



**SACOSS**

*South Australian Council  
of Social Service*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE**

**65TH ANNUAL REPORT**



**2011-12**

South Australian Council of Social Service 65th Annual Report 2011-12  
Published by the South Australian Council of Social Service, November 2012

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# CHAIR'S REPORT

## HELEN CONNOLLY



Taking time to reflect on achievements is one of those activities that should be on everyone's corporate bucket list, as it is generally the one that falls off the day-to-day task list. I guess that if not for the rigour of documenting corporate activities through annual reports then years would blend into each other and the issues, challenges and achievements of individuals, teams and organisations would be lost to history. Therefore, this is my opportunity to ensure that the achievements of 2011 - 2012 do not go unnoticed or uncelebrated, as there is much to celebrate from the 65th year of SACOSS.

When many 65 year olds are looking to slow down, SACOSS has forged ahead and ratcheted up its position as the key commentator on social and economic issues as they relate to disadvantaged South Australians. At a time when individuals are increasingly being blamed and shamed for the failure of a poorly performing social infrastructure and economy, we have stepped up to be not only a voice for low income South Australians but to have a *direct impact* on areas of policy and service delivery at a local level, and gain some real ground.

After intensive policy and advocacy work, and political campaigning, a number of amendments relating to tenant protection, hardship processes and consumer advocacy were made. In relation to the State Water Bill, we also were successful with the campaign for the consumer impact review of the National Energy Retail Law and for funding to conduct a scoping study on the need for a Consumer Credit Legal Service.

However, there continues to be a raft of state based legislation, policies and practices having negative impacts on low income South Australians which need to be addressed including:

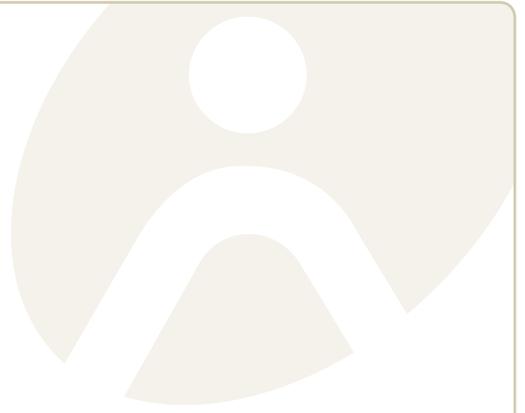
- > cost of living pressures and surging power and water bills
- > the crisis in financial counselling access
- > the rollout of the NDIS launch site.

There are also many challenges on the national stage and we continue alongside our COSS cousins and other peaks to advocate strongly on the inadequacy of the Newstart allowance, the flawed logic

of compulsory income management and the unfair offshore processing of refugees. We have been actively involved in the public campaigning and lobbying around these issues and through sector briefings and informative documentation we have provided a strong conduit for our state members to engage with national agendas. We have also contributed to numerous submissions including the NDIS, Electricity Market, Water, Insecure Work and the Murray Darling Basin.

Alongside our advocacy work, we have also devoted much energy and enthusiasm to issues directly influencing the operating environments of member organisations. SACOSS continues to provide a range of member services in areas broadly defined as sector development. These services mean that members receive notice of issues of significance and interest in timely and accessible formats, including electronic member advice, specialist workshops and facilitated sessions to develop individual and joint responses and submissions, and \$2 talks. These talks were well attended and covered topics from the Public Health Act to Understanding Philanthropy and Media Basics. For many of our smaller member organisations these events provide an opportunity to develop networks, keep connected and build their capacity. For SACOSS it ensures we remain *relevant*.

Of note in 2011 - 2012 has been our sector development on the establishment of the Australian Charity and Not for Profit Commission and associated Sector Reform processes, and the implementation of Equal Remuneration Order. In many instances



we collaborated with other peaks and unions to ensure we have a broader reach and increase our capacity to deliver high quality bespoke services. Ensuring we remain representative and on track as a Peak Body is a critical responsibility of SACOSS, and we have invested in a range of surveys and face to face opportunities to ensure that we are on the right track. We have also invested more in social media.

However, the key vehicle for driving our social policy goals and campaign agendas rests with the Policy Council. Each month key leaders in the sector identify and discuss current policy issues and provide information from the coalface to direct our advocacy activities. This year as part of the strategic planning process we introduced five Social Policy Advocacy Committees (SPAC). These SPAC's were convened by Policy Council members who met outside of Policy Council meetings to develop the critical policy objectives and activities, budget bids, and made policy submissions in the areas of:

- > **Housing Convenor**  
Alice Clark
- > **Income Convenor**  
Jeremy Brown
- > **Justice Convenor**  
Mariann McNamara
- > **Participation Convenor**  
Jane Longbottom
- > **Sector Development Convenor**  
Angela De Conno and Ed Carson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their contribution and to the Policy Council members and others who share their wisdom each month to progress our shared vision for South Australia.

The SACOSS Board provides overall governance of the organisation and adds another level of oversight to the policy agenda setting. This voluntary board works tirelessly in project work and supporting and promoting SACOSS within their own organisations and networks. Following on from our previous Strategic Planning process, in 2011 - 2012 the Board focused its efforts on putting the flesh on the bones and developing our strategies in the areas of membership, communication and seeking independent income. It has been a year full of achievements including identifying ways to:

1. Harness the expertise of life members.
2. Build connections with universities to develop student engagement in SACOSS.
3. Create a social media strategy that complements our other media work.
4. Generate new income from new sources including universities, government and fee for services.

This year Wendy Malchya will step down as a Board member. Wendy is known to many having served on the Board for 15 years, as Acting Chair for 1 year, as an ACOSS representative for 1 year and as an honorary life member. Wendy offers her time, support and knowledge generously and has been an invaluable source of corporate history during my first term. I thank her for this and wish her well in the coming years.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their enduring and endless capacity to produce quality work, to develop relationships with members, to represent the interests of constituents and to be an accessible, amenable and yet authoritative voice on issues of social and economic concern.

For such a small team the achievements in submissions, media, events, publications, policy and campaigning are outstanding. Thank you one and all especially Ross Womersley who continues to provide strong, effective and accountable leadership to the organisation and the community.

It has been a privilege to be the SACOSS Chair in 2011 - 2012 and to have had the opportunity to meet with and to work alongside so many passionate advocates for justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians.

Helen Connolly

2011-12

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## ROSS WOMERSLEY



### 2011-12 The Year Cost of Living Arose

At last year's AGM we launched SACOSS' revitalised Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. This emerged after considerable consultation and much discussion with allies, members, our Policy Council and Board. We agreed our work over the next few years should be framed around three principal aspirational goals.

