



Annual Report 2017



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ACOSS and our community of supporters share a vision for a fair, just, diverse and sustainable Australia. Your support is critical to enable ACOSS to continue being a strong and influential advocate for change.

Support us today in one of the following ways:

Join the ACOSS Membership Organisations can become a member and join our network of community sector organisations advocating for a fairer Australia. Members play a vital role in shaping ACOSS policy and advocacy and amplifying the voice of community in public debate. Members also receive a suite of membership services including sector-specific media and policy updates, access to advocacy, training and networking opportunities and more. Find out more on our website at www.acoss.org.au

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Make a donation All donations to ACOSS go straight to our policy development and advocacy work. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Make a donation on our website at www.acoss.org.au

Share our work with your colleagues, friends, family and networks We know that strength lies in numbers. The more people who understand poverty and disadvantage in Australia, and what can be done to reduce both, the better. Share this publication with your network and help drive the conversation about how we tackle poverty and inequality in Australia.

Follow us online Follow ACOSS on Twitter and Facebook and tell us your story.

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Front cover image: ACOSS National Conference 2016. Photograph by Catherine McElhone

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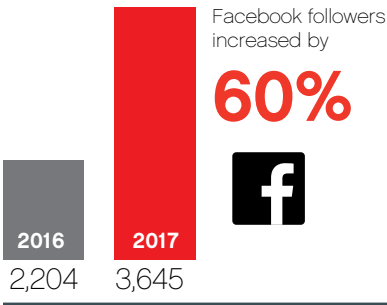
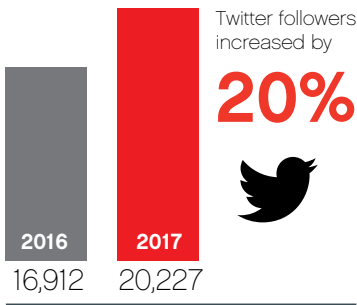
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Australian Council of Social Service

The year in numbers

Social Media



Media

50

Media Releases

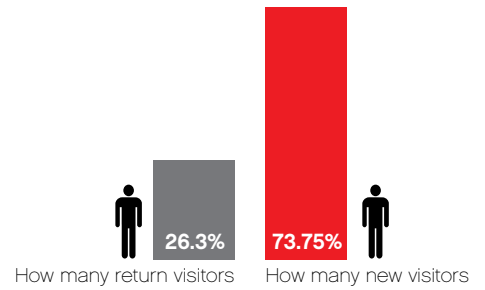


Website



120,831

How many visitors



Publications

12

Position statements, briefings, papers, publications



20

Submissions

Comms



79

Member comms sent

Media mentions



13,810

Media mentions broadcast 41% and print/online: 59%

Media Impact



Advocacy on Omnibus Bill
March 8, 2017, *The Age*



6 – point plan on housing
affordability, produced with National
Shelter
April 26 2017, *ABC Radio*



Opinion piece by CEO Cassandra
Goldie on the 'investment approach'
July 27, 2016, *Australian Financial
Review*



CEO Cassandra Goldie on
ABC's Q & A
August 29, 2016



CEO Cassandra Goldie - Budget
Night media, *Sky News*
May 9, 2017



Opinion piece by CEO Cassandra
Goldie on the unemployment
payment
October 3, 2016, *The Guardian*



Opinion piece by CEO Cassandra
Goldie on the 'investment approach'
July 27, 2016, *Australian Financial
Review*



OUR GOAL: Increase our impact on key policy decisions and actions

Our Strategies:

- (a) Lead and support action to advance the adoption of equitable policy solutions by governments and other decision-makers.
- (b) Build strategic alliances with key decision-makers to directly influence policy decisions and outcomes.
- (c) Ensure a strong and effective media profile as an advocate in support of people affected by poverty, across a diverse range of media.
- (d) Build ACOSS' campaigning capacity to mobilise the community in support of key objectives, including through the use of online tools.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful parliamentary advocacy opposing a raft of social security measures that cut incomes or place punitive, regressive obligations on people who are unable to find paid work. This included defeating government attempts to abolish the energy supplement, cut dental funding, cut income support payments for people in psychiatric confinement, deny young people income support for five weeks, and cut paid parental leave.
- Intense advocacy calling for the cessation of Centrelink's 'Robo-debt' program, including engagement with the Minister for Human Services and his department, coordinating collaboration amongst key organisations advocating on this issue, and media engagement. To date, advocacy has resulted in a review by the Commonwealth Ombudsman and a Senate inquiry, as well as some minor changes to the program.
- Continued advocacy highlighting serious concerns with the Community Development Program, income management and cashless debit card, including working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, the Accountable Income Management Network, Jobs Australia and the National Social Security Rights Network (NSSRN) and a range of other organisations, and parliamentary advocacy.
- Co-hosting Australia's first high-level, multi-stakeholder Sustainable Development Goals Summit, along with other peak bodies the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia/Pacific. The Summit advanced national implementation of the goals by bringing together 150 leaders and decision-makers from government, business, civil society and academia to work collaboratively on mapping out actions to be taken by different sectors to achieve the goals.
- Joint advocacy on housing affordability with National Shelter, Homelessness



The opening panel of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, from left to right: Sam Mostyn (President, ACFID), Christopher Woodthorpe (Director, UN Information Centre, Canberra), Catherine Hunter (Chair, Global Compact Network Australia), Cassandra Goldie (CEO, ACOSS), Sam Loni (Global Coordinator, SDSN Youth), and John Thwaites (Chair, SDSN Australia/Pacific).

Photo courtesy of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Australia, Community Housing Industry Australia and State and Territory COSSs. We met with key ministers and, with National Shelter, coordinated a joint sector consultation with the ministers. The outcomes were published as a 6 point National Housing Affordability Plan setting out a long-term measured approach, coordinated across all levels of government, to make housing affordable and reduce homelessness.



- Building broad support for reforms to superannuation, including through releasing a briefing on the subject and engaging with government,

opposition and cross-bench members.



- Securing increased investment in our climate and energy advocacy. Those experiencing poverty and disadvantage will be the first and the hardest hit by climate change impacts; and they will have the least capacity to cope, adapt and recover.
- Bringing the community and environment sectors together for a ground-breaking climate and energy project, *Empowering disadvantaged households through electricity decarbonisation*. A series of consultations and final report assisted in building a better understanding, across the sector and amongst policy makers, of the problems and

solutions for low income and disadvantaged households, while addressing the energy trilemma of security, affordability and emission reductions. This project was undertaken in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and The Climate Institute, with funding from the Energy Consumers Association.

- Leading community sector Federal Budget advocacy, including through our budget submission, briefings, post-budget snapshots, engagement with bureaucracy and parliamentarians, community sector caucusing and press conference, and member training session.
- Providing a significant non-party political advocacy voice in the lead up to the 2016 Federal Election. This included surveying party leaders on our key policy priorities and releasing the results through a dedicated election webpage and media to influence development and public debate of major party policies to reduce poverty and inequality in Australia.
- Significant media presence, including 13,810 media mentions, 50 media releases, print, radio and television interviews, and opinion pieces.

NEW DAILY
MONEY • RETIREMENT •
Pensioners to be 'stripped' of energy supplement
23:30pm, Sep 1, 2016 Updated 6:58am, Apr 12

The government is pushing to reduce the age pension by \$100 a year as part of its omnibus savings bill, advocates say.

A bill tabled in Parliament on Wednesday proposes to strip the energy supplement, which was put in place by Labor to help pay for electricity.

It is currently worth an extra \$366.40 per year for a couple (\$177.40 each). Anyone who has the supplement for the first time after 20 September 2017 will not be able to get it until 30 September 2018.

A spokesman for the Australian Pensioners Federation (APF) said the supplement is a "lifeline" for many pensioners.

The Sydney Morning Herald
Federal Politics
Nick Xenophon blocks government's \$4 billion childcare and welfare omnibus bill
By Peter Dutton, Nick Xenophon

Nick Xenophon's Senate filibuster will approve the government's \$4 billion childcare and welfare omnibus bill, according to the Coalition's attempt to see through the bill's passage.

Without Xenophon's filibuster, the package would have passed the Senate. However, the government attempted to pass the bill by trying to force the Senate to pass it by a majority of 60.

Xenophon's filibuster will approve the government's \$4 billion childcare and welfare omnibus bill, according to the Coalition's attempt to see through the bill's passage.

The West Australian
Home Latest News Sport Business Politics Opinion Lifestyle Entertainment | Daily
Turnbull in struggle to find savings in Budget
Share Wright, Economics Editor
Monday, 27 February 2017 3:55 AM

The Turnbull Government is under pressure to find new Budget savings and come up with ways to boost the economy as it prepares for a showdown over \$11 billion worth of possible cuts.

Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said yesterday he was not prepared to "put up the white flag" in a series of cuts contained in the Omnibus Bill.

Already Labor, the Greens and the Nick Xenophon Team have signalled they will oppose the Bill, which includes reductions for welfare recipients and families as it seeks to boost childcare assistance. One Nation also opposed parts of the Bill.

Many of the measures date back to the 2014 Budget but they have struggled to gain enough support in the Senate. The steel services sector will today demand the Government abandon its welfare cuts and look to reduce spending and raise extra revenue in other areas.

The Australian Council of Social Services will argue the 50 per cent concession on capital gains tax has had negative gearing be wound back, fuel tax needs to remain companies should be axed and a sugar tax be introduced on sweetened drinks.

ACOSS chief executive Cassandra Goldie said it was clear the Government could not fund essential services such as health, aged care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme on present tax revenues.

HUFFPOST
NEWS POLITICS ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BUSINESS TECH FOOD MORE
'Outrageous Attack': Pleas For Welfare Cuts To Be Scrapped
Critics charge that the bill is a "betrayal" of the poor.

Welfare recipients, youth receiving benefits and children have issued a plea for the government to scrap the bill, saying it is a "betrayal" of the poor.

Representatives from 10 welfare groups, including the Australian Council of Social Services and other social justice groups, met on Tuesday at Parliament House, an federal building, to discuss the bill. The bill is a "betrayal" of the poor, they said.

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9NEWS
SYDNEY Change
National Local Just in World Videos Live
News / National
Centrelink debt letters need to end: ACOSS
2:00pm Feb 15, 2017

Hundreds of thousands of Australians have been incorrectly sent debt letters, ACOSS says.

Money
What to do if you get a debt letter

Centrelink Inquiry

Recently, Centrelink has been in the news due to the flawed debt recovery system introduced in late 2016 known as RoboDebt.

This system, the Online Compliance Intervention program, targets people who have in the past or who are currently receiving social security payments. It has generated large numbers of inaccurate debts, which has resulted in extreme distress for those targeted, and, in some cases, resulted in people paying a debt they do not owe, or one higher than that they do owe.

The flaws of the program include automated data matching between the Department of Social Services and the Australian Taxation Office, resulting in inaccurate debt notices, an expectation that the person receiving the debt notice should prove that they don't have a debt; and limited options for people to contact the department to resolve problems.

"When we talked about evidence of what was happening to people in Canberra because of RoboDebt, the Senate Committee really took notice. It's really important for the Senators to see there are real people affected by this process."

The Australian government's Senate Inquiry into Centrelink and their automated debt recovery system have completed their public hearings, and the timeframe for submissions is now closed. The report was released on Wednesday June 21, and is available on their website.

[Back to top](#)

PM
Listen to Tuesday's program
PM covers a broad spectrum of issues relevant to all sections of Australia's geographically and culturally diverse community.

Centrelink boss hits back over criticism she ignored robo-debt warnings

KIM LANDREY: The bureaucrat in charge of the controversial Centrelink robo-debt program has hit back at critics who've accused her of ignoring warnings that it would create unnecessary stress and hardship.

The secretary of the Human Services Department, Kathryn Campbell, has told a Senate estimates committee that concerns are political and she won't be meeting with unions or welfare rights groups while media interest in the program remains high.

Political reporter Tom Iggulden has more from Canberra.

TOM IGGULDEN: The Australian Council of Social Services told the inquiry this morning its warnings about the robo-debt system were ignored.

CASSANDRA GOLDIE: We were not consulted about this measure. We were not included in any of the discussions about its design, evidence by phone.

TOM IGGULDEN: That's ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie giving the account of the first warnings were issued in May last year in the lead-up to last year's federal election campaign when the Government announced it was going to aggressively target welfare debts.



OUR GOAL: Development of evidence and experience based solutions

Our Strategies:

- (a) Develop effective mechanisms to hear, understand and reflect the lived experience of people affected by poverty or disadvantage and facilitate their ability to participate in the development of policy and advocacy.
- (b) Ensure that our mechanisms for consultation with members and other key stakeholders are robust, inclusive and respectful.
- (c) Collaborate with academics and other researchers to produce and promote research that contributes to public understanding of poverty, its causes, impacts and solutions.
- (d) Draw on international and Australian research and experience to develop new policy solutions that influence public policy to reduce poverty and inequality.

HIGHLIGHTS

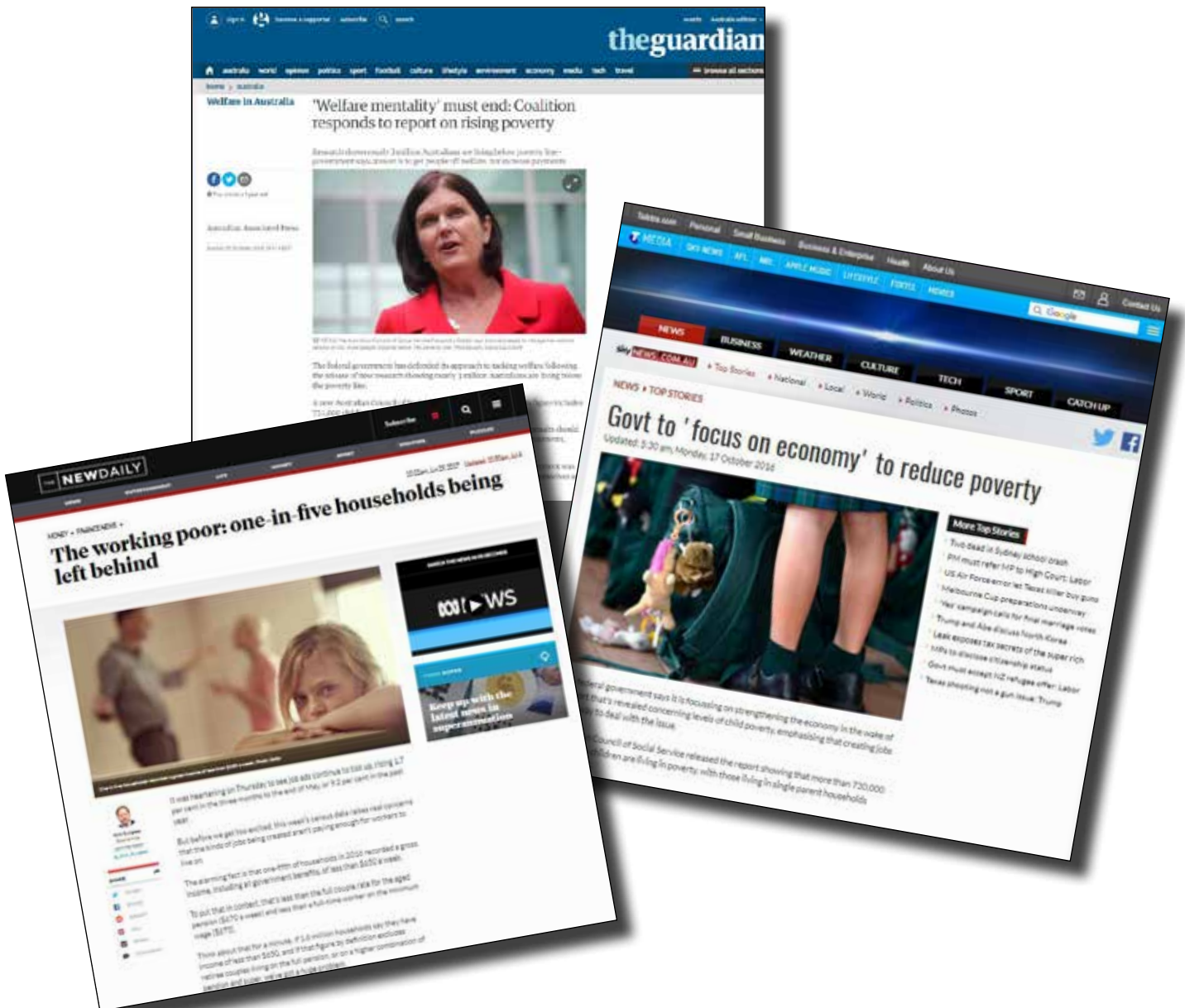
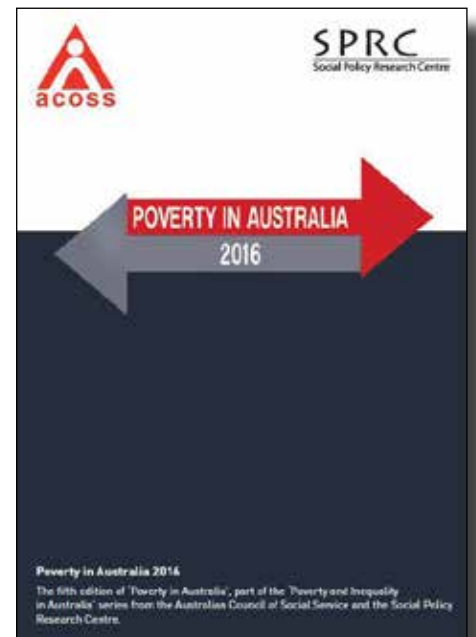
- Strong participation in our national member policy networks on income support and employment, taxation, housing and homelessness, health, community sector, and climate and energy; and our media and communications network. Networks met regularly and enabled briefing, information sharing, planning and coordination.
- Engaging with community members through further growing and developing our individual membership, with an additional 299 individual members joining ACOSS.
- Increased engagement with individuals through social media, including increasing our Facebook following by 50% and increasing our Twitter engagement. With over 20,000 followers we are one of the most followed Australian community sector organisations on Twitter.
- Supporting individuals with lived experience engage with media and Senate inquiries in Robodebt advocacy through the development of how-to guides, individual support and collaborative media engagement.
- Partnering with the University of New South Wales for the Poverty in Australia 2016 report, the latest in our Poverty and Inequality Series.
- Intensive policy development with an expert tax advisory group including member representatives and academics to develop new tax reform proposals and design packages which meet key policy objectives: to raise revenue and improve the efficiency and equity of the system.
- Coordinating a roundtable on tax strategy with members, unions, think tanks and academics to increase clarity around shared reform agendas and engagement with the multinational tax avoidance campaign.
- Bringing together leading thinkers from the community sector, unions and academia to consider key employment and income support policy questions in a two-day work and incomes roundtable.
- Two major events - the ACOSS National Conference in November 2016 and the Post-Budget Breakfast in May 2017.

POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA 2016

ACOSS' Poverty in Australia 2016, published in partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, revealed that there are an estimated 2.9 million people, or 13.3% of the total population, living in poverty in Australia. It also found that 731,300, or 17.4% of all children, are living in poverty.

This report garnered media attention from most major news outlets, including Fairfax Media, the ABC and The Guardian. It also captured interest from some of the newer outlets such as the Huffington Post and the New Daily. The report even made it as far as the Daily Mail in the UK. The press conference for the release of the report was shown on free to air and paid television networks, with a total audience of over 10 million. Online interest via social media was huge, as were hits on the ACOSS website.

A big thanks must go to report sponsors The Australian Communities Foundation (Social Justice Fund), Mission Australia, St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army, and the research team at the Social Policy Research Centre, led by Professor Peter Saunders.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016: LEADING THE BIG DEBATES

November 2017, Sydney

- Over 480 participants.
- Speakers included Gillian Triggs, then President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, and Burkhard Gnarig, Director of the International Civil Society Centre.

Sessions included:

- The impacts of disruptive change on civil society organisations;
- Dangerous new frontiers? Competition policy and human service delivery;
- Education and inequality: Bridging the divide; and
- Truth Telling: Speaking with conviction, living with the consequences.



POST BUDGET BREAKFAST

May 2017, Sydney.

Over 210 participants attended. The event began with a question and answer session between ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie and Treasurer Scott Morrison, followed by a panel of high profile

commentators and civil society representatives who applied a focused lens on four key areas of the budget – poverty and inequality, climate change, community services and housing affordability.



SOCIAL MEDIA

ACOSS has worked on increasing social media and communications capacity over this period.



ACOSS uses Twitter to engage with a wide audience including media, organisations and individuals. Twitter provides a platform to have our voice, and that of the COSS network, heard on the major issues.

Twitter followers increased from 16,912 to 20,227.

ACOSS was mentioned 3,972 times in tweets, and retweeted 10,753 times. Our tweets were liked 6,208 times.



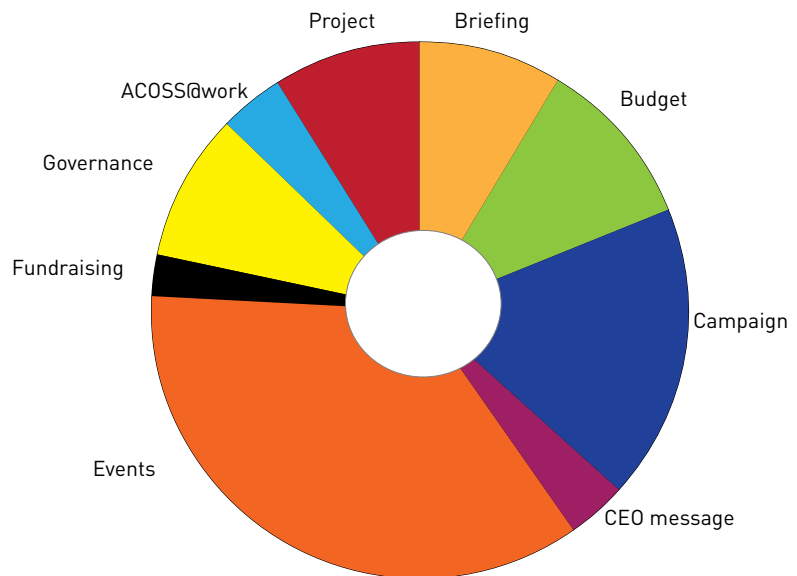
Facebook followers increased from 2,204 to 3,645 during the reporting period.

Facebook provides a more personalised community than Twitter, as the majority of ACOSS followers on Facebook are individuals. It gives us the space to share detailed policy positions and media stories that have sparked our interest and will engage our audience.



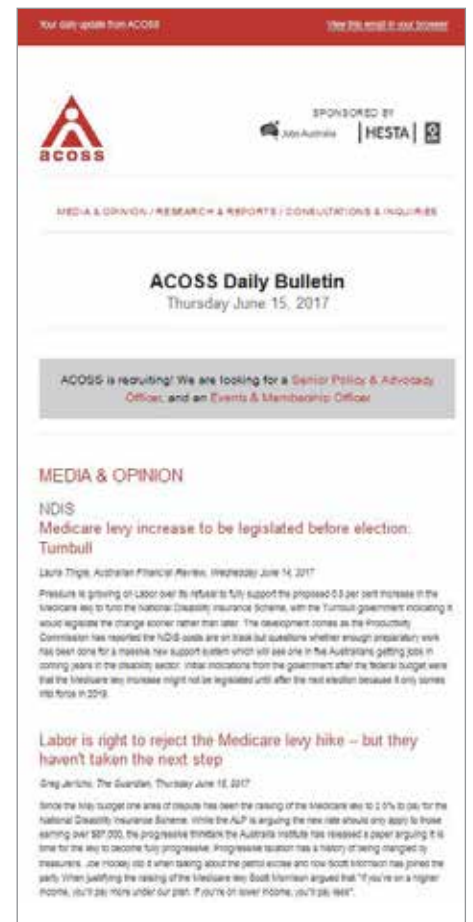
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS, NUMBER PER TYPE

Communications to members over this reporting period fell into 9 categories: Policy, Budget, Campaigns, CEO Messages, Events, Fundraising, Governance, ACOSS@work and Projects.



ACOSS DAILY BULLETIN

During this period a number of changes were made to our Daily Media Bulletin, including the implementation of a business development plan and roll out of the re-titled ACOSS Daily Bulletin to Associate Members. The service was continued for National Members.





Daily Mail
 Home | U.K. | U.S. | News | World News | Sport | TV & Showbiz | Femail | Health | Science
 Breaking News | Home | World News | Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Malaysian Timor | Headlines | World

Budget 2017: Dole bludgers to face driver-style demerit points system that will see them docked welfare payments if they miss job interviews

• Demerit point system to be introduced as part of 2017 Federal Budget
 • Welfare recipients who fail to turn up to interviews will lose payments and points
 • Recipients that lose seven demerit points will lose all funding for eight weeks

By SAM MCPHEE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
 PUBLISHED: 02:01 AEDT, 9 May 2017 | UPDATES

Dole bludgers are coming under the driver-style demerit points system set to be introduced as part of the 2017 Federal Budget. Welfare recipients face losing demerit points if they miss job interviews and appointments. Recipients will start losing a percentage of their welfare payments if they lose seven points, and will lose the entirety of their payments if they lose all eight points.

PRO bene

Civil Society Calls for a People Centred Budget

More than 70 civil society organisations have joined forces to advocate for a people-centred budget that serves the needs of ordinary Australians.

