OUR VISION
Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians

OUR MISSION
SACOSS does not accept poverty, inequity or injustice.

We will be a powerful and representative voice that leads and supports our community to take actions that achieve our vision.

We will hold to account governments, business, and communities for actions that disadvantage vulnerable South Australians.

OUR GOALS
All social and economic policy in SA ensures all South Australians have their basic human needs met.

South Australia has strong, cohesive community services and health sectors driving social change.

SACOSS is a sustainable, independent organisation equipped to support the community services and health sectors to achieve our vision.
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Chair’s Report
Helen Connolly

The South Australian Council of Social Service is the peak non-government representative body for health and community services in South Australia. Alongside our members and other civil society bodies we are a voice for the interests of low income South Australians. This year we have continued to be a powerful and representative voice that leads and supports our community and sector to build a society that:

- is more equitable
- holds government, community and business to account for actions that disadvantage South Australians
- influences public policy to promote fairer and just access to resources and services

Maintaining clarity of purpose and role within an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous socio-political environment has been a continual challenge. The impacts of the 2014 Federal Budget continued to destabilise the community sector in the past year with service losses and gaps, damaged relationships, inefficient contracting, inadequate funding levels and muffled advocacy voices. The sectors resilience and capacity to advocate for the health and wellbeing of low income people has been tested.

Our members and the sector have however rallied and shown considerable support through their commitment to involvement in the Board, Policy Council, working groups, events representation at conferences and information sessions.

Without the active support of members in information dissemination, advocacy and representation and input into policy submissions our range would not be as far reaching. In particular I would like to highlight our member involvement in the support of our:

- Annual Hardship and Affordability Conference – this year focused on Energy, Water and Telecommunication
- Post Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer
- Aboriginal Youth Justice Report launch
- ACOSS / SACOSS sector briefing

We also continue to work collaboratively with the broader sector and provide practical support to a range of groups and members. Of note this year we:

- Signed up to the Racism. It Stops With Me campaign
- Hosted tables at Reconciliation SA and CEDA events
- Developed collaborative funding bids with Julia Farr, Purple Orange
- Developed joint submissions with ACOSS, Public Health Association, Southgate Institute, Health Carers Alliance and the Aboriginal Social Justice Coalition

I would also like to take the opportunity to draw attention to the work of the SACOSS Policy Council which continues to be a strong and representative mechanism of bringing broad sector input into our work. You can see the list of Policy Council members on page 15, some of whom have left in 2014-15; I would like to thank them all for their significant time and contribution. This year the new Terms of Reference were endorsed. They now reflect the changed relationship between Board and Policy Council as per the new Constitution and outline the process for maximising involvement through active referral of issues from Board to Policy Council and minimising risk.

Risk management and mitigation continue to be key Board priorities with a standing Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Sub Committee. This year the Committee has worked on establishing our risk appetite, developing our risk register, looking at our capacity to have a source of independent income and asset management. As part of our continuous improvement in the governance area this year we did a finance compliance check on organisational systems, which although compliant identified some improvements which have been implemented.

The Board work plan for the year has included some preliminary work to look at the interface of our work in sector governance development, workforce support and workplace safety and the role of an industry body for South Australia. This work will continue as the operating landscape changes. Our work in sector development also
continues supported through funding particularly in the public health areas and SafeWork SA.

“Our strong advocacy work in relation to taxation continued this year. With financial support from the state government we have been supported to build on our pre-election tax campaign and contribute to the State Government Tax Review and the work of the federal government in this area. Our expertise in areas like tax, energy and water is continuing to grow and develop and we are ably supported by a strong policy team whose work is increasingly referenced by many people of influence within South Australia. Our role in these areas continues to be focused on supplying the sector to engage in the debate and represent the interests of low income South Australians in areas where our voices are otherwise relatively silent.

I am extremely privileged to work on the Board with a group of competent and committed senior leaders in their fields. They spend many hours of voluntary endeavour on behalf of SACOSS. This year we farewelled Nicole Chaplin who was a valuable contributor to the board, and our Treasurer Monique Palmer who provided regular and valued finance support and oversight for staff. We thank them both for their service.

Finally on behalf of the Board I convey our appreciation and high regard for the whole staff team of SACOSS who ably and professionally represent the organisation in all that they do. In particular the Board thanks Libby Connell for her work in supporting the Board, and Ross Womersley for his excellent leadership of the organisation and the sector.

BOARD MEMBERS 2014-15

Helen Connolly Chair
Emma-Louise Crosby Treasurer
Michael Dawson
Patsy Kellett
Peter Sandeman
Paul Scully
Matthew Woodward
Ross Womersley – ex-officio

(Left SACOSS Board in November 2014):
Monique Palmer Treasurer
Nicole Chaplin
No year at a small, poorly resourced peak body is ever likely to be a slow one, but this one seems to have flown by, with countless issues demanding our attention and response. And of course that itself is a problem. We get caught reacting to all the issues that arise and that others are seeking responses to, and as a result our eyes and efforts directed at longer term change get to put to the side.

And this financial year has thrown up no end of other issues that we have had to respond to. Many of these are on display throughout this report but I wanted to highlight a few of the issues that have framed our advocacy over the last year.

On a local front we continued to see the consequences and impacts of South Australia’s changing economic context. Growth is at significantly lower levels than ever hoped, mining activities have slowed, and our advanced manufacturing sector continues to shrink while unemployment, and more particularly underemployment, continues to rise.

The state government was being challenged by real and projected reductions in Commonwealth funding across health and education portfolios, but at the same time found itself welcoming an unexpected increase in GST distributions. Its response in this year’s State Budget was to make very significant tax cuts to business, hoping that this would build confidence and encourage both immediate and longer term new investment activity.

The state government also commenced a series of reform processes focused on health, disability justice, taxation, planning, child protection, and justice. The federal government has had its own reform agenda with a major focus on the federation, competition policy and taxation, and of course was engaged in reconstructing the delivery of social services while imposing huge cuts on the funding available.

Funding for a number of national peak bodies had been removed, and despite some new and helpful measures introduced in Budget 2015 (including more tax cuts for small business), the long shadow of many harsh savings measures introduced in Budget 2014 – including those that would result in unemployed young people being denied access to income support for up to 6 months – continued to hang over everything.

This for me illustrated our great advocacy dilemma. We know we have a growing issue with unemployment – especially amongst young people in SA - which results from major structural issues in our economy. More importantly, there is already widespread agreement that the current level of Newstart allowance must urgently be increased by at least $50 per week in order to become barely liveable. And yet, our federal government suggested that any of young people up to the age of 30 who couldn’t find employment should simply go without any income support for 6 months at a time. All in the name of achieving budget savings.

Clearly there are so many other places we could go to find the savings that won’t have the direct and diabolical impact measures such as this are likely to have. The Council of Social Service (COSS) network actively supported our national cousin ACOSS in identifying where the alternative revenue might be available – why not rescind generous tax concessions given to high earning superannuants or capital gains tax concessions?

Needless to say the thing that has been most disappointing about this whole situation is that despite strong public concern, countless well supported arguments and clear political opposition in the Senate, the best the federal government was prepared to concede was to limit the proposed Newstart waiting period to four weeks. Fortunately, since the end of the financial year the Labor Party, Australian Greens, and Senators Ricky Muir, Nick Xenophon, Jacqui Lambie, Dio Wang, and Glenn Lazarus listened to widespread community concerns and joined together in the Senate to defeat the bill.
What it illustrates though, is the challenge we sometimes face as we seek to protect the interests of some of our most vulnerable citizens. I am proud of the work done by the national COSS network and led by ACOSS, which ultimately resulted in this measure being defeated.

I am also extremely proud of our work on other fronts. We are leading thinking about the role taxation plays in ensuring the long term availability of vital community services. We have demonstrated the capacity for workplaces across our sector to become a focus for the health of our workforce. We demonstrated the unacceptable overrepresentation of young Aboriginal people in our detention system. We led regulatory processes that resulted in the average household getting a $200 per year discount on their electricity bill. We have challenged the way in which the sector relates to government at both state and federal levels. We have helped shape a public discussion about the place of recognition. We have hosted a series of very successful events that have brought together stakeholders from business, academe, our sector and the community more broadly to consider and address justice, poverty and how we might better share our wealth.