The first builds on the Blueprint to Eradicate Poverty and seeks to ensure that economic and social policy is developed to guarantee all South Australians have their basic human needs met. The second seeks to ensure SA has strong cohesive community services and health sectors that are actually driving social change. Last but not least, the third aspirational goal strives to ensure SACOSS is a sustainable, independent organisation equipped to support the Community Services and Health sectors achieve our vision. As I reflect on 2011-12, I know we have taken positive steps along the road in relation to all these aspirations and I am confident that as you read this report you will see evidence of this.

I also think that this was the year Cost of Living really ascended to possibly become the most crucial issue on the political agenda. Moreover, I am delighted to say that I think we have made a significant contribution to ensuring this is so. After more than 65 years of effort from SACOSS you might reasonably think there would be widespread public understanding that rising prices in essential services like housing, transport, health, food and utilities have vastly more impact

on people living on the lowest incomes across our community than on those who have substantial incomes.

Sadly, I am still not sure this is necessarily widely understood but I am extremely pleased we have been able to continue the proud tradition of reminding the public, policy makers and our politicians that this is indeed a crucial reality. Our October 2011 Cost of Living Summit, deliberately timed to coincide with Anti-Poverty Week, was the first South Australian summit to address these specific issues. It was also the most recent attempt by SACOSS to seek broad assistance in contemplating and addressing cost of living pressures.

I am very grateful that so many people from such a variety of sectors gave up their time to come together for this purpose. Their willingness to work together to get better outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians, is testament to the importance that all participants placed on the issues.

There clearly is no agreed panacea and we never imagined this would be the outcome of the Summit. Rather, what emerged were six different topic areas with many ideas in each area for action from federal and state governments, local councils, business, and community organisations. This suggests that there are opportunities and a real need to work at addressing cost of living pressures by taking actions at many different levels—and sometimes on multiple fronts at the same time.

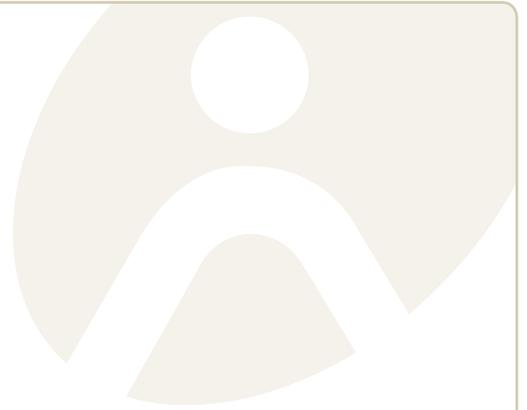
Utilities were a key focus for the Summit and remained a key focus of SACOSS' work through the remainder

of the year. This is hardly surprising given the essential nature of utilities for all of us, and the speed with which prices have skyrocketed in South Australia. As difficult as these price rises are for people on low incomes to manage, in some regards this has been to our great advantage. Increases in bill costs have not gone unnoticed by those often insulated from the impact of these price escalations because they hold good incomes. This has meant that both the public and the press have been engaged and cost of living issues have dominated our interactions with the media.

I can only imagine this situation will persist through 2012-13. As such, we will continue to endeavour to encourage developments in policy across all these areas to result in better protection for those people challenged by poverty, inequity or injustice.

What has become clear is that our capacity as a network of people and organisations concerned to influence these issues at a local, state and national level still needs strengthening. There are a myriad of examples where we would dearly like to be contributing thoughtfully to improving social policy, but a lack of resources means we simply cannot develop the specialist knowledge or campaign capacity to make good progress.

Utilities are one such context, health and gambling are others. In all these situations "the industry" has vast resources at its disposal to ensure its interests are represented. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the discussions around both problem gambling and poker machine reform.



The resources available to and subsequent power of industry to influence public debate and ultimately, legislation and regulation, is immense.

In the face of the Productivity Commission Inquiry - which concluded that there were profound issues that needed to be addressed by industry, regulators and legislators - the capacity of the 'clubs and pubs' to participate in, promote, campaign on and represent their vested interests, has vastly overwhelmed the paltry resources available to sections of the community concerned with the widely recognised impact of problem gambling.

In the absence of other sources of reliable funding emerging to support groups that could represent the broader interests of community members, governments clearly have a major role in attempting to balance these circumstances by providing resources that enable alternative and protective views to emerge, underpinned by cogent thinking and strategy.

By repeatedly failing to resource the 'concerned' sector so it can participate in, as well as lead, public and private discussions on gambling policy, I am of the view that sadly the Federal Government may have missed a once in a lifetime opportunity to forge a much better framework for gambling and poker machine use in Australia.

A similar situation exists in the context of utilities. Industry has vast resources, technical knowledge and marketing capacity at its disposal. Additionally, consumers actively underwrite industry participation in both regulatory and reform processes. In contrast,

funding to support activity directed at protecting the interests of consumers remains nominal and once-off.

Like a small number of groups spread across Australia, we have again been fortunate to have access to funding from the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) Consumer Advocacy Panel. This has been very helpful in supporting us to actively represent the interests of low income consumers. This is, however, a very complex area of work that demands a combination of state and national representation, ongoing participation and deep technical expertise.

We continue to inch toward a national market for electricity and gas. Protecting the long term interests of low income consumers and indeed all consumers can no longer be just left to an occasional grant, a very limited funding pool and few mechanisms to join up work across the nation.

Whether it's an explosion in utility costs, evidence of the deep community damage resulting from poor practices in the gambling industry, or indeed massive government led reform of the health system, it is vital that governments at both federal and state levels resolve to invest in supporting the voice of consumers so that community interests can ultimately be better protected.

I am enormously grateful to both the SACOSS Board and our Policy Council for their support, encouragement and their willingness to engage in thinking carefully about how we genuinely progress these issues. I particularly note and thank SACOSS Chair, Helen

Connolly, for the enormous contribution she has made, and continues to make, to our work. I am deeply appreciative of her ongoing support of me. I am equally grateful to, and would like to acknowledge, the fantastic small team that form our secretariat. They are passionate, committed, rigorous, supportive, and a genuine delight to work with.

I also want to record our thanks to Celia Brissenden who left us to pursue her career after many years of great service to SACOSS. We will miss her and do wish her every success.

