



SACOSS

*South Australian Council
of Social Service*

**South Australian
Council of Social Service
66TH ANNUAL REPORT**

2012-13

South Australian Council of Social Service 66th Annual Report 2012-13
Published by the South Australian Council of Social Service, November 2013

Marjorie Black House
47 King William Road
Unley, SA 5061 Australia

p (08) 8305 4222
f (08) 8272 9500
e sacoss@sacoss.org.au
www.sacoss.org.au

© South Australian Council of Social Service, 2013
This publication is copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study,
research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be
reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be addressed
to the Communications Officer, South Australian Council of Social Service.



CONTENTS

4 CHAIR'S REPORT

Helen Connolly

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ross Womersley

8 SACOSS SECRETARIAT

9 SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

10 Utilities / Essential Services

12 Cost of Living

14 Anti-Poverty Week

15 Consumer Credit Legal Service

16 State Budget 2013/14

17 SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

18 Not-For-Profit Reforms - ACNC

19 Family & Community Development (F&CD)

20 Healthy Workers Healthy Futures

21 EVENTS

24 PUBLICATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

26 MEDIA

27 BOARD AND POLICY COUNCIL

28 EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

30 MEMBERS

33 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

34 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

40 Auditor's Report

CHAIR'S REPORT

HELEN CONNOLLY



It is with great pleasure on behalf of the SACOSS Board of Directors and Policy Council that I present the 2013 Chairperson's report to the members.

This year we have continued to build on the strong foundations laid in previous years and in particular earlier decisions made by the Board in relation to investment in sponsorship, social media and communications positions and additional policy officers and project resources in the area of quality improvement.

As a result we have seen a growth in the key metrics related to media hits and brand awareness and held a number of successful events including the annual Treasurer's Breakfast, Consumer Credit Legal Services Report launch and Community Development Conference. We also were successful in our external assessment against the Australian Services Excellence Standards. This endorsement of our critical organisational systems and processes was the result of considerable input from staff and Board and was a significant achievement of 2013.

Whilst these activities are important in terms of developing our internal environment and organisational sustainability, they are just one part of the picture.

The true measure of success as a Peak Body is the extent of which we can influence economic and social policy to deliver better outcomes for vulnerable South Australians and deliver our vision of justice opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians.

This aspirational vision together with our bold organisational mission and compelling values and principals not only drives us to action but sets the benchmark against which the Board holds itself accountable, and which should also form the basis of how our members measure our success.

Ultimately it is whether we have been a powerful and representative voice that leads and supports the community to take action against poverty and inequality that is the test of our success. How we achieve this is through our advocacy and evidence based policy research. This year we have successfully influenced a number of key legislation

changes and the creation of new program funding in areas related to consumer credit legal services, water pricing, Family and Community Development Program funding and Utilities Literacy to name a few. These achievements are significant and should be acknowledged.

We have also continued to deepen and broaden our involvement in areas not traditionally seen as the domain of health and community services. Over the past few years we have increasingly become a 'go-to' organisation for community views on a range of issues. This year we have been sought out for commentary on areas as diverse as the competitive energy market, compulsory third party insurance and telecommunications.

Representing the needs of vulnerable people across diverse policy areas is a key way in which we can influence the broader economic and social policy debates.

Although much of our work is in response to issue papers, draft legislation and reviews and policy positions, our work in the Human Services Partnerships Forum and forging new relationships with government decision makers is a way of inputting earlier on the policy development continuum. This year SACOSS has moved closer to its goal of input into the design phase to ensure that all social and economic policy in South Australia meets the basic human needs and rights of all people in our community.

During the year the Board has undertaken a number of activities to ensure that SACOSS remains a sustainable, independent organisation through:

- > Reviewing Board and Policy Council structure and making recommendations for constitution change for membership consideration
- > Forming a Constitutional Review committee as a sub committee of the Board to identify most effective governance schedule for SACOSS in the light of changes to legislation and our operating environment
- > Improving fiscal responsibility through creation of a Finance Investment and Risk Committee and documentation of our risk appetite
- > Focus on engaging the membership and providing opportunities to showcase the work of the sector through an investment in an enhanced social media presence and our Small Change community radio program



The Board also invested in a Consultant to undertake a ten year asset management plan for MBH and we are now implementing the capital improvements and preventative maintenance measures. A key achievement being the disability access at the front and back of the building via a new ramp and improved landscaping.

In addition the Board has led the charge in relation to ensuring that SACOSS continues to bring sector leaders together for structured dialogue to build collaboration and shared understanding and commitment to the public policy debate in South Australia. To this end we have held a number of breakfasts, lunches and other facilitated small group sessions and think tanks with sector leaders. Many of these have involved key people from all sides of politics.

Through these events we have identified key policy issues to inform our budget submissions, federal election asks, as well as ongoing advocacy and lobbying particularly in the areas of cost of living and energy work. New partnerships and alliances have been forged and collectively we have been able to transform our practice based knowledge into policy discourse.

Policy Council with its thirty plus members continues to be the engine room for debate, discussion and formulation of much of the public policy positions generated by SACOSS during the year.

We have continued to improve the alignment between policy council meetings and the production of critical publications. This has meant sector members have had formed workshop time in meetings to develop the SACOSS budget bids, budget analysis and election ask as well as collaborative submissions in relation to the State Strategic Priorities, ACNC regulations, Child Development legislation to name a few.

We have also bought Policy Council and the Board together on a number of occasions outside of meeting times for face to face round tables with a variety of state and federal members of parliament.

We have been cognizant of the time commitment many leaders within the sector contribute to SACOSS and its advocacy agenda and have tried to ensure that this time is an engaging and productive as possible.

Policy Council has operated as a respectful and focused formal forum for collaboration and consultation between

SACOSS members on issues of shared interest. It has been a key vehicle for ensuring not only the voices of members but of their constituents are heard in the policy debates. This has meant SACOSS submissions, research and advocacy have been stronger and more relevant, and have hopefully had more impact.

I would like to thank all of the people who have attended Policy Council this year and for their contribution to a fairer South Australia. In particular I would like to thank Philip Beddall who as deputy chair has ably stepped into the Chair role on a few occasions during the year and been a great support.

The organisation has been well served by the Board in 2013. Each member has generously and voluntarily given their experience, knowledge and time to serve on a number of sub- groups outside of Board meetings. Each of them has brought something unique to the table and operated effectively in the interest of SACOSS. I would like to particularly thank Leigh Garrett as the Deputy Chair for his counsel and support.

During the year we have farewelled two long standing Board members Marj Ellis and Fiona Verity, who both made a significant contribution to the work of SACOSS and brought to the Board well-considered and thoughtful contributions to the broader policy debate, as well as a keen understanding of the operational imperatives of government and academia. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

The respect with which SACOSS is held by key political leaders, government administrators, and members would not be possible if not for the intelligent, balanced and passionate staff team ably led by Ross Womersley. The team continues to impress with its high quality work and quick turn around times. We are lucky to have such a sound and talented team who go above and beyond in their pursuit of social justice.

I look forward to continuing on as Chairperson until the end of 2014 and see it as a privilege to be part of such a committed outcome focused sector.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ROSS WOMERSLEY



What a year we have had.

Potentially the most remarkable of developments this year was the Federal Parliament's bipartisan support for the development and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I say potentially because there is indeed every chance, if well implemented, this scheme could be life changing for so many people who live with disability across our nation. Poorly implemented it has the potential to set the cause back decades.