We have every right to feel proud of our efforts. We have worked hard to strengthen our relationships with government at a political and bureaucratic level, and to build our relationships with stakeholders from other sectors. While undoubtedly still modest, and despite my lament we don’t have access to funding for specialist policy resources in justice and in health, we have benefited enormously from access to funding and resources from a wide range of sources, including core peak body funding from the Department of Communities & Social Inclusion (DCSI).

Every day I enjoy the support of a talented secretariat team, a helpful and collaborative Policy Council, and a thoughtful constructive Board prepared to take important risks if it means we make progress on our ambition to do away with poverty and disadvantage.

I am extremely grateful to all of you who support us on this journey because in the end it is only this support that has enabled us to do so many of those things suggested above.

In thanks and solidarity, Ross

[Signature]
2014-15 in Numbers

1 new SACOSS Constitution

600 consumers surveyed to continue to build the evidence base for our energy campaigns

22 Board & Policy Council meetings

1 major Hardship & Affordability conference

4 big SACOSS branded events and conferences

And dozens of events to support the development of our sector

90 editions of SACOSS’ radio shows Small Change and Conversations About Recognition

200 (ish) Small Change and Conversations About Recognition podcasts
Over 50 Reports/Submissions/Fact Sheets produced

Countless conference and workshop presentations

At least 20 thrilling overs of Marjorie Black House hallway cricket

And 2 runs made before one SACOSS staff member was dismissed just 98 runs short of their century...Marvellous.

18 000 SACOSS website visitors

70 000 SACOSS website page views
FULFILLING OUR ROLE AS A PEAK BODY

SACOSS is the independent peak body for the non-government health and community services sector in South Australia.

We have a number of key roles, including:

> To represent the sector and advocate on behalf of disadvantaged South Australians

> Research, policy development and advice to government on issues affecting disadvantaged South Australians and the sector that serves them

> To disseminate important information from the community sector from the community sector, government, and other sources to our members and the broader community

> To consult with, and coordinate the sector to ensure unity and collaboration

> To build the capacity of the health and community services

SACOSS’ purpose is to influence public policy in a way that promotes fair and just access to the goods and services required to live a decent life.

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Representation

MEMBERSHIP

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES
Membership

SACOSS Organisational Members 2014-15

(organisations financial between July 2014-June 2015)

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc
AC Care
Adelaide City Council - City Community Program
Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons
Aged and Community Services SA and NT Inc
Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc
Anglicare SA
Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd (SA)
Australian Education Union (SA Branch)
Australian Health Promotion Association SA
Australian Refugee Association Inc
Australian Services Union
Baptist Care (SA) Inc
Barkuma Inc
Better Hearing Australia (Adelaide)
Birthline Pregnancy Support Inc
Brain Injury Network of South Australia Inc
Camden Community Centre Inc
CARA Inc
Carers SA Inc
CBB the not4profit people
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Centacare Catholic Family Services CDPP
Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia Inc (SA)
Chinese Welfare Services of SA Inc
Churches of Christ CareWorks
Citizen Advocacy South Australia
City of Onkaparinga Clubhouse SA Inc
Community Centres SA
Community Housing Council of SA Inc
Community Living Project Inc
Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc
COTA SA
Darwin Health Library
Diompillor Kissia SA Inc
DOME Association Inc
Drug Arm Australasia
Endeavour Foundation
Goodwood Community Services
Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc
Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc
Hepatitis SA Inc
Hills Community Options Inc
Hutt Street Centre Ltd
Inclusive Sport SA Inc
Indigenous Community Volunteers
Individual Supported Accommodation Service Inc
Influences Care
Interchange Incorporated
Julia Farr Group
Junction Australia Ltd
JusticeNet SA
Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc
Legal Services Commission of SA
Life Without Barriers SA
Lutheran Community Care
Marion Life Community Services Inc
Mental Health Coalition of SA Inc
Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia Inc
Migrant Resource Centre of SA

Membership of SACOSS leads to positive social change in South Australia by supporting SACOSS to campaign for social justice.

SACOSS welcomes and encourages member participation in a variety of activities that enhance the voice of the community on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. Membership of SACOSS supports our vital and successful campaigning for social justice.

www.sacoss.org.au/membership

10 SACOSS 68th Annual Report 2014-15
Milang & District Community Association Inc
Mission Australia - SA Region
Multicultural Aged Care Inc
Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc
Neami National
Network SA
Northern Community Legal Service
Northern Suburbs Housing Community Inc
Northern Volunteering SA Inc
OARS Community Transitions
Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People
Pangula Mannamurna
Parkinson’s South Australia Inc
Positive Life SA
Quality Innovation Performance
Reconciliation South Australia Inc
Relationships Australia SA Inc
Riding for the Disabled Association SA Inc
SA Country Carers
SA Unions
Safer Communities Australia Inc
Seniors Information Service Inc
Service to Youth Council
SHine SA Inc
Social Policy Research Group - University of South Australia
South Australian Financial Counsellors Association Inc
South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association
SPARK Resource Centre Inc
St John’s Youth Services Inc
St Vincent de Paul Society SA Inc
Stable Help Inc
Statewide Superannuation
STTARS - Survivors of Torture & Trauma
The Broughton Art Society Inc
The Salvation Army
The Smith Family
The Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc
Time for Kids
Uniting Communities
UnitingCare SA
UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc
UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Incorporated
UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide Inc
Unity Housing Company Ltd
Victim Support Service Inc
Vietnamese Women’s Association SA Inc
Welfare Rights Centre SA
West Coast Youth & Community Support Inc
Working Women’s Centre SA Inc
Youth Affairs Council of SA Inc
YWCA of Adelaide

Lifetime Members

Phillip Beddall
Grethe Brown
Harvey Brown
Brian Butler
Ed Carson
Kym Davey
Michael Dawson
Marj Ellis
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Gael Fraser
Leigh Garrett
Daphne Gum
Peter Hall
Sheila Hall
Christine Halsey
Mark Henley
Simon Kneebone
Wendy Malycha
Margaret McKenzie
Joy Noble
Louise Portway
Lange Powell
Ruth Prescott
Judith Roberts
Simon Schrapel
Pam Simmons
Brian Ward
Mark Waters
Andrew B Wilson
Ian Yates AM
Representatives and nominees of SACOSS sat on the following boards and committees in 2014-15. SACOSS thanks them all for their time and commitment.

ACOSS Board of Governors
Helen Connolly

Courts Administration Authority Community Relations Committee
Susan Errington

Dame Roma Mitchel Trust Fund for Children and Young People
Colleen Fitzpatrick

Energy Consumers’ Council
Rosalyn Williams

Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) Consumer Advisory Committee
Mark Henley, Ross Womersley

Legal Services Commission Board
Michael Dawson

Planning and Reform Reference Group
Ross Womersley

SA Dental Service Consumer Advisory Panel
Libby Craft

SA Water Residential Customer Council
Ross Womersley

UniSA Communications & Media Advisory Panel
Marnie Round

UniSA School of Psychology and Social Work Advisory Committee
Ross Womersley

SA National Framework for Child Protection Partnership Group
Simon Schrapel

Schools as Community Hubs
Ross Womersley
Research, Policy Development, Advice

RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

ADVICE

ADVOCACY
Research

REPORTS

SACOSS has published a number of significant research reports in recent years on issues affecting the community and social services sector, or which impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Unlike submissions, which can be a response to formal government processes, research reports usually arise from issues identified as important by the sector. In some cases the research might be specifically funded by government, while in other cases (e.g. Cost of Living and Anti-Poverty Week reports) we have developed the research from our own resources.

June 2015
> Independence in the Not-for-Profit Sector (joint SACOSS/ACTOSS report)

May 2015
> State of the South Australia Energy Market 2014
> Cost of Living Update No. 22 - Telecommunications

April 2015
> Smart Meters Masterclass Final Report
> The Death Spiral – Supporting ‘On Grid’ Consumers

March 2015
> Justice or an Unjust System? Aboriginal Over-representation in South Australia’s Juvenile Justice System

December 2014
> National Disability Insurance Scheme: Towards a Paradigm Shift for Disability Services?

