



NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED  
ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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# Introduction

## ♦ NTCOSS

The Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) is a peak body for the Social and Community Sector in the NT and an advocate for social justice on behalf of people and communities in the NT, who may be affected by poverty and disadvantage.

## ♦ Mission

The mission of the Council is to promote awareness and understanding of social issues through the NT community and to strive towards the development of an equitable and just society.

## ♦ Objectives

- To promote and assist the development of all aspects of social services throughout the NT.
- To provide to organisations, services and support such as training, a resource base, research and consultation relating to social issues.
- To contribute to the debate on social issues.
- To ensure the Council is representative on a sector wide and regional basis in the NT as well as representing the interests of members
- To promote and make representations on behalf of socially disadvantaged groups and those disadvantaged in the NT community by policy decisions
- To be the peak organisation providing a focal point for the community sector and a reference point for government.
- To provide advice and policy input to all levels of government and other appropriate organisations on behalf of the NT community sector.
- To contribute an NT perspective to the national COSS network.

# 2007 Agenda

1. Welcome by President Barry Hansen
2. Guest Speaker Olga Havnen—ACOSS Board Member
3. Apologies
4. Previous AGM Minutes for endorsement
5. Presidents Report
6. Treasurer 's Report
7. Executive Director' s Report
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2006/07
9. Election/appointment of Board Members
10. Election of Public Office
11. Any other Business
12. Meeting Close

# 2006 Special AGM Minutes

NTCOSS Annual General Meeting  
Minutes of NTCOSS SGM and AGM  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Alice Springs Convention Centre 17.15pm  
2006 Special General Meeting

*Meeting Opened: 17.15*

*Present*

Barry Hansen (Individual), Wendy Morton (NTCOSS), Marilyn Starr (NT Mental Health Coalition/NTCOSS), Bernie Dwyer (Amity Community Services), Toni Vine Bromley (NT Shelter), Kirsty Carter (Team Health), Kathy Bannister (NTCOSS), Moira McCreesh (Antares), Jonathon Pilbrow (NTCOSS), Anne Hall (DCLS), Andrew Johnson (ACOSS). Lava Kohaupt (Melaleuca Refugee Centre) Sue Brownlee (YWCA), Garry Halliday (Carers NT), Ken Hodges (Anglicare NT), John Nai Smith (Yilli Rreung Housing), Marilyn Roberts (Somerville Community Services), Pru Gell (Dawn House), Phil Dempster (Grow NT), Ursula Raymond (Fred Hollows Foundation), Helen Smith (Cancer Council NT)

*Apologies*

Mary Johnson (Integrated Disability Action), Tracey Brand (Tangentyere), Caitlin Perry (Darwin Community Legal Service), Rachel Ubergang (NT Working Women's Centre), Tony Vidot (Anglicare), Vicki O'Halloran (Somerville Community Services), Bonnie Moss (Charles Darwin Uni), Graham Suckling (COTA)

*General discussion from the group.*

The group discussed the change to the constitution required. We are required to include how many days notice we will give for a special general meeting.

All agreed to the change.

The motion to accept the amendments to the Constitution (as attached) be adopted was moved by Bernie Dwyer and seconded by Toni Vine Bromley..

All in favour – motion **carried**.

Meeting Closed 17.30

# 2006 AGM Minutes

## NTCOSS Annual General Meeting

*Meeting Opened : 17.30*

### *Present*

Barry Hansen ( Individual ), Bonnie Moss ( Charles Darwin Uni ), Wendy Morton ( NTCOSS ), Marilyn Starr ( NT Mental Health Coalition/NTCOSS ), Bernie Dwyer ( Amity Community Services ), Toni Vine Bromley ( NT Shelter ), Kirsty Carter ( Team Health ), Kathy Bannister ( NTCOSS ), Moira McCreesh ( Antares ), Jonathon Pilbrow ( NTCOSS ), Anne Hall ( DCLS ), Andrew Johnson ( ACOSS ), Lava Kohaupt ( Melaleuca Refugee Centre ) Sue Brownlee ( YWCA ), Garry Halliday ( Carers NT ), Ken Hodges ( Anglicare NT ), John Nai Smith ( Yilli Rreung Housing ), Marilyn Roberts ( Somerville Community Services ), Pru Gell ( Dawn House ), Phil Dempster ( Grow NT ), Ursula Raymond ( Fred Hollows Foundation ), Helen Smith ( Cancer Council NT )

### *Apologies*

Mary Johnson ( Integrated Disability Action ), Tracey Brand ( Tangentyere ) Anthony Vidot ( Anglicare NT ) Caitlin Perry ( Darwin Community Legal Service ), Vicki O ' Halloran ( Somerville Community Services ), Bonnie Moss ( Charles Darwin Uni ), Graham Suckling ( COTA )

### *Welcome*

Welcome to all by board member Barry Hansen, President of NTCOSS.