As the "Shut Out" report had so accurately documented in 2012, we weren't doing at all well when it came to our support of people who live with disability and it was crucial we did so much better. If we wanted a world where people who have disability take their place as valued members of our community we were going to find much better ways of supporting them.

To its credit the Weatherill government welcomed the federal government's work, lobbied hard to become a launch site for children, and acted fast to ensure state government funding was allocated to support the launch. To its credit the Gillard government moved to secure long term funding for the scheme via an increase in the Medicare levy. The challenge now is to use this scheme as a bedrock to assure people who live with disability and their families that the paradigm shift promised through its introduction actually eventuates.

This will mean so much more than ensuring people have the support they need on a daily basis, which is the key focus of the NDIS. It will mean ensuring our community is ready to welcome people into all aspects of community life. It will mean making our cities, our communities and all of the services we provide across our community welcoming and accessible. This requires much more than physical accessibility. This demands that we all continue to change

our attitudes and our behaviour in ways that support people to participate actively in all aspects of community life no matter what their disability. Welcome as the NDIS is, no one should be in any doubt that this will require so much more than an NDIS. We look forward to playing our part.

This year also saw SACOSS starting to play a stronger part in helping workplaces across the community sector improve the health and wellbeing of their workforce. The Healthy Workers Healthy Futures program is an exciting initiative that is Commonwealth funded but coordinated through SA Health, and has enabled us to welcome Kate Kameniar in her Healthy Worker Advisor role. There are equivalent roles funded in 9 other peak bodies, unions or industry associations with the aim that we progress this agenda of improving the health of our population through workplaces. We know from profiles of our community sector workforces that there are a range of health issues that if addressed would have significant implications for the health and productivity of those workers. This is very important work and I am delighted we have this opportunity.

This year saw us continuing to campaign on a number of fronts with accompanying bursts of useful publicity. Some of these efforts led to great success while others were highly successful in attracting attention to the issues disappointingly not taken up in the way we would have hoped.

Let's start with two fantastic efforts that didn't get the outcome we were seeking first and then we should explore a couple of wins, one of which related to our work in energy advocacy.

Woolies - The Pokies People, held its AGM in Adelaide this year and activist shareholders concerned about profits being generated from their poker machine holdings, and the level of harm flowing through problem gambling, forced Woolworths to hold an EGM to consider changing its constitution. This would have meant limiting and making its machine holdings safer.

We joined with local activist group Communities Against Pokies in supporting protests outside the EGM and with the help of shareholder proxies obtained from SACOSS members, voted in support of the proposed amendments. Inevitably, the vote failed but for a moment a huge light



was shining on the problematic contribution of pokies to our community and Woolworths' role and brand as a family friendly grocer. We are still working to get funding to enable SACOSS to construct some longer term policy and advocacy work in this crucial area.

Another of the campaigns on which we have worked hard but made only limited progress on was about the inadequacy of the Newstart, Youth and other base level allowances. This long term campaign, led by ACOSS and supported by the COSS network, has garnered widespread support from economists from both the left and right, business leaders and the community. However, it has not yet resulted in the \$50 per week increase we have all been seeking. Of course the federal government's decision to force more than 100,000 single parents off their payments back to Newstart has made the campaign even more important, even if a tad more complicated. The big concession in the last budget was the opportunity for recipients to earn a little more before they started having dollar for dollar deductions. \$38 per day is not enough!

As you all know the price of essential services in SA has been skyrocketing and SACOSS has been a fierce and public advocate in seeking to protect those people on the lowest of incomes in our community from the damaging impact of these rapid price rises. In late 2012 with funding support from the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA), SACOSS successfully argued for a review of Wholesale Electricity Pricing in SA. At the same time, the state government had been discussing the merits of deregulating electricity pricing with both industry and ourselves arguing deregulation would result in greater competition and thus result in downward pressure on prices. We argued that it was imperative that deregulation be accompanied by strong protections and advocacy for consumers. This resulted in the state government providing funding to SACOSS of \$200,000 per annum through the immediate period of de-regulation. This welcome addition has and will, help deepen and strengthen our capacity and efforts to protect vulnerable South Australian consumers.

Another focus of our work this year involved undertaking a study on behalf of the state government to consider the need for a Consumer Credit Legal Service in SA. Having received the report in which we identified a clear need,

we were delighted when funding was announced in the State Budget to establish a Service. We were equally delighted to see added funding for financial counselling, with a specific focus on making support available through schools and hospitals as well as funding for increased investments in social housing.

On another front though we have been disappointed by the state government's response to the McCann Review of non-hospital based services which sees vital early investments in community health sacrificed in the name of budget savings. There is an extremely strong evidence base in social health indicators that identifies the correlation between health status and the types of life courses people experience. There isn't a shadow of doubt that our exploding health system's costs do need to be reined in and better targeted. Equally there isn't a shadow of doubt that early investments in helping people to take steps to protect their own health – especially for those people experiencing serious disadvantage – pays huge dividends in preventing admissions and exploding health costs. When on earth will we actually act on this?

So these are just a few of the things we have been involved in doing this year and you'll find more on our efforts throughout this report. I haven't talked about our attempts to build our national networks, to link our work as a COSS network better, and the effort we are putting in to being taken seriously in discussions about taxation policy and economic structural reform.

And so our work just goes on. But it is, and it has been, good work. We have an awesome team in our secretariat and I am so grateful. They are all fabulous to work with and I feel very fortunate. We also have some terrific thinkers at the table in our Policy Council and I have had the benefit of great leadership from the Board generally and from Helen Connolly in her role as Chair.

I love this rollercoaster ride that's involved in fighting against poverty, injustice, and inequity, and I thank you all for the generous support you provide to me personally and to our cause.

In solidarity,

Ross

SACOSS SECRETARIAT

Executive Director

Ross Womersley

Senior Research & Policy Analysts

Dr Catherine Earl

Dr Greg Ogle

Jo De Silva

Dr Angie Bletsas (parental leave contract)

Research Assistant

Hannah Corbett (contract ended June 2013)

Sector Development

Kate Kameniar - Healthy Workers Healthy Futures Initiative
(commenced December 2012)

Communications Officer

Emily Johnson (commenced July 2012 - resigned October 2012)

Marnie Round (commenced October 2012)

Events Coordinator

Vivian Clark

Office & Finance Coordinator

Libby Connell

2012-13

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

2012-13

UTILITIES / ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Energy and Water in focus

Campaigning on energy and water issues has led to some major wins for SACOSS this financial year. A two-year 9.1% reduction for electricity standing contract customers and ongoing energy consumer advocacy funding are two key energy reforms that help address hardship and affordability issues over the short to medium term. A significant increase in the water concession rounded off a range of positive utilities reforms which had significant implications for low income and disadvantaged consumers. Major campaign outcomes are described below:

Wholesale Electricity Costs Review

On 15 June 2012, SACOSS welcomed the announcement by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) that there would be a review of the retail cost components that make up the price for electricity in South Australia. SACOSS had proposed the review to ESCOSA at a meeting in early June following SACOSS findings that the cost of generating electricity had been overestimated. SACOSS remained extremely concerned that consumers were unfairly paying higher electricity prices than they should.