November 2014
> Better Practice Guideline for Energy Retailers: A Collaborative Approach for Preventing Hardship Amongst Energy Consumers

October 2014
> Single Concession Payment Concept

August 2014
> South Australian Disconnection Project

July 2014
### Policy Development

#### POLICY COUNCIL 2014-15

The SACOSS Policy Council, drawn from the SACOSS membership, develops policies relevant to the sector and helps to plan and develop key areas of social policy development work. Policy Council members hold office for two year terms and are elected in different categories set out in the SACOSS Constitution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Description</th>
<th>Person Elected /Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chair</strong></td>
<td>Helen Connolly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Board Reps**       | Nicole Chaplin (until November 2014)  
                       Patsy Kellet                   |
| **Peak Org Reps**    | Andris Banders              
                       Anne Bainbridge               
                       Albert Barelds                
                       Michael Cousins               
                       Geoff Harris                  
                       Vivien Hope                   
                       Gill McFadyen                 
                       Michael White                
                       SANDAS (until April 2015)     
                       YACSA                         
                       CAFWA (from December 2014)     
                       Health Consumers Alliance (from February 2015) 
                       Mental Health Coalition SA    
                       MCCSA (December 2014-January 2015) |
| **Reps of NGOs**     | Kathy Binks                 
                       Jessie Byrne                 
                       Professor Ed Carson          
                       Nicole Chaplin               
                       Nahtanha Davey               
                       Susan Errington              
                       Leanne Gassner               
                       Louise Kelly                 
                       Jane Longbottom              
                       Helen Lockwood               
                       Mariann McNamara             
                       Italia Mignone               
                       Jane Mussared                
                       Meredith Perry               
                       Holly Skene                  
                       Mark Waters                  
                       Uniting Communities          
                       COTA SA (until April 2015)    
                       SPRG UniSA (until November 2014) 
                       St Johns Youth Service (from December 2014) 
                       BINS (from May 2015)          
                       Legal Services Commission    
                       Baptist Care                 
                       OARS/Community Transitions    
                       Life Without Barriers (until November 2014) 
                       Lutheran Community Care      
                       BINS (until April 2015)       
                       Multicultural Aged Care (from February 2015) 
                       COTA SA (from May 2015)       
                       UCW Port Adelaide (until November 2014) 
                       Shine SA (until November 2014) 
                       Reconciliation SA            |
| **Reps of Aboriginal NGOs** | Kate Braham  
                           Karen Glover                   |
| **Reps of non-metro NGOs** | Rob Foggo  
                           Anthea Pavy                      |
| **Individual Members** | Phillip Beddall (Deputy Chair)  
                           Angela de Conno (until November 2014)  
                           Pas Forgione (co-opted member from March 2015)  
                           Paul Laris                         
                           Jane Longbottom (from December 2014) |
KEY POLICY ISSUES

SACOSS has focused on a number of key issues this year including continuing to lobby for a fair and sustainable tax system.

Tax

Building on the momentum of the “Without Taxes Vital Services Disappear” campaign in the lead up to the last South Australian state election, SACOSS has continued to advocate for policies to make the tax system fairer and to ensure that governments have an adequate revenue base to fund vital services.

Throughout the year, SACOSS fed into and supported ACOSS’ national advocacy which has been successful in getting the issue of tax expenditures (the revenue forgone by tax concessions) on the agenda. Key amongst these are the overly generous tax concessions for superannuation which predominantly benefit those who already have significant resources, and negative gearing - which coupled with capital gains discounts for housing has distorted the housing market, given a bonus to investors and not necessarily led to more affordable housing.

SACOSS has also continued to raise concerns about proposals to increase the GST or to broaden its base to include items like fresh food which are currently exempt. Because low income people spend a greater proportion of their budget (while higher income households can save), the GST hits them disproportionately hard. Any increase in GST would mean an unfair increase in their taxes while those with a greater capacity to pay would be taxed proportionately lighter.

As a state Council of Social Service though, SACOSS’ primary role is on state matters and we were pleased that in February, the South Australian government launched a major review of state taxation. SACOSS did considerable work in developing a response to that review, which the Treasurer publicly hailed as the best submission received.

The SACOSS submission responded to one of the big ideas floated in the government’s discussion paper, namely replacing stamp duties on house sales with an annual land tax, by recognising the problems with stamp duties but also working out the key issues that would need to be addressed to make the policy work fairly, SACOSS also commented on a range of other issues in the paper, but went beyond the existing taxes to propose investigation of other ways to raise revenue needed to fund services and address poverty and inequality. These included a congestion/car park tax, a disused buildings tax and inheritance taxes.

The SACOSS submission to the state tax review sets out a broad agenda for tax reform and provides a foundation for SACOSS’ ongoing advocacy around tax issues.

Read the full SACOSS state tax review submission at sacoss.org.au/submissions
Fairer to base our taxes on household values: Report

SA: South Australia aims for big tax reforms

State hits a $50m jackpot

Budget ‘spark for risk-takers’

Social services fight for funding

Social service suggests tax reforms

In Brief

TAX MEDIA
Aboriginal Youth Justice

Growing from our work with the South Australian Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice (see SACOSS Annual Report 2013-14), in April this year we launched Justice or an Unjust System? - a significant report into the continuing over-representation of Aboriginal young people in South Australia’s juvenile justice system. The research project involved interviews with 24 key stakeholders from the juvenile justice system.

The concept of over-representation relates to the discrepancy between the rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people’s involvement in the justice system. Our report focused on the custodial and non-custodial systems applying to a young person once a breach of the law has been identified. Significant over-representation is clear in these parts of the system.

The issues considered in the report are complex and cross over a number of government departments and ministerial portfolios. SACOSS briefed the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Minister for Youth/Communities and Social Inclusion and the Minister for Education and Child Development regarding the report, and met with a number of MPs with shadow portfolios and/or related interests.

Currently, SACOSS is partnering with the Department for Communities & Social Inclusion (DCSI) in a community development project that builds the findings of our report and the existing work of the Aboriginal community in northern metro Adelaide. The project will support the community to consider early intervention approaches to reduce the number of Aboriginal young people coming in contact with the justice system in the local area.

SACOSS’ KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

> South Australia’s youth justice policies and practices should be informed by principles of self-determination – of involving and empowering Aboriginal people at all levels of the system.

> The state government should develop an Indigenous Justice Agreement in partnership with local Aboriginal communities and organisations. Such an agreement would cover all aspects of the justice system, but also contain youth justice specific programs and policies and would be the cornerstone for all subsequent policy, practice, evaluation and monitoring.

> Justice Reinvestment initiatives should be developed specifically targeting overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system.

Aboriginal young people

- 4% of the total population aged 10-17 years
- 34% of young people under community-based supervision
- 46% of young people in detention
- 12.5 times likely to be in the juvenile justice system than non-Aboriginal young people
- 19.7 times more likely to be in detention than non-Aboriginal young people

Economic costs

Incarceration
= $1,000 per young person per day

Community supervision
= $73 per young person per day

$13.3m per year
spent on detention and non-custodial supervision of Aboriginal young people

(Productivity Commission, 2015, Tables 16A.9, 16A.10).
ABORIGINAL YOUTH JUSTICE REPORT LAUNCH AND MEDIA COVERAGE

On 1 April 2015 the SACOSS report *Justice or an Unjust System? Aboriginal Over-representation in South Australia’s Juvenile Justice System* was formally launched by Justice John Sulan, Justice of the Supreme Court of SA, and Khatija Thomas, SA Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement.

While our report focused on South Australia, the issue of over-representation of Aboriginal young people in juvenile justice systems across Australia is prevalent. The report received significant local media coverage, and national media coverage through SBS and NITV, as well as CAAMA radio in the Northern Territory.

Halting youth offending rate ‘could save millions’

SOUTH Australia could save more than $12m a year if it addressed over-representation of Aboriginal people in the juvenile justice system, a report says.

The SA Council of Social Service today launches a report which finds Aboriginal youths are 19 times more likely to be in detention than their non-Aboriginal peers. The peak welfare body argues that more resources should be targeted at addressing the causes of disadvantage.

It is also calling on the State Government to more formally involve Aboriginal South Australians in its approach to tackling the problem.

The SA Council of Social Service today launches a report which finds Aboriginal youths are 19 times more likely to be in detention than their non-Aboriginal peers. The peak welfare body argues that more resources should be targeted at addressing the causes of disadvantage.

It is also calling on the State Government to more formally involve Aboriginal South Australians in its approach to tackling the problem.
Utilities

SACOSS has an ongoing program of work related to energy and water. The focus is on preventing financial hardship, achieving affordability, facilitating social and financial health and wellbeing, and supporting government and businesses in dealing with their customers and communities.

BETTER PRACTICE GUIDELINE

In November 2014, SACOSS released the Better Practice Guideline for Energy Retailers - a collaborative approach to preventing hardship amongst energy consumers. The overarching guideline objective is to work towards minimising the financial stress experienced by vulnerable energy consumers.