As we approach 2012-13 I am heartened by and encourage the growing participation of all our members, challenged by the snail's pace at which change sometimes seems to come, and as always, disappointed to recognise opportunities we didn't manage to capitalise on. I remain hopeful that together we ensure SACOSS can always be fearless in its representation as we pursue Justice, Opportunity and Shared Wealth for all South Australians.

In solidarity,

Ross Womersley

2011-12

# SACOSS SECRETARIAT

## Executive Director

Ross Womersley

## Senior Research & Policy Analysts

Jo De Silva  
Dr Catherine Earl  
Dr Greg Ogle

## Events Coordinator

Vivian Clark (commenced August 2011)

## Communications Officer

Celia Brissenden (resigned May 2012)

## Office and Finance Coordinator

Libby Connell

## Interns

Tom Taylor (New York University)  
Research towards SACOSS evidence to SA Parliament's Social Development Committee's Inquiry into New Migrants

Guy Thomas (University of South Australia)  
Just One Day Without Project (disability services)

Roxanne Gillespie (Adelaide University)  
Just One Day Without Project (services to migrants and refugees)

2011-12

**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

**2011-12**

# UTILITIES

SACOSS has continued to advocate and comment on water and energy issues, with extensive reviews and recommendations prompting responses from politicians, regulators and the media throughout the year.

Some highlights of our work in 2011-12 include:

## NECF Campaign

SACOSS has been active in the ongoing debate surrounding the National Energy Customer Framework for the regulation of the retail supply of energy to customers. During parliamentary debate, amendments have been proposed to the implementing legislation in the Legislative Council in line with key asks of SACOSS around late payment fees and a 2 year consumer impact review. On 1 May, the Legislative Council voted in favour of the 2 year consumer impact review. As summarised by the Hon Mark Parnell MLC:

“This is the review clause, which is very simple in its operation and imposes no additional obligations on electricity companies. All it seeks to do is ensure that the promises that have been made in the introduction of these new national energy retail laws in fact flow through to those they are designed to benefit, namely, customers.

In a nutshell, the review is a two-year review and is conducted by the Essential Services Commission, and the objectives of the review are to determine whether the implementation of these national energy retail laws has resulted in increased efficiencies or whether or not they have adversely affected customer protection in the pursuit of national consistency.

It will be a fairly straightforward report, a statistical analysis of the outcomes of these changes, with the report to be tabled before both houses of parliament. Whilst the commission is fairly open as to how it reports and what it reports on, one specific obligation I have included in this amendment is to continue the status quo, the current practice, of publishing quarterly statistics about people being disconnected (or ‘de-energisation’ is the word used in the legislation) due to the inability to pay energy bills.”  
Hansard 1 May 2012

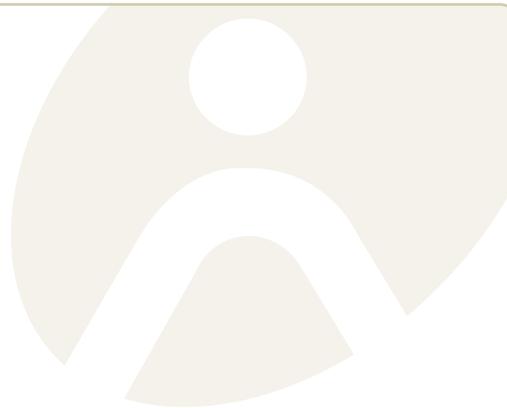
## Wholesale Electricity Costs – ESCOSA review

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

In announcing the review, ESCOSA said that:

“The Commission has also decided to commence an investigation of the retail cost components that make up the standing contract price. The Commission’s 2010 determination of the standing contract price included wholesale cost allowances that were based on the long run marginal cost of generation. The Commission was unable to rely on wholesale contract data for that review, given the lack of liquidity in the trading of wholesale contracts. Wholesale market liquidity has since increased, and market data suggests that wholesale costs faced by retailers may have changed from the amount determined through the long run marginal cost approach. The Commission flagged in its 2010 Price Determination that such a review may occur, should liquidity in the wholesale market improve. The Commission intends to conduct the review over the course of the next 6 months, with any change in the standing contract price to apply from 1 January 2013. To commence the review, the Commission will be releasing an issues paper during the week commencing 18 June 2012.”

SACOSS continues to be strongly engaged in the ESCOSA review process.



## Carbon cost pass throughs - state specific formula

On 13 February 2012, in a letter to ESCOSA, AGL proposed an increase in the electricity standing contract price ceiling for the remainder of the regulatory period (the two year period July 2012 to June 2014) to accommodate the carbon price and an expected change in distribution prices from July 2012. ESCOSA called for submissions as part of a resultant special circumstances review. SACOSS advocacy during this consultation phase included a submission to ESCOSA.

AGL chose to use a National Energy Market wide carbon intensity index as the basis for increasing the cap of the tolerance band. In its submission, SACOSS argued that this is not the most accurate measure in the context of a South Australian regional price, by pointing out that NEM average

wholesale electricity costs are an inefficient proxy for the wholesale cost of supplying South Australian consumers. SACOSS proposed using contemporary regional emissions intensity information as the basis for determining an appropriate emissions factor to use.

On 15 June 2012, ESCOSA's decision on this issue was that carbon costs should be based on South Australia's carbon emissions, which are much lower than most other states due to the relatively clean generation technology in South Australia.

## Cost of Living Summit

The SACOSS Cost of Living Summit included a utilities specific workshop. The utilities workshop began with 28 ideas for initiatives at all levels, but with initial consensus on only two issues. After robust discussion and re-working of some proposals, there was consensus on some 14 proposals. Of particular note was that nobody in the workshop believed the concession system was working effectively to assist those least able to pay for utilities. This was reflected in the key initiatives identified, and there was clear consensus around the demand for a comprehensive review of the system. The other key issue to arise in various ways was the importance of peak load as a driver of rising costs, although there was less consensus around what to do about it. Various proposals were put forward but not agreed in the time available. However, from the discussion emerged a further proposal that SACOSS convenes a similar group to discuss peak load issues. SACOSS has built this proposal into our work plan for 2012-13.

2011-12

# COST OF LIVING (INCLUDING SUMMIT)

SACOSS continued its cost of living work throughout 2011/12. We issued four quarterly Cost of Living Updates focussing on key areas of housing, utilities, food, health, transport and income support.



These reports highlighted trends and pressures in those areas and their impacts on low income households. The reports also continued to show how the generic Consumer Price Index figures mask what is happening for low income households who can't afford many of the things in the "basket" of goods measured by the generic CPI. SACOSS has also maintained a media presence and political dialogue around cost of living pressures and is now positioned as a key public commentator on the issue.