SACOSS maintained this focus on wholesale electricity costs throughout 2012. Activity included a meeting with the ESCOSA Consumer Advisory Committee, 3 submissions, coordinating a group letter to the Minister, issuing media releases and meeting with the Minister for Energy. In October 2012, ESCOSA made a draft recommendation that electricity retail prices be reduced by 8.1% (for customers on the electricity standing contract). SACOSS welcomed the outcome as it was concerned that in recent years wholesale prices had been falling while the regulated small customer standing electricity contract prices continued to rise. SACOSS calculated that there was even more room to move and the final result should be an 8.6% reduction.

Energy Retail Price Deregulation and Discounts

On December 2 2012, AGL challenged the ESCOSA draft determination on Wholesale Electricity Costs in the Supreme Court. Negotiations with the Government during the Court proceedings eventually culminated in AGL offering a 9.1% price reduction to electricity standing contract customers, fixed for two years. The government agreed to deregulate the retail price market. Senior government and industry representatives have both commented post deregulation that the role of SACOSS in raising issues about price regulation and welcoming the proposed price reduction was a critical factor in achieving price deregulation linked to substantial discounts in the market.

State Based Energy Consumer Advocacy Funding

During the process that led to price deregulation, SACOSS strongly argued for adequate resourcing for energy consumer advocacy at a state level. In April 2013, SACOSS secured funding for energy advocacy from the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy up to the end of the 2014-15 financial year:

“SACOSS and other consumer groups have long been campaigning for a price reduction. Strong consumer representation will be needed more than ever under the new arrangements. An important part of these reforms that we hope to see is adequate resourcing of consumer advocacy, so that consumers can be certain that a trusted watchdog will be in place”

Ross Womersley - SACOSS media release, 18 December 2012



Electricity Tariffs and Vulnerable Consumers Workshop

On 25 February 2013, SACOSS convened a full day workshop on Electricity Tariffs and Vulnerable Consumers, bringing together executives from across the industry (retailers, networks, government, social welfare bodies, regulators etc.).

The purpose of the workshop was to consider possible initiatives to assist vulnerable consumers to better manage their electricity consumption and costs, building upon the recent policy initiatives including The Power of Choice Review, the National Energy Customer Framework, the removal of Price Regulation, and the various SCER initiatives for market reform. The outcome of the day was an informed policy position for SACOSS which has helped shape energy work for 2013-14.

Capacity Building

SACOSS has expanded its Essential Services Group by 15% and has four new group members who regularly attend group meetings. SACOSS has also established itself as a point of contact for state government departments seeking to have input from consumers on energy and related affordability issues. During the year, SACOSS facilitated four meetings with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy which all encompassed energy hardship and affordability.

Water concession increase

The government's water price decision saw an increase to the state based water concession of \$30 per year. This decision was warmly welcomed by SACOSS which had been campaigning for the water rebate to be permanently extended for those households with access to the concession. SACOSS is pleased that these households will be afforded some protection on an on-going basis.

COST OF LIVING

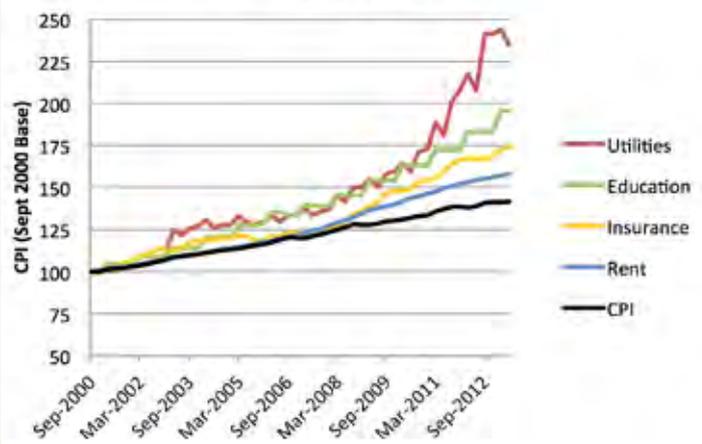
Throughout the year SACOSS continued to be a leading commentator and campaigner on cost of living issues. While cost of living pressures like rapidly rising utilities prices affect all households, they impact more on low income households.

This is because low income households spend proportionately more of their income on many of the basic necessities like housing, utilities (electricity, water, and telecommunications), food and health, so that price increases in those areas impact disproportionately on them. Low income households also have fewer resources and less flexibility in the household budget to respond to rising prices. Given this, SACOSS' role in cost of living issues is to focus the broader public debate on the impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and to develop and advocate for policies which will give relief to low income households.

Each quarter, SACOSS produces a Cost of Living Update providing an overview of changes in the Quarter and a focus on a particular issue. In 2012-13, the Updates were:

- > No. 11, July Qtr 2012 - Housing
- > No. 12, September Qtr 2012 - Utilities
- > No. 13, December Qtr 2012 - Insurance
- > No. 14, March Qtr 2013 - Education

Adelaide Prices



In each area the cost of these basic goods was rising faster than inflation, and therefore faster than the incomes of many people receiving payments like Newstart, Youth or Widows Allowance, or those who have wages pegged to the generic Consumer Price Index. Each report had some key policy suggestions to relieve cost of living pressures and generated good media and publicity around the issue.



Insurance and Education were new and different areas for SACOSS in relation to cost of living issues. Both have seen rapidly rising costs over recent years and both are significant household expenditures for many households. Perhaps surprisingly, low income households spend a greater proportion of their income on insurance than other households. This is perhaps because low income households include asset-rich but income-poor households (e.g. retirees), but also because flat fees like compulsory third party vehicle insurance impact more on low income households. However, the issue in relation to other insurances is affordability – the expenditure is low simply because many people can't afford insurance protection and are therefore left more vulnerable. Similarly, the issue in education is about affordability and long-term exclusion rather than the impact on the weekly household budget, but in both cases rising prices increases social exclusion

These reports add to the stock of expertise and analysis that SACOSS brings to crucial policy debates, and the cost of living work was a major part of our lobbying and media commentary during the year, as well as being a feature of the SACOSS State Budget Submission.



ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2012

Anti-Poverty Week aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty in Australia and internationally. During the week surrounding the UN's International Anti-Poverty Day on 17 October, individuals, communities, organisations and governments are encouraged to act to address poverty, through research, discussion and a multitude of other activities.

In 2012, SACOSS again partnered with Community Centres SA for Anti-Poverty Week, challenging South Australians to see whether they could create a mock healthy food basket for just \$61. Expenditure was limited to \$61 because that is approximately 20 per cent of the income for a single person living on a Centrelink (basic income was calculated at Newstart at \$244.85 per week, plus the maximum rent allowance of \$60.10 per week).

The Challenge received a number of entries from community centres involving considerable thought and creativity. The centres used the challenge as an opportunity to engage with people accessing their programs and facilities in thinking about the issue of poverty. In doing so, the reality of some people's food budgets unfolded. One community centre reported that when creating their budget and shopping list, some of the people involved reflected that "they would be lucky to have that much food for a fortnight, let alone one week", which speaks to the inadequacy of Newstart payments and the rising cost of living.

The first place winner of the competition and one of the most comprehensive submissions to the challenge came from the Seeds of Affinity Group at the Bowden Brompton Community Centre. Seeds of Affinity is a support group for women who have lived prison experience. Their submission and others shared ingenious ideas, recipes and other cost saving techniques they used in order to provide adequate nutritious food on \$61 per week. However the competition responses showed the labour intensive nature and effort needed to maximise the quality and quantity of items in the healthy food basket.