Representing an estimated 10 million Australians, these organisations, some with 100 years' experience from the social sector gathered at QUT Parliament House in Brisbane for the first of the national 'people's budget' rallies.

the guardian

Welfare sector urges negative gearing and private health cuts to save \$9.4bn

Private companies and welfare groups have urged the government to consider cutting negative gearing and private health insurance to save \$9.4 billion from the 2017-18 budget.

The government would save \$9.4 billion by cutting negative gearing and private health insurance, welfare groups have urged the government to consider cutting negative gearing and private health insurance to save \$9.4 billion from the 2017-18 budget.

Listen to Thursday's program

AM in Australia's most inclusive news and current affairs program. AM sets the agenda for coverage.

Welfare groups concerned that new budget measures vilify the unemployed

The Federal Government says it will scrap welfare savings measures from other budgets, but if it fails to do so, it will have to cut welfare payments for the unemployed. Welfare groups are concerned that the new budget measures vilify the unemployed.



OUR GOAL: Support and grow the effectiveness of community service organisations

Our Strategies:

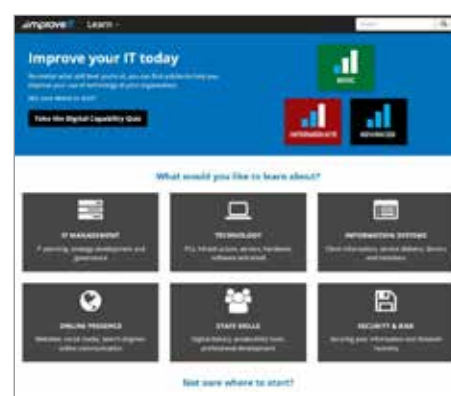
- Understand the national issues impacting on the sector and its capacity to assist people in need. Work with the sector, the Federal Government and other stakeholders to implement strategies that address these issues.
- Develop the Australian Community Sector Survey as a key conduit for information about the lived experiences of people affected by poverty and the organisations that support them.
- Strengthen community development as the framework through which ACOSS develops and advocates policies to reduce poverty and disadvantage
- Builds on the commitment to civil society, ethics and values that characterises the community sector through our leadership on policy issues.
- Foster the capacity of the community sector to improve public policy outcomes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Member survey as part of the Australian Community Sector Survey process during October 2016. The survey included questions about funding, capacity and turn-away rates, along with direct questions on competition policy in human services.
- Submissions to the first and second stage of the Productivity Commission Inquiry on Human Services highlighting issues with competition, marketisation and contestability in human service delivery.
- Continuation of our partnership

and work with Choice to improve the evidence base on the impacts of competition policy and human services.

- ACOSS participated in the Australian Progress Messaging project, with a view to developing shared priorities and messages across civil society.
- Continuation of work on the Digital Business Kits project, including an agreement with partner InfoXchange for a website upgrade (<https://improveit.org/>) featuring a new look and feel, better functionality and updated and refined content.



- Continued development and promotion of the Resilient Community Organisation Toolkit. On 13 October 2016, the International Day of Disaster Reduction, ACOSS urged community organisations to

build their resilience to disasters and emergencies. The online toolkit, Resilient Community Organisations, includes a disaster resilience benchmarking tool so organisations can assess their current state of disaster preparedness and identify areas of improvement; and the six steps to disaster resilience,

which include information and resources organisations need to take action. This tool is available at www.resilience.acoss.org.au.

- Further developing our understanding of how federal policy settings influence work at a grassroots level, including visiting services in the Gwydir Shire in Northern NSW.

- Building the capacity of the sector to engage in policy advocacy through training around Federal Budget and developing briefing materials to inform members on key topical issues and avenues to engage.





OUR GOAL: Build our organisation to be dynamic and sustainable

Our Strategies:

- (a) Undertake strategic governance reforms to ensure effective governance of ACOSS.
- (b) Modernise the basis of membership in order to increase engagement of citizens and organisations committed to ACOSS' objectives.
- (c) Diversify and strengthen ACOSS' resource base to support our work in priority areas.
- (d) Develop workplace policies and procedures to ensure a well-managed, supportive and rewarding workplace.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Continuation of governance reforms, undertaken with active membership engagement.
- Increase of individual supporter base.
- Production of a new membership prospectus.
- Implementation of a partnership strategy to strengthen our resource base, resulting in new partnerships created with a number of different organisations.
- Successful extension of our core funding grant from the Department of Social Services.
- Continued implementation of Collective Agreement 2015.
- Continued development of our Contact Relationship Management database.

- Office relocation from Elizabeth Street, Redfern, to Cleveland Street, Strawberry Hills, after a period of 20 years in the Elizabeth Street offices.

- All staff training on effective telephone answering procedures.



Our media releases, submissions and publications

MEDIA RELEASES

- A win with Disability Support Pension, damning report on robodebt and social security cuts still on government's agenda 23 June 2017
- We call on this Parliament to deliver secure, sustainable and sufficient funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme 23 June 2017
- Pull the plug - Twelve months of robodebt is enough 21 June 2017
- We need paid work. Let's reframe the debate on Social Security 13 June 2017
- Climate change is affecting us now and the future is here: ACOSS calls on governments to finally get Australia on track 10 June 2017
- Paris agreement remains in Australia's interest - Australian Climate Roundtable 2 June 2017
- Government tries to slash incomes of poorest - again 31 May 2017
- MEDIA ALERT: Social security is a hand up, not a hand out 26 May 2017
- Treasurer Scott Morrison addresses Australia's Community Sector at ACOSS Post Budget Breakfast 12 May 2017
- Welcome change of tack in health education and housing, but vilification of people who are unemployed continues 9 May 2017
- Media Alert: Community sector response to Federal Budget - doorstep 9 May 2017
- Media alert: The People's Budget 8 May 2017
- What welfare blow-out? Time to end the vilification of people who are unemployed 3 May 2017
- Federal Government must not let us down - ACOSS and National Shelter release 6 point National Housing Affordability Plan 26 April 2017
- Robodebt program must be evaluated before expansion: Commonwealth Ombudsman. COSS Network reiterates its call for program to end 10 April 2017
- Treasurer clears path towards a national housing affordability policy: will it be the right one? 10 April 2017
- ACOSS condemns company tax cuts 1 April 2017
- ACOSS supports ACCC investigation but longer term national energy policy needed 27 March 2017
- The Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill – Omnibus Mark 2 - is unfair and should not have passed 23 March 2017
- RoboDebt must go: Community sector calls for end of Centrelink's auto debt recovery program and the bullying of victims 8 March 2017
- We can reduce poverty, inequality and the budget deficit: ACOSS Budget Submission 2017 27 February 2017
- MEDIA ALERT: ACOSS releases Budget proposals - 10.30am (AEDT) Monday 27 February 2017 26 February 2017
- Joint Statement: Community sector welcomes Parliament's opposition to social security cuts to fund the NDIS 15 February 2017
- MEDIA ALERT: Turnbull Govt must not abandon essential social housing and homelessness services 15 February 2017
- ACOSS Statement on linking Omnibus Bill cuts to NDIS 13 February 2017
- No room for partisan politics in energy 13 February 2017



Our media releases, submissions and publications

... continued



MEDIA RELEASES CONTINUED

- ACOSS: Reports of NAHA axing 'alarming' 10 February 2017
- ACOSS urges Parliament to reject latest attempt to cut incomes of poorest in new Omnibus Bill 8 February 2017
- ACOSS Statement on Centrelink Auto-Debt Recovery Program: Government must abandon Centrelink's Auto-Debt Recovery Program to prevent further harm 19 January 2017
- Centrelink debt fiasco must end immediately 11 January 2017
- ACOSS CEO response to MYEFO 19 December 2016
- MYEFO must end 'zombie' budget strategy which rips \$7B from the poorest 15 December 2016
- KPMG repeats its call for an increase to Newstart 6 December 2016
- By asking wrong questions, PC Inquiry distracts from the big challenges facing human services 5 December 2016
- ACOSS welcomes 'first big step' towards superannuation reform 23 November 2016
- ACOSS backs call to rein in tax breaks for wealthy seniors as unaffordable and unfair 21 November 2016
- ACOSS welcomes homeless smartphone deal, but more to be done 20 November 2016
- Media Alert - ACOSS National Conference: Leading the big debates 14 November 2016
- Child poverty on the rise: 730,000 children in poverty 16 October 2016
- ACOSS Media Alert: Major report to reveal extent of poverty in Australia 14 October 2016
- Media alert: ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie available for response to investment approach to welfare 20 September 2016
- ACOSS Statement: superannuation changes announced 16 September 2016
- Reprieve for Newstart recipients but the budget threat remains 14 September 2016
- Australia's leading community groups join with ACOSS to oppose cuts to social security payments 12 September 2016
- Unemployed and pensioners collateral damage in budget fight 22 August 2016
- Government Super changes must deliver for 3.4 million people on low incomes 17 August 2016
- Royal Commission Has Nauru Jurisdiction Legal Advice Says 12 August 2016
- Royal Commission Must Examine Nauru Abuse 10 August 2016
- ACOSS supports Royal Commission into juvenile detention 26 July 2016
- ACOSS welcomes second Turnbull Government, calls for consensus approach to Budget policy 15 July 2016

