



**SACOSS**

*South Australian Council  
of Social Service*

Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians

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# Media Release

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## **New Executive Director for SA Council of Social Service**

**SACOSS, the health and community services peak body, announced today that Executive Director Karen Grogan will finish on Friday 16 October, after five years at the helm. The Board has appointed Mr Ross Womersley, currently CEO of Community Living Project, as the new Executive Director. Ross will begin at SACOSS on Monday 9 November.**

“After five years of outstanding service and leadership, we are farewelling Karen Grogan as the Executive Director of SACOSS” says SACOSS Chair, Simon Schrapel.

“Karen has shepherded through a range of changes during her time at SACOSS, ensuring that SACOSS has retained and indeed strengthened its position as a credible and influential player in the shaping of public policy debate in South Australia. Her resolve and fierce determination have been matched by the nurturing of a broad and respected network of significant operatives and decision makers in the public policy domain.”

Schrapel says, “One of SACOSS’ great strengths over the years has been its ability to regenerate and successfully manage transitions as key people leave and are replaced. Karen’s departure opens the door for a new Executive Director and I am delighted to be welcoming Ross Womersley into the role from early November. Ross comes to SACOSS with impressive credentials and a long term commitment to working within the health and community services sector.”

“Ross has a strong record in promoting the rights and interests of those who find themselves in positions of vulnerability and who are disempowered, particularly for people with a disability. This background, together with Ross’ advocacy and management skills and his social justice values, places him well to take on the challenges that lie ahead.”

“SACOSS is in an excellent position to build on its record in helping to create a fairer and more just South Australia,” says Schrapel. “Karen has played an invaluable role in ensuring that we are in this position and with Ross’ leadership, we can look to the future with confidence.”

Karen leaves SACOSS to take up the position of Director, Centre for Participation and Community Engagement, at the University of South Australia.

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