

# Australian Council of Social Service

## 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 November 2022
<b>Time:</b>	4-5 PM AEDT
<b>Where:</b>	The meeting was conducted virtually via zoom

### Chair

Peter McNamara            ACOSS President

### Minutes

Chryl Perry                    ACOSS Executive Assistant to the CEO

### Attendees with voting rights

Matt Gardiner            54 Reasons, CEO, QCOSS President, and ACOSS Treasurer and Board Member

Angela Scarfe            AASW, Senior Policy Officer

Andrew Williams        ACCAN, CEO

Patrick Johnson        ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS), Communications and Events Support Officer

Mainul Haque            ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS), Board Member

Penny Dakin              ARACY, CEO

Jana Favero               ASRC, Director Advocacy and Campaigns, and ACOSS Board Member

Ross Joyce                Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, CEO

Vicki Mau                 Australian Red Cross, Director Australian Programs

Celeste Hartmann       Australian Red Cross Society, Regional Manager

Damian Ferrie            Better Health Network, CEO. VCOSS President

Jillian Roche             Brave Foundation, CEO

Rosie Kendall            Christians Against Poverty (CAP), CEO

Tim Leach                 CLCs Australia, CEO

Alex Raphael             FECCA, Director of Policy and Advocacy

Hayley Foster            Full Stop Australia, CEO

Maeve Kennedy         Inclusion Australia, Senior Manager, Policy and Projects

David Spriggs            Infoxchange, CEO

Catherine Neville       Jesuit Social Services, ED, Advocacy & Strategic Communications

Chris Povey               Justice Connect, CEO

Jessica Stevens         Life Without Barriers, Senior Social Policy Lead

Rebecca O'Sullivan      LWB, Manager, Social Policy

Nicola Ballenden        Mind Australia, Executive Director

Kathryn Di Nicola        Mission Australia, Head of Policy & Advocacy

Dawn Casey               National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO),

	Deputy CEO
Terese Edwards	NCSMC, CEO
Kathleen Caller	Relationships Australia, National Manager - Communications and Engagement
David Panter	SACOSS President, ACOSS Board Member
Ross Womersley	SACOSS, CEO
Sandra Wright	Settlement Council of Australia, CEO
Joudy Lazkany	Settlement Services International (SSI), Head of Employment Services, SSI Group
Violet Roumeliotis	Settlement Services International (SSI), CEO, ACOSS Deputy President
Narelle Clay	Southern Youth and Family Services, CEO
Toby oConnor	St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia, Chief Executive Officer
Cameron Allen	TasCOSS, Communications Officer
Penny Carr	Tenants Queensland, CEO
Deb Tsorbaris	The Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare, CEO
Jennifer Kirkaldy	The Salvation Army, General Manager Policy and Advocacy
Ben Latham	VCOSS, Policy Advisor
Vicki Sutton	VCOSS Board Member, ACOSS Board Member
Laurene Coller	WACOSS, Communications Officer
Margaret Tipper	WESTIR Ltd, Executive Officer

#### **Attendees**

Amy Simmons	ACOSS Director of Development and Operations
Cameron Lum	ACOSS Digital Communications Officer
Cassandra Goldie	ACOSS CEO
Charmaine Crowe	ACOSS Program Director – Social Security
Dani Previtara	ACOSS Marketing, Communications and Events Manager
Edwina MacDonald	ACOSS Co-Deputy CEO and Director of Policy
Hang Vo	ACOSS Board Member (newly elected)
Hayden Patterson	ACOSS Board Member (outgoing)
Jo Taylor	ACOSS Board Member
Mary Sayers	ACOSS Board Member and Chair of the ACOSS Audit and Risk Committee
Michelle Shackleton	ACOSS Community Organiser and Engagement Officer
Olivia Greenwell	ACOSS Director of Communications and Engagement
Penny Dorsch	ACOSS Project Manager and Researcher
Peter Davidson	ACOSS Principal Advisor
Peter Sutherland	ACOSS Returning Officer
Renata Franz	Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), Operations Manager

Rochelle Braaf	ACOSS Senior Advisor – Climate and Energy
Simone Casey	ACOSS Senior Advisor – Employment
Stacey Batterham	ACOSS Senior Campaigner
Zoe Evans	CISVic, Research Advocacy & Policy Manager
Michael Bleasdale	Rights & Inclusion Australia, Executive Officer

### **Apologies**

Julie Edwards	Jesuit Social Services, CEO
Steven Person	The Big Issue, CEO
Kon Karapanagiotidis	Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, CEO
Nicole Bartholomeusz	cohealth, CEO
Carrie Fowlie	CEO Hepatitis Australia, CEO

### ***The meeting opened at 4:03pm***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Report and Outcomes</b>	<b>Action / Resolution</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome to Country</b>  Savannah Flynn provided the Welcome to Country	
<b>2</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> ACOSS President Peter McNamara acknowledged the traditional custodians of the lands on which attendees were variously meeting and paid respect to their Elders past and present. He invited others to share from what lands they were joining, both in the call and in the chat.  Peter welcomed the many attendees and started the meeting.	The President confirmed that a quorum was present.
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of previous annual general meeting</b>  <b>Resolution:</b> That the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 8 November 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	Carried by majority show of hands
<b>4</b>	<b>Why we need to lift income support</b> Raise the Rate Advocate Angela Jackson shared her story of living on income support, as highlighted in the annual report.  Peter sincerely thanked Angela for sharing her story.	
<b>5</b>	<b>President's report</b> ACOSS President Peter McNamara tabled of the ACOSS Annual Report 2021-22 and provided an overview of ACOSS' work in that year.  He spoke to the role of ACOSS in holding governments to account to lift millions of people out of poverty and make our country more equal for all.	