There are Five Better Practice Principles that support the objective and highlight the priority issues experienced by vulnerable energy consumers. These are:

1. Early intervention
2. Customer focused capacity to pay
3. Collaborative partnerships
4. Measurable outcomes
5. Hardship policies

$50

The increase to both the energy concession and Medical Heating and Cooling Rebate

While the prospect of continued increases in the price of gas remain in SA, SACOSS welcomed the state government decision to increase concessions from 1 July 2014 following a slowing in the growth of electricity prices.

The 2014-15 State Budget provided $12m to provide a $50 p.a. increase to both the energy concession and Medical Heating and Cooling Rebate (to $215 p.a. max. each).
$197

How much less SA consumers will be paying each year for electricity

SACOSS has welcomed the plan that SA Consumers will be paying $197 less under the AER Decision on SA Power Networks’ Regulatory Proposal, announced 30 April 2015.

SACOSS had previously called for a cut of at least $193 per customer, so we were extremely heartened by the AER SA Power Networks Preliminary Decision for 2015-20.

From the outset, SACOSS argued that SA Power Networks’ proposal was a misread of SA Power Networks’ role in the SA economy and its entitlement to a share of household budgets. The AER Decision returns prices to pre GFC levels, which means there will be more households and small businesses with the capacity to pay electricity prices.

South Australian households have endured steep electricity price increases during the current five-year regulatory period that have not been matched by increases in the community’s capacity to pay.

205,000

The number of households across South Australia to benefit from the new SA Cost of Living Concession

SACOSS welcomed the state government’s announcement on 14 May 2015 that saw the introduction of a new Cost of Living Concession. The concession was partly in place of the local government pensioner rates concession, but with the addition that pensioners and low income renters will also benefit with a new $100 per year payment to help offset very real cost of living pressures. In fact, the announcement pushed a modest increase in the value of the concession to those households ($190 increased to $200).

This new concession addresses an inequity SACOSS has always argued as unreasonable: the existing concession was limited to home owners while pensioners who were renting their houses were left without any assistance, despite often facing higher housing costs with lower incomes. By extending this new concession to include a $100 payment for pensioners and low income households who are tenants, the SA government has extended support to those who really need it.

The decision was welcomed by South Australian pensioners and low income households, and ended months of uncertainty about the future of the rates concession after the federal government cancelled concession-related funding to the states in its Federal Budget.

93%

Number of respondents who wanted to see a reduction in the price of electricity (SACOSS survey of 600 consumers about electricity prices)
SACOSS UTILITIES EVENTS

The Death Spiral: Supporting ‘On Grid’ Consumers | 21 November 2014
Smart Meters Masterclass | 3 December 2014
Energy Round Table, Sydney | 23 – 24 October 2014
Energy Round Table, Hobart | 26 – 27 February 2015
Energy Round Table, Melbourne | 11 – 12 June 2015

Adelaide Oval provided the green backdrop for SACOSS to deliver another thought-provoking and engaging major conference event for 2014-15.

The day’s sessions highlighted key issues of energy, water and telecommunications hardship, showcased examples of best practice in dealing with customers in financial difficulty, and demonstrated how consumers are engaged in the development of hardship and affordability measures.

WATER REFORM

In 2014-15 SACOSS lobbied strongly and worked across all of the parliamentary parties and cross benchers to protect SA Water customers from future price increases related to third party access.

SACOSS was delighted with the move by the South Australian government to amend its Water Industry (Third Party Access) Amendment Bill 2015 in June 2015.

In South Australia we are faced with an immature and emerging water market with very divergent interests between consumers. SACOSS had serious concerns about the impact of the Water Industry Bill on the prices paid by water consumers. Specifically, SACOSS was concerned that opening up third party access provisions could reduce the income available to SA Water, which would lead to it charging its remaining consumer base higher prices as it seeks to maintain its revenue.

In response to action by the cross benchers, the SA government said, “...in response to concerns raised by [SACOSS] and others and to provide further comfort to existing customers that they will not be impacted by new access contracts...moved an amendment to the Bill that requires the arbitrator to take into account any direction that I give to SA Water under section 6 of the Public Corporations Act 1993...It is my intention to provide SA Water with a direction to base negotiations for access prices on retail price less avoidable costs” (Minister Ian Hunter, letter to SACOSS 7 July 2015).

SACOSS was extremely supportive of this move.
Gas propels unpaid bill surge

David Nankervis

Household electricity bills are at an all-time high and rising faster than the average cost of living, according to the Australian Energy Regulator.

The regulator has announced a new proposal that could lead to a $1.4 billion increase in household bills over the next two years, with an initial increase of $565 million.

The proposal is expected to affect around 3 million households and is aimed at recovering the costs of recent investments in the electricity grid.

The regulator says the increase is necessary to ensure that the electricity system remains safe and reliable.

However, many consumers have expressed concern about the proposed changes.

“While I understand the need to invest in the grid, this proposal could put a real strain on many families,” said one consumer.

The regulator has invited public submissions on the proposal until 30 June.

Power company fined for cut-offs

David Nankervis

Energy retailer AGL has been fined $40,000 for disconnecting electricity from nine customers who were on hardship payment programs.

It is understood the company was fined $20,000 for cutting power to five customers in this state and $20,000 for disconnecting four from NSW.

Under national energy regulations, companies are required to disconnect electricity only if customers are unable to pay their bills.

The SA Council of Social Service said yesterday AGL’s plan to reduce its expected $300 million shortfall by disconnecting customers was “socially irresponsible”.

However, AGL said the move was necessary to maintain the reliability of the grid.

Solar win a loss for battlers

David Nankervis

Households with solar panels will make bigger savings on energy bills at the expense of people who are struggling to pay their bills.

The introduction of smart meters and the rising cost of coal are expected to push up electricity prices, making it harder for some to pay their bills.

However, households with solar panels will now receive a smaller discount on their electricity bills.

This is due to a new policy that will see the discount reduced from $100 to $88.

The change is expected to affect around 100,000 households with solar panels in South Australia.

Solar Citizens, a group that represents solar homeowners, has expressed disappointment at the decision.

“Solar is a win for the battlers,” said the group’s executive director.

The changes are expected to come into effect later this year.
Cost of Living

Cost of living pressures impact on all households, but when costs for basic necessities like housing, utilities, food, health and transport increase, it is a particular problem for low income households.

These basic necessities make up a greater proportion of the expenditure of low income households than for other households, so price rises have a disproportionate impact on those who already have less room to move in their household budget. This is especially the case when incomes and income support payments fail to keep pace with price rises.

SACOSS’ cost of living advocacy focuses on the plight of poorer households, and demands policies that will provide relief to vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. Our advocacy includes regular media commentary, lobbying of governments, and the production of quarterly Cost of Living Updates. These research reports utilise three different ABS data sets to provide an indication of cost of living pressures for low income households.

SACOSS continued to be active in relation to cost of living issues throughout the year, producing our Cost of Living Update in each quarter with feature editions in the June 2014 and March 2015 quarters.

JUNE QUARTER 2014

HEALTH COSTS

The impact of health costs on household budgets was highlighted in August (June Qtr 2014), as health prices increased at more than twice the general inflation rate over the last decade. This Cost of Living Update was particularly important in the light of changes (then) proposed in the Federal Budget, such as Medicare co-payments and changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which would have increased health prices and made services more inaccessible for low income households. Fortunately, the proposed co-payment was abandoned, but increasing health prices remain a concern.

MARCH QUARTER 2015

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COSTS

Like other utilities, telecommunications expenditure is essential, a significant part of the household budget, and regressive in that low income households spend proportionately more on telecommunications than other households. The good news is that over recent years telecommunications costs have decreased markedly in real terms. But as technology, social expectations and government policy has changed, telecommunication usage has skyrocketed. This Cost of Living Update highlighted a number of premiums on poverty in telecommunications charges, and called for a re-thinking of concession payments as the existing Commonwealth Telephone Allowance is limited and out of date with current technology and society.

COST OF LIVING ADVOCACY WINS

SACOSS has used its Cost of Living Updates as evidence to advocate for the implementation of a number of key initiatives and policy changes.