However, highlighting these issues is only part of SACOSS' work. The more important part is to identify and argue for policies to relieve cost of living pressures on vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. In October 2011 we hosted a Cost of Living Summit inviting nearly 100 leading thinkers and practitioners from business, university, government and the community sector to discuss policies which would address cost of

living pressures. Over 140 policy ideas were put on the table and consensus was reached on around 59 of these policies – all of which were recorded in the Post Summit Report published in December. The report was sent to all participants and to a range of MPs and community groups. A number of the recommendations were adopted in the SACOSS State Budget submission and SACOSS continues to advocate for these and other policies which will assist low income South Australians cope with cost of living pressures.

SACOSS was also pleased to see the State Government's announcement in April that affordable living would be one of its 7 key priorities. This is a clear recognition that many people are struggling, and there remains much work to be done to ensure that all South Australians can afford the goods and services to meet their basic needs.

2011-12

# STRONG COMMUNITY HEALTHY STATE

This year the Strong Community Healthy State (SCHS) Group continued its important work on the campaign for equal pay for community sector workers, which achieved a historic win. On 1 February of this year, Fair Work Australia handed down its decision to grant award wage increases of between 19 per cent and 41 per cent to community sector workers.

After the initial decision was handed down there were further negotiations about the details of the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) and how the increases would be paid and the final order was not released until June. These delays in gaining detail meant there was little information to pass on to community sector employers and workers. But the SCHS group continued to provide information on developments during this time.

Since the final acceptance of the ERO, SACOSS and the Australian Services Union (ASU) have collaborated on numerous forums designed to inform the sector about their responsibilities under the new arrangements. This collaboration has also partnered with others, including Jobs Australia and NDS (National Disability Services) to ensure sessions visited numerous metro and regional locations. Information forums are still being held at regular intervals to ensure no one misses out and the sector is fully informed.

Behind the scenes the SCHS group has been involved in a State Government working party to identify ways of approaching funding supplementation. The SCHS group has also been looking beyond Pay Equity to further sector and workforce issues. Priorities for the next year include maintaining relative wage improvements through enterprise bargaining, tackling contract and funding issues and progressing workforce attraction and retention strategies.



# INCOME

## (INCOME MANAGEMENT / NEWSTART)

SACOSS' strategic plan has a goal that all South Australians should have a guaranteed minimum income at least aligned to the Henderson poverty line.



Part of achieving this has been by being part of the national campaign run by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the state and territory Councils of Social Service and a range of other organisations to encourage a better, fairer system of income support for vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians. This campaign aims to get a \$50 a week increase in the base rate of Newstart because the current rate, at just \$35 a day, is simply not enough to live on. It is one of the lowest rates among developed countries, and poor indexing means that the rate is falling behind other income support payments and behind the spiralling cost of basic goods like food, electricity, water, rent, and health costs (see Cost of Living article). Keeping people in poverty also creates further barriers to them actually getting into the workforce – that is why people such as Jennifer Westacott from the Business Council of Australia and free-market economist Judith Sloan are also supporting a call for increases to Newstart.

SACOSS maintains regular contact with ACOSS on this campaign and in April joined in a nationally coordinated week of lobbying by visiting a number of South Australian federal MPs and generating media stories and opinion pieces on why Newstart needs to be increased. The response ranged from support to concern about budget spending. But the Federal budget handed down in May did at least contain recognition of the problem and a \$200 supplementary benefit for single Newstart recipients.

The campaign continues to increase the level of Newstart (and other base level allowances like Youth Allowance and Widow's Pension) so that people relying on income support can afford to pay their bills and buy the necessities. Meanwhile, another area of welfare support is going backwards. The roll-out of compulsory income management in Playford in Adelaide's northern suburbs was announced to begin on 1 July 2012. It should be recognised that the system applying in Playford is much more targeted than the blanket approach used in the Northern Territory system. SACOSS still opposes the compulsory nature of income management as it is based on a false assumption (that the issue is money management as opposed to inadequate payment levels) and because it stigmatises and disempowers welfare recipients.

During the year SACOSS made several media and public statements opposing the system of income management (or more rightly, a system of expenditure control), and attended a variety of government briefings on how it would be implemented in Playford. We continue to keep a watching brief on this 'experiment'.

# REVIEW OF THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Although a small program by government standards, the Family and Community Development program has for a long time been a flagship early intervention program to support vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. It also provides core funding for a number of peak bodies, including SACOSS, to undertake advocacy and sector development.



There was outrage in the community sector when the September 2010 State Budget slashed \$2m from the program (equating to 23% of the program), and this tainted the review being conducted by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI). However, as a result of the strong and sustained campaign by the community sector, in October 2011 Premier Weatherill announced the restoration of funding for the program. In February 2012 the Department released its draft Information and Data report summing up previous consultation and data mapping, and in April released draft guidelines for the program. SACOSS has been critical of the process of the review and made a critical submission on the draft guidelines.

As a result of this advocacy from the community sector and discussions with the Minister and Department, a new collaborative process is now in place which should evaluate in new guidelines written by the end of 2012.

# ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

SACOSS has been a supporter of Anti-Poverty Week for many years, including support and promotion of the UN's International Anti-Poverty Day on 17 October. Each year Anti-Poverty Week aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty in Australia and internationally. During Anti-Poverty Week individuals, communities, organisations and governments are encouraged to act to address poverty, through research, discussion, events and a multitude of other activities.

For Anti-Poverty Week 2011 (16-22 October), SACOSS, in conjunction with Community Centres SA mobilised our networks across South Australia to survey the community about their perceptions of poverty, reaching as far as Mt Gambier, Waikerie and Port Lincoln, as well as throughout metropolitan Adelaide. Volunteers surveyed people in the street and in community services, asking a range of questions about poverty. Over 300 people participated in the survey in 23 metropolitan and regional locations.

Most commonly, survey respondents reported that poverty means the inability to meet the basic needs to support oneself or family. The basic needs identified are: access to healthy food, shelter, clothing, health, education, and employment. Other frequent responses relate to social exclusion and the inability to participate fully in the community; living below socially acceptable standards; or being reliant on welfare and charity. SACOSS would like to extend a big thank you to our member organisations and their staff for assisting to coordinate, compile and return the survey responses.

On 19 October 2011, to coincide with Anti-Poverty Week and the release of the statement and survey results, SACOSS held the 'SACOSS Cost of Living Summit', an event which brought together a diverse group of people to work together on initiatives that would make a significant difference to cost of living pressures. Details of this major event can be found in the other areas of this report, including Cost of Living and Events sections.

