

Role Description

Chair of the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS)

ABN 93 197 662 296

SACOSS's Chair plays a vital role in leading and representing SACOSS, as it pursues its vision of 'Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians'.

The Chair formally chairs both SACOSS's Board, which is responsible for the governance of the organisations secretariat, as well as its Policy Council, which is responsible for identifying the policy direction and priorities for the organisation. The Chair also represents SACOSS at meetings with senior government representatives, including government ministers, as well as on external committees and at other state and national events and forums.

Function

As Chairperson of SACOSS:

- Lead the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities for the leadership and governance of SACOSS.
- Lead Policy Council in fulfilling its role in providing guidance about policy direction and priorities.
- Provide supportive accountability to the Executive Director and facilitate the relationship between the SACOSS Board, Policy Council and secretariat.
- Represent SACOSS and its members at a range of external forums, including but not confined to meetings with senior government representatives, including ministers, external committees and external events and forums.
- Promote and encourage the active participation of all SACOSS members in SACOSS's work.
- Promote strategic thinking and conscious leadership throughout SACOSS.

Qualities Sought

Amongst many other things the following qualities would be essential:

- High level skills and experience as a committee chairperson, with an ability to encourage the participation of diverse memberships.
- Outstanding communication skills, with an ability to be persuasive and perform effectively as the public face of SACOSS in the media and other forums as required.
- A knowledge and understanding of the community services sector , a deep appreciation of the impacts of social disadvantage and a strong commitment to social justice.
- A nuanced understanding of intergovernmental and organisational relationships.
- Able to engage in independent thought and build bi-partisan (multi-party) alliances in response to social issues.

Terms of Appointment

The Chair is elected by a joint meeting of the Board and Policy Council for a two year term.

While the Chair may not be a member of SACOSS, the Chair is obliged to become a financial member once elected to the role.

SACOSS Chair is a voluntary position; travel and incidental costs associated with the role may be reimbursed. Further information is available from the SACOSS Executive Director.

Some intra and interstate travel may be required.

This Role Description was last reviewed in September 2010