- On 1 July 2014 the SA Energy Concession increased by $50p.a.
- SA’s first Consumer Credit Legal Service opened Development of Good Shepherd Microfinance’s Good Money shopfront program in Salisbury to assist those in financial trouble.
- SA State Budget announcement of new cost of living concession This replaces the pensioner council rate concession and will commence in July 2015
Child Protection

Following the harrowing and high profile deaths of at-risk children known to Families SA and still living in the family home, and the charging (and subsequent conviction) of a Families SA carer for the abuse of children in his care, the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission was implemented to inquire into the adequacy of the legislation governing the SA’s child protection system, and of the policies, practices and procedures of SA’s child protection authorities and other government and non-government organisations charged with the care and protection of children deemed at risk.

This South Australian Royal Commission adds to the momentum created by the national Royal Commission inquiring into abuse of children in institutional settings across Australia.

SACOSS advocacy around child protection has focused on long-delayed reform of many elements of the current system, and on addressing the many social determinants that are correlated with inadequate and abusive parenting.

SACOSS SUBMISSION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROYAL COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION

Following SACOSS’ critique of the narrowness of the draft Terms of Reference of the Commission, this submission argues for a broad view which sees that an effective child protection system should support families to thrive through measures that react meaningfully, flexibly and considerately to at-risk families and children, and should seek to diminish the wider societal drivers of abuse and neglect.

CHILD PROTECTION ON SACOSS RADIO

In a three-part series on our SACOSS radio show, Small Change, we brought together a group of child protection experts to share important perspectives on the state of our system in South Australia. Joining SACOSS Executive Director Ross Womersley was CAFWA Executive Director, Albert Barelds, Professor Fiona Arney from the Australian Centre for Child Protection, and Pam Simmons, Guardian for Children and Young People.

You can listen to and download the podcasts at:

TEN POINT PLAN FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In April 2015, SACOSS endorsed the Ten Point Action Plan released by CAFWA which calls for the urgent appointment of a children’s commissioner or ombudsman, the development of an engagement strategy with the sector from government, and promotes a joint planning and resource allocation strategy to define and address well known short, medium, and longer term issues in the system.

You can download the CAFWA Ten Point Action for Child Protection at www.childandfamily-sa.org.au
In May 2015, the state government announced its intention to change the Skills For All work training scheme to a new system called WorkReady which would slash currently subsidised training delivered through community-based Registered Training Organisations.

A number of SACOSS member organisations were impacted and continue to seek ways to offset major reductions in their income streams. Subsidised training is a key pathway into workforce participation and SACOSS remains deeply concerned about these cuts - at the very time South Australia has a major unemployment crisis. SACOSS will continue to advocate for a strong well-resourced, high quality training system in South Australia.

Along with the Mental Health Coalition of South Australia, we added our voice to a public chorus of business and welfare groups concerned by the state government’s WorkReady training systems proposal.

SACOSS and MHSCA were concerned that the decision by the government was made without proper consultation with current training providers, and disregarded the important connection that these providers have with employers and the community, and the customised and flexible and specialised services that are equipped to provide.

**TAFE furore: Gago can’t detail private job losses**

MICHAEL OWEN

The South Australian minister responsible for a move to allocate 90 per cent of subsidised training places to TAFE at the expense of private providers - sparking a $65 million funding stoush with the federal government - does not know what the jobs impact will be.

Employment Minister Gail Gago’s admission came yesterday as pressure intensified on the state government to overturn its decision. The South Australian Council of Social Service and the Mental Health Coalition have also raised concern over the decision.

The South Australian Council of Social Service and the Mental Health Coalition have also raised concern over the decision. The South Australian Council of Social Service and the Mental Health Coalition have also raised concern over the decision. The South Australian Council of Social Service and the Mental Health Coalition have also raised concern over the decision.

She said the impact on the private sector would not be large, but private training providers are already concerned that 500 to 1000 jobs will be lost and some businesses will close under the regime being implemented without consultation. "We’re engaging with the private sector, we’re working through what sort of impact that’s going to have," she said on ABC radio yesterday.

Ms Gago said changes would be phased in over four years from next month, and 2015-16 would be "the most difficult year... That’s going to be really challenging, particularly for the private sector."
## SUBMISSIONS

One of SACOSS’ core roles is to provide advice to government and other policy makers on issues that affect our sector or impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged people. This advice is often provided by making submissions in response to public consultations run by government or statutory authorities, but SACOSS also initiates submissions on issues of deep concern to our Members and people experiencing hardship. SACOSS submissions range from broad statements of principle to detailed and technical policy advice, and are often used as platforms for further advocacy.

### 2015

#### June 2015
- Submission to AEMC re Bidding in Good Faith Rule Change Draft Decision
- Submission to AER on SAPN Preliminary Decision

#### May 2015
- Submission to ESCOSA Review of the NEFC in SA

#### April 2015
- Submission to AEMC Expanding Competition in Metering and Related Service
- Submission to AEMC Optional Firm Access Review
- Submission to AER re ElectraNet Application for Early Implementation of STPIS
- Submission to Review of Governance Arrangements for Australian Energy Markets
- Submission to South Australian State Tax Review

#### March 2015
- Submission to COAG New Products and Services in the Electricity Market
- Submission to AER Residual Metering Cos

#### February 2015
- Submission to AER SAPN Distribution Determination 2015 New Issue Premium
- Submission to AEMC Bidding in Good Faith Rule Change Options Paper
- Submission to Draft Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray
- Consortium Submission to Transforming Health Proposals Paper

#### January 2015
- Submission to ESCOSA SA Water Rate of Return
- Submission to Royal Commission on Child Protection
- Submission to AER SAPN Distribution Determination 2015-20
- Submission to ElectraNet Network Capability Proposal January 2015

### 2014

#### December 2014
- Submission to Senate Electricity Networks Inquiry (December 2014)
- Submission to Courts Administration Authority re Impact of Court Closures

#### November 2014
- Submission to AEMC 2015 Retail Competition Review
- Councils of Social Service Network Submission to Competition Policy Review
- Submission to ESCOSA re Water Retailer Flow Restrictions

#### October 2014
- Submission to Energy White Paper Green Paper
- Councils of Social Service Network Submission to Productivity Commission Draft Report into Natural Disaster Funding
- Submission to AEMC Network Pricing Arrangements Rule Change

#### September 2014
- Submission to ESCOSA Water Pricing Inquiry

#### August 2014
- Submission to AEMC Optional Firm Access, Design and Testing First Interim Report
- Submission to Department of State Development Planned Interruption Consultation
- Joint Consumer Submission to EWON Prepayment Meter Discussion Paper
- Submission to Department of Social Services re post-ACNC Options Paper
- Submission to ESCOSA Minor and Immediate Retailers
- Joint SAACSJ Submission to Select Committee on Statutory Child Protection and Care in South Australia
Advocacy

WORKCOVER CASE

In 2014-15 a number of SACOSS member organisations were hit by changes to the way their Work Cover premiums were calculated. SACOSS supported a number of these organisations to pursue an appeal against new premiums through the Work Cover Appeals Tribunal.

In the intervening period the state government has made major reforms to the workers compensation system leading to major reductions in premiums. Following this decision SACOSS withdrew the appeal. We remain hopeful that the new workers compensation arrangements in South Australia ensure reduced premiums for employer groups, enhanced support to injured workers, and high rates of and rapid return to work.

ADVOCACY AND CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

SACOSS undertakes countless meetings and discussions with political representatives and parliamentarians, public servants, local government, business, unions, environment and community groups. Most often these relate to policy and legislative processes at both state and federal level.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE NETWORK

The Council of Social Service Network comprises the Councils of Social Service in each state and territory and nationally through ACOSS.

The COSSes are a voice for the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians. As peak bodies for non-government social and community organisations in states, territories, and nationally, we are also informed by our membership that is engaged in the full spectrum of community and social services. The COSS Network brings diverse local perspectives to our national focus on social justice issues.

COSS directors meet quarterly to share issues and develop policy agendas that extend across state and territory jurisdictions. This often formulates into national advocacy strategies on social justice issues.

In 2014-15 the COSS Network:

> provided joint submissions to federal politicians about the harshest measures in the 2014 federal budget
> provided joint submission to the National Competition Policy Review DSS tender debacle
> provided joint submissions to the Productivity Commission Draft Report into Natural Disaster Funding

...
SACOSS' presence in the South Australian media landscape continued to grow in 2014-15. In recent years, SACOSS has established itself as a leading commentator on cost of living and utilities issues in South Australia.

Our continued work on the cost of living, tax reform, and water, gas and electricity issues received very strong coverage across radio, television and print. SACOSS has been quoted and referenced in dozens of print and online articles.