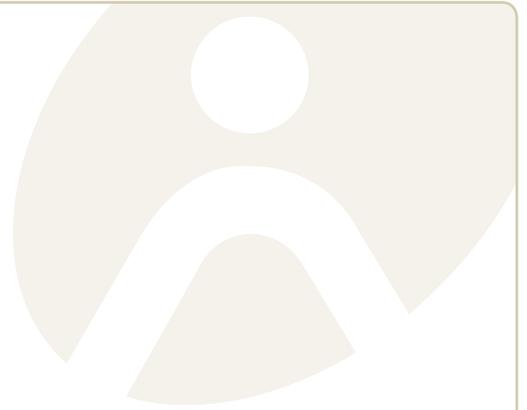


Poverty exists in South Australia and is more prevalent than many of us are aware. But it does not need to exist and we should not ever consider it an inevitable part of life, nor should we assume that those who experience poverty are to blame. We all have a responsibility to work to eradicate poverty.

SACOSS will continue to call on the State Government to urgently work with the sector to develop a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Plan. If we focus our policies there, we just might find that the benefits will trickle up and we will address key cost of living pressures for all South Australians.

2011-12

# STATE BUDGET



The State Government budget each year is important for the community services sector and for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. Each year in the lead up to the state budget SACOSS puts a submission to the Government outlining a range of initiatives we would like to see included in the budget. This is a major piece of work for SACOSS and is an indication of the priorities for the sector in a given year.

The SACOSS submission to the 2012/13 State Budget process was built around our strategic plan areas of income, health and wellbeing, housing, economic and social participation, law and justice, and sustaining the health and community services sector, it contained one other proposal -for funding for community advocacy on gambling policy. In all, SACOSS put forward 18 budget proposals.

On budget night in May, SACOSS analysed the budget in detail looking at its implications for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians, and whether the government had acted on any of the proposals we put forward. We generally welcomed this year's State Budget as an attempt to balance the needs of vulnerable citizens with economic considerations, and noted particularly the investment in support of people with disabilities and their families. We also welcomed the funding of the Parks Community Centre, strengthening of the Office of the Public Advocate, and the water rebate. However, SACOSS expressed concern over falling state revenue and the ability to fund vital services in the future. We criticised some misdirected spending such as the extension of the first home owner's grant scheme and over-investment in capital in justice and residential care for children at the expense of restorative and preventative models.



Of the proposals put forward by SACOSS, one (funding for pay equity) was taken care of in the budget; another two areas are being addressed in current government programs and two proposals remain under active consideration. In the case of another two SACOSS proposals, while the actual proposal was not adopted, the budget contained initiatives addressing the general problem raised in our submission. The remaining 11 SACOSS proposals were not adopted.

Both our Budget submission and the Budget analysis are available on the SACOSS website.

2011-12

# EVENTS WRAP-UP

For SACOSS 2011-2012 has been a very busy year resulting in multiple successful SACOSS branded and co-branded events. These have included many of our more regular events such as '\$2 Talks' as well as three major event undertakings: two conference events and the 'SACOSS Cost of Living Summit' - the first event ever hosted in Australia to look specifically at cost of living pressures.

The Summit, held on 19 October 2011, was an invitation only event that brought together almost 100 leading thinkers and practitioners from business, university, government and the community sector to generate policy ideas on the key cost of living issues. It was also the first attempt by SACOSS to seek broad assistance in addressing rising cost of living pressures. The aim was to gain consensus on a number of key policy initiatives at federal government, state government and community levels that will have a substantive effect on cost of living pressures. SACOSS was delighted to achieve consensus on over 50 proposals in such a short time.

The Summit was closely followed on 24-25 October 2011 by 'Risk Management: Overdone? Overrated? Overstated?' a conference put on in partnership with The Community Business Bureau (CBB). The two day event held at the National Wine Centre of Australia took a magnifying glass to the subject of risk, an issue that increasingly dominates conversations across all community sector organisations. Day one focused on getting on the front foot and putting risk in its right place, while day two looked at assessing exposure to risk and learning from past mistakes.

The most recent SACOSS Conference saw a return to the National Wine Centre for the 'SACOSS Community Development Conference and Masterclass Series' on 20-21 June 2012. The event saw close to 150 people attend the conference itself, and with only limited places being offered for the Masterclass series it was no surprise places for these intimate sessions

sold out. The conference reignited the conversation about the importance of community development and the ways in which it can be a viable and important tool for strengthening the communities in which we all live and work. SACOSS is looking forward to continuing these important conversations.

Alongside these major events, SACOSS continued to support and engage the sector through proudly hosting a number of informative \$2 Talks including: 'You and the new Public Health Act'; 'Media Basics for NFP's - An Introduction'; and the incredibly popular 'Getting to know Philanthropy'. For the second year running SACOSS was delighted the Hon. Jack Snelling was able to attend the (now annual) 'Post-Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer' which was this year held at the Adelaide Pavilion in Veale Gardens.

In its peak body role SACOSS has continued to connect and engage with the sector it represents through the many events outlined above, as well as the many other events, forums, campaigns and seminars there is not the room to list in this summary.

2011-12



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. SACOSS Chair Helen Connolly, State Treasurer the Hon. Jack Snelling MP and SACOSS Executive Director Ross Womersley at Adelaide Pavilion at the Post-Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer on 7 June, 2012.

2. \$2 Talk: You and the New Public Health Act panel members, from left John Coveney, Flinders University, Wendy Keech, Heart Foundation, Danny Broderick, SA Health, Cam Opie, LGA Association and Chair Angelina Edwards, HCASA.

3. Rosemary Tierney from ABC Adelaide interviewing Patricia Faulkner, AO at the SACOSS Cost of Living Summit, 19 October, 2011.

4. \$2 Talk: Getting to Know Philanthropy participants, from left James Hill, Louisa Da Costa Trust, Ross Womersley, Kirsty Allen, Myer Foundation and Jonathon Lardner, Adelaide Benevolent Society.