### *Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM*

Barry asked those present to refer to the minutes of the 2005 AGM.

Motion that the minutes of the 2005 NTCOSS AGM as tabled, be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting was moved by Toni Vine Bromley and seconded by Bernie Dwyer.

All in favour – motion **carried**

### *Business Arising from the 2005 Minutes*

No business was raised from the previous minutes.

### *President ' s Report*

Barry Hansen presented the President ' s Report. Barry highlighted the main achievements this year as:

Newly appointed Executive Director, Wendy Morton

the launch of the new website ( via info-exchange )

Service Seeker ( online Directory ) goes live.

Motion that the President ' s report be accepted was moved by Des McKenzie and seconded by Vicki O ' Halloran.

All in favour—motion **carried**

# 2006 AGM Minutes

## *Executive Director 's Report*

Wendy Morton, the Executive Director, presented the Executive Director 's Report mentioning that it was a year of surprises, both good and not so good. Wendy thanked all staff members for their hard work and support during the year. They were Jonathon Pilbrow representing both NTCOSS and NT Shelter in Alice Springs, Kerrie Kathy Banister who carried out the Sector Development project and coordinated the Conference, Rachel Ruta our administration officer, Marilyn Starr the Mental Health Coalition project officer, and Christie Dickenson, Jennifer Whiting and Mindy Greenwood from the JET program, which was handed back to the Department 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006..

Motion that the Executive Director 's Report be accepted was moved by Vicki O ' Halloran and seconded by Tracy Brand.

All in favour – motion **carried**.

## *Treasurer 's Report*

Bernie Dwyer, presented the Treasurer 's Report and Auditors Report, stating that in summery there was more cash in the funds than there were liabilities and all projects were in a surplus position or close to break even.

Motion that the Treasurer 's report be accepted was moved by Barry Hansen and seconded by Anthony Vidot.

All in favour – motion **carried**.

## *Election of Auditor*

Motion that NTCOSS continue to commission Sue Lee as its auditor was moved by Bernie Dwyer and seconded by Barry Hansen.

All in favour – motion **carried**.

## *Election of Board and Executive*

Barry Hansen declared all positions vacant on the Board and Executive. Wendy Morton acted as returning officer. All nominations were received and seconded resulting in:

<b>President</b>	Barry Hansen
<b>Vice President</b>	Bernie Dwyer
<b>Secretary</b>	Tracey Brand
<b>Treasurer</b>	Caitlin Perry
<b>Executive Member</b>	Vicki O ' Halloran

# 2006 AGM Minutes

## *Other Board Members*

Toni Vine-Bromley  
Kirsty Carter  
Alison Edwards  
Gary Halliday  
Des McKenzie  
Moira McCreesh  
Bonnie Moss  
John Nai Smith  
Graeme Suckling  
Tony Vidot  
Lee Toogood

## *ACOSS Representative*

Motion raised for Barry Hansen to continue to be our representative was carried by all.

## *Election of Public Officer*

A nomination was received by Wendy Morton. As there were no other nominations Wendy Morton was declared Public Officer.

## *Ordinary Business*

There was no ordinary business discussed.

Meeting Closed: 1700 hrs

# List of Attendees at 2006 AGM

Barry Hansen	Individual
Kathy Bannister	NTCOSS
Jonathon Pilbrow	NTCOSS
Wendy Morton	NTCOSS
Bonnie Moss	Charles Darwin University
Marilyn Starr	NT Mental Health Coalition/NTCOSS
Bernie Dwyer	Amity Community Services
Toni Vine-Bromley	NT Shelter
Kirsty Carter	Team Health
Moira McCreesh	Antares
Anne Hall	DCLS
Andrew Johnson	ACOSS
Lava Kohaupt	Melaleuca Refugee Centre
Sue Brownlee	YMCA
Garry Halliday	Carers NT
Ken Hodges	Anglicare NT
John Nai Smith	Yilli Rreung Housing
Marliyn Roberts	Somerville Community Services
Pru Gell	Dawn House
Phil Dempster	Grow NT
Ursula Raymond	Fred Hollows Foundation
Helen Smith	Cancer Foundation

# Presidents Report

The last year has seen the *Little children are Sacred* report, federal intervention in NT Communities (initially in the name of protecting children), announcement of CDEP abolition, alcohol restrictions in Central Australia, the disability review, Local Government reforms, and at long last the return of the revised Protection of Children and Young People Bill to the NT Governments agenda.

We have maintained our apolitical stance through all of this, endeavoring to have good social policies adopted by all political parties.