	<p>Peter thanked ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie on behalf of the Board and ACOSS' members and spoke to the realities of the past year, including the pandemic, the new Federal Government and the number of Federal Budgets handed down over the period.</p> <p>He also thanked all the ACOSS Board Directors for their time on this Board and the impact they have had. He shared that he is inspired by the work of the sector, this organisation and this team to end poverty and inequality.</p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> That the members receive the 2021-22 Annual Report.</p>	<p>Carried by majority show of hands</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's and Auditor's Report</b>          ACOSS Treasurer Matt Gardiner thanked Savannah for her gracious Welcome to Country and Angela for her generosity in sharing with us today.</p> <p>Matt reported that ACOSS had operated sustainably over the 2021-22 financial year, resulting in a healthy balance sheet with reserves slightly above the minimum buffer required and a small surplus, which is about sustainability.</p> <p>He noted that a number of multi-year funding agreements had come to an end in the period, but that the team had done extraordinarily well to replace this funding (through strategic business development activities) to sustain the important work that ACOSS does, while also implementing a number of cost-saving measures.</p> <p>Matt asked the members to receive the Treasurer's Report and appoint the Auditor's Reports for 2021-22.</p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> That the members receive the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports for 2021-22.</p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> That Stewart Brown be appointed auditors for the financial year 2022-23.</p> <p>Matt concluded by thanking Peter as President, the ACOSS team and Purpose Accounting for making the Treasurer's role so easy.</p>	<p>Carried by a majority show of hands</p> <p>Carried by a majority show of hands</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>CEO's Report</b>          ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie thanked Savannah for her Welcome to Country, acknowledged Country, thanked Angela Finch for sharing her story, as well as for her direct advocacy work, and thanked all attendees, the ACOSS staff team and ACOSS President Peter McNamara for his ongoing support. She expressed gratitude for the engagement of members, noting that those in attendance were not required to attend.</p>	

	<p>She shared that ACOSS, along with many others, is gearing up to do what we can to deliver on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and ensure that self-determination for First Nations people becomes a reality.</p> <p>She further noted that it had been a difficult year, both for people directly affected and service providers, and spoke to the pandemic and what’s happening with the economy and cost of living, including the dramatic increases in the costs of housing and energy bills.</p> <p>Cassandra acknowledged the work of ACOSS’ national membership, noting that she looks forward to continuing to listen to members’ advice on how we can bring forward the advocacy that will bring about the changes we are here to make.</p> <p>She also thanked the COSS network, including Emma Campbell, CEO of ACTCOSS, and Deborah Di Natale, CEO of NTCOSS, who are stepping out of their roles; the SILA program; the ACOSS team for their commitment to the hard work that contributes to the change process, especially Edwina MacDonald for her work as Acting CEO during Cassandra’s SILA-supported sabbatical and Amy Simmons for helping to drive and build organisational sustainability; the ACOSS Board, particularly Hayden Patterson, for the insights he brings from the communities he represents.</p> <p>Cassandra shared that President Peter McNamara has concluded his term and was stepping off the ACOSS Board after almost a decade, including for the last three years as Board President. She noted that while Peter is warm, humble and funny, he is also sharp and holds people to account. She spoke to the many ways that Peter has contributed to the sector and to individuals, including by bringing in resources, insights and capability. She asked those in attendance to join her in celebrating Peter’s contribution and shared that ACOSS is hugely grateful for everything Peter has delivered.</p> <p>Cassandra shared a short slide show as a way to say thank you to Peter. She then closed and paused for questions and comments, of which there were none.</p>	
7	<p><b>Returning Officer’s Report and Election Results</b></p> <p>ACOSS President Peter McNamara thanked Peter Sutherland for his exceptional support and long service as ACOSS Returning Officer and recommended that Peter Sutherland be appointed Returning Officer for the financial year 2022-23.</p> <p>ACOSS Returning Officer Peter Sutherland began by acknowledging country. He shared that he was moved by</p>	

	<p>Angela's words and noted that many sole parents have been similarly impacted.</p> <p>Citing the written Returning Officer's Report, Peter noted that he had conducted an election for three members of the Board with five candidates, 34 votes returned and three people elected.</p> <p>The three people elected were Mary Sayers (National Constituency Membership), Violet Roumeliotis (National Organisation Membership) and Hang Vo (National Organisation Membership).</p> <p>Peter confirmed that he would hold the ballot papers for 28 days after this meeting.</p> <p>ACOSS President Peter McNamara congratulated Mary, Violet and Hang, who have been appointed for three-year terms, and noted the experience they bring to the Board. He acknowledged Hayden Patterson, as outgoing Board member, for the time he takes to listen to and advocate on behalf of others while sharing his own lived experience and thanked him for his friendship.</p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> That Peter Sutherland be appointed as Returning Officer for 2022-23.</p>	<p>Carried by majority show of hands</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting close</b></p> <p>ACOSS President Peter McNamara thanked the ACOSS membership and all attendees for their support of Cassandra and the ACOSS team and declared the meeting closed.</p>	

*The meeting closed at 4:53pm*