5. Ross Womersley facilitating the Food Workshop at the SACOSS Cost of Living Summit, 19 October, 2011.

# PUBLICATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

## Research and Information Papers:

### July 2011

- > SACOSS Consumer Advocacy Panel Project: South Australian NEM reform advocacy and capacity building project Final Project Report 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

### December 2011

- > Cost of Living Summit 19 October 2011: Post Summit Report

### January 2012

- > Unsupported Debt: The Crisis in Financial Counselling in South Australia – SACOSS Information Paper

### April 2012

- > SACOSS Essential Services Factsheet: The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) Review of Energy Market Frameworks in light of Climate Change Policies
- > SACOSS Essential Services Factsheet: Consumer protections
- > SACOSS Essential Services Factsheet: Electricity pricing
- > SACOSS Essential Services Factsheet: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Better Practices in the Provision of Assistance to South Australian Energy Customers Experiencing Financial Hardship and Having Difficulties in Meeting Payments for Energy Debts
- > SACOSS Essential Services Factsheet: The National Energy Customer Framework (NECF)

2011-12

## Submissions to Government:

### September 2011

- > Submission in relation to the 2011 Codes of Practice Review

### November 2011

- > SACOSS submission to AEMC re potential generator market power
- > SACOSS Submission to ACMA re freecall numbers

### December 2011

- > Joint COSS Submission to the definition of charity consultation
- > SACOSS Submission on National Energy Customer Framework (NECF): South Australia's Implementation Package

### January 2012

- > SACOSS Submission to ESCOSA re SA Water Rate of Return
- > SACOSS Submission ACTU Inquiry Insecure Work
- > SACOSS Submission to ESCOSA re Economic Regulation of the SA Water Industry

### February 2012

- > SACOSS Submission to AEMC re Potential Generator Market Power in the NEM
- > National, State and Territory Councils of Social Service (COSS) Submission to National Disability Strategy 2010-2020—Laying The Groundwork (2011-2014) - prepared by SACOSS

### March 2012

- > SACOSS Submission to the SA Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into the Murray Darling Basin Plan
- > SACOSS Submission to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism Draft Energy White Paper Consultation
- > SACOSS Submission to the Essential Services Commission of SA 2012 AGL Special Circumstances Review

### April 2012

- > SACOSS Submission on the Proposed Charitable Fundraising Regulation Reform - Discussion Paper
- > SACOSS Submission to the Legislative Council of SA Select Committee on Access to and Interaction with the Justice System for People with Disabilities
- > SACOSS Submission on Origin Energy Carbon Cost Pass Through Application
- > SACOSS Submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the Proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan
- > SACOSS Submission to AEMC Power of Choice - Stage 3 Demand Side Participation Review

### May 2012

- > Joint submission - Treasury discussion paper - Enhancements bill reforms - pay day lending





## BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Chair</b>	Michael Dawson
Helen Connolly	Paul Scully
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Marj Ellis
Leigh Garrett	Fiona Verity
<b>Treasurer</b>	Patsy Kellett
Monique Palmer	Wendy Malycha
	Ross Womersley - ex-officio

## POLICY COUNCIL 2011-12

Category Description	Person Elected	Organisation	Term Expires
Chair	Helen Connolly		2012
Peak Org Reps	Andris Banders Lucas de Boer Alice Clark Gill McFadyen Stephanie Miller Paul Creedon Rosemary Warmington	SANDAS YACSA Shelter SA CCSA HCASA MHCSA Carers SA	2013 2013 2012 2012 2012 2012* 2012
Reps of NGOs	Libby Craft Ed Carson Robbi Williams Jane Longbottom Robyn Sutherland Jeremy Brown (sub) Helen Lockwood Ryan Bullivant Susan Errington Liz O'Keefe Jane Fisher Mariann McNamara	UCW Port Adelaide SPRG, UniSA Julia Farr LWB UCW Adelaide  LCC St Johns Youth Services Legal Services Comm. OARS/Cty Transitions COTA - SV BINSAs	2012 2012 2012 2012 2012  2012 2012 2013 2013 2013 2013
Reps of Aboriginal NGOs	Karen Glover Harold Stewart	Pangula Mannamurna Inc Aboriginal Health Council of SA	2012 2013
Reps of non-metro NGOs	Rob Foggo Anthea Pavy	AC Care UCW Country	2013 2012
Individual Members	Phillip Beddall Angela de Conno Debra Snelson		2012 2012 2012
Board Member Reps	Mike Dawson Leigh Garrett Marj Ellis		

2011-12

# STRATEGY, POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE GROUPS

## Income SPAC

**Convenor:** Jeremy Brown (formerly of Uniting Communities)

In the 2011-2012 year, the committee worked to further progress SACOSS' work in the area of 'Cost of Living'. The committee contributed toward the 12-13 SACOSS Pre-Budget Submission to the State Government. Utilising the expertise of the membership and outcomes of the 2011 SACOSS Cost of Living Summit, three priority areas were established focusing on increasing support services through financial counselling, completing a comprehensive review of the state concessions system and the establishment of a Consumer Credit Legal Service (CCLS).

These priorities have helped to promote ongoing discussion and action between both government and the not-for-profit sector to address the driving factors that contribute towards cost-of-living pressure for low income families. As a result, there have been a range of positive outcomes including the State Government's commitment to a scoping study for the establishment of a CCLS in South Australia. In addition, members of the Income Strategy Committee played a role in local campaigning to lift the Newstart allowance as part of the 2012 National ACOSS Campaign. The Committee continues to play a proactive role in the setting of future priorities that alleviate cost of living pressure on South Australian households.

## Housing SPAC

**Convenor:** Alice Clark (Shelter SA)

Members have met to discuss their concerns around affordable appropriate housing, especially for people living on very low incomes. To this end, the outcomes from the group reflect concerns about housing policy and directions in South Australia as reflected in the draft Housing Strategy at the end of 2011. SACOSS Policy Council members were invited to contribute to the Shelter SA submission to the draft Strategy, and the Housing SPAC members are interested in how the submissions from the community to the State Government have been distilled into a final strategy, and when this might be released.

## Economic and Social Participation SPAC

**Convenor:** Jane Longbottom (Life Without Barriers)

The task for this committee was to identify up to 4 policy 'asks' relating to the most urgent needs of marginalised and vulnerable people to be able to gain greater access to, and parity within, participatory advantages of our society.

The first two of the 'asks' focus on the broad concept of citizenship and expanding employment opportunities. Through the promotion of both neighbourhood engagement and increased local employment strategies, opportunities for far greater social and economic participation could be harnessed.

The opportunities for greatly improved participation at all levels for people with disability, offered by the now much discussed National Disability Insurance Scheme, also presents an opening for the consumer voice of people with disability to be more fully utilised. While there is significant emphasis on the preparation needed by non-government services, relatively little emphasis has been placed on how people with disabilities themselves view either the governance arrangements for such a scheme, or indeed what their priorities are for its parameters.