SACOSS continues to build its profile and reputation as a trustworthy and authoritative voice on social justice, as well as encouraging

**Warming to hotspot idea**

Kurtis Eichler

FREE Wi-Fi devices would be provided to those who need them the most under a proposal being considered by SA’s Health Minister. The idea comes from New York where libraries started renting out 10,000 Wi-Fi hotspots to residents last year.

If the proposal were to be rolled out in SA, centres at North Adelaide, Enfield and Marion would be the first to receive devices with the plan being rolled out in all councils.

There are concerns a new voluntary penalty rate structure for small retailers could be disastrous.

Ross Womersley, Executive Director, SACOSS, says some people can only work on weekends and they will be unfairly hit.

### Extra payout as white flag raised on pensions

MPs short-changed in push for $1 pokies limit

### Foodbank demand at record high

### NY Wi-Fi plan headed for Oz

### DEBT HUNTERS

**SACOSS 68th Annual Report 2014-15**
Information Dissemination to the Sector

SACOSS NEWS

eBULLETIN

MEMBER ADVISORIES

POST-BUDGET BREAKFAST WITH THE TREASURER
SACOSS’ quarterly (ish) magazine SACOSS News focuses on a social justice theme which allows us to share perspectives, ideas and analyses in greater depth from a broad range of local, national and international contributors.
eBulletin

SACOSS issues a fortnightly eBulletin listing upcoming events, job vacancies, and other items relevant to the community services sector. The SACOSS eBulletin is emailed directly to subscribers every fortnight and is currently distributed to 850 email addresses. All SACOSS Members receive a copy of the eBulletin.

Member Advisories

SACOSS sends out regular Member Advisories as a way to keep Members up to date with current policy and sector issues, or to provide information about upcoming events and opportunities for involvement in SACOSS work.

Post-Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer

Our annual Post-Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer is a SACOSS Member-only event which provides an exclusive opportunity to hear the Treasurer of South Australia explain and be questioned on key areas of the State Budget crucial for the community and social services sector and for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians.
Information Dissemination to the Community

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK
FACT SHEETS
SACOSS RADIO
SOCIAL MEDIA
Each year SACOSS supports Anti-Poverty Week

The week surrounds the United Nations’ International Anti-Poverty Day (17 October) and aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty in Australia and internationally. Individuals, communities, organisations and governments are encouraged to take part in action to address poverty and typically a burst of activity and events occur.

In 2014, SACOSS was again part of the SA Anti-poverty Week State Facilitation Group which meets on a regular basis throughout the year. Made up of individuals from our sector and various levels of government and industry, the group provides a coordinated effort, mirrored in other states, to encourage and support others to engage with the week.

ANTI-POVERTY STATEMENT

Each year SACOSS releases an Anti-Poverty Statement to shine a light on the issue of poverty, outlining potential solutions, and the need for fairness and a decent standard of living for all South Australians.

In 2014 our statement profiled poverty in four different South Australian communities:

> Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands
> Burnside Local Government Area
> Mount Gambier Local Government Area
> Playford Local Government Area

The report included Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Community Profile Census data relating to education, employment, ethnicity, income and other economic resources for each area as well as for South Australia as a whole. Accompanying the demographic data we asked a SACOSS member organisation in each area to provide a case study of a person’s real current day experience of poverty in their community.

The full 2014 ACOSS Anti-Poverty Statement is available at sacoss.org.au/reports/anti-poverty-week

SACOSS acknowledges the support and contribution to our 2014 Anti-Poverty Week Statement from:
Fact Sheets

Throughout the year SACOSS may compile and distribute Fact Sheets designed to provide a concise overview on a specific topic or issue. You can read SACOSS’ Fact Sheets at www.sacoss.org.au/publications/fact-sheets

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**Food, Food (in)Security, and Poverty – 2014**

While most of us could live to 85 or more, a little way for some people in our community, working and expecting outcomes is in our field. People in our community expect to live to 85 or more, a little way for some people in our community, working and expecting outcomes is in our field.

South Australian households spend on average $191 per week on food, accounting for 17.2% of their weekly grocery shopping. 3.5% of South Australian households went without meals in the 12 month period leading up to the last month period leading up to the last month period leading up to the last. Research shows that people in our community on low incomes report missing out on regular meals as because it is often cheaper to quell hunger with energy-dense fast-food than it is to acquire the same amount of calories from healthy foods that are purchased raw and prepared at home.

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**Energy Consumers Australia**

The South Australian Government introduced the Statutes Amendments (Energy Consumers Australia) Act on October 2014. SACOSS Energy Council has campaigned for 1 January 2015 data to be the first to be the first to be the first to be the first to be the first.

ECA will replace the Consumer Advocacy Panel. The CAP has funded the SACOSS energy program since 2013 with a focus on providing assistance from members of the Council. ECA is consulting on its proposed cost recovery model. It is proposed that ECA be funded through a per capita contribution rather than a fixed rate or fee by the number of consumers.

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**The South Australian Gas Market Consumer Factsheet 2014**

Key Issues

- Gas prices are rising as a result of the emerging export market for liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- Pipeline capacity constraints limit alternative supply options.
- Competition in the small customer market is weak.
- The financial gas market could be experiencing its own ‘death spiral’

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**Petrol Prices and Impacts on Different Household Budgets**

With recent Federal Budget debate in the media focusing on petrol prices and the impact of the carbon tax, SACOSS went back to the definitive ABS data in the Household Expenditure Survey to identify who would be most impacted by petrol price increases.

**Expenditure on motor vehicle fuel & lubricants by Income Quintile, Australia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equivalent Household Income Quintile</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most alarming figure here is that households with a petrol budget of $100 or less are more likely than any other household to have a petrol budget of $100 or less. This is due to the lower transport, petrol and other household costs.

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**Table 1: Natural Gas use by economic sector, South Australia 2012-13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Sector</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>200.3 GJ</td>
<td>201.1 GJ</td>
<td>201.9 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>151.0 GJ</td>
<td>151.5 GJ</td>
<td>152.0 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>51.4 GJ</td>
<td>51.9 GJ</td>
<td>52.4 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>402.7 GJ</td>
<td>404.6 GJ</td>
<td>405.3 GJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Table 2: Natural Gas use by income quintile, South Australia 2012-13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Quintile</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>51.4 GJ</td>
<td>51.9 GJ</td>
<td>52.4 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>75.1 GJ</td>
<td>75.6 GJ</td>
<td>76.1 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>108.8 GJ</td>
<td>110.1 GJ</td>
<td>111.5 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>178.7 GJ</td>
<td>180.1 GJ</td>
<td>181.5 GJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>77.9 GJ</td>
<td>78.4 GJ</td>
<td>78.9 GJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using Facebook and Twitter for Conversations About Recognition and Small Change has been an effective way for us to engage with listeners, and the general public. We’ve been able to share our stories and interviews with a wider audience, and the bonus of high profile guests promoting their involvement in the program has increased the download numbers of our podcasts.

Small Change is SACOSS’ weekly radio program broadcast on Radio Adelaide. In August 2015 we celebrated two years on air.

Small Change provides us with a widely accessible platform to discuss the issues, ideas and questions around social justice and community development in more details – and with more insight than is often available to our sector and wider community.

Each week we share voices that may otherwise remain unheard, as well as promote the inspiring work of our members and wider community. In the last year we have featured academics policy makers, community workers and local communities, and heard from passionate advocates on disability, young people, tax, homelessness, human rights, social justice and hardship.

For someone to share their own experiences of hardship, poverty and disadvantage can understandably be confronting, but for others to hear such experiences can sometimes be the only thing that reminds us that there is real human impact to the issues that the community and social services sector works tirelessly on.

One of the benefits of radio as a platform is the anonymity people can maintain. Through Small Change we’ve been privileged to speak with people willing to share their experiences in a safe and trustful environment - young asylum seekers on temporary protection visas, people forced onto Compulsory Income Management, and those struggling daily to make ends meet.

But in all the challenging things we talk about, we continue to love the fact we can share fantastic stories of community achievement, innovation and inspiration. The community and social services sector in South Australia does so much that goes unnoticed, and we think the wider community should hear about it.

Small Change is broadcast on Radio Adelaide, 6pm Tuesdays

radio.adelaide.edu.au/program/small-change/
1 hour per week on air
5th most visited program page on the Radio Adelaide website

14,000 unique visitors to Small Change webpage

163 podcasts

12,000 plays/downloads

Our most popular podcasts (downloads/(listens))...