Many participants had checked grocery prices at multiple stores, monitored specials and pre-planned menus for the week or month ahead. Also of significance is the fact that the competition was simply an exercise. In real life people need to account for other ongoing and unexpected expenses in their limited budgets, with other expenses likely to impinge on money set aside for food, making the task more difficult.

As well as community engagement activities like the Challenge, each year SACOSS releases an Anti-Poverty Week Statement using the week as an opportunity to talk about solutions to poverty, fairness and a decent standard of living for all South Australians. The Statement highlights SACOSS's position and agenda for the eradication of poverty in South Australia. Released towards the beginning of the week, the Statement defines and describes poverty, including recent information about its prevalence in SA. In conclusion, SACOSS calls for a holistic, concerted action and intervention to tackle the key underlying factors that cause and maintain poverty and disadvantage.

CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL ISSUES

Consumer credit and debt problems can arise from lack of income, unexpected bills or expenses, or life-changing events like accidents, relationship break-ups, illness or job loss. Often, one debt problem leads to further borrowing and spiralling debt which can have serious impacts on people's health, relationships, jobs and life prospects. When debts aren't paid the ensuing legal processes can be complex and confusing, and when the end result may be loss of property including the family home, it is especially important that help is available.

Adequate support available for vulnerable people facing consumer credit issues, preferably at an early stage before the debt becomes a legal issue, is critical. Even when there is no doubt a debt is owed, legal support can make a huge difference in negotiating terms of repayment or protecting a defendant's interest in the often complex processes.

In late 2012 in response to lobbying over many years from our sector, the state government commissioned SACOSS to undertake research to look at the existing services, the level of need and service gaps into this area. SACOSS employed a young lawyer, Hannah Corbett to work alongside our Senior Policy Officer, Greg Ogle (himself no stranger to legal processes), and the report South Australian Consumer Credit Legal Services: A Scoping Study was completed and given to the government in January.

The key findings of the report include that, in any one year:

- > 11.6% of South Australian adults have at least one consumer credit problem;
- > 6.3% or 84, 000 South Australian adults have a legal problem arising from consumer credit issues, three quarters of whom also have other legal issues;
- > For 21,000 people the consumer credit issue was their only legal problem;
- > 10,000 South Australian adults did not get the legal help they needed in relation to their consumer credit problem.

In undertaking the research SACOSS consulted widely with key stakeholders, and made a number of recommendations including:

- > Changes to court forms to better direct people to free legal help;
- > Provision of legal financial counselling assistance at court during relevant court lists;
- > Co-location of financial counsellors in community legal centres;
- > Increased funding for existing community legal centres;
- > Advertising of the Legal Services Commission's legal help-line and the Doorways financial counselling help-line; and,
- > Establishment of a small specialist Consumer Credit Legal Centre.

The report was formally launched by the Attorney-General, John Rau and SA Chief Justice, Chris Kourakis at a breakfast at the Hilton Hotel in March. Both speakers acknowledged the importance of the report with the Chief Justice noting that consumer access to credit had become easier over the years while the relevant law had become much more complex so that it was easier to get into legal problems and harder to navigate a way out. The breakfast was attended by 80 people including lawyers, financial counsellors, service providers and departmental staff and provided a great show of support for the report and a platform for further advocacy work.

SACOSS followed the report with further advocacy to MPs and in the media, as well as highlighting the issues and recommendations in our 2013 State Budget Submission. We were very happy that the government responded in the State Budget in June with an allocation of \$1.4m over four years for consumer credit legal services. While it remains to be seen exactly how the funding will be allocated, the boost to these vital services is very welcome.

STATE BUDGET 2013/14



The South Australian State Budget is important for the community services sector and for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. Each year, in the months preceding the State Budget, SACOSS puts forward a submission, then when the Budget is handed down, produces a 'snapshot' analysis response.

SACOSS' Budget Submission is a major piece of work for the secretariat and membership and is an indication of the priorities for the sector in a given year. Previous SACOSS submissions have been organised around the 5 key areas of SACOSS' policy work: income support, health and wellbeing, housing, economic and social participation, and law and justice. However, concern over the economic context of the State Budget and increasing cost of basic necessities meant it was important to structure the submission to highlight key proposals aimed at tackling cost of living pressures for South Australians living on low/fixed incomes.

The Budget Submission draws from consultations with our members and other agencies from the community services sector. During September 2012, SACOSS held formal consultations for each social policy area drawn from the SACOSS Strategic Plan and engaged our Social Policy Advocacy Committees and Policy Council, members and external stakeholders in the process of identifying budget priorities. Under the three categories: cost of living, sector development and miscellaneous, SACOSS put forward 12 budget priorities.

On Budget night in June, SACOSS analysed the detail looking at its implications for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians, and whether the government had acted on any of the priorities contained in the SACOSS submission. The content of this analysis was released in the 'snapshot'.

The 2013-14 Budget provided some hope within the community and social services sector. Highlights from the Budget include: increased funds for financial counselling, provision for a new consumer credit legal service, new investment in the Affordable Housing Stimulus Package,

bringing forward funds for the NDIS, \$27million investment in skills and training, funding to promote community development (roads, remote services, employment opportunities and health) in the APY Lands and an increase to the current water concession by \$30 a year. The Budget also fulfils a promise by the government to pay "its fair share" in response to the ASU's recent equal pay case for social and community service workers.

It is important to note that while SACOSS welcomed the new and extended funding for South Australia's most vulnerable citizens, we remained concerned that a considerable amount of the additional expenditure in the budget was funded by one-off income flows. SACOSS believes that no matter which political party holds government in South Australia, this is an outstanding issue – South Australia needs a stable and sustainable revenue base which can ensure South Australians receive the critical support they continue to expect from the government.

Of the priority proposals put forward by SACOSS in the Budget Submission, one was fully adopted (although on a smaller scale than recommended by SACOSS) - funding for a Consumer Credit Legal Centre. Another was partially adopted - funding for bail accommodation services, with \$2.9 million provided for adult bail accommodation services. However, no further funds were provided for bail services for young people, which was an important part of our proposal. The remaining 10 priorities put forward by SACOSS in the Budget Submission were not adopted in the 2013/14 Budget.

Both the SACOSS Budget Submission and the Budget Analysis are available on the SACOSS website.

For the third year in a row SACOSS was delighted to host the 'Post-Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer' as a Member Exclusive event, which was held again at the Adelaide Pavilion in Veale Gardens on 13 June. The 2013 event saw Premier and Treasurer Weatherill attend after what proved to be a positive budget for much of the Community and Social Service Sector. In his first attendance at the event Premier and Treasurer Weatherill demonstrated conviction in his government's support of the NDIS scheme, and also welcomed the overall work of SACOSS and the sector in advocacy and service delivery outcomes for the community.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

2012-13

NOT-FOR-PROFIT REGULATORY REFORMS

The 2012-13 year saw some of the biggest changes in regulation of the not-for-profit sector in a generation.

On 1 November, 2012 a bill establishing a national regulator of charities finally passed through the Federal Parliament. The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) has been a long time coming. Over the last 17 years there have been six inquiries into the not-for-profit sector, including the comprehensive 2010 Productivity Commission Report on the contribution of the sector, which (again) recommended the establishment of a national regulatory body.

Despite support from the sector, the legislative process was slow and difficult – not least because the original version of the bill was a long way from what the sector envisaged. The bill went through about 5 different drafts and 3 parliamentary committees and with effective advocacy by ACOSS, the network of Councils of Social Service (including SACOSS) and community sector organisations a number of substantial amendments were made. A new objective of reducing red-tape was added to the Bill, the governance standards were re-cast to be principles-based (rather than directing activity) with a greater level of parliamentary scrutiny, and clauses were added requiring consultation with the sector and explicitly protecting sector advocacy.

