assistance to energy customers who are experiencing hardship, the Memorandum of Understanding. Other work undertaken included the following topics:

- Disconnections, penalty payments and pre-payment programs
- ETSA Utilities DSM Program
- Inquiry into ETSA Utilities Network Performance and Customer Response
- Federal Government's Solar Cities program
- Energy Rating Label system amendments
- The introduction of Prepayment Meters into South Australia
- Energy concessions for farmers and rural citizens who have been granted Exceptional Circumstance status
- AEMC Transmission Revenue Draft Determination
- Domestic Electricity Consumption of Air-conditioning
- Envestra Gas Distribution Review
- Regulation of the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline System (MAPS)

The Council has also formed two specialist sub-committees for members to concentrate on specific areas of work. Firstly the Demand Side Management (DSM) Sub-Committee, which examines issues associated with managing peak loads, energy efficiency and embedded generation.

And secondly the Special Needs Sub-Committee (SNC), which concentrates on issues of particular concern to low-income and vulnerable consumers. This sub-committee has commenced a study into Energy Efficiency in Rental Premises, work which will continue through the coming year.

The Council has established a website that provides information on the Council, its members, and activities. Minutes of all full meetings of the Council are placed on the site, and copies of background papers and reports are also added from time to time. During 2006/07 the Council's website recorded an average of 250 visits per month.

www.ecc.sa.gov.au

ESCoSA Consumer Advisory Committee

Mark Henley

[ESCoSA – Essential Services Commission of South Australia]

Major Activities

The major developments for the year focused on the move for energy regulation being a state-based activity to the development of a national regulatory structure.

Recall that the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) was established in July 2005 to be the rule-maker for national energy markets. The AEMC is currently responsible for rules and policy advice covering the National Electricity Market. The second body, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) performs economic regulation of the wholesale electricity market and electricity transmission networks in the National Electricity Market (NEM), and enforcement of the National Electricity Law and National Electricity Rules.

In establishing the national energy regulatory structures, there was considerable focus during the year on the work of the Retail Price Working Group which issued a series of discussion papers and then a consolidated paper for consultation.

ESCoSA awarded SACOSS a small grant to enable it to conduct consultations throughout South Australia on key issues from the consolidated paper and to prepare a response to the Retail Policy Working Group. This support from ESCoSA was greatly appreciated.

Also at national level, the Energy Reform Implementation Group was established by COAG (the Council of Australian Governments), to concentrate on transmission, generation and investment in electricity issues. ERIG reported early in 2007.

While these national structural developments were significant during the year, there were a number of important tasks that required ESCoSA attention, including:

- review of distribution delays during a 2006 summer heatwave
- consideration of the extent of competition in energy markets in South Australia
- production of a very useful brochure on 'direct marketing' of energy products, as a guide for consumers
- review of gas access arrangements
- production of a 2007 - 2010 strategic plan for the Commission.

The work of greatest interest to the SACOSS constituency however, was the commencement of the review of the South Australian Electricity Standing Contract Price Path.

The key areas investigated during the price review process were:

- building blocks
- wholesale electricity costs
- retail operating costs
- retail margin
- form of price controls
- average revenue?
- Rebalancing controls?
- Price Path forecasts
- customer numbers and churn
- average consumption

The output of the process will be:

- price determination
- balanced controls (e.g. limiting the extent of Bill moves for the period)
- customer impact analysis.

The initial discussion paper was released in May 2007, with the Price Path to be determined late in 2007 for the following three and half years.

Major issues for the near future

Major work of the next 12 months will certainly include the finalisation of the Retail Price Path process which will almost certainly be followed by a review of the effectiveness of competition in energy markets in South Australia.

The relationship between national and state regulation and regulatory bodies continues to be of concern, particularly given the calibre of the Essential Services Commission of South Australia staff team and Commissioners and their understanding of the South Australian situation.

Is unlikely that a national structure will be able to match the level of expertise, for the South Australian jurisdiction, that ESCoSA has provided for a number of years. The Consumer Advisory Committee is an important consultative group that is taken seriously by ESCoSA and is well supported by expert staff. This process has ensured that the needs and concerns of lower income households concerning this essential service are carefully considered.

Note: Anna Kennett and Mark Henley have also participated in the national energy consumers Roundtable, which has been able to advocate for low income households through the range of developments associated with national energy markets, laws and regulation.