720 Young Activist Takes Campaign from Adelaide to Borneo

340 Purple House – The Story of the Travelling Dialysis Truck 340

270 Sally & John – Personal Stories of Compulsory Income Management

230 Good Money Hub to Assist Those in Financial Hardship

170 Tafe Students Protest Against Skills for All Inquiry
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RECOGNITION

In August 2014 SACOSS, Radio Adelaide and Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement went to air with our collaborative radio program Conversations About Recognition. This program takes a step back from discussions on federal constitutional change to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ask an important question - what kind of recognition would be most meaningful for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? It aims to help non-Aboriginal people understand the views, feelings and experiences of Aboriginal people, so they can help create real change and social justice. And to think about recognition in our own lives - what do each of us take for granted; what makes many of us feel acknowledged, accepted and valued?

Conversations About Recognition has allowed us to add different voices (high profile and non-high profile) and very different perspectives to a complicated and broad national discussion.

10 MONTHS OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RECOGNITION

1 hour per week on air (starting August 2014)

1200 unique visitors to Conversations About Recognition webpage

90 podcasts

6300 plays/downloads

10 short video interviews with some of our guests

1 fantastic visit to Umeewarra Radio in Port Augusta to record and share the perspectives of the local community

Our most popular podcasts (downloads/listens)...

2020
Peter Garrett – former Midnight Oil singer & federal minister (Part 1)

480
John Pilger – Journalist/Filmmaker

440
Peter Garrett – former Midnight Oil singer & federal minister (Part 2)

190
Hon. Justice John Sulan – Supreme Court judge

170
June Lennon – Yankunytjatjara community leader

Conversations About Recognition is broadcast on Radio Adelaide every Thursday 2-2.30pm and in the second half of 2015 will be syndicated around Australia through the national Community Radio Network.

Listen to or download podcasts at radio.adelaide.edu.au/programs/conversations-about-recognition

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @recognitionyarn
SACOSS’ social media presence has continued to increase. Using social media enhances our position in public debate, and provides us with platforms to engage and interact with the general public.

FACEBOOK
SACOSS’ use of Facebook page has proven an effective way to engage with the wider community. The page has over 1000 ‘likes’ and while we do connect with other organisations in the sector, the majority of our Facebook interaction is with personal Facebook users. This platform gives us the ability to share information in more detail, publicly express our standpoint on particular issues, and target our posts to reflect the interests of the general public who engage with SACOSS on Facebook.

TWITTER
SACOSS’ Twitter account has over 2000 followers. It provides us with direct and public communication with politicians, organisations and journalists, as well as the general public. All Councils of Social Service across Australia are now using Twitter – this provides with a public platform to stand together on issues and share our voices more widely through each of our vast social media networks.
Sector Development

HELPING TO DEVELOP OUT SECTOR

HEALTHY WORKERS
HEALTHY FUTURES

SA NOT-FOR-PROFIT FUNDING
RULES & GUIDELINES
Helping To Develop Our Sector

- Running a legal challenge to WorkCover Premium increases in our sector
- Promotion of health workplace management and behaviours through the Healthy Workers Health Futures initiative
- Working with SA Aboriginal Coalition of Social Justice to seek endorsement for sector organisations of the NGO Cultural Protocols and Principles
- Working with ACOSS and COSS colleagues to advocate and lobby nationally on issues of sector concern
- Working on the development of SA NFP Funding Rules and Guidelines
- Advocacy to retain and promote the ACNC
- Providing governance training to various boards and committees
- Working within the Human Services Partnership Forum to build collaborative relationships with the state government
- Continued to grow the SACOSS Essential Services Group, consisting of SACOSS members and associates
- Organising events to showcase Best Practice programs, services and ideas

Sector Development Events

SACOSS presented and supported a number of events in 2014-15 that aimed to develop the skills and knowledge of our sector, with themes ranging from activism, sector funding, leadership, and worker health.

**SACOSS Healthy Workers Leadership Series**

*Why workers health and wellbeing is critical to the community services sector*
16 July 2014  (Final in the HWHF branded event series due to funding cut)

**Activism Masterclass with Dr Gary Foley**
18 November 2014

**Community Sector Briefing on Federal Funding with Dr Cassandra Goldie**
19 February 2015

**SACOSS Healthy Workers Healthy Leadership Series**

*Leading & motivating through uncertain times*
13 April 2015

**Managers of Micro and Small Community Service Organisations Networking Series**

*Surviving in a time of tightening budgets*
9 April, 16 June 2015

**SACOSS Policy Council and Board meeting with Premier Weatherill**
21 April 2015

**SACOSS-HESTA Boardroom Networking Lunch**
22 May 2015

**Return To Work Scheme Information Session**
16 June 2015

**SACOSS – DHA Forum**

*Mobilising Action for Community Health and Wellbeing: the important role of the NGO sector*
24 June 2015
Healthy Workers Healthy Futures

The Healthy Workers Healthy Futures project was an SA Health strategy, funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. It was an organisational change management project, providing leadership direction and support for non-government health and community services organisations. The aim was to create healthy work policies, environments and cultures that encourage employees to address chronic disease risk factors of smoking, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity.

Healthy Workers Healthy Futures was well-received by the sector, which places high importance on staff wellness. A variety of strategies were utilised to engage workplaces across the sector. It became increasingly evident throughout Healthy Workers Healthy Futures that there is no “one size fits all” approach. A clear, multi-pronged strategy was required to engage workplaces, managers and staff across different levels within workplaces.

20 organisations were actively engaged in making organisational changes to their workplaces. Many more received information through monthly email updates and attending workshops and education sessions that were delivered.

100% of respondents to the annual evaluation survey reported making changes in their workplace post engagement with the Healthy Workers Adviser.

50% of those respondents implemented a dedicated wellbeing committee or responsible person in their workplace.

2014 federal funding cuts

As we wrote in the last SACOSS Annual Report, the Healthy Workers Healthy Futures project was initially funded for a three year term. In May 2014 the federal government withdrew its funding from the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, and the HWHF project was subsequently defunded 18 months prior to the original contract end date.

Kate Kameniar, SACOSS Healthy Workers Healthy Futures Advisor, wrapped up the project and finished her role in April 2015.
Physical and mental wellbeing in the community sector

Throughout this HWHF project, we’ve seen South Australian community sector workplaces really recognise the importance of maintaining a healthy, happy workplace. There are not only benefits for the organisation and the staff, but there is also the potential for flow on affects to their clients through role modelling. Workplace wellbeing was recognised by the sector as a highly valued but underfunded and under-resourced area where many workplaces would like to invest more time and energy into supporting their staff who work tirelessly to support some of South Australia’s most disadvantaged people.

The HWHF project identified a particular need for increased focus on mental health and resilience in the workplace, so we were very pleased to be successful in our application for a small research grant to trial the new Healthy Workers, Healthy Minds project in 2015-16.

Resources and support

All resources including best practice recommendations and key learnings from the project are available on the SACOSS website. Written and video case studies have been developed to showcase some of the changes workplaces have made.

sacoss.org.au/healthy-workers-healthy-futures

cont’d overleaf
Successful HWHF strategies for the workplace.

Many of the most successful initiatives in the Healthy Workers Healthy Futures project were relatively cheap - requiring an investment of time, rather than the implementation of expensive programs such as gym memberships or large structural changes.

Inexpensive and simple projects like coordinating healthy recipe/fresh produce swaps, standing or walking meetings, and establishing lunch time walking groups proved very popular with staff in most workplaces. Some other ideas strategies included:

> embedding wellness into business plans goals and other strategic documents
> developing smoke free healthy catering or active transport policies
> upgrading facilities such as lockers or purchasing commuter bikes
> establishing a workplace wellbeing committee at the organisation
> needs analysis/audits
> training and education for staff
> implementing walking groups or encouraging walking meetings
> building partnerships with nearby service deliverers such as local cafes to promote healthy lunches
During the year SACOSS continued to work, under the auspices of the Human Services Partnership Forum, on the SA NFP Funding Rules and Guidelines. SACOSS lobbied in the lead-up to the last state election for a range of changes to funding and contract management, and the state government mandated that a set of whole-of-government guidelines be written jointly with the sector.

The process has been slow, but agreement was reached that the guidelines would:

> cover all funding (service contracts as well as one-off grants)

> be binding (rather than a best-practice guide they will be a policy under the State Procurement Board and referenced in the Treasurer’s Instructions).