There remains work to be done in removing state duplication of reporting, but shifting regulation of our sector from the tax office or ASIC to a purpose built regulator with supportive functions has been a major achievement (although we may have to fight this battle over again with the new federal government).

Beyond the ACNC, the sector has also long sought protection of our advocacy on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged people, including from government service contracts which contain clauses banning advocacy or requiring any public commentary being checked with government first (which adds to red-tape and can lead to self-censorship). In May, the federal government passed legislation not only prohibiting such “gag clauses” in future, but invalidating any such clauses in existing federal government contracts. A big win for the sector’s rights, and mirrored by SA state legislation passed in October 2013.

Another win was the passing of a statutory definition of charity aimed at enshrining in legislation 400 years of common law decisions about what purposes should be considered as charitable (and therefore attract tax concessions). In the end this Bill seemed less important than it seemed at the height of attacks on the tax status of some charities 8-10 years ago, and it was perhaps a missed opportunity to put a more consistent definition in place, but it may yet prove useful for protecting charities’ rights.

Finally, the federal government issued new Commonwealth Grant Guidelines, which apply to all federal government grants. Among other things, these guidelines streamline some bureaucracy by not allowing government departments to ask for information already in possession of the government – so that, for instance, once information like audited accounts, governing documents and tax concessions is provided to the ACNC, federal departments will not be able to require the provision of the same things in grant applications.

In all these reform processes, SACOSS has kept a watching brief on behalf of our sector, contributed to COSS network submissions and lobbying, and lobbied government directly ourselves. In April and May SACOSS teamed up with the ACNC and Volunteering SA&NT to run information sections in Adelaide and Renmark on the reform processes. This collaboration provided a broader perspective than just that of the regulator, and was part of helping to ensure that our sector understands the changes and the opportunities they provide for making our work easier.

FAMILIES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Family and Community Development program has been a major focus of work through the year. The program is the government's flagship early intervention program administered and provides funds for a range of family, youth and low income support programs. Funding was cut in the 2010 budget, restored after a campaign by the sector, the Department progressed an internal review of the program only to produce dysfunctional draft guidelines in April 2012. In July SACOSS submitted a withering critique of the draft Guidelines. The then Minister, Ian Hunter, accepted that there were problems and asked SACOSS, Community Centres SA and the Department to work together to draft new Guidelines. Some funding was provided to SACOSS for what was an intensive process to produce new Guidelines by a January 2013 deadline.

We sought to set out a new model of how results-based programs should be set up and run (rather than widget-counting reporting which had dominated the program). We ran two rounds of consultation with peak organisations in the sector, particularly focused on the broad issues of what we wanted the program to achieve and the outcomes we wanted to get. The Guidelines established basic principles and eligibility criteria, but were fundamentally built around achieving 9 key program outcomes, with the outcome measures set out. It was hard and time-pressured work, but the Guidelines were presented on time and represented a good and genuine collaboration between government and our sector.

Unfortunately, when the Guidelines went through the Department's procurement process, the collaboration was lost and Department seemed unable to deal with the Guidelines. It took six months for the Department to work through this process, and much red-tape was re-introduced into the process. The critical focus on outcomes was lost and became only a small part of the application process.

Having taken 18 months to get to the point of going out to tender, organisations were given just 3 weeks to respond (extended to 5). This made it impossible to do the sector training and support that we had envisaged and asked for to enable a good understanding of the new Guidelines and a smooth transition to an outcomes-based tender. Instead, the outcomes hardly got a mention in the Department's "industry briefing" which was so constrained by formal



process, it failed to provide any framework, inspiration or explanation beyond how to fill out the forms. As a result of the timetable, lack of sector training and support, and various holes and misunderstandings (including by the Department) in the tender documents, over the 5 weeks the goals, interpretations and even the tender forms changed and process became embarrassing.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting results, but our role in the process has long ceased, although the lessons learned from the process continue to inform our views on better contracting processes.

Finally, it should be noted that SACOSS also receives funding from the F&CD program's Industry Support and Development stream under the old Guidelines. To avoid conflict of interest, this part of the program was separated from the above processes and the review of that part of the Guidelines has just begun.

HEALTHY WORKERS HEALTHY FUTURES

The Healthy Workers Healthy Futures initiative is an SA Health strategy funded by the Australian Government under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The initiative encourages managers and workers to create workplaces that foster and support healthy lifestyles.

In December 2012 SACOSS was one of eight organisations in South Australia that was successful in securing funding for three years for a Healthy Workers Adviser. The role of the SACOSS Healthy Workers Adviser is to support organisations within the non-government health and community services sector to develop, implement and evaluate workplace health and wellbeing strategies.

The official project launch was held by SA Health on Friday 14 December at the Ridges Hotel and was attended by then Health Minister John Hill.

The project at SACOSS is guided by a Reference Group, made up of representatives from SACOSS member organisations and health promotion experts. An initial research phase investigating pre-existing workplace health and wellbeing initiatives was undertaken to provide insight into what has worked and the challenges and barriers organisations face when putting together their health and wellbeing programs.

The Healthy Workers Healthy Futures program at SACOSS includes:

- > Free consultations with the Healthy Workers Adviser
- > Initial support for organisations to consult with staff and establish tailored work place health promotion initiatives
- > Support for workplace champions (including resources, regular updates and networking opportunities to learn from other organisations)
- > Regular education/awareness forums, workshops and other cross-sector activities



SACOSS is also pleased to be working in partnership with the Australian Services Union (ASU), another organisation that successfully secured funding for a Healthy Workers Adviser. SACOSS and ASU will work together on a number of state-wide, community services sector initiatives that support and encourage organisations in the sector to provide healthy workplaces.

On 31 May 2013 SACOSS and ASU partnered with Quit SA to host a free, practical forum 'Butt Out! Whose business is it anyway?' The forum was held on World No Tobacco Day and showcased some inspiring examples from organisations who have gone smoke free. Sarah Sorteriu from Hutt St Centre and Craig Hendry and Alex Bird from the Woolshed spoke about their inspiring journeys in becoming smoke free workplaces.

Internally SACOSS has been working on some health and wellbeing initiatives of our own. SACOSS recently purchased a commuter bike for staff to ride to and from nearby meetings in the CBD, we are currently trialling computer software that prompts the user to take breaks from screen time and staff have established a weekly lunch time walk.



EVENTS

2012-13

EVENTS WRAP-UP 2012/13

For SACOSS, the 2012-13 financial year has seen the organisation expand and diversify its Event Coordinator role, with event support services now being offered to SACOSS Member organisations and affiliates on a fee-for-service basis. The outcome of this is an additional source of revenue is being generated through the Events Coordinator role, which will contribute to the ongoing viability of the position for the future.

The past year has seen many successful SACOSS branded events, as well as co-branded collaborated events, and sector support and development events on a smaller scale. SACOSS has continued to offer its more regular events, while branching out not only through offering external event support as outlined above, but also through the ongoing work of the new Healthy Workers Adviser position and the informative forums and training sessions coordinated through this role.

SACOSS has continued to support and engage the sector through the events organised by the organisation, and also by supporting and promoting events run by other sector organisations on relevant topics. SACOSS continues to advertise and promote events through the many communication avenues available within the organisation, such as the fortnightly SACOSS eBulletin, in Member Advisories, in the events section of the website as well as plugs through social media outlets.