It has meant very heavy workloads for our staff, and I pay tribute to all of them but particularly to Wendy Morton and Jonathan Pilbrow. Both have maintained strategic perspectives and promoted sound policies while under pressure – a rare talent.

Protection of abused children seems to have taken a back seat in the federal intervention debate. Appointment of managers to communities, control of Aboriginal Land, permits and extraordinarily powers to control service delivery organisations and seize assets are the issues. It is almost 3 months since the initial announcements, and my unofficial information is that there have been approximately 1300 child health checks in 23 communities and the effort is waning.

ACOSS (with NTCOSS support) was heavily involved in assisting Indigenous organisations to co-ordinate their response, with Olga Havnen being the key person in getting everybody together at very short notice and coordinating the response.

Local Government reforms have led to unprecedented alliances in opposition to them. Again a key issue has been lack of effective consultation.

Similarly the NT Government's response to the *Little Children are Sacred* report was prepared without consultation. Not surprisingly it was widely dismissed as inadequate.

The disability review on the other hand was generally considered to be a success for the NT Government.

The revised Protection of Children and Young People Bill has now been prepared, and remedies many of the very considerable shortcomings of the first draft, but it still does not mandatorily require the Department ("CEO") to investigate any report of child abuse or neglect. Reporting of suspected abuse is still mandatory.

There are quite good requirements for the Children's Commissioner, who is required to make a decision whether to investigate a complaint, to specify the reason(s) if the decision is not to investigate, and so on. I suggest these requirements should be translated into the CEO's responsibilities when an allegation of abuse or neglect is received.

I reported last year that the most encouraging public policy statement of the year was the recognition by the Economic Development Summit that everybody benefits from society moving forward together. I hope that hasn't been lost in this years' events.

Finally thank you to the Executive and Board members for all their support efforts and contributions throughout the year.

*Barry Hansen*  
President

# Executive Director 's Report

I have just completed my second year at NTCOSS and it continues to be a challenge every day. Like most other community organisations we struggle with a lack of resources but high demand on our services. DHCS did not provide funding again for our sector development which has meant we have not been able to provide the same level of support to organisations, particularly in the area of training. On the positive side though, we now have some project funding from DEET and DEST, to do further research in the Workforce Strategy area.

The highlight for the year was the NTCOSS conference. The conference, Linking Together, Investing in Our Future, was held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September. There were over 130 participants and feedback from the 3 days was extremely positive. Keynote speakers included Christine Charles from Newmont Mining, Hon Delia Lawrie, Andrew Johnson from ACOSS, Adam Blakester from NAPCAN, Mark Glazebrook from BP, Andrew Maher from Infoxchange and Barbara Nicol Flick. The Chief Minister, Clare Martin was also a keynote speaker however due to illness the Hon Elliot McAdam presented her speech on the day. Participants commented favourably on all aspects on the conference including the networking opportunities and the time to explore partnerships between the business, community and government sectors. Planning began in March for the next Conference to be held in April 08 in Darwin.

The NTCOSS pre budget submission was also a major project and was provided to Ministers in November. The development of the submission involved consultation with 14 different sectors throughout the NT. The submission was more succinct document this year and contained priority issues for each sector and also sector wide issues. The biggest sector wide issue concerns recruitment and retention for community organisations and growth funding in order to maintain services.

NTCOSS provided a summary of the Budget announcements in May to NTCOSS members and received media coverage. Planning began in May for the next NT budget submission

## ◆ ***Federal Intervention into Indigenous Communities***

NTCOSS worked with ACOSS to organize a quick response to the Federal Governments Intervention in to Indigenous Communities in the NT. A media conference was held in Canberra 5 days later and also a full day summit of Indigenous leaders and indigenous and non indigenous organizations. NTCOSS played and has continued to play a role in bringing organizations together to develop joint responses and to provide information to the sector.

## ◆ ***Submission to the Board of Inquiry into Sexual Abuse***

NTCOSS contributed to the submissions developed by the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network and the Family and Community Services Advisory Committee.

# Executive Director 's Report

## ◆ **Housing and Homelessness**

NTCOSS has continued to have a position on the NT Homelessness Taskforce. Met with SGS Economics to contribute to the Homelessness Framework consultancy. Along with NT Shelter, we met with the new Darwin City Council Social Planner to discuss housing and other needs of those who are most disadvantaged in Darwin.

## ◆ **Alcohol**

We have an ongoing involvement in work in Central Australia around alcohol issues, eg advocacy work in relation to alcohol restrictions and policies; work around support needs of Aboriginal people with alcohol substance issues. We have also met with the Top End drug and alcohol network.

NTCOSS wrote to Tom Calma, Race Discrimination Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to raise concerns about the proposed Dry Area Legislation application by the Alice Springs Town Council. We have also contributed to discussions regarding liquor licence applications and the ID permit system.