Legal Services Commission

Michael Dawson

The Legal Services Commission (The Commission) has a genuine concern for the poor, disadvantaged and disempowered with an expressed interest in providing services to such members of our community. It is appropriate and beneficial for SACOSS to have a nominee on The Commission to advocate for 'justice for all'. Effective participation in the criminal justice system is in many ways geared for those who can afford the time and/or money to join in the long, drawn out process of determining justice. The Commission does try hard to provide access to the disadvantaged.

In the last year there have been a number of programs which attempt to improve access to all. These have included:

- The inclusion of migration services and special resources for the culturally and linguistically diverse with an increase in community education activities, resulting in a growth in client numbers.
- Providing family law advice in prisons has been particularly busy and increasing gradually over time.
- The telephone help line which is well used and provides a wide range of information and advice.
- An increase of duty solicitors in new country locations who quickly become very busy once they are established. However not all courts provide this service and statewide coverage is important to achieve.
- Out-posting a solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to assist in service provision for Aboriginal people in the Family Law system.
- Joining the education working party established by the Public Advocate to identify issues and strategies.

Other issues of significance which are concerning to me but are being addressed include:

- The sometimes abrupt and legalistic wording of letters from The Commission which can disempower people if they cannot understand them.
- A chronic shortage of State Government funding for The Commission. Most of the Commission's State Government funding is spent in providing

representation for people who are likely to be gaoled for criminal offences. As the effects of the Government's tough law and order policies move through the system, there are more cases requiring representation and the costs per case are increasing.

- A rigorous means test which sometimes leads to denial of application for aid by candidates who have insignificant means. Genuine appeals are recognised in severe cases where other guidelines for eligibility are able to be met.

The next year will present significant funding challenges for the Legal Services Commission if it is to be able to maintain the range and quality of its services.

SA Community Foodies Alliance

Lorraine Kerr

SA Community Foodies Alliance has had considerable difficulties in attracting funding since the last report. The Alliance was initially funded for two years through the Department of Health. That funding ran out in June 2006 and there were discussions about the future of the Alliance. Funding was identified through some savings to pay for the co-ordinator on a part-time (two days per week) basis until the end of September. Further funding was not obtained. The program was implemented originally in Playford, Salisbury, Adelaide Hills, Onkaparinga and Port Pirie. There were preliminary steps taken to try to introduce the program in Mt Gambier and Whyalla, but these were put on hold until funding issues were resolved.

Funding was not obtained and it was then left to the individual regions to continue the project – or not. As the Alliance hasn't been meeting, I can only report on what's been happening with the Playford and Salisbury programs, in partnership with TAFE.

Key outcomes have been:

- There are five active Foodies volunteers;
- A recruitment drive is underway for new volunteers next term;
- As well as their regular meetings, the volunteers get together on a bi-monthly basis for professional development;
- Topics covered in the professional development include specific needs, such as nutrition for infants, pregnant women, and people with coeliac disease;
- Focus of the general program is still on low-income and Indigenous families;
- An emerging issue is to provide cooking and shopping skills for newly arrived migrants, most of whom are humanitarian-stream migrants. This will be a new area of focus for the local groups.

There are discussions about how the Foodies volunteers can work with organisations such as Anglicare to link in with existing programs such as 'Cooksmart' in order to provide assistance in delivering those programs.

SA Dental Service Community Advisory Panel

Julie McMahon

The 2006/07 year has seen many structural changes within the Health Department and therefore the South Australian Dental Service (SADS). There has been a new Minister of Health with a new approach, and a new Director of the Department. The regional boards will be abolished and the CEO of the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS), under which SADS sits, has moved on to another appointment within the Department.

These changes have implications for all health services, including SADS. One of the main impacts for SADS has been on the State Oral Health Plan, lodged with the Minister's office over 12 months ago and yet to be acted on. The Community Advisory Panel (the CAP) spent many hours on it and drafted it four to five times so it is disappointing that there has been no formal action from the Minister. At the top of the Plan was concern for the dental workforce, as attracting and retaining dentists in the public sector has been very difficult. Salaries in South Australia are low in comparison to some other states, hence the industrial action taken by dentists in the latter part of 2007.