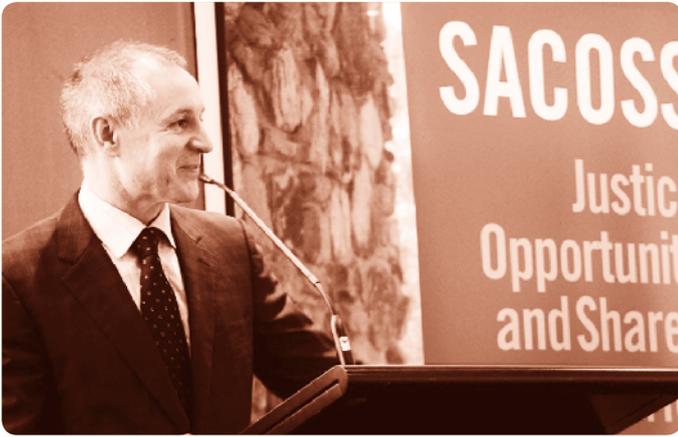
Collaboration:

In 2013 SACOSS provided invaluable sector support events by partnering with Volunteering SA&NT and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC) to present a series of free information sessions outlining the role of the newly formed independent national regulator of charities, and the implications for the sector. This partnership strengthened an already strong relationship with Volunteering SA&NT, and provided the opportunity to develop strong ties with the ACNC and engage with the conversation surrounding not for profit reforms. This collaboration also saw events take place in regional South Australia as well as metropolitan Adelaide.

Life Members:

The SACOSS Board of Management, through a Strategic Planning process, identified that SACOSS Life Members were a significant resource that were being under utilised. A Life Member event series proposal was created and the first event took place on 12 October 2012. The event provided opportunities for SACOSS to learn from, and to be inspired and reinvigorated by people honoured with the Life Member title. It also provided an opportunity for interesting, valuable and meaningful discussions with and between Life Members, and created an atmosphere of positive engagement which is able to be built upon for future events. A plan for annual events of this kind is in place.

In its peak body role SACOSS has continued to connect and engage with the sector it represents through the events outlined above, as well as the many other events, forums, campaigns and seminars listed below.



Photos: Post Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer, 13 June 2013 L-R Hon Jay Weatherill, Cheryl Axelby – Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

2012-13 SACOSS Events:

Life Members Event
12 October 2012

SACOSS Forum: Pokies Reform –
Where to from here?
22 November 2012

SACOSS 65th AGM
26 November 2012

\$2 Talk: Ask not what you can do
for Baby Boomers, Ask what Baby
Boomers can do for you
30 November 2012

SACOSS End of Year Breakfast
7 December 2012

Consumer Credit Legal Service
(CCLS) Report Launch
20 March 2013

Healthy Workers Forum: Butt Out!
Whose business is it anyway?
31 May 2013

Post Budget Breakfast
with the Treasurer
13 June 2013

Sector Development Events and Supported Campaigns:

ACOSS Parliamentary Newstart
Campaign '\$35 a day: not
enough to live on' November 2012

Shadow Cabinet
Engagement Campaign
December 2012

Boardroom Lunch
with Steven Marshall
7 June 2013

Community Sector Breakfast
with Minister Piccolo
19 June 2013

Events Coordinator Contracted Services Events:

Southern Regional Alliance (SRA)
Conference (commenced previous
financial year, event days 20-21
September 2012)

Baptist Care Australia Conference
(commenced December 2012, event
days 23-24 April 2013)

YACSA Netfest (commenced January
2013, event day 8 February 2013)

**ACOSS Conference (No fee service,
event days 25-26 March 2013)

AYAC 2013 Conference (commenced
January 2013, event days in next
financial year)

Collaborative Events:

ACNC Information Session Roadshow
- run in conjunction with Volunteering
SA&NT and The Australian Charities
and Not for Profits Commission
(ACNC), Adelaide and regional SA
locations through April and May 2013

2012-13

PUBLICATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Research and Information Papers

July 2012

- > SACOSS Fact Sheet - Utility Prices

September 2012

- > SACOSS Fact Sheet - Peaks

January 2013

- > SACOSS Fact Sheet - Pay Equity Implementation
- > Consumer Credit Legal Service - Scoping Study

June 2013

- > Vulnerable Consumers, competitive Markets and energy market contracts

July 2013

- > SACOSS Energy Market Research Report No. 1

Submissions

July 2012

- > Submission to the Social Development Committee
- > SACOSS retail price regulation safety nets and headroom
- > Final Report on Wholesale price
- > Submission to ESCOSA WEC Review – Discussion Paper
- > Submission to AEMC Market Power Draft Determination

August 2012

- > Submission to AER Consultation on Electranet's 2013-18 Proposal
- > Submission to ESCOSA Draft Water Retail Code Consultation
- > Response to Supplementary Responses – ESCOSA WEC Review
- > Submission to Housing Improvement Bill 2012 Consultation

September 2012

- > Submission to Senate Select Committee Inquiry into Electricity Prices

October 2012

- > Submission to AEMC Power of Choice Draft Report
- > New Child Development Legislation Discussion Paper Feedback Form
- > Heywood Interconnector RIT-T Submission
- > Hardship Policy for Customers of Water Industry Entities
- > Submission to ESCOSA WEC Draft Determination

November 2012

- > Submission to ESCOSA issues paper on SA Water's Regulatory Business Proposal
- > Submission re Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme

January 2013

- > SACOSS Response to Pitt & Sherry REES – Consumer Groups
- > Submission to CTP Insurance Reforms

February 2013

- > SACOSS Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry – NDIS Bill 2013
- > Submission to McCann Review
- > SACOSS State Tax Submission

March 2013

- > Submission – National Advocacy
- > ESCOSA SA Water Revenue Determination

April 2013

- > ESCOSA Economic Regulation of Intermediate and Minor Retailers of Water and Sewerage Services

May 2013

- > Submission on AEMC Review of National Framework for Transmission Reliability Issue Paper
- > Submission on ElectraNet's Proposed Amendments to Revised Electricity Transmission Code Draft Decision
- > Submission to AEMO VCR Issues Paper
- > Submission on AEMC Strategic Priorities

June 2013

- > Submission on the SA government Affordable Living Consultation Paper
- > SA Water Service Standards Draft Decision
- > Draft Water Industry Hardship Policy for Minor and Intermediate Retailers

MEDIA

PRINT AND ONLINE



Adelaide paying more for power, water

November 8, 2012

AAP
Adelaide consumers are paying more for power and water than in the case for people in the other capitals, the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) says.
SACOSS said Adelaide jumped ahead of Canberra and Melbourne for the first time in the December quarter this year.

Its latest check on utility prices found that people in Adelaide were paying an average of \$43 a week on electricity and

The most highest was Ca

The cheapest city was Th

"Essentially our utilities are

increasing at a rate that is

Womersley said.

"Utilities bills are a major

Australia: households an

utility bills than they were

NATIONAL NEWS

COAG offers solutions to spiralling power prices, writes Ross Womersley

News headlines - The Opposition - Opposition and 1100w

NEWS Channel that will help people. To all people, simply connect with your favourite social networks.

AS consumers continue to struggle with the rising costs of electricity, COAG offers a real opportunity for solutions, writes Ross Womersley.