## ◆ **Income Support and Poverty**

- Continued liaison with ACOSS and other community organisations regarding the impacts of Welfare to Work reforms.
- NTCOSS and ACOSS ran a free training session on the Welfare to Work changes, the potential impact on clients and ways in which to assist for community workers.
- Media coverage around poverty issues and cost of living in the NT including the cost of fuel.
- Member of the Emergency Relief Advisory Committee
- NTCOSS met with the Fair Pay Commission to provide input regarding low paid workers in the NT.
- Media activity during Anti Poverty Week.

Met with DEWR to discuss work choices legislation and impact on community organisations.

## ◆ **Youth**

NTCOSS has had an ongoing involvement with the Central Australian Youth Justice Committee (CAYJ) in advocating on youth justice issues including the suppression of young people's names in the media, specialised closed children's court and a dedicated youth justice system.

## ◆ **Jobs Plan 3**

NTCOSS worked with DHCS and DEET to feed community sector workforce issues into the development of Jobs Plan 3. As a result, the Community Sector has been identified for the first time as a priority area in the plan.

## ◆ **Workforce Strategy**

NTCOSS received funding from DEET (via DEST) to conduct a project into workforce strategy issues in the NT Community Sector. The project is looking at issues such as

# Executive Director 's Report

recruitment and retention, apprentices, portable long service leave and indigenous employment. The project is working alongside other support NTCOSS provides to the sector to deal with workforce issues. The project is currently funded until Feb 08.

## ♦ ***Common Cause Taskforce***

NTCOSS has continued involvement with the Common Cause Taskforce and has provided input into issues affecting the sector and its relationship with government. NTCOSS co-presented a workshop on the taskforce at the NTCOSS Conference. NTCOSS facilitated the Peaks Group and one meeting was held late in the year.

## ♦ ***Employment Disadvantaged Taskforce***

NTCOSS has 2 representatives on the taskforce which is chaired by DEET. We have had major input into the focus of the taskforce. We have also been a panel member for a DEET grants program. Contributed to KPMG's employment disadvantage framework consultancy.

NTCOSS co presented a workshop at the NTCOSS conference, alongside DEET on the taskforce and its objectives and the current consultancy.

## ♦ ***FACS / SAAP network project***

NTCOSS has been given the tender through DHCS to conduct 3 network meetings in the NT for organizations who are funded through FACS or SAAP. Discussion has begun with DHCS and the sector on how best to conduct these meetings.

## ♦ ***Support of Other Peaks***

The support arrangements in place with NT Shelter have continued for a joint position in Central Australia and with the NT Mental Health Coalition as the incorporated body and administrative support body for the Coalition, and the provision of co-location and other supports to Amnesty NT and the Australian Association of Social Workers NT.

NTCOSS has entered into a partnership with Darwin Regional Crime Prevention Council (DRCPC). NTCOSS has employed a 2 day a week Crime Prevention Project Coordinator with funding from the DRCPC. The project was funded until the end of June 07. The Dept of Justice decided to change its crime prevention focus and crime prevention councils were told they would no longer receive funding. NTCOSS has assisted the DRCPC in their decision to wind up the organisation.

NTCOSS has provided support to the youth peak, NTYAN which has included some supervision.

NTCOSS has met with the Top End Alcohol and other drug sector to provide information and support in the development of an AOD peak body. We have also had several meetings with DOHA to discuss ways in which NTCOSS can continue to support the AOD sector.

# Executive Director 's Report

## ◆ ***Input Into Government Reviews, Submissions, Inquiries and Committees.***

**Note in some cases we have facilitated input by others into the process.**

Family and Community Services Advisory Committee

Common Cause Taskforce

The Employment Disadvantage Steering Committee

Disability Services Review

Disability Services Advisory Committee ( NTCOSS Board Representative )

Emergency Relief Advisory Committee

Central Australian Youth Justice Coalition

Central Australian Consumer Consultative Group – Education

Review of the Domestic Violence Act

People 's Alcohol Action Coalition

Women in the workplace forum

Alcohol and other Drug sustainability project

Consolidation of government services consultation

Disability Employment Forum

Darwin Urban Planning Forum

## ◆ ***Other Consultative Processes and Committees;-***

Quarterly meetings with the Minister for Family and Community Services

6 monthly meetings with the Chief Minister

Regular meetings with the Director Community Engagement  
(Dept of the Chief Minister)

Human Services Training Advisory Committee – Board member

## ◆ ***Provision of Regular Information to the Sector***

In addition to training and network sessions mentioned elsewhere, NTCOSS has provided regular bulletins via email as well as via the NTCOSS newsletter on up to date information and useful resources in governance and organisational management.