The Health boards have been abolished and so now there will be more direct contact with the Minister and the Department and no input from an outside board. We have been assured that the Community and Consumer Participation Framework will continue; it remains to be seen how this will work. We did have a meeting with the Board before its tenure ended, and consumer representatives from all the members of CNAHS attended as well as the Director of each health service. It has been agreed to meet with the Directors of CNAHS on a regular basis so the consumer needs and concerns are discussed at a regional level.

This years SADS Education Day revolved around 'Partnerships'. These included partnerships with General Practitioners, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Community Health Services, Aged Care facilities, the proposed GP Plus Centres and the CAP. The SADS presentation was *Community Partnership – with whom and to what end?* The presentation informed the 450 participants of the

terms of reference for the CAP, namely to advise the Executive Director on matters pertaining to the “operational, policy, strategy and effective consumer participation” and to provide “greater attention and sensitivity to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised consumers and communities”.

The hardship policy that has been in formation for three years is still not finalised but part of it is in operation. This has been a very slow process and to some degree frustrating but it should be in place in the next few months.

We have been pushing for inclusion at the drafting level of policies and procedures rather than at the CAP level only, due to problems especially noticeable when communications such as letters and brochures are prepared; the language is often not appropriate for the patient group. We have been part of two workshops on the waiting lists policy, and also had input into the Relative Needs Index, an emergency triage process for those requiring emergency treatment. Evaluation phone calls are revealing high satisfaction with this pilot so far. At the beginning of the school year the cost of services for students ineligible for free treatment were increased — previously students paid an annual fee to be part of the School Dental Program but received treatment less frequently, on average every 18 months. Now the fee is only paid when a patient is due for treatment. This change is needed, as there has been a sharp increase in the treatment required by children, an increasing worldwide trend. The CAP had much discussion on these changes.

ACOSS released a report entitled *Fair Dental Care for Low Income Earners*, for which the CAP provided information on South Australia; as this has been an election lead-up year, there has been extra lobbying for national dental funding.

The CAP is currently inviting appropriate groups to join, as more groups are needed on the panel. We look forward to a productive year as we advocate for the low income and marginalised people of South Australia.

SA Health and Community Services Skills Board

Jennifer Duncan

SACOSS sits on the SAHCSSB as a representative of employers in the community sector, with the remaining board members drawn equally from employer and employee representative groups within the health and community services sectors. These groups are Business SA; the Department of Health; the Department of Correctional Services; the Department for Families and Communities; the Australian Nursing Federation SA; the Australian Services Union; the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union; the Public Service Association; and SA Unions.

The SAHCSSB is still a relatively young organisation and in June the State Government launched a review of all of the Industry Skills Boards in South Australia, three years after their inception.

Over the 2006/07 year the SAHCSSB underwent a significant period of growth, seeing its staff increase from two to six. Projects have been completed in the following areas:

- Youth workers early stage retention
- Joint Industry Skills Boards workforce project
- Domestic violence industry training and development scoping
- Childcare industry careers action group

Current projects include:

- Sector profiling and workforce development
- Mental health sector workforce development
- National Industry Careers Specialist (NICS)
- Disability workforce development
- Community infrastructure cluster
- Domestic violence online training
- Workforce development and promotion
- Workforce planning conference and awards

In January 2007, SACOSS and the Australian Services Union put forward a joint proposal to establish a project within the SAHCSSB around the key principles of the *Strong Community, Healthy State* campaign. Board members have been receptive to the SAHCSSB funding a project in this area and we are currently discussing the final format of the project.

We are hopeful that this project will be a useful vehicle to strengthen the connection between the SAHCSSB, SACOSS and other peaks and service agencies operating within the community sector. It also has the strong potential to make a valuable contribution to our campaign for additional resources for community organisations, under the banner of the *Strong Community, Healthy State* campaign.

Most vitally, the project would assist in delivering to community organisations greater capacity for workforce planning and development and, thereby, a stronger and more sustainable workforce for community organisations. The end result of this would of course be ever-better services for our clients and greater supports for some of the most vulnerable and in-need members of our community.