SUBMISSIONS

- Submission to the Inquiry into the Community Development Program Jun 2017
- ACOSS submission to Climate Change Review 2017 Jun 2017
- Submission to the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market (Finkel Review) Jun 2017
- Submission to the Minimum Wage Review 2017-18 Mar 2017
- Submission on transitional arrangements for Sunday penalty rates changes Mar 2017
- Submission to Centrelink 'robodebt' inquiry Mar 2017
- Submission to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017 Mar 2017
- Budget Priorities Statement 2017 Feb 2017
- Submission to the Review of the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Feb 2017
- Submission to the Inquiry into Freedom of Speech in Australia Jan 2017
- Submission to Inquiry into Paid Parental Leave Bill Jan 2017
- Submission to the Superannuation (Objective) Bill 2016 Dec 2016
- Submission to Senate Education and Employment Committee, Youth Jobs PaTH Program Bill 2016 Nov 2016
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Superannuation (Excess Transfer Balance Tax) Bill 2016 and Treasury Laws Amendment (Fair and Sustainable Superannuation) Bill 2016 Nov 2016
- Submission to Inquiry based on AG's report Qualifying for the Disability Support Pension Nov 2016
- Submission to PC Competition in Human Services Preliminary Findings Report Nov 2016
- Submission into the Social Services Legislation (Simplifying Student Payments) Bill 2016 Oct 2016
- Submission to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Budget Repair) Bill 2016 Sep 2016
- Submission to the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2016, and the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Family Payments Structural Reform and Participation Measures) Bill 2016 Sep 2016
- Submission to the Treasury Laws Amendment (Enterprise Tax Plan) Bill 2016 Sep 2016
- Submission to Inquiry into Treasury Laws Amendment (Income Tax Relief) Bill 2016 Sep 2016
- Submission on the Budget Savings (Omnibus) Bill 2016 Sep 2016
- Submission into Youth PaTH program Sep 2016
- Joint COSS submission into data availability and use Aug 2016
- Submission to the Productivity Commission's Competition in Human Services Issues Paper Aug 2016





President's Message

Tony Reidy

The past year has been as challenging for ACOSS as any in its 61-year history, and it's very pleasing to report that our organisation and its talented team have consistently risen to the occasion to meet those challenges.

ACOSS has worked tirelessly towards its strategic goals in policy, advocacy, sector empowerment and strengthening our own organisation, and in this annual report we can provide good news about our achievements and progress in all these areas.

Our organisation continues to provide strong, informed and respected advocacy as the leading voice for Australians living with poverty and disadvantage, and our reputation as an evidence-based influencer of national social policy is strong and deserved.

From the outstanding work of our committed staff team we see the opinion, contribution and public commentary of ACOSS regularly sought by government, media, business and community.

It is no surprise to report that the community and social services sector around the nation continues to face the challenges of change. Those challenges include the cessation of funding avenues, direct cuts to funding sources for vital service providers, the continuing roll-out of competition in human services, and the confusion and heartache surrounding the introduction of consumer-directed care funding models.

ACOSS has responded to these challenges by providing leadership on issues at every opportunity. Our networks and collaborations across Australia's community sector, and in

particular with those organisations providing essential and often life-sustaining support to some of the most disadvantaged Australians, have allowed us to remain closely informed on the impact of social policy decisions so that our advocacy can be current and relevant.

During this report period our engagement with our membership, particularly through the work of governance reform, has been frequent and well received. The policy and advocacy networks maintained by ACOSS are vital to our work and allow every opportunity for our members to inform and shape our policy agenda. They also give our members and beyond an avenue to provide us with feedback on our advocacy and campaigns.

The last twelve months have again seen much change in ACOSS's Board, with an emphasis in welcoming and inducting new Board colleagues during a year of particular activity and achievement in our governance processes.

The voluntary Board of ACOSS is a governance team in which our membership can have great confidence; experienced and strongly committed community sector leaders. I record here my gratitude for their contribution and support.

It's important to note in this report that the governance reform process was again enthusiastically and successfully pursued during the year. An energetic and strongly committed governance subcommittee worked tirelessly during the year to move along the process of our governance changes.

This governance reform project also resulted in a widespread member consultation processes by ACOSS across the months, and the support and contributions of members were invaluable.

I again make special note of the remarkable support of a number of members of the ACOSS Board during the year. Jeremy Halcrow as a Deputy

President and Treasurer, Hang Vo as a Deputy President and Chair of the Governance Reform Committee, and the work of the members of the ACOSS Executive and Legal and Risk committees has added great value to the quality of our governance and the timely support of the ACOSS staff team.

ACOSS continues to influence and achieve at a level that is all the more extraordinary when considering our size and resource base. Maintaining effective advocacy and a high public profile while continuing to provide valued member support and services are achieved through the experienced leadership of our Chief Executive Dr. Cassandra Goldie and her talented and skilled staff colleagues.

Our staff at ACOSS work for the cause of social justice improvement with great insight and energy, and the Board recognises and applauds their contribution to achieving our ambitious goals.

ACOSS can again report on an excellent year of service to its members and informed and effective advocacy on behalf of Australians living with poverty or disadvantage.

Thankyou also to our members and community partners for their contribution to the achievements of ACOSS during this year.

ACOSS remains firmly committed to continue to its carefully planned work and strategic collaborations to bring about our principal goal for all Australians - a fairer, more equitable and socially just nation.

Tony Reidy,
ACOSS PRESIDENT



CEO's Report

Cassandra Goldie

This year, ACOSS celebrated its 60th birthday. For six decades, ACOSS has been an independent national organisation, grounded in the community and with its core purpose to tackle poverty and disadvantage in Australian society. As we reflect on that vision set by our founders, ACOSS with all its members and supporters rose to challenges that are arguably unprecedented in our history.

Since the global financial crisis, governments across developed countries have been pursuing policies that cut away at basic social protections under the guise of addressing deficit budgets and growing government debt. Whilst there has been a growing consensus amongst global institutions, including the IMF and OECD, about the need to tackle inequality to drive strong social and economic outcomes, government policies have persisted in seeking to cut income support and support services for people who are already struggling the most. At the same time, political and democratic processes has been increasingly unstable and unpredictable, with growing concerns about 'populism' and deepening social divides.

Australia has its own unique story to tell within this global trend. We have experienced political instability consistently throughout this period. Since 2014 in particular, the Federal Government has attempted to introduce harsh cuts to social security and pursued policies that have increasingly sought to foster social divides, attempting to vilify and stigmatise people locked out of paid work and living below the poverty line.

Through the extraordinary efforts of ACOSS staff, working closely with our large and diverse membership, and with the committed oversight

of the Board, ACOSS played its part in stopping the vast majority of parliamentary measures through the period that would have increased poverty and disadvantage. I am privileged to have worked with an incredible team who have shown persistence, courage and determination in relentlessly opposing these policies and advocating for sound, carefully considered policies to reduce inequality and strengthen our social fabric. We have continued to demonstrate that sound evidence and broad public sentiment supports policy directions that will build a fairer, kinder and more prosperous Australia.

In contrast, major cuts to community services that did not need parliamentary support took effect, through both the widely criticised and deeply flawed "Indigenous Advancement Strategy" and the recommissioning of social services through DSS. Continued work to save effective programs and ameliorate the impacts of these savage services cuts on the community is a credit to the ACOSS team and all of our members.

ACOSS has consistently brought attention to the debate on the revenue base we need in order to deliver essential and universal community services for the country. We made the case for reforms to overly generous tax breaks associated with property investments, and the superannuation system, and this year saw some important shifts in either policy or legislation amongst the major parties on both fronts. ACOSS and its membership should be proud of their constructive work across politics and sectors to build the case for these reforms, making courageous demands when few others have joined the call.

ACOSS takes its responsibility to support debate which is constructive and future-thinking very seriously. Working across diverse segments of the community to build consensus, it remains essential that we work most closely with the people and communities who are directly affected by the issues of poverty and

disadvantage. Our role is to be a strong voice reflecting those interests, speaking plainly to the reality of this experience, without fear or favour. ACOSS staff thank all of those individuals and communities who work with us to tell their personal and local circumstances in efforts to build public understanding about the challenges faced, and the very real solutions available to them.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every member of staff whose tenacity, courage and expertise has helped to make these achievements possible. The efforts of every single person in our team allows ACOSS to rise to - and above - the challenges presented by federal policy, and play our part in successfully calling for a different approach to public policy in Australia: evidence-based, unifying, and innovative.