The drafting process began slowly and a new process was implemented to move the guidelines forward. SACOSS continues to work in this process.
SACOSS Secretariat

Executive Director
Ross Womersley

Senior Research & Policy Officers
Dr Catherine Earl (part time)
Jo De Silva (part time)
Dr Greg Ogle (part time)

Policer Officers
Bronwyn Colby (part time)

Sector Development
Kate Kameniar (contract ended April 2015)
Healthy Workers Healthy Futures Initiative

Communications Officer
Marnie Round (full time)

Events Coordinator
Vivian Clark (full time)

Office & Finance Coordinator
Libby Connell (part time)

Radio & Publications Assistant
Lisa Burns (casual - commenced July 2014)

Student Placement
Emma McArthur
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary Statement
Independent Auditors Report
Board Statement
Income & Expenditure Statement
Assets & Liabilities Statement
Notes to & Forming Part of the Financial Statement
Financial Summary Statement

SACOSS has had a healthy year financially with a very small increase in both income and expenditure. As at the end of June 2015, there was a modest surplus of $35,578.

Additional income flowed from a slight increase in Grants, payments relating to Research and development activities, and from Conferences and sponsorship.

There has been an increase in expenses relating to Consulting fees, Computers and IT, Travel and accommodation, and Equipment. Consulting fees have primarily increased because of the work and advocacy we undertake on energy issues. Much of this work demands highly technical knowledge across a range of areas, so as required we source advice from expert consultants. This kind of investment has allowed us to successfully argue for major savings on electricity network charges in South Australia, which has resulted in savings of around $200 for average households.

Computers and IT expenses increased because of our decision to invest in a new database to help enhance our membership and communication functions, while adjustments to depreciation costs resulted in increased expenses on Equipment. Travel and accommodation expenses appear considerable but the majority of expenses under this heading directly result from the role SACOSS plays supporting the National Consumer Energy Roundtable. SACOSS provides the secretariat function convening and coordinating several Roundtable meetings a year, and large travel and accommodation expenses occur as delegates are drawn together from across the nation in support of building the capacity of consumer advocates.

SACOSS is grateful for the funds it receives from a range of Departments and Funders. For their support in 2014-15 we would specifically like to thank the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion, Energy Consumers Australia (formerly the Consumer Advocacy Panel), the Department of State Development, and the Department of Health and Ageing. It would not be possible to deliver the outstanding work outlined in other parts of this report without these resources.

SACOSS continues to develop ideas to deliver even stronger outcomes for South Australians who experience poverty, injustice and disadvantage, but this of course requires further resources.

The SACOSS Board continues to enhance SACOSS risk, audit and investment functions and remains committed to ensuring SACOSS regularly returns a small surplus.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.


We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South Australian Council of Social Service Inc, for the year ended 30 June 2015 which comprises the Income and Expenditure Statement, Assets and Liabilities Statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Statement by the Board.

Board’s Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (as amended) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The board’s responsibility also includes such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and 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 company’s preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 company’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness.
of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, 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 the independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (as amended).

Auditor’s Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. is prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (as amended), including:

(a) giving a true and fair view of the organisation’s financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and,

(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist South Australian Council of Social Service Inc. to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

SOTHERTONS
Adelaide Partnership

ALEX READE

42 Hurtie Square, Adelaide
Dated 13 October, 2015
South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Statement by Board

The Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Board declares that:

The financial statement and notes present fairly the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards, the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (as amended) to the extent outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

There are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity 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 Board members by:

Helen Connolly, Chairperson

Emma-Louise Crosby, Treasurer

Dated 13 October, 2015
### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.

**Income & Expenditure Statement**
_for the year ended 30 June 2015_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$1,004,387</td>
<td>966,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member subscriptions</td>
<td>64,636</td>
<td>63,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>2,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB house fees</td>
<td>14,412</td>
<td>9,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and advertising</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>16,022</td>
<td>18,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development</td>
<td>51,677</td>
<td>29,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference and sponsorship</td>
<td>87,493</td>
<td>80,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>2,773</td>
<td>30,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,243,222</td>
<td>1,202,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenses**         |        |       |
| Conference costs     | 55,119 | 50,349 |
| Consulting fees      | 178,367 | 140,317 |
| Employment           | 667,450 | 722,044 |
| Office accommodation | 71,826 | 69,394 |
| Computers and IT     | 21,644 | 8,425 |
| Printing, postage, and stationery | 17,538 | 22,658 |
| Insurance            | 13,273 | 12,924 |
| Professional services| 38,088 | 65,629 |
| Reference materials  | 10,141 | 9,986 |
| Travel and accommodation | 89,929 | 71,858 |
| Equipment            | 34,247 | 15,870 |
| Other expenses       | 10,022 | 6,451 |
| **Total Expenses**   | 1,207,644 | 1,195,904 |

**Net Surplus / (Deficit)**

- **Transfer from Reserves**
  - 35,578
- **Marjorie Black House renovations and expenses**
  - 

**Net Surplus / (Deficit)**

- 35,578

**Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year**

- 206,167

**Accumulated Funds at the end of the year**

- 241,745
### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.

**Assets & Liabilities Statement**  
for the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash On Hand</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>1,040,789</td>
<td>842,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>31,346</td>
<td>34,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>9,997</td>
<td>8,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>838,355</td>
<td>854,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,920,627</td>
<td>1,741,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors and Borrowings</td>
<td>27,869</td>
<td>18,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors and Accruals</td>
<td>255,082</td>
<td>196,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Funds Received in Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Conference</td>
<td>31,050</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Building Repairs</td>
<td>140,335</td>
<td>106,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Annual Leave</td>
<td>53,938</td>
<td>60,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Long Service Leave</td>
<td>16,013</td>
<td>15,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for PAYG</td>
<td>15,470</td>
<td>16,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Staff Redundancies</td>
<td>56,707</td>
<td>47,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Long Service Leave</td>
<td>23,706</td>
<td>14,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>620,170</td>
<td>476,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,300,457</td>
<td>1,264,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Funds and Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td>241,745</td>
<td>206,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>1,058,712</td>
<td>1,058,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Funds and Reserves</strong></td>
<td>1,300,457</td>
<td>1,264,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The Board has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the entity is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of members.

The special purpose financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (as amended) to the limited extent described below. A statement of the compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) cannot be made due to the organisation applying not-for-profit specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report is prepared on a 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 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Board has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

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.
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Black House</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture, Equipment &amp; Software - at cost</td>
<td>$112,457</td>
<td>$166,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>$(74,102)</td>
<td>$(111,808)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$838,355</td>
<td>$854,676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The property known as Marjorie Black House was transferred to SACOSS in 2006 (value $600,000) and is disclosed at the Valuer General’s previous valuation.

Provision is made for the anticipated repairs to the building. The costs of building repairs will be charged to the provision when incurred.

Provisions for Building Repairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at beginning of year</td>
<td>$106,544</td>
<td>$81,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds expended</td>
<td>$(6,209)</td>
<td>$(15,113)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at end of year</td>
<td>$140,335</td>
<td>$106,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at beginning of year</td>
<td>$1,058,712</td>
<td>$1,058,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequest - Marjorie Black House</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds expended - Marjorie Black House</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset revaluation reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,058,712</td>
<td>$1,058,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Grant Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>$376,907</td>
<td>$358,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Advocacy Panel</td>
<td>$137,492</td>
<td>$138,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP Roundtable</td>
<td>$90,274</td>
<td>$94,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Energy Consumer Advocacy</td>
<td>$320,283</td>
<td>$235,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Workers Project</td>
<td>$57,359</td>
<td>$116,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$22,072</td>
<td>$22,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,004,387</td>
<td>$966,006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Related Party Transactions

No officer nor any related party of any officer or employee of the organisation has received directly or indirectly from the organisation any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.
SACOSS acknowledges funding and sponsorship support from

Government of South Australia
Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

Government of South Australia
Department of State Development

Government of South Australia
SA Health

Energy Consumers Australia

ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HESTA
An Industry Superfund
The South Australian Council of Social Service does not accept poverty, inequity or injustice.

We will be a powerful and representative voice that leads and supports our community to take actions that achieve our vision.

We will hold to account governments, business, and communities for actions that disadvantage vulnerable South Australians.

We have a vision that all South Australians can live a life free from poverty, in a genuinely inclusive society where there is equality of opportunity and equity of outcomes for all.