SACOSS submissions

Australian Government

- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Australia's Consumer Policy Framework
- Ministerial Council on Energy: Retail Policy Working Group
- Fair Pay Commission

Attorney General's Department

- Discussion Paper on Domestic Violence laws
- Food donor legislation
- Office of Consumer and Business Affairs : Payday lending discussion paper

Department of Premier and Cabinet

- Community Consultation on Young Repeat Offenders

Department for Families and Communities

- Child Protection Action Plan
- Vision Plan for Community Housing
- Affordable Housing Bill
- Housing SA Disruptive tenants strategy

Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology

- Training and Skills Development Act
- Essential Services Commission of South Australia's Electricity Retail Price Path

Industrial Relations Commission of SA

- Inquiry into the impact of Workchoices and Independent Contractors' Legislation on South Australian Workplaces, Employees and Employers.

National Electricity Consumers' Advocacy Panel

- Request for comment on advocacy agenda
- Fixed costs and capacity building projects
- Funding Budget 07-08

South Australian Government

- State Budget Submission 2007-2008
- South Australia's Strategic Plan

South Australian Parliament

- Select Committee on balancing work and life responsibilities
- Economic and Finance Committee, Consumer Credit and Investment Schemes
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Reductions Bill
- Statutory Authorities Review Committee inquiry into the Land Management Corporation

SACOSS Board

11 meetings were held during the Board year (Nov 2006 - Oct 2007)

	attended	eligible to attend
Chairperson		
Simon Schrapel , Anglicare SA	9	11
Deputy Chairperson		
Ian Yates AM , Council on the Ageing	11	11
Treasurer		
Peter Hall , Individual	10	11
Michael Dawson , Victim Support Service	11	11
Marj Ellis , Individual	8	11
Leigh Garrett , Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service	6	11
Karen Grogan , Executive Director – SACOSS	10	11
Karen Hannon , Individual (from June 2007)	4	5
Wendy Malycha , St John's Youth Services	7	11
Sue Park , UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide	10	11
Rochelle Woodley-Baker , Individual	7	11

SACOSS Policy Council

11 meetings were held during the Policy Council year (Nov 2006 - Oct 2007)

	attended*	eligible to attend
<i>Chairperson</i>		
Simon Schrapel, Anglicare SA	10	11
<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>		
Wendy Malycha, St John's Youth Service	10	11
Phillip Beddall, Individual	10	11
Cynthia Betterman, Individual	9	11
Andrew Biven/Lesley Edwards, SANDAS	9	11
Gabrielle Canny, Legal Services Commission	10	11
Ed Carson, University of SA	8	11
Libby Craft, UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide	7	11
Mike Dawson, SACOSS Board	8	11
Jennifer Duncan/Sam Laubsch, YACSA	9	11
Terese Edwards, ANGOSA	9	11
Marj Ellis, Individual	4	11
Rob Foggo, Anglican Community Care	6	11
Karen Grogan, SACOSS Executive Director	10	11
John Haren, St Vincent de Paul Society	10	11
Geoff Harris, Mental Health Coalition	5	7
Vivien Hope, Multicultural Communities Council	8	11
Gail Jackson, YWCA of Adelaide	10	11
Tina Karanastasis, Migrant Resource Centre	6	11
Lorraine Kerr, City of Salisbury	4	11
Frank Lampard, APOSS	5	11
Anna Leditschke/Ngara Keeler, Aboriginal Health Council of SA	5	11

SACOSS Policy Council continued

	attended *	eligible to attend
Martyn Paxton, Volunteering SA	1	5
Anthea Pavy, UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie	11	11
Vicki Radford, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden	10	11
Phil Saunders, Carers SA	10	11
Tom Steeples, Health Consumers Alliance	9	11
Gianna Tridente, Individual	9	11
Rille Walsh, Community & Neighbourhood House Association	6	11
Gary Wilson, Shelter SA	10	11
Rochelle Woodley-Baker, SACOSS Board	6	11
Ian Yates AM, Council on the Ageing	10	11

** includes proxy attendances*

SACOSS Secretariat

Executive Director

Karen Grogan

Deputy Director

Shane Dinnison
Jennifer Duncan *

Senior Administration Officer

Libby Connell

Organisational Support Officers

Kim Rowland
Barbara Stephenson *

Communications Officer

Celia Brissenden

Sector Development Officer

Amanda Shaw *

Policy and Project Officers

Andris Banders *
Cassandra Banders *
Richard Cannon
Margaret-Ann Copeland *
Jodi Goddard *
Anna Kennett
Rob Manwaring