This was also a year of major change for us, as we navigated restructuring to expand and focus on our business development capacity. Change necessitates uncertainty and flexibility and with an increasing number of friends, supporters and collaborators around us, the team has been outstanding. The relationships of trust and support around the work of ACOSS play a major part in supporting us as staff and we thank you all.

Finally, most sincere thanks go to the staff and Board for their support to me through this time. You will only see the tip of the iceberg in this annual report but it does paint a picture of an organisation that, in its 60th year, remains strongly focussed on its original core purpose and why the work of ACOSS and the COSS Network is more relevant now than arguably at any time in its history.

Cassandra Goldie,
Chief EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Treasurer's Report

Jeremy Halcrow

is comparable to ACOSS' equity position in 2014 of \$659,932.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of ACOSS' CEO Cassandra Goldie and her team over a number of years, which has meant that ACOSS is in a strong financial position and therefore has the resources to invest in capacity building. I also especially want to thank Accounting for Good and ACOSS' new Business Development Manager Nicole Stanmore for their professionalism and support in preparing financial reports.

This is an exciting time for ACOSS. For the first time we have all the building blocks, including a strong business development capacity, that we need to grow and be strong into the future. This means we can be confident that ACOSS will retain its character as a strong and independent voice for the needs of people affected by poverty and inequality. There is no doubt that ACOSS will continue to play a key role in helping the Australian community to receive a fair go.

Jeremy Halcrow,
TREASURER

Our financial strategy this year has been to strengthen and develop new capabilities which will help diversify and strengthen ACOSS' revenue, increasing our ability to meet Australia's current and emerging major public policy changes.. The Board intentionally budgeted a deficit this year as ACOSS successfully established a new Business Development function.

In summary, ACOSS produced a deficit result of \$137,601 which was close to the budgeted deficit of \$135,519.

Meanwhile, the work of the new Business Development team has borne fruit through a suite of sponsorship arrangements established this year. Sponsorship revenue has grown from \$57,500 in 15/16 to nearly \$300,000 this year. Most of these new partnership arrangements are multi-year, underlining the stronger financial footing ACOSS will now be on into future years.

It should also be noted this total excludes the significant in kind contributions made by a number of partners, including Australia Post and Ashurst Lawyers. The relocation of ACOSS to new, high quality premises with Australia Post also addresses a number of concerns around staff amenity and disability access.

Significantly, ACOSS' liquidity position is healthy with a working capital ratio of 1.69 and nearly \$1 million at bank. The value of ACOSS' Investments have decreased by \$63,000, which is mainly related to the auditor's advice to write-down the value of shares in Community 21 Limited. Together with the operational deficit, this write-down has contributed to a decline in total equity from \$843,713 last year to \$642,286 this year. The equity position

ACOSS Staff 2016-17

Cassandra Goldie,
Chief Executive Officer

Kellie Caught,
Senior Adviser, Climate and Energy
(from February 2017)

Sophie Chau,
Bookkeeping and Administration Officer
(from July 2017)

Sally Cowling,
Senior Adviser (Human Services and Social Policy) (from Jan 2017 to April 2017)

Charmaine Crowe,
Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer

Fernando de Freitas,
Media Adviser

Peter Davidson,
Senior Adviser

Penelope Dorsch,
Communications and Information

Kate Finlayson,
Media Adviser (from February 2017)

Renata Franz,
Operations Manager

Karen Grogan,
(Sept 2016 to May 2017)

Emily Hamilton,
Policy and Project Officer (to December 2016)

Georgia Keighery,
Event Support (from April 2017)

Edwina MacDonald,
Director of Policy and Advocacy (from Jan 2017)

Jennifer Macey,
Media Adviser (to July 2016)

Jacqui Phillips,
Director of Policy and Advocacy (on leave from January 2017)

Michael Raper,
Senior Adviser (from Aug 2016)

Clare Riordan,
Executive Assistant to the CEO (from June 2016 to Aug 2016)

Amy Simmons,
Engagement, Member Services and Events



Erin Snelgrove,
Executive Assistant to the CEO (from
Oct 2016)

Nicole Stanmore,
*Director, Business Development,
Stakeholder Engagement and
Operations* (from November 2016)

Tuyen Tran-Huynh,
Admin Assistant (from June 2016 to
Dec 2016)

Rebecca Vassarotti,
Development Adviser

Alan Walmsley,
Media Adviser (October 2016 to
January 2017)

Brendan Wylie,
*Administration and Project Support
Officer* (from March 2017)

CASUAL STAFF

Ulrike Bartels

Lucia Giuffre

ACOSS Internship

We have been proud to host the
following people in internships. We
extend our warm gratitude for their
meaningful contribution to our work:

Emma Watson, *Social Work Intern*

VOLUNTEERS

We thank the following volunteers,
whose time and efforts on our behalf
are greatly appreciated:

Sheryl Black

Nicola Clarke

Melinda Dimitriadis

Megan Fletcher

Rachel Magill

Linda Mitchell

Aaron Newton

Rachel Piercy

Glykeria Gabriella Polyzos

Simone Ren

Martina Talcvska



Our Governance

ACOSS Board of Governors

The ACOSS Board is comprised of representatives of our National Member Organisations and State Councils of Social Service. The Board is voluntary, elected for a two year term, during which its main responsibilities include strategic oversight of the work of the CEO and the Council.

The Executive has the powers of the Board between Board meetings. It comprises the President, two Deputy Presidents, the Treasurer and a national member representative. It makes any decisions required between Board meetings and generally concentrates on operational issues so that the Board can devote its time to strategic matters.

ACOSS Board

PRESIDENT

Tony Reidy

DEPUTY PRESIDENTS

Jeremy Halcrow

Hang Vo

TREASURER

Jeremy Halcrow

STATE AND TERRITORY COUNCILS OF SOCIAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Darlene Cox
ACTCOSS Representative

Karen Bevan
NCOSS Representative (resigned November 2016)

Tony Davies
NCOSS Representative (from March 2017)

Jayne Lloyd
NTCOSS Representative

Mark Tucker-Evans
QCOSS Representative (resigned November 2016)

Kate Tully
QCOSS Representative (from December 2016)

Helen Connolly
SACOSS Representative (to March 2017)

David Panter
SACOSS Representative (from May 2017)

Mat Rowell
TASCOSS Representative

Stella Avramopoulos
VCOSS Representative

Stephen Joske
WACOSS Representative (resigned February 2017)

Debra Zanella
WACOSS Representative (from May 2016)

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Stanley

Mark Bagshaw
(resigned January 2017)

NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

John Falzon

Peter McNamara

Lyn Morgain

Elenie Poulos

Tracey Stevens

Our Organisational Members

ACOSS brings together a broad spectrum of organisations from across Australia in our national member network. Our members have a shared commitment to social justice.

The ACOSS national member network comprises:

- **Eight state and territory Councils of Social Service** which represent thousands of front-line community agencies;
- **National peak organisations** of consumers and service providers;
- **National religious and secular welfare agencies**; and
- **Low income consumer groups**

ACOSS respects the autonomy of our national members so they are not bound by our policy positions. National membership is a mutual relationship whereby ACOSS draws on the collective knowledge and experience of members; and members benefit from access to our expertise, research, policy and advocacy work.

Associate members include state and local organisations who also support ACOSS' work.

Over the past years ACOSS has built up our individual supporter base, which is made up of non-financial members who support our work and provide us with insight into our our priority areas affect their lives.

We sincerely thank all of our members and supporters for their contribution to social justice and to our organisation. .

