



Media Release

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SACOSS delighted to welcome Helen Connolly as its new Chair

SACOSS announced today that Helen Connolly has been appointed as the new Chair of its Board and Policy Council. With over 20 years experience serving in frontline and senior leadership positions, Helen is extremely well qualified to contribute to the leadership and governance of SACOSS and will be well known to many people in the community services sector.

Wendy Malycha, who has served the last 12 months as the interim Chair said: "I am delighted that the members of SACOSS Board and Policy Council have seen fit to elect Helen to this role. She has a terrific background across the community services sector, has been a long term supporter of our work, and I believe is extremely well placed to help lead SACOSS policy and advocacy agenda over the next few years."

"In her work role with Anglicare SA, Helen has had responsibility for managing one of the most diverse community services portfolios in the state. I am confident that Helen has an extensive understanding of not only the issues of disadvantage and social justice facing South Australians but also the operating environment of the sector, the issues related to contracting, workforce issues, relationships with governments at all levels and other contemporary community sector concerns."

"Furthermore, Helen has had wide-ranging involvement in both the development and implementation of many new initiatives which engage individuals and communities in crafting alternative workable answers to deep seated problems. This involvement has spanned areas as diverse as intergenerational unemployment, child protection, social enterprise, social housing, environmental programs and disability."

The SACOSS Chair's role is a voluntary role with the incumbent responsible for leading and chairing both the Board and Policy Council and encouraging strong member participation and engagement. The Chair's appointment is for 2 years.

SACOSS Executive Director, Ross Womersley said: "SACOSS was very fortunate to have had several well qualified candidates put themselves forward for consideration and Helen was officially elected at a joint meeting of the Board and Policy Council on the 13th December."

Womersley went on to say: "I am really looking forward to the next couple of years. Helen's energy, passion and leadership in working to achieve a more socially just world are extremely highly regarded. I am also looking forward to working with both of the unsuccessful candidates as SACOSS continues to promote and advocate for forward looking social policy that advantages those members of the South Australian community who face real disadvantage and are vulnerable as a result."

Womersley noted that he again wanted to thank Wendy Malycha for her leadership and support to the Board, Policy Council and for him personally, as he has grown into his new role as SACOSS Executive Director over the last 12 months.