The final focus for participation has been on the growing number of young people who have been under the Guardianship of the Minister to the age of 18, and for whom there is very little additional support over and above that which is mainstream when they exit care. The new Department for Education and Child Development brings with it a positive focus on early childhood development and a collaborative approach to integrated and holistic services to support families and children. However, in times of economic constraint, there is concern that much needed service improvements for extremely vulnerable groups such as care leavers, will be glossed over or shelved.



## Health SPAC

**Convenor:** Stephanie Miller (Executive Director, Health Consumers Alliance)

The SACOSS Health SPAC was relatively inactive in the last year. This is primarily due to a lack of resources and capacity within the SACOSS secretariat to engage in policy/advocacy work in the area of health. This is disappointing because of the substantial reforms currently ongoing in the sector, for example, with the creation of Medicare Locals, potential changes to public dental schemes etc.

The SACOSS 2012/13 Budget Submission highlighted a gap in support for community sector health service providers' participation in processes of health reform. The submission called for a SACOSS policy officer position to provide this function. To date, SACOSS has not secured funding for such a role. SACOSS and Stephanie Miller are working to activate the SPAC during 2012/13.

## Justice SPAC

**Convenor:** Mariann McNamara, Executive Officer of the Brain Injury Network of SA Inc (BINSIA)

The Justice SPAC has been very well served with representative membership from OARS Community Transitions (OARS), Youth Advisory Committee SA (YACSA), Legal Services Commission, Mental Health Alliance (MHA) and of course SACOSS. Based on the strategic policy priorities determined by SACOSS and our shared constituency interests, the Justice SPAC focused on 3 elements: to refocus South

Australian youth justice to embrace youth restorative justice principles; to gain additional diversionary options within the SA Courts system including in the Supreme Court; and to improve the legal outcomes of those within the justice system through appropriate assessment of mental capacity.

During 2011-12 the SPAC met with a senior Courts SA representative and shared our key concerns, and discussed how we can work together to improve the outcomes of those who are caught up in the justice system. The SPAC developed a major piece of work in the 'South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) Submission to the Legislative Council of SA Select Committee on Access to and Interaction with the Justice System for People with Disabilities'. The SPAC is encouraged by the new Chief Justice, Chris Kourakis' interest in a more genuine engagement of the community to improve justice outcomes. Chief Justice Kourakis has spoken about achieving more equitable legal outcomes for those who are the most socially isolated and economically vulnerable, and therefore more likely to be caught up in the justice system. This covers precisely our constituency concerns. The Justice SPAC is keen to continue to pursue a review of the areas we have set out above, especially the seemingly almost deliberate over-representations of indigenous people and those with an ABI in detention, through the failure of the legal fraternity to utilise the full extent of the provisions under the Criminal Act.

## Sector Development and Leadership SPAC

**Convenor:** Angela DeConno  
**Members:** Catherine Earl, Libby Craft, Ed Carson and Rob Foggo

Shortly after being established the committee commenced developing a plan of action and priorities for the coming years. Following an analysis of the previous year's budget submission, discussion with SACOSS staff, and a consultation with Policy Council members it was determined the SPAC priorities would include the implementation of the pay equity case outcome; standardisation in CPI increases across funding agreements; ensuring funding through longer term outcomes; and to monitor the impact of the ACNC and other regulatory outcomes on the sector.

To date, the committee has participated in ASU/SACOSS pay equity forums; supported SACOSS advocacy/ work regarding funding contracts eg F&CD review; developed and distributed a survey to members regarding CPI; participated in state budget submission consultation forums; and monitored the bill and legislation regarding the ACNC. Much of the work on developing the sector and its leadership is done by SACOSS staff – we thank them for their dedicated and diligent work.

# EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Representatives of SACOSS sat on the following boards and committees in the 2011-12 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  
Christine Halsey (now retired)

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  
Rosalyn Williams

Department of Health Data  
Linkage Steering Committee  
David Scrimgeour

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

**MEMBERS**

**2011-12**

# MEMBERS

## Lifetime Members

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

## Individual Members

Julie Adderley  
Jamieanne Albrecht  
Lucy Angley  
Judy Barton  
Harold Bates-Brownsword  
Jo Baulderstone  
Arlette Beelitz  
Cynthia Betterman  
Anne Bourne  
Celia Brissenden  
Graham Brown  
Jeremy Brown  
Danielle Burford  
Robert Caley  
Richard H Cannon  
David Cappo  
Josie Chapman  
Andrew Clarke  
Helen Connolly  
Scott Cowen  
Truus Daalder  
Pamela Darwin  
Margaret Davies  
Jenny Dawes  
Angela De Conno  
Jennifer Duncan  
Angelina Edwards  
Marj Ellis  
Andrew Elvin  
Chris Field  
Pasquale Forgione  
Bruce W Gibbons  
Emma Gillett  
Angela Gillingham  
Ian Goodwin-Smith  
Kris Hanna  
Nicole Harb  
Patricia Hart-Dundon  
Robert W Hayes  
Catherine Hayles  
Lindsay Holmes  
Leila Huebner  
Deana Iveson  
Michele Jarldorn  
Glenys M Jones  
Amy Kaim  
Tina Karanastasis  
Celia Karpfen  
Graham Keen  
Michael Keenan  
David Kilner  
Michael Kompo  
Kerrie Lacey  
Peter Lake  
Paul Laris  
Ann Lawless  
Peter Leech  
Marilyn Lennon  
Rebecca Lucas  
Anne Magarey  
Bev Majda  
Margaret Mealor  
Dennis Murton  
Jane Mussared  
Veronnica Nagathota  
Andrew Nance  
Allen Nash  
Mark Parnell  
Luke Parsons  
Andrea Petersen  
Lena Poole  
Roger M Porter  
Felicity Prance  
Christopher Radbone  
Kate Reynolds  
Kathryn Rush  
Mary Salveron  
Anne Sanders  
Andrea Sargent  
Phil Saunders  
Jhunu Schrapel  
Scott Sims  
Debra Snelson  
Heather Southcott  
Angela Stephenson  
Barbara Stephenson  
Jackie Stewart  
Carmel C Sutcliffe  
Fong Kuan Ung  
Ali Uren  
Fiona Verity  
Jan Wallent  
Coral Wheaton  
Frances Wilde  
Rosalyn Williams  
Gary Wilson  
John Wishart  
Jodie Wright  
Penny Wright  
Jayne Wrigley