We also send out regular information bulletins / emails on other training and activities that may interest the community sector. Many other organisations are recognising the value of the email list that we have and are sending us information to be disseminated to our contacts across the NT about events, job vacancies and other issues.

# Executive Director 's Report

## ♦ **Advocacy Training**

NTCOSS and ACOSS presented a one day training seminar on Advocacy Campaigns – influencing Policy Makers and designing strategic advocacy campaigns. 30 people attended the training. We again ran training in Advocacy Campaigns in Alice Springs in March and Media Training in Alice Springs and Darwin in March in conjunction with ACOSS. All workshops were very well attended and we have had many requests for it to be run again.

## ♦ **Campaigns**

NTCOSS has worked jointly with ACOSS and other COSS's on the Oral Health campaign including being involved in the Advocacy Day in Federal parliament in March. We met with representatives of both major parties to lobby on dental issues and alert them to particular barriers including those faced in the NT.

NTCOSS has also worked jointly on the Australia Fair campaign – a campaign to engage politicians and members of the community in discussion around what would make Australia Fair for all and what areas we need to focus on in order to make things fairer for those who are most disadvantaged. This is an ongoing campaign.

## ♦ **Community Sector Survey 2006.**

Undertook in conjunction with ACOSS and the other COSS' the distribution of the Community Sector Survey. The survey looks at how the Community Sector and its clients are faring and what are the major issues of concern.

## ♦ **Community Services Directory**

The 2006 Community Services electronic directory and database of the NT was completed and made available to the sector. Work has been almost completed on the 2007 directory.

## ♦ **NTCOSS News**

There was one NTCOSS Newsletter in the second part of 2006 and regular NTCOSS email Updates. This provided up to date and relevant information on Sector development and social policy for the Social Community Services as well as training workshops and other events for the Sector.

The new NTCOSS website was launched in July.

## ♦ **Contact Database**

This database is continually being updated and maintained.

# Executive Director 's Report

## ◆ **NTCOSS Membership**

NTCOSS membership includes the entire range of sectors and includes members from across the NT i.e. all regional centres are represented, including approx 28% of the membership are Indigenous agencies, all mental health agencies and women's services are represented, most A&D agencies are represented, most Social and Community Sector Peak Bodies and Networks are represented. Just over 25% of the members are from Alice Springs and surrounding areas, all large multi agencies are represented, and a number of Local Governments are members.

- ◆ 7 people from the NT attended the ACOSS conference In Sydney including 3 people from the staff and board of NTCOSS.
- ◆ Approx 480 agencies receive the NTCOSS newsletter, which includes social policy and industry matters, a number of agencies contribute articles and information to this publication.
- ◆ NT Mental Health Coalition representatives from all mental health NGOs represented.
- ◆ Peaks and Networks Group – participation of 17 peaks and networks.
- ◆ Regular bulletins on Sector development and useful industry information go out by email in addition to the newsletter to all NTCOSS members and DHCS Service providers who have known email addresses.

## ◆ **HACC Training Funds**

NTCOSS agreed to distribute HACC training funds for DHCS as a one off project to ensure that organizations were able to receive the money before the end of the financial year.

## ◆ **Staffing**

We have had many staff changes at NTCOSS earlier this year. Rachel Ruta has left the position of Office Coordinator and Jane Gordge has taken over that role. Kathy Bannister left NTCOSS after the conference as the funding for her position had not been continued from DHCS. Marilyn Starr resigned from her position as the Mental Health Coalition project officer after 2 years in the role. Marilyn put her heart into the role and we thank her for her dedication. We were very lucky to have Phil Dempster agree to be the new project officer for the Coalition and he began in mid June. Fortunately for NTCOSS, Jonathan Pilbrow has continued to be the Central Australian policy officer. Jenny Milne provided the administration support to the AASWNT and has also assisted with some NTCOSS administration. Nfanwy Welsh assisted with administration work and also with helping to upgrade our IT system. Also to Pauline Lambert who came in at short notice to help out with administration work. Thank you to all the staff for their support and hard work, particularly during the tough times.

Finally, thank you to the board especially the executive and to Andrew Johnson at ACOSS. There have been some trying times over the past 12 months and I have appreciated the extra time and advice you have provided to me, particularly the messages of 'Hang in there!'.