The political debate raging over the cause of electricity price has a simple impossible to

St Vincent de Paul's computer system crunches the numbers on electricity and gas

HOUSEHOLDERS will be able to view their annual electricity bill with the help of a new Society computer system.

The organisation has been issuing bills who - in turn - use it to help consumers with energy bills.

Based on interactive computer, it will help people understand electricity and gas prices since 2008. It is a guesswork out of decision making.

Welfare group welcomes SA pay hikes

This story was published: 1 NOVEMBER 2012 | 11:00 AM | 2012

THE South Australian government has delivered on a promise to pay its fair share for community sector workers, a peak welfare group says.

The government on Sunday pledged \$119 million to fund pay increases for community sector workers on state awards as part of its response to a Fair Work Australia wage decision.

The extra cash will provide for pay hikes of between 23 and 45 per cent over three years.

South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) executive director Ross Womersley said the government had always maintained it was committed to paying its fair share for community sector workers.

"It has delivered on this promise," Mr Womersley said in a statement on Monday.

"Community sector workers deliver vital support in the non-government sector to

Welfare agency's request from families seeking help for funds to buy school uniforms doubled

WARRADANAH • 20th NOVEMBER 2012 • 11:00 AM

NEWS Channel that will help people. To all people, simply connect with your favourite social networks.

A LEADING South Australian welfare agency has received double the requests for help from families needing funds for school uniforms, as South Australians continue to demand support for rising living costs.

In the wake of a Messenger Community News and adelaideNOW survey of 1500 residents, which found cost of living was the No. 1 issue leading into the Federal Election, Anglicare said it was battling to cope with increasing demand.

The agency's senior manager, financial and housing inclusion Christine Bell, said the

SACOSS continued to have a strong presence in the South Australian media landscape, establishing itself the leading commentator of cost of living issues. Essential Services has been another area in which considerable media coverage has occurred. Our commentary on the State Budget received much interest, as did advocacy work on changes to pokies legislation. SACOSS' social media presence has increased with over 1000 followers on Twitter.

RADIO



MIX FM, Adelaide, 08:30 News, Newsreader 17 Apr 2013 8:36AM

Welfare groups have welcomed SA Government plans to change the rules for poker machine entitlements. Ross Womersley, Executive Director, SACOSS, says he would like to see ATMs banned rather than having withdrawals limited each day.

Radio: 891 ABC Adelaide, Adelaide, Breakfast Matthew Abraham and David Bevan 20 Mar 2013 8:33AM

News headlines

- The SA Opposition has gone too far in cutting mental health beds and community services. Rob Lucas, Opposition MP, says increased funding for psychiatric services will reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments
- A report from SACOSS has found that SA's financial support services are disorderly and are struggling to cope with demand.

Radio: 891 ABC Adelaide, Adelaide, 07:45 News, Newsreader 20 Mar 2013 7:53AM

A Council of Social Service report has found South Australia's financial support services are disorderly. Ross Womersley, Executive Director, Council of Social Service, says at least \$10k people per year are not getting the legal help they need to manage debt.

Radio: MIX FM, Adelaide, 07:00 News, Newsreader 20 Mar 2013 7:02AM

Welfare groups would like to see more legal assistance offered to help consumers in debt. Ross Womersley, SACOSS says credit issues can impact peoples lives significantly.

TV: Channel 10, Adelaide, TEN News at 5pm, Rebecca Morse 19 Mar 2013 5:34PM

A report from SA Council of Social Service (SACOSS) has found an alarmingly large number of South Australians are being pursued through the courts for unpaid debts. SACOSS and My Budget want help for those affected, including struggling business owners, from the SA Govt.

PLUS A WIDE RANGE OF ONLINE MATERIAL



BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Helen Connolly	Michael Dawson Paul Scully Marj Ellis
Deputy Chair Leigh Garrett	Fiona Verity Patsy Kellett
Treasurer Monique Palmer	Nicole Chaplin Peter Sandeman Ross Womersley – ex-officio

POLICY COUNCIL 2012-13

Category Description	Person Elected	Organisation	Term Expires
Chair	Helen Connolly		
Peak Org Reps	Andris Banders Anne Bainbridge Alice Clark Gill McFadyen Alan Graham Paul Christie/ Geoff Harris	SANDAS YACSA Shelter SA CCSA A&CS MHCSA	2013 2013 2014 2014 2014 2014
Reps of NGOs	Susan Errington Louise Kelly Jane Fisher Mariann McNamara Jane Longbottom Libby Craft Professor Ed Carson Helen Lockwood Nicole Chaplin Kate Simpson Holley Skene	Legal Services Comm. OARS/Cty Transitions COTA – SV BINSAs LWB UCW Port Adelaide SPRG UniSA LCC St Johns Youth Services AIDS Council SA Uniting Communities ACSA	2013 2013 2013 2013 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014
Reps of Aboriginal NGOs	Karen Glover Harold Stewart	Pangula Mannamurna Inc Aboriginal Health Council of SA	2014 2013
Reps of non-metro NGOs	Rob Foggo Anthea Pavy	AC Care UCW Country	2013 2014
Individual Members	Phillip Beddall Angela de Conno		2014 2014

2012-13

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Representatives of SACOSS sat on the following boards and committees in the 2012-13 year.

SACOSS is grateful to all its representatives for offering their time and commitment.

ACOSS Board of Governors
Helen Connolly

Courts Administration Authority
Community Relations Committee
Susan Errington

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

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

Legal Services Commission Board
Michael Dawson

DFC Steering Committee on
Information Sharing Guidelines
Gill McFadyen

Energy Consumers' Council
Roselyn Williams

SA Water Customer Council
Ross Womersley

SA Dental Service Consumer
Advisory Panel
Libby Craft

SA Health & Community Services Skills
Board (SAHCSSB)
Ross Womersley

UniSA School of Psychology and Social
Work Advisory Committee
Ross Womersley

SA Unions Retraining Injured Workers
Reference Group
Ross Womersley

Planning and Reform Reference Group
Ross Womersley

National Framework for Child
Protection Partnership Group
- South Australia
Simon Schrapel

MEMBERS

Lifetime Members

Phillip Beddall	Margaret Hunter
Grethe Brown	Simon Kneebone
Harvey Brown	Wendy Malycha
Brian Butler	Joy Noble
Ed Carson	Louise Portway
Kym Davey	Lange Powell
Colleen Fitzpatrick	Ruth Prescott
Gael Fraser	Judith Roberts AO
Leigh Garrett	Simon Schrapel
Daphne Gum OBE	Pam Simmons
Peter Hall	Brian Ward
Sheila Hall AM	Mark Walters
Christine Hasley	Andrew BC Wilson AM
Mark Henley	Ian Yates AM

SACOSS was saddened at the loss of Life Member Michael Wooley on 2 May 2013. He was a proud member and supporter of SACOSS

Organisation members

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
AIDS Council of SA Inc
Anglicare SA
Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers, Aust
Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd (SA)
Australian Education Union (SA Branch)
Australian Red Cross (SA Division)
Australian Refugee Association Inc
Australian Services Union
Baptist Care (SA) Inc
Barkuma Inc
Bedford Group
Better Hearing Australia (Adelaide)
Birthline Pregnancy Support Inc
Brain Injury Network of South Australia Inc
Camden Community Centre Inc.
Carers SA Inc.
CBB the not4profit people
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Central Domestic Violence Service
Churches of Christ CareWorks
Citizen Advocacy South Australia
City of Onkaparinga
Clubhouse SA Inc
Combined Charities Incorporated
Community Centres SA
Community Living Project Inc
COTA SA
DOME Association Inc
Drug Arm Australasia
Edge Assist Incorporated
Flinders University SA Community Health Research Unit
Goodwood Community Services
Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc.
Guide Dogs SA.NT
Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc

Continued over page...