** left during the year*

Volunteers

Nancy Brand, Grethe Brown, Harvey Brown

Student Placement

Richard Cannon

SACOSS Members

Organisational

Aboriginal Health Council of SA
Aboriginal Home Care
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc.
Adelaide City Council - Social Planning Team
Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons
Aged and Community Services SA and NT Inc
Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc
AIDS Council of SA Inc
Alzheimer's Australia SA Inc
Anglican Community Care Inc
Anglicare SA
ANGOSA
ANTaR SA
Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Service
Archway Foundation SA Inc
Arts Access SA Inc.
Attention Disorders Association of South Australia Inc
Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd (SA)
Australian Education Union (SA Branch)
Australian Nursing Federation (SA Branch)
Australian Red Cross (SA Division)
Australian Refugee Association Inc
Australian South East Asian Women's Association Inc
Baptist Community Services (SA) Inc
Barkuma Inc
Birthline Pregnancy Support
Camden Community Centre Inc.
Carers SA Inc.
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Centacare Port Pirie Diocese
Central Domestic Violence Service
Central Northern Adelaide Health Service - Primary Health Care
Churches of Christ CareWorks

City of Onkaparinga
City of Port Adelaide Enfield
City of Prospect - Prospect Library (formerly SWAP Community Information Network)
City of Salisbury
City of Unley
Clubhouse SA Inc
Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Assn Inc.
Community Business Bureau Inc
Community Employers' Association Inc
Community Housing Council of SA Inc
Community Information Strategies Australia Inc
Community Living Project Inc
Council on the Ageing (SA) Inc
Drug Arm Australasia
Flinders University SA Community Health Research Unit
Gawler Community Services Forum Inc
Gay and Lesbian Community Service of SA Inc
Greek Workers Educational Association "Platon" Inc.
Health Consumers Alliance Inc
Health Promotion Branch Dept of Health
Helping Hand Aged Care Inc
Hepatitis C Council of South Australia
Hills Community Options Inc
Homelessness SA Inc
Humanist Society of SA Inc.
Hutt Street Centre Ltd
Individual Supported Accommodation Service Inc
Interchange Incorporated
Kilburn Blair Athol Community Action Group Inc
Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc
Legal Services Commission of SA
Life Without Barriers SA
Lutheran Community Care Inc

Mental Health Coalition of SA Inc
Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia Inc
Migrant Resource Centre of SA
Milang Progress Association Inc
Mission Australia - SA Region
Mount Barker Family House Inc
Multicultural Aged Care
Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc
Murray Mallee Health and Community Services Network
National Council for Single Mothers & Their Children
Network SA
Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre
North East Community Assistance Project Inc
North East Community House Inc
Northern Suburbs Housing Co-operative Inc
Northern Volunteering SA Inc
Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Support Service Inc
Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of SA Inc
Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People
Panic Anxiety Disorder Association Inc.
Para West Adult Campus
Paradise Community Services
People Living With HIV/AIDS (SA) Inc.
People of Logos
Playford Community Fund Inc
Quality Management Services
Relationships Australia (SA) Inc
Remote and Isolated Childrens Exercise Inc
Renmark Paringa Community Centre
Retired Union Members Association Inc
Royal Adelaide Hospital - Staff Counselling and Consultancy
Shelter SA Inc
SHine SA Inc

Social Options Australia
Social Policy Research Group - University of South Australia
South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability Inc.
South Australian Multiple Birth Association Inc
South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association
Southern Volunteering (SA)
SPARK Resource Centre Inc
St John Ambulance Australia SA Inc
St John's Youth Services Inc
St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc
Stable Help Inc
The Broughton Art Society Inc.
The Salvation Army
The Smith Family
The South Australian Financial Counsellors Association Inc
The Women's Housing Association Inc
The Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc
Time for Kids
Toc H South Australia Inc.
Town of Gawler (Community Services Department)
UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Inc
UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc.
UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide Inc
UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie Inc
Victim Support Service Inc
Volunteering SA Inc
Welfare Rights Centre SA
Western Primary Healthcare Service (formerly Dale Street Women's Health Centre)
Women's Community Centre SA Inc
Working Women's Centre SA Inc
Youth Affairs Council of SA Inc
YWCA of Adelaide