*Wendy Morton*  
Executive Director

# Board Members

Board as at June 2006

## ***President***

Barry Hansen, *Individual*

## ***Vice President***

Bernie Dwyer, *Amity Community Services*

## ***Secretary***

Tracey Brand, *Tangentyere Council*

## ***Treasurer***

Caitlin Perry, *Darwin Community Legal Service*

## ***Executive Director***

Wendy Morton, *NTCOSS*

## ***Executive Member***

Vicki OHalloran, *Sommerville Community Services*

## ***Board Members***

Toni Vine Bromley, *NT Shelter*

Anthony Vidot, *Anglicare Top End*

Des McKenzie, *Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT*

John Nai Smith, *Yilli Housing Corporation*

Lee Toogood, *Top End Women's Legal Service*

Kirsty Carter, *NT Mental Health Coalition*

Alison Edwards, *Fred Hollows Foundation*

Gary Halliday, *Carers NT*

Moira McCreesh, *Antares Consulting*

Graeme Suckling, *Council on the Ageing (NT) Inc*

Bonnie Moss, *Charles Darwin University*

### *Executive Director*

Wendy Morton, Executive Director

### *Office Coordinator*

Rachel Ruta - July to May

Nfanwy Welsh - [May to June

Jane Gordge

Jenny Milne — Administration Support

### *Workforce Strategy Project*

Donna Blackler

### *Central Australian Policy Officer*

Jonathan Pilbrow

### *NT Mental Health Coalition*

Marilyn Starr, farewelled in June

Phil Dempster

# Central Australia

## **INTRODUCTION**

The NTCOSS Central Australian Policy Officer position is a two day per week position established to focus on NTCOSS issues in the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek regions. This position is a partnership arrangement with NT Shelter, who provide a further two days per week funding for NT Shelter work

## **SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

### SECTOR NETWORKS

Many links have been established with agencies in the Community Services Industry, in both Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Networking has taken place through involvement in interagency meetings, Forums and various consultation processes, which have provided opportunities, to promote the work of NTCOSS and consolidate the profile of the NTCOSS in Central Australia.

CA Policy Officer has also attended the following interagency/network meetings:

- ◆ Central Australian Youth Programs Information Network (CAYPIN)
- ◆ Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network (FVSAN)
- ◆ Alcohol & Other Drugs Interagency
- ◆ Disability Network Meeting

### INTERAGENCY MEETINGS

The Alice Springs Interagency meetings occur every three months and continue to be very well attended, by both Government and Non Government agencies. These meetings provide an opportunity for agencies to share information about their services, to meet new workers, engage in networking and find out about new programs or services. NTCOSS plays a significant role in providing information on the meetings to NGO's and Government Departments, and is a good opportunity for NTCOSS to promote its work. Meetings in the past year were hosted by Tangentyere Council, Multicultural Community Service of Central Australia (MCSCA), The Family Law Court of Alice Springs and The Salvation Army. The interagency meetings also hosted a visit from the Working Women's Centre.

### DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

NTCOSS regularly sends out emails to community agencies regarding upcoming training, events policy developments and employment opportunities. A proforma for NTCOSS sending out emails has been developed which has helped create more efficiencies when sending emails out.

### RECLINK AUSTRALIA

ReLink Australia, who provide recreational opportunities for homeless people/disadvantaged people, have expanded their program model to Alice Springs. NTCOSS has played a role in creating awareness amongst the community sector of ReLink and assisted ReLink in the facilitation of an information session for 35 people from community and Government organisations, where there has been a high level of interest in the ReLink model.

A number of Alice Springs agencies who work with disadvantaged client groups have become ReLink members. ReLink has brokered services and partnerships to enable participation in regular recreational, sporting and social activities – with a large number of activities having been run in Alice Springs since December 2006. There has been notable networking and interagency collaboration as a result of ReLink's presence in Alice Springs.

## **TRAINING**

### ACOSS Advocacy & Media Training

NTCOSS assisted with preparatory work and the promotion of these training workshops, which were highly valued by the participants who attended. Advocacy Training (15) & Media Training (8).

### Workchoices Training

NTCOSS also promoted two separate Workchoices Training sessions in Alice Springs – one by the Working Womens Centre, and one by the Chamber of Commerce

# Central Australia

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK

### NTCOSS PRE–BUDGET SUBMISSION (PBS) 2007-08

In Central Australia, NTCOSS assisted with the gathering of local input into NTCOSS's Budget Submission for 2007-08, on a range of sector specific issues, including indigenous issues, law & justice, families and education issues.

The new process used for gathering input into the PBS for 2007-08 generally proved a more satisfactory and inclusive way for agencies in Central Australia to be involved in the Pre-Budget Submission process. The face to face to face meetings (with phone link ups to Darwin and also Tennant Creek) proved a much better way to develop priorities for the PBS. These meetings also allowed workers to connect with other workers, sometimes for the first time, and also allowed the opportunity for NTCOSS to meet together with sector specific groups.