MEMBERS

Organisation members (continued)

Health Promotion Branch - Health SA
Hepatitis SA Incorporated
Hills Community Options Inc
Hutt Street Centre Ltd
Individual Supported Accommodation Service Inc
Interchange Incorporated
iSWEAR
Junction Australia
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
Milang & District Community Association Inc
Mind Australia
Mission Australia - SA Region
Multicultural Aged Care Inc
Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc
Network SA
Northern Community Legal Service
Northern Suburbs Housing Co-operative Inc
Northern Volunteering SA Inc
OARS Community Transitions
Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People
Organic Federation of Australia (SA Branch)
Out of School Hours Care (SA) Association Inc
Paradise Community Services
Parkinson's South Australia Inc
Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, SA Branch
Playford Community Fund Inc
Positive Life SA
Quality Management Services
Quit SA
Relationships Australia (SA) Inc
SA Country Carers
SA Unions
Safer Communities Australia Inc
SASRAPID
Shelter SA Inc
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 Super
Broughton Art Society Inc.
Junction Community Centre Inc
Salvation Army
Smith Family
Women's Housing Association Inc
Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc
Time for Kids
Toc H South Australia Inc
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
Working Women's Centre SA Inc
Youth Affairs Council of SA Inc
YWCA of Adelaide

2012-13

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SACOSS enjoyed a healthy growth in both income and expenditure through the financial year. Additional income primarily came in the form of additional grants as well as growth in fee for service payments relating to research and other activities. This income was, however, almost always offset by expenses that were required to meet grant expectations. This is reflected in the increased costs allocated for both consulting fees and employment costs. SACOSS specifically purchases technical advice in relation to its work on energy and water issues and this year also sought expert marketing advice in preparation for two potential campaigns. This advice will be used to drive major changes to the unreasonable number of people in SA who are having their power cut-off, as well as to argue for a fair and sustainable revenue base for governments in the lead up to the next state election.

The Board also agreed to make new once off provisions for long service leave for all employees. 50% of the entitlement for an employee who has not reached the 7 year threshold has now been accrued along with the full entitlements for any worker with over 7 years of service. This has meant SACOSS recorded a deficit of \$52,575 for the year with the bulk of extra costs generated from one off payments.

The Board continues to closely monitor the SACOSS financial management structures and in endorsing the budget for the coming year believes SACOSS will return to a small surplus. The auditor has approved the books and the financial statements as presented here.

As always SACOSS remains highly resourceful and efficient and anticipates a good year ahead.

2012-13

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL
SERVICES INC.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

Board Statement

Income & Expenditure Statement

Assets & Liabilities Statement

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Independent Auditor's Report



South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Statement by Board

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

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

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

- (a) Present fairly the financial position of SACOSS as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
- (b) As at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that SACOSS will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

During the financial year ended 30 June 2013:

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

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



.....

Helen Connolly
Chairperson



.....

Monique Palmer
Treasurer

Dated this 28 day of, OCTOBER 2013

2012-13

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Income & Expenditure Statement For the year ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 \$	2012 \$
Income			
Grants		629,193	446,885
Member subscriptions		61,505	54,911
Donations		467	859
MB house fees		9,136	9,368
Sales and advertising		151	910
Interest		24,398	29,885
Research and development		118,394	61,379
Conference and sponsorship		15,000	96,728
Other Income		8,087	1,976
Total Income		866,331	702,901
Expenses			
Conference Costs		7,273	36,749
Consulting Fees		84,530	46,942
Employment		640,369	430,283
Office Accommodation		70,397	61,674
Supplies		15,991	21,898
Services		48,494	36,401
Reference materials		13,903	29,871
Travel		15,433	21,646
Equipment		20,788	11,574
Other Expenses		1,726	2,621
Total Expenses		918,906	699,659
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)		(52,575)	3,242
Transfer from Reserves		-	-
Marjorie Black House renovations and expenses		-	-
Net Surplus (Deficit)		(52,575)	3,242
Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year		252,577	249,335
Accumulated Funds at the end of the year		200,002	252,577



South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

**Assets & Liabilities Statement
As at 30 June 2013**

	Notes	2013 \$	2012 \$
Current Assets			
Cash On Hand		140	140
Cash at Bank		856,957	641,605
Receivables		42,940	80,659
Prepayments		7,821	11,243
		<u>907,857</u>	<u>733,647</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	<u>861,283</u>	<u>830,955</u>
		861,283	830,955
Total Assets		<u>1,769,141</u>	<u>1,564,602</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Borrowings			
Creditors and Accruals		54,064	57,304
Grants and Funds Received in Advance		183,660	94,870
Membership Fees in Advance		1,379	8,210
PAYG Payable		13,612	-
Salary Accruals		19,981	-
Provisions			
Provision for Conference		6,197	-
Provision for Building Repairs	2	81,656	70,000
Provision for Annual Leave		50,203	22,185
Provision for Long Service Leave		12,927	9,497
Provision for Campaigns		43,834	-
Provision for Staff Redundancies		33,115	21,248
		<u>500,628</u>	<u>283,313</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		<u>9,800</u>	<u>-</u>
		9,800	-
Total Liabilities		<u>510,428</u>	<u>283,313</u>
Net Assets		<u>1,258,713</u>	<u>1,281,289</u>
Accumulated Funds and Reserves			
Accumulated Funds		200,002	252,577
Reserves	3	<u>1,058,712</u>	<u>1,028,712</u>
Accumulated Funds and Reserves		<u>1,258,713</u>	<u>1,281,289</u>

2012-13

South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Note 1 : Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

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

The financial report 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 following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report.

Income Tax

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

GST

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

Comparatives

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

Fixed Assets

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

Employee Entitlements

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

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

Revenue

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

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



South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

**Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

	2013 \$	2012 \$
2. Property, Plant & Equipment		
Marjorie Black House	800,000	770,000
Office Furniture, Equipment & Software - at cost	166,484	160,100
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>105,200</u>	<u>99,144</u>
	<u>861,283</u>	<u>830,956</u>

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

Balance at beginning of year	70,000	35,000
Provisions	38,000	35,000
Funds expended	<u>26,344</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>81,656</u>	<u>70,000</u>

3. Reserves

Balance at beginning of year	1,028,712	1,028,712
Bequest - Marjorie Black House	-	-
Funds expended - Marjorie Black House	-	-
Asset revaluation reserve	<u>30,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>1,058,712</u>	<u>1,028,712</u>

4. 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.

2012-13



PARTNERS:
David Ellis
James McKenzie
Rose Musolino
Alexander Reade

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South Australian Council of Social Service Inc which comprises the Statement by Board, Income and Expenditure Statement, Asset and Liabilities Statement, and accompanying notes.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act SA (as amended) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance 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 judgment, 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 entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Basis of Accounting

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 requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act SA. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of South Council of Social Service Inc presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.



SOTHERTONS
Adelaide Partnership



ALEX READE



SACOSS

*South Australian Council
of Social Service*

South Australian Council of Social Service

Marjorie Black House
47 King William Road
Unley, SA 5061 Australia

p (08) 8305 4222
f (08) 8272 9500
e sacoss@sacoss.org.au

www.sacoss.org.au

2012-13