SACOSS Members

Individual

Maxie Ashton

Denise Baker

Anna Balassone

Cassandra Banders

Harold Bates-Brownsword

Jo Boulderstone

Phillip Beddall

Frances Bedford MP

Arlette Beelitz

Lisa Beinke

Cynthia Betterman

Jane Borda

Delia Brennan

Graham Brown

Robert Caley

David Cappo

Arnold Cielens

Andrew Clarke

Linda-Jane Copley

Truus Daalder

Pam Dale

Jenny Dawes

Kim Duncan

Jennifer Duncan

Marj Ellis

Chris Field

Margaret Galdies

Andrew Garrett

Michael Garrett

James Garrett

Davinder Gill

Robert Goffin

Ian Goodwin-Smith

Peter Hall

Kris Hanna MP

Kate Hannon

Patricia Hart-Dundon

Lindsay Holmes

Leila Huebner

Richard Hughes

Howard Jillings

Glenys M Jones

Sandra Kanck MLC

Celia Karpfen

Michael Keenan

David Kilner

Peter Lake

Paul Laris

Ann Lawless

Henry Lukowicz

Anne Magarey

Bev Majda

Wendy Malycha

Scott McFarlane

Kathryn McInerney

Julie McMahon

Susan Mitchell

Danielle Mowbray

Dennis Murton

Cheryl O'Brien

Gisela Paine

Christabel Parham

Mark Parnell MLC

Andrea Petersen

Roger Porter

Melissa Raven

SACOSS Members

Individual

Kate Reynolds
Peter Sandeman
Anne Sanders
Andrea Sargent
Phil Saunders
Norma Shepheard
Peter Sherwen
Jenny Slape
Pam Simmons
Heather Southcott
Barbara Stephenson
Jane Tassie
Sue Tester
Katherine Timoshanko
Gianna Tridente
Eugenia Tsoulis
Rhonda Turley
Jane Van Mierle
Fiona Verity
Christopher Wainwright
Jan Wallent
Rhonda Wheatley
Coral Wheaton
Frances Wilde
Glenda Williams
Emma Willoughby
John Wishart
Lee-Ann Woods
Rochelle Woodley-Baker
Jayne Wrigley

Honorary Members

Harvey Brown
Grethe Brown
Brian Butler
Kym Davey
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Gael Fraser
Sheila Hall
Peter Hall
Christine Halsey
Mark Henley
Margaret Hunter
Elizabeth Hutchison
Simon Kneebone
Wendy Malycha
Joy Noble
Louise Portway
Lange Powell
Ruth Prescott
Judith Roberts AO
Brian Ward
Mark Waters
Andrew CB Wilson AM
Michael Wooley
Ian Yates AM

Financial Reports

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

Statement by Board

Income & Expenditure Statement

Balance Sheet

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

Independent Auditors' Report

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Statement by Board

The Board have determined that the South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. (SACOSS) is not a reporting entity.

The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.


In the opinion of the members of the Board the financial report comprising the Income and Expenditure Statements, Balance Sheet and Notes to and forming part of the financial report:

- (a) Present fairly the financial position of SACOSS as at 30 June 2007 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
- (b) As at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that SACOSS will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

During the financial year ended 30 June 2007:

- (a) No officer of SACOSS, a firm of which an officer is a member or a body corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the office, firm or body corporate and SACOSS; and
- (b) No officer of SACOSS has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board and on behalf of the Board by:



Simon Schrapel
Chairperson
20/9/07



Peter Hall
Treasurer
20/9/07

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Notes	<u>2006</u> \$	<u>2007</u> \$
Income			
Grants		506,829	634,791
Member subscriptions and donations		56,510	51,532
Sales and advertising		5,330	2,074
Interest		64,760	75,962
Expense recovery and transfers	4	98,412	96,682
Consultancy fees		11,101	6,976
Sponsorship		5,172	23,955
Conference and other income		22,728	16,639
Total Income		<u>770,842</u>	<u>908,611</u>
Expenses			
Employment expenses		459,165	526,508
Location expenses		53,356	77,557
Supplies		48,013	38,679
Service		67,535	91,598
Reference materials		50,095	15,361
Travel expenses		19,847	18,370
Equipment repairs, purchases and depreciation		5,504	36,093
General expenses		8,007	2,812
Total Expenses		<u>711,522</u>	<u>806,978</u>
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)		59,320	101,633
Transfer from Reserves	3		66,366
Marjorie Black House renovations and expenses			<u>(146,748)</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)		59,320	21,251
Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year		<u>144,727</u>	<u>204,047</u>
Accumulated Funds at the end of the year		<u>204,047</u>	<u>225,298</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Auditor's Report