# 2011-12



## 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  
Archway Foundation SA Inc  
Assoc 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  
Bedford Group  
Better Hearing Australia (Adelaide)  
Birthline Pregnancy Support Inc  
Brain Injury Network SA Inc  
The Broughton Art Society Inc.  
Camden Community Centre Inc.  
Carers SA Inc.  
Centacare Catholic Family Services  
Centacare Catholic Family Services CDP  
Central Domestic Violence Service  
Chaffey Community Centre  
Churches of Christ CareWorks  
Citizen Advocacy South Australia  
City of Onkaparinga  
Clubhouse SA Inc  
Community Business Bureau Inc  
Community Centres SA  
Community Living Project Inc  
COTA Seniors Voice  
Country North Community Services Inc  
DOME Association Inc  
Drug Arm Australasia  
Edge Assist Incorporated  
Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc  
Flinders University SA Community Health Research Unit  
Gay and Lesbian Community Service of SA Inc  
Goodwood Community Services  
Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc.  
Guide Dogs SA.NT  
Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc  
Health Promotion Branch - Health SA  
Hepatitis SA Incorporated  
Hills Community Options Inc  
Hutt Street Centre Ltd  
Individual Supported Accommodation Service Inc  
Interchange Incorporated  
iSWEAR  
Julia Farr Group  
The Junction Community Centre Inc  
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 Progress 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

# MEMBERS

## Organisation members (continued)

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  
SA Unions  
Safer Communities Australia Inc  
The Salvation Army  
Shelter SA Inc  
SHine SA Inc  
Skill Teaching and Resources Inc  
The Smith Family  
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  
Southern Junction Community Services Inc  
SPARK Resource Centre Inc  
St John's Youth Services Inc  
St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc  
Stable Help Inc  
Statewide Super  
Sue Fenwick Organisational Support Services  
The Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc  
Time for Kids  
Toc H South Australia Inc  
UniSA College

Uniting Communities  
UnitingCare Adelaide East  
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.  
The Women's Housing Association Inc  
Working Women's Centre SA Inc  
Youth Affairs Council of SA Inc  
YWCA of Adelaide

# 2011-12

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SACOSS had a surplus of \$3,242; which is less than last year due to an increase of 13.6% on expenditure. This was mainly due to the spending on a newly created Events Coordinator position.

Our financial management structures are frequently reviewed, with regular focus on the budget. The auditor has approved the books and the financial statements. There has not been any discrepancies with the financials and we will continue to present them using the same systems.

SACOSS continues to be resourceful and is maintaining a tight surplus. This will assist in the delivery of some projects.

2011-12

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

***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012***

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.

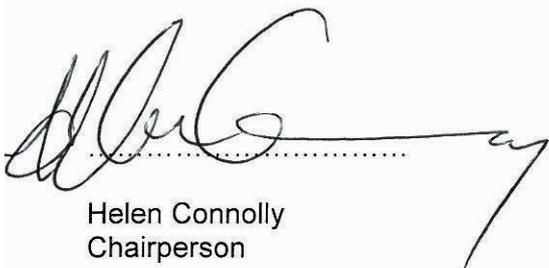
In the opinion of the members of the Board the financial report comprising the Income and Expenditure Statements, Balance Sheet and Notes to and forming part of the financial report:

- (a) Present fairly the financial position of SACOSS as at 30 June 2012 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 2012:

- (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 23 day of, August 2012

2011-12

## South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

### Income & Expenditure Statement For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Grants		446,885	429,626
Member subscriptions		54,911	58,650
Donations		859	1,145
MB house fees		9,368	11,365
Sales and advertising		910	496
Interest		29,885	27,994
Expense recovery and transfers	4	-	324
Research and development		61,379	39,849
Conference and sponsorship		96,728	53,546
Sundry Income		1,976	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>702,901</b>	<b>622,995</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Conference Costs		36,749	29,196
Employment		430,283	390,909
Location		61,674	60,105
Supplies		21,898	20,549
Services		83,343	73,387
Reference materials		29,871	10,248
Travel		21,646	11,413
Equipment		11,574	17,818
General		2,621	2,198
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>699,659</b>	<b>615,823</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>		<b>3,242</b>	<b>7,172</b>
Transfer from Reserves		-	-
Marjorie Black House renovations and expenses		-	-
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>		<b>3,242</b>	<b>7,172</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>249,335</b>	<b>242,163</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds at the end of the year</b>		<b>252,577</b>	<b>249,335</b>



**South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.**

**Assets & Liabilities Statement  
As at 30 June 2012**

	Notes	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash On Hand		140	2,472
Cash at Bank		641,605	650,376
Receivables		80,659	22,698
Prepayments		11,243	6,848
		<u>733,647</u>	<u>682,394</u>
<b>Non- Current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	2	<u>830,955</u>	<u>793,535</u>
		830,955	793,535
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>1,564,602</b></u>	<u><b>1,475,929</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and Borrowings			
Creditors and Accruals		57,304	31,697
Grants and Funds Received in Advance		94,870	74,863
Membership Fees in Advance		8,210	4,992
Provisions			
Provision for Building Repairs	2	70,000	35,000
Provision for Annual Leave		22,185	22,112
Provision for Long Service Leave		9,497	11,592
Provision for Staff Redundancies		21,248	17,626
		<u>283,313</u>	<u>197,882</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>283,313</b></u>	<u><b>197,882</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>1,281,289</b></u>	<u><b>1,278,047</b></u>
<b>Accumulated Funds and Reserves</b>			
Accumulated Funds		252,577	249,335
Reserves	3	<u>1,028,712</u>	<u>1,028,712</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds and Reserves</b>		<u><b>1,281,289</b></u>	<u><b>1,278,047</b></u>

2011-12

## South Australian Council of Social Service Inc.

### Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

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#### 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 2012**

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	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>2. Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
Marjorie Black House	770,000	770,000
Office Furniture, Equipment & Software - at cost	160,100	168,523
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>99,144</u>	<u>144,988</u>
	<b><u>830,956</u></b>	<b><u>793,535</u></b>

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.

**3. Reserves**

Balance at beginning of year	1,028,712	988,712
Bequest - Marjorie Black House	-	-
Funds expended - Marjorie Black House	-	-
Asset revaluation reserve	<u>-</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Balance at end of year	<b><u>1,028,712</u></b>	<b><u>1,028,712</u></b>

**4. Cost Recovery from Projects**

SACOSS has a policy of recovering a portion of its administrative costs from projects.

**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.

2011-12



PARTNERS:  
David Ellis  
James McKenzie  
Ross 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 2012 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*

2011-12