Councils of Social Service Members

ACT Council of Social Service
Council of Social Service of NSW
NT Council of Social Service
Queensland Council of Social Service
SA Council of Social Service
Tasmanian Council of Social Service
Victorian Council of Social Service
WA Council of Social Service

National Members

Adult Learning Australia
AIDS Trust of Australia
Anglicare Australia
Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)
Australian Baha'i Community
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC)
Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)
Australian Men's Health Forum (AMHF)
Australian Neighbourhood Houses & Centres Association (ANHCA)
Australian Psychological Society (APS)
Australian Red Cross
Australian Unemployed Workers' Union (AUWU)
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)
Baptist Care Australia
Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL)

Carers Australia Limited
 Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA)
 Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)
 Community Colleges Australia (CCA)
 Community Housing Industry Association Ltd (CHIA)
 Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA)
 Consumers Health Forum of Australia
 COTA Australia
 Disability Advocacy Network Australia Ltd (DANA)
 Disability Employment Australia (DEA)
 Down Syndrome Australia (DSA)
 Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA)
 Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)
 Financial Counselling Australia (FCA)
 Foodbank Australia
 Good Shepherd Microfinance (GSM)
 Goodstart Early Learning (GEL)
 Homelessness Australia
 HOST International Ltd
 Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency
 Infoxchange
 Jobs Australia (JA)
 Life Without Barriers (LWB)
 Mission Australia (MA)
 Multiple Sclerosis Australia (MS Australia)
 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS)
 National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)
 National Association of People With HIV Australia (NAPWHA)
 National Council of Single Mothers and their Children (NCSMC)
 National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (NFVPLSF)
 National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA)
 National Shelter
 National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) / National Social Security Rights Network (NSSRN)
 People with Disability Australia
 Playgroup Australia
 Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)
 Reconciliation Australia (RA)
 Relationships Australia Inc (RA)
 SCOA Australia
 Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
 Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA)
 Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council
 The Benevolent Society
 The Salvation Army East and Southern Territories
 The Smith Family
 Volunteering Australia (VA)
 WESNET
 Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
 YMCA Australia
 YWCA Australia

Organisation Associate Members

Access Community Services Limited
 Accordwest
 ADRA Australia Limited
 Anglicare Sydney
 Anglicare Victoria
 Association of Children's Welfare Agencies Inc. (ACWA)
 Australian Communications Consumer Action Network Ltd (ACCAN)
 Australian Services Union (ASU)
 Berry Street
 BeyondHousing
 Canberra Community Law
 Catholic Social Services Victoria
 CentaCare New England North West
 Centre for Social Impact (CSI)
 choice
 Churches Housing Incorporated
 cohealth
 Community Information and Support Victoria
 CORE Community Services
 Early Childhood Australia
 Edmund Rice Centre (ERC)
 Families Australia
 Financial Counsellors' Association of WA
 Financial Rights Legal Centre
 Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand (GSANZ)
 Great Lakes Community Resources Inc
 Homelessness NSW
 Illawarra Forum Inc.
 Illawarra Legal Centre
 Jannawi Family Centre

Organisational Members

... continued

Justice Connect
Lutheran Community Care
MacKillop Family Services
Melbourne's Leading Nanny Agency
Mid Coast Communities
Mountains Community Resource Network (MCRN)
Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services (NCNS)
NSW Federation of Housing Associations (NSWFHA)
PeakCare Queensland Inc
Penrith City Council
Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia
Samaritans Foundation
Sector Connect Inc
Settlement Services International (SSI)
Social Futures (Northern Rivers Social Development Council)
South East Community Links
South Port Community Housing Group Inc
Southern Youth and Family Services
St Johns Youth Services
Sydney Community Forum (SCF)
Tangentyere Council Inc.
Tenants Queensland Inc
Think+DO Tank Foundation
Uniting (NSW/ACT)
UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
Welfare Rights Centre (NSW)
Western Sydney Community Forum
Westgate Community Initiatives Group Inc
WESTIR Ltd

Policy Advisers

Our work in each policy area is guided by voluntary Board-appointed Policy Advisers. These Advisers are experts in their fields who advise us on ACOSS policy and strategy. We would like to thank the following Policy Advisers for their advice and guidance over the past year.

ACOSS thanks the following Policy Advisers for their invaluable advice and guidance over the last year:

COMMUNITY SECTOR POLICY

Natasha Cortis
Minh Nguyen

INCOME SUPPORT & EMPLOYMENT

Peter Whiteford
Roger Wilkins

HEALTH

Sharon Friel
Tadgh McMahon
Kees Van Gool

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Kath Halse
Vivienne Milligan
Cameron Parsell
Judy Yates

TAX

Nicholas Gruen
Helen Hodgson
Rick Krever
Julie Smith
Miranda Stewart

Our funders, donors, sponsors and volunteers

ACOSS appreciates the financial assistance for our core functions provided by the Commonwealth Government under the Families and Communities Service Improvement Program Funding through the Department of Social Services.

SPONSORSHIP, GRANT AND PRO-BONO SUPPORT

ACOSS is supported significantly by government, corporate, non-profit and philanthropic organisations, both through financial and in-kind contributions. Much of this support is through partnerships which improve ACOSS' work and helps strengthen our impact. We would like to extend our thanks to the following organisations for their contribution to ACOSS:

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Australian Government Department of Social Services
Energy Consumers Association

PARTNERS

Australia Post
HESTA
Jobs Australia
Infoxchange

SPONSORS

Agency
Community Sector Banking
Fair Go Group
Financial Ombudsman Service Australia
Group of Eight Australia
NSW Government Family & Community Services
Pro Bono Australia
Quest payment systems
University of Technology, Sydney

PRO BONO

Ashurst

POVERTY REPORT

The Australian Communities Foundation (Social Justice Fund)
Mission Australia
St Vincent de Paul
Salvation Army
Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW

We would like to thank the following organisations for their ongoing support and contribution:

Counsel Pty
KPMG
McKinsey & Company
University of Technology, Sydney
WWF Australia

DONATIONS

The generosity of individuals and organisations who donate to ACOSS is invaluable. Our special thanks go out to the following supporters and to all those who give anonymously.

Alex Curran
Alison Peters
Ariel Marguin
Avegail Gaddi
Bret Hart
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
David Halvorsen
David Tennant
Diana Shaw
Eileen Baldry
Gary Moore
Garry Deverell
Jennifer Lambeth
Jennifer Williams
Jodi Pavez
John C H Mitchell
John Kampert
John Mills
Karen Large
Karin Campbell
Karin Krueger
Krista LeClaire
Leanne Devitt
Lil Bryant
Lucy Dahill
Lyndal Sleep
Lynette Jones
Maree Maxfield
Margaret McCallum
Margaret Scott
Marie Sloan
Oscar Roos

Finances

for the year ended 30 June 2016

Paula Cahill
Peter McGovern
Petra Hilton
Prof. Bettina Cass
Rebecca Vassarotti
Renee Kinimaka
Robert Tickner
Rosalinda Casamento
Roy Harvey
Steven Giles
Tessa Boyd-Caine
Travis Gilbert

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Governors' Report

Australian Council of Social Service

The Governors present their report together with the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2017 and auditor's report thereon.

GOVERNORS' NAMES

The names of the Governors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Mr Tony Reidy (President from 1 January 2016)
Ms Stella Avrampouloulos (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Ms Elenie Poulos (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Mr Mark Tucker-Evans (Board Member, resigned November 2016)
Mr Jeremy Halcrow (Treasurer from 1 January 2016, Deputy President from March 2016)
Mr Peter McNamara (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Ms Hang Vo (Deputy President from March 2016)
Ms Helen Connolly (Board Member, resigned March 2017)
Ms Tracey Stevens (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Ms Darlene Cox (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Ms Karen Bevan (Board Member from 1 January 2016, resigned November 2016)
Mr Mat Rowell (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Mr Tony Davies (Board Member from March 2017)
Mr John Falzon (Board Member, continuing)
Mr Steven Joske (Board Member, resigned February 2017)
Ms Jane Stanley (Board Member, continuing)
Ms Lyn Morgain (Board Member from 1 January 2016)
Ms Jane Lloyd (Board Member from July 2016)
Dr Mark Bagshaw (Board Member from July 2016, resigned January 2017)
Mr David Panter (Board Member From May 2017)
Ms Kate Tully (Board Member from December 2016)
Ms Debra Zanella (Board Member from May 2017)

The Governors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

OPERATING RESULT

The deficit for the year amounted to (\$137,601) (2016: deficit of \$10,500).

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

To provide effective and influential advocacy to reduce poverty and inequality in Australia based on high standards of community consultation, policy development, analysis and research.

Signed on behalf of the board of governors.