### PEOPLE'S ALCOHOL ACTION COALITION (PAAC)

NTCOSS has been a regular contributor to the work of the People's Alcohol Action Coalition (PAAC), who are working on strategies to reduce per capita alcohol consumption in Alice Springs, in order to reduce alcohol related harm in the community. There has been significant development on the alcohol policy level at all 3 Government levels in the past year, and PAAC has been very active in community debate and advocacy on these matters.

### Alice Springs Liquor Supply Plan

PAAC was greatly encouraged by the Decision of the NT Licensing Commission (NTLC) to implement the Alice Springs Liquor Supply Plan from 1 October 2006, which placed restrictions on the hours of sale, and limits on the amount of 'cheap bulk alcohol' people can purchase. PAAC had been active in campaigning on this issue over many years.

The evaluation of the Liquor Supply Plan has seen 11% and 10% reductions in alcohol consumption over the first 2 quarters of the restrictions, when compared with the same quarters in the previous year; as well as a drop in alcohol related crimes and the number of people taken into protective custody. PAAC is represented on an Alcohol Reference Panel which is assisting to monitor the evaluation of the restrictions.

### Alice Springs Town Council Dry Area application

PAAC & NTCOSS advocated that a dry town will only shift drinking from public places to other areas, and both formally objected to the Dry Area submission and presented at the NTLC Hearing. The NTLC granted the Dry Area Application – effective from 1 August 2007. NTCOSS media work was done in relation to the Dry Town.

### ID System for Alcohol Purchase

PAAC responded to proposed ID card system for monitoring purchase of alcohol – giving conditional support for the system for all premises that are licensed to sell takeaway alcohol - as long as

- ◆ resources are provided to assist members of the community to obtain photo ID, free of charge,
  - ◆ all premises that are licensed to sell takeaway alcohol use the ID system
- an independent audit is put in place, so that information collected is only on restricted alcohol purchases, and all traces of information be destroyed after each day.

### License Buy Back, Further reduction in Takeaway hours, takeaway free alcohol day

These issues were raised by the Chief Minister with the Alcohol Reference Panel and PAAC has advocated strongly in support of these measures

### CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN YOUTH JUSTICE (CAYJ COMMITTEE)

CAYJ has met fairly regularly over the last 12 months, to continue to campaign & lobby for an appropriate Youth Justice System (with a prevention/early intervention and a systemic focus)

CAYJ has continued its links with a number of bodies, including the National Youth Advocacy Network (NYAN), and the NT Youth Affairs Network (NTYAN), Defence for Children International (DCI). CAYJ were signatories to a letter sent by a group of national and state community organisations concerned at human rights abuses within Australia and committed to the development of best practice in public policy in respecting human rights - written with specific reference to the UN Human Rights Committee decision of March 17 2006, which found Australia had breached its Human Rights obligations in relation to Mr Corey Brough, a juvenile held in Parklea Prison in New South Wales. The CA Policy Officer also contributed an Article 'Housing Disadvantage Stunts Growth' Published in Australian Children's Rights News (No.41, Sept 06), DCI Newsletter.

# Central Australia

One of the major issues for the past year has been advocating for Young People's matters to be prioritised by the Court System (and the need for a separate Children's Court)

- CAYJ had a letter tabled at the Court Users Forum – highlighting concerns with young people's matters being heard in amongst adult matters, and not being heard in a timely manner. Work still needs to be done to obtain broad support for this

CAY has prepared a proposal for consideration – i.e. for court matters involving young people to be prioritised and held at a set time (e.g. one morning of the week), and heard as quickly as possible.

CAYJ is also focusing on the following issues

- Loitering Notices ;
  - Lack of A & OD services for young people;
- Reducing the time young people are held in court holding cells and the police watch house

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (AASW) NT – SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Regular Teleconferences are held looking at social justice issues. The major focus for 2007 has been the issue of violence. The Social Justice Committee has advocated on addressing violence – concentrating on long term solutions not just 'get tough measures'.

VIOLENCE IN ALICE SPRINGS

CA Policy Officer attended a Community Leaders Forum in Alice Springs, which aimed to find short term solutions to the problem of violence in Alice Springs.

As part of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) Social Justice Committee – the CA Policy Officer prepared a letter to the Chief Minister as a response to community concerns regarding youth violence. A number of follow up meetings with various MLA's and Government Departments has resulted – where long term solutions to violence have been advocated – such as the provision of safe places for young people; increased recreational activities; more resources for therapeutic family interventions; and a youth specific Alcohol & Other Drug Residential Rehabilitation Service.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT NETWORK (CAFVSAN)

- NTCOSS contributed to the Submission into the Board of Inquiry into the Sexual Abuse of Children on Aboriginal Communities
  - CAFVSAN sent a submission to the Dept of Justice re. the Review of Domestic Violence Act
- CAFVSAN has been advocating for a Stand Alone Sexual Assault Centre

EDUCATION

Indigenous Education

Indigenous Education was identified as a significant priority issue through the NTCOSS Pre-Budget Submission Process – with transport for indigenous students a particular issue highlighted. NTCOSS has been included in a Tangentyere 'Education Executive Sub Committee' meeting – where transport is also a major focus.

Central Australian Consumer Consultative Group - Education

The CA Policy Officer attends this group, who meet twice a year, as part of a consultation process by DEET Student Services in relation to the development and implementation of the Student Services Business Plan, Policies and Projects.

WELFARE to WORK (W2W)

Attended Welfare to Work Conference in Brisbane in July 2006 and a forum hosted by the University of Queensland, looking at research issues relating to W2W. The CA policy Officer also met with a number of COSSes/ACOSS in Brisbane to discuss information collection processes regarding how Gov/NGO's in each State/Territory are responding to welfare reform and the impact of the 8 week non-payment period – including the impact on housing costs, utilities etc.

# Central Australia

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION IN THE NT

There have been significant concerns from the NGO sector in relation to Federal Government intervention announced at the end of June 2007. NTCOSS signed on to an open letter to Minister Brough which expressed concern over the effectiveness of the proposed actions to address the long standing issue of the abuse of Aboriginal children. Subsequent to this the CA Policy Officer was one of a number of delegates from around the country including a number of Aboriginal organisations in the Northern Territory, who met in Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday 27 June.

Discussions at the summit reinforced the fact that to take immediate action, there are a number of proven programs, measures and approaches, which are already working in Aboriginal communities that the Government could be funding – as these programs are either under-funded or there are not sufficient resources to extend them to other communities. In addition interventions must begin from an understanding that many communities experience extreme poverty and that the underlying causes of disadvantage have been exacerbated by the lack of a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach and severe lack of resources.

## **COLLABORATION AND REPRESENTATION**

### MEDIA WORK

A range of comments were provided to Media outlets (Radio and Newspaper, and through media releases) including media comments on: Anti-Poverty week, "Effective Responses to Violence in Alice Springs", and the Alice Springs Dry Town decision.

### 2006 NTCOSS CONFERENCE

"Linking Together - Investing In Our Future!" (Community, Government and Business). The CA Policy Officer assisted with the organisation and promotion of the Conference. The Conference received very positive feedback – and generated much enthusiasm about the community sector raising its profile and building its capacity to access business partners improve networking with each other.

### REVIEW OF NT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

CA Policy Officer attended a Review meeting of NT Domestic Violence Act

## **CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### ACOSS CONFERENCE (November, Sydney)

The ACOSS Conference in Sydney in November was a significant event, celebrating 50 years of the Australian Council of Social Service. The Conference had a number of sessions focusing on early childhood and the needs of children, which were especially inspiring.

### TRAINING ATTENDED

Full Day Advocacy Workshop (Darwin), facilitated by Andrew Johnson (Director, ACOSS) Commonwealth Grants Commission Information Session, run by Barry Hansen, President, NTCOSS

## **TRAVEL**

I have also had the opportunity to travel to Darwin for NTCOSS (and NT Shelter) related meetings and activities, and to meet with the NTCOSS Board, and for joint supervision with both the EO NT Shelter and ED NTCOSS. These trips have been important in increasing my understanding of the role and workings of NTCOSS, and for networking with agencies in the Community Services Sector in the NT. Trips have also been made to Tennant Creek, Brisbane and Sydney (ACOSS Conference).

## **NTCOSS TEAM**

CA Policy officer contributes to the development of the NTCOSS team through a variety of forums;

- ◆ Attendance at team meetings (via teleconference)
- ◆ Attended NTCOSS Strategic Planning Day
- ◆ Attended NTCOSS Board Meeting
- ◆ Contribution to NTCOSS Newsletters

# Central Australia

## SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Regular (phone) supervision sessions have been established with the NTCOSS ED, which have proved beneficial in terms of establishing service direction and local priorities. Joint supervision has also occurred with the ED NTCOSS and the EO NT Shelter, which is valuable in managing workload issues and priorities. Regular phone contact with NTCOSS ED also complements the individual supervision. A Performance Appraisal was completed by both NT Shelter EO and NTCOSS ED, which included input from CA Advisory Committee members.

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I have received excellent support from the advisory committee members over the past year, who have all made themselves accessible to me for advice and support. While there have been some departures over the last 12 months, I would like to thank the following people who have served on the committee:

- Maxene Schulte (Alice Springs Women's Shelter),
  - Sara; Ben Kerin (ASYASS),
  - Kate Lawrence; Annette Hayes (Waltja)
  - Eric Sultan (Alice Springs Aboriginal Urban Housing Association)
- Catriona Elek (Tangentyere Council)

## CONCLUSION