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2007

	Notes	<u>2006</u> \$	<u>2007</u> \$
Current Assets			
Cash			
Cash On Hand		140	193
Cash at Bank		881,404	734,226
Receivables			
Debtors and Prepayments		9,969	28,698
		<u>891,513</u>	<u>763,117</u>
Non- Current assets			
Investments - Mental Health		328,423	-
Property, plant and equipment	2	3,184	634,587
		<u>331,607</u>	<u>634,587</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,223,120</u>	<u>1,397,704</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Borrowings			
Creditors and Accruals		23,358	19,784
Grants and Funds Received in Advance		589,943	230,578
Membership Fees in Advance		32,061	4,565
Provisions			
Provision for Annual Leave		17,038	31,441
Provision for Long Service Leave		10,697	6,105
Provision for Staff Redundancies		20,898	21,221
		<u>693,995</u>	<u>313,694</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Grants and Funds Received in Advance		-	-
Total Liabilities		<u>693,995</u>	<u>313,694</u>
Net Assets		<u>529,125</u>	<u>1,084,010</u>
Accumulated Funds and Reserves			
Accumulated Funds		204,047	225,298
Reserves	3	325,078	858,712
Accumulated Funds and Reserves		<u>529,125</u>	<u>1,084,010</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Auditor's Report

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

**Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

Note 1 : Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. The Board has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the following Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements:

AAS 5: Materiality

AAS 8: Events Occurring After Reporting Date

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report is prepared on an cash basis, is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policy, which is consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, has been adopted in the preparation of this report.

Income Tax

The organisation is exempt from income tax as a non-profit organisation and funds are not available for distribution to members.

GST

All income and expenditure are stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Comparatives

Where necessary comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with the presentation of current year figures.

Fixed Assets

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful life of the asset commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Assets purchased by grant funding are expensed in the year of purchase.

Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the organisation's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements include annual leave, long service leave, and redundancies where applicable.

Contributions are made by the organisation to superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Revenue

Government and other grants are brought to account as income to the extent to which they have been applied to the intended projects. Amounts received and not yet applied are recorded as liabilities under Grants and Funds Received in Advance.

Membership fees are brought to account as income to the extent to which they represent fees for the current year. Fees received for subsequent years are recorded as liabilities under Membership Fees in Advance.

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Auditor's Report

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

**Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
2. Property, Plant & Equipment		
Marjorie Black House	-	600,000
Office Furniture, Equipment & Software - at cost	105,625	143,550
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>102,441</u>	<u>108,963</u>
	<u>3,184</u>	<u>634,587</u>

The property known as Marjorie Black House was transferred to SACOSS in the year and is disclosed at the Valuer General's valuation as at the transfer date.

3. Reserves

Balance at beginning of year	315,989	325,078
Net interest earned	9,089	-
Bequest - Marjorie Black House		600,000
Funds expended - Marjorie Black House	<u>-</u>	<u>(68,366)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>325,078</u>	<u>858,712</u>

4. Cost Recovery from Projects

SACOSS has a policy of recovering a portion of its administrative costs from projects

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Auditor's Report



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SERVICE INC.

PARTNERS:
Kevin Craddock
James McKenzie
Alexander Reade

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Scope

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2007 as set out on pages 1 to 4. The Board is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act SA 1985 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act SA 1985. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. An audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report is presented fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used and described in Note 1, are appropriate for the needs of the members.



SOTHERTONS ADELAIDE PARTNERSHIP
ABN 88 727 214 354
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Website: www.sotherntons.com.au
Sotherntons: An Association of Independent



We formed our audit opinion on the basis of our procedures, which included examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board. While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of the organisation as at 30 June 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Sothertons

SOTHERTONS
Adelaide Partnership

Alex Reade

ALEX READE

42 Hurtle Square, Adelaide

Dated this *10th* day of October, 2007.

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