Committee member:



Mr. Tony Reidy

Committee member:



Mr. Jeremy Halcrow

Dated this 1st day of November 2017

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
INCOME			
Grant income		903,384	895,260
Project income		238,170	289,310
Memberships, sponsorships and donations		647,642	386,765
Interest		23,743	17,959
Other income		240,522	
		2,053,461	1,632,079
EXPENDITURE			
Employee benefits expense		(1,631,837)	(1,223,091)
Travel & accommodation expenses		(100,470)	(67,793)
Occupancy expense		(73,089)	(74,528)
Depreciation & amortisation expense	2	(13,628)	(27,249)
Board & Executive expenses		(24,570)	(16,776)
Subscription expenses		(13,786)	(16,622)
Resources (library, etc) expenses		(22,189)	(17,834)
Telephone expenses		(31,190)	(21,922)
Computer expenses		(30,416)	(45,593)
Loss on sale of non-current assets		(44,736)	-
Other expenses		(205,151)	(131,171)
		(2,191,062)	(1,642,579)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(137,601)	(10,500)
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</i>			
Change in fair value of available for sale financial assets, net of tax		(63,825)	-
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		63,825	-
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(201,426)	10,500

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	199,372	120,818
Pledges and other receivables	4	384,201	162,991
Investments	5	806,626	803,074
Other assets	6	20,835	56,982
		1,411,034	1,143,865
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	5	36,175	100,000
Intangible assets	8	14,810	22,637
Property, plant and equipment	7	38,707	65,315
		89,692	187,952
		1,500,726	1,331,817
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	101,242	77,068
Provisions	10	207,764	158,962
Income in advance / project provisions	11	531,091	239,968
		840,097	475,998
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	18,343	12,107
		18,343	12,107
		858,440	488,105
TOTAL LIABILITIES		858,440	488,105
NET ASSETS		642,286	843,712
EQUITY			
Reserves	13	16,175	80,000
Retained surplus	12	626,111	763,712
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		642,286	843,712

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2017

	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2015	80,000	774,212	854,212
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(10,500)	(10,500)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(10,500)	(10,500)
Balance as at 30 June 2016	80,000	763,712	843,712
Balance as at 1 July 2016	80,000	763,712	843,712
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(137,601)	(137,601)
Change in fair value of available for sale financial assets, net of tax	(63,825)	-	(63,825)
Total comprehensive income for the year	(63,825)	(137,601)	(201,426)
Balance as at 30 June 2016	16,175	626,111	642,286

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts, sale of publications, projects etc.		2,277,628	1,764,515
Interest received		20,191	7,646
Payments to suppliers, employees, project costs etc.		(2,195,337)	(1,981,370)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		102,482	(209,209)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(23,928)	(2,617)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(23,928)	(2,617)
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		120,818	332,644
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		78,554	(211,826)
Cash at end of financial year	14(a)	199,372	120,818

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the committee as at the date of the governors' report.

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

Reporting Basis and Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards. A statement of compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the Association applying the not-for-profit sector specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised as revenue when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided. Donations are when the Association gains control of the donations or the right to receive the donations.

Project income is recognised in the period that the project occurs.

Membership is recognised on both quarterly and yearly basis. Where income received for periods exceeding the financial year end date, income has been proportioned on a pro rata basis.

Interest revenue is measured in accordance with the effective interest method.

All revenue is measured net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(c) Income tax

The Association is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Charitable Institution. In accordance with the income tax exemption status, no provision for income tax is raised in this financial report.

(d) Trade debtors

Trade debtors are recognised when invoiced. All debtors are recognised at the actual amounts receivable. Collectability is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Full provision is made for particular debts where some doubt as to collection exists.

(e) Financial assets

Classification

The association classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the nature of the item and the purpose for which the instruments are held.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	20%	Straight Line
Computer equipment at cost	30%	Straight Line

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities, and where the Association has any held-to-maturity investments, it is the Association's intention and ability to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the Association are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less impairment.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the Association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses if applicable.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

If the carrying amount of plant and equipment exceed its recoverable amount the plant and equipment is written down to the recoverable amount.

Depreciation

Land is not depreciated. The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

(g) Impairment

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying value of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which it belongs.

(h) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave and accumulated sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms approximating to the terms of the related obligation. For currencies in which there is no deep market in such high quality corporate bonds, the market yields (at the end of the reporting period) on government bonds denominated in that currency are used. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(j) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

(k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Association evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future event and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association. Details of estimates and judgements are included in the accounting policies and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

(l) New accounting standards

At the reporting date new accounting pronouncements have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) but are not yet effective.

The Governors intend to apply these accounting pronouncements in the annual reporting period in which the pronouncement becomes effective.

The Governors consider it unlikely that the new pronouncements will have a significant impact on the financial performance, financial position or the cash flows of the Association, other than requiring, in certain instances, disclosures to be made in addition to those presently disclosed.

(m) Leases

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
NOTE 2: SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Expenses		
Depreciation	13,628	27,249
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets		
– Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	44,736	-
NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	292	300
Cash at bank	199,080	120,518
	199,372	120,818
NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Pledges and other receivables	384,201	162,991
NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS		
CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Short term bank deposits	806,626	803,074
NON CURRENT		
<i>Available for sale financial assets</i>		
At cost		
At fair value		
<i>Shares in Community 21 Limited</i>	36,175	100,000

The shares in Community 21 Limited, are measured at their fair value based on the share price paid on offer.

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	8,302	30,795
Accrued income	12,323	9,558
Deposits	210	16,629
	20,835	56,982
NOTE 7: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	16,743	115,699
Accumulated depreciation	(14,167)	(70,801)
	2,576	44,898
Computer equipment at cost	69,776	73,581
Accumulated depreciation	(33,645)	(53,164)
	36,131	20,417
Total plant and equipment	38,707	65,315
Total property, plant and equipment	38,707	65,315
(a) Movements in carrying amount		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year		
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	44,898	56,122
Disposals	(41,678)	-
Depreciation expense	(645)	(11,224)
Closing carrying amount	2,575	44,898

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<i>Computer equipment</i>		
Opening carrying amount	20,417	26,989
Additions	26,403	2,617
Disposals	(5,530)	(992)
Depreciation expense	(5,159)	(8,197)
Closing carrying amount	36,131	20,417
NOTE 8: INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Software at cost	39,138	39,138
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(24,328)	(16,501)
	14,810	22,637
Total intangible assets	14,810	22,637
(a) Reconciliations		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of intangible assets at the beginning and end of the current financial year		
<i>Software at cost</i>		
Opening balance	22,637	30,465
Amortisation expense	(7,827)	(7,828)
Closing balance	14,810	22,637
NOTE 9: PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	3,621	10,231
GST credits	38,421	14,374
Accrued expenses	16,906	20,252
PAYG withholding payable	42,294	32,211
	101,242	77,068

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

		2017	2016
		\$	\$
NOTE 10: PROVISIONS			
CURRENT			
Annual leave	(a)	88,825	53,418
Long service leave	(a)	118,939	105,544
		207,764	158,962
NON CURRENT			
Long service leave	(a)	18,343	12,107
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		226,107	171,069
NOTE 11: INCOME IN ADVANCE / PROJECT PROVISIONS			
CURRENT			
Memberships in advance		300,558	110,811
Competition Policy and Human Services Research and Policy Project		-	20,000
Other projects		102,084	-
Digital Business Kits (DBK)		37,543	25,558
Energy Consumers Australia Project (ECA)		58,732	-
National Conference		32,174	22,877
National Energy Consumer Body Project (NECBP)		-	8,017
Poverty and Inequality Project		-	52,705
		531,091	239,968
NOTE 12: RETAINED SURPLUS			
Retained surplus at beginning of year		763,712	774,212
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(137,601)	(10,500)
		626,111	763,712
NOTE 13: RESERVES			
Available for sale financial asset reserve		16,175	80,000
		16,175	80,000

The available for sale financial asset is used to record movements in fair values of financial assets classified as available for sale

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position is as follows:		
Cash on hand	292	300
Cash at bank	199,080	120,518
	199,372	120,818
NOTE 15: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS		
(a) Operating lease commitments		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable		
– not later than one year	1	-
– later than one year and not later than five years	2	-
	3	-
During the year the existing property lease expired on 30 May 2017. A new lease was undertaken from 12 May 2017 As at 30 June 2017 the entity is committed to an annual licence fee of \$1		
NOTE 16: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		
Key management personnel include any persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, including its committee members.		
Compensation received by key management personnel of the Association		
– short-term employee benefits	168,826	294,999
– post-employment benefits	16,038	25,196
	184,864	320,195
NOTE 17: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS		
(a) Transactions with other related parties		
There are no other related party transactions with the Association for the 2017 financial year.		

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

NOTE 18: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2017 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2017, of the association, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2017, of the association.

The committee declare that:

1. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
2. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

Committee member:



Mr. Tony Reidy

Committee member:



Mr. Jeremy Halcrow

Dated this 27th day of October 2017

Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of the Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated



Level 22 MJC Centre
19 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1615
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9221 2099
Fax: +61 2 9223 1762

www.pitcher.com.au
partners@pitcher-nsw.com.au

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THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated, "the Association", which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* "ACNC Act" and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* "the Code" that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED*Other Information – the annual report is not complete at the date of the audit report*

The committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

When we read the other information not yet received as identified above, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to the directors and use our professional judgment to determine the appropriate action to take.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the ACNC Act and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of the Australian Council of Social Service Incorporated



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (Continued)**

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R M Shanley'.

R M SHANLEY
Partner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pitcher Partners Sydney'.

PITCHER PARTNERS SYDNEY
Sydney

1 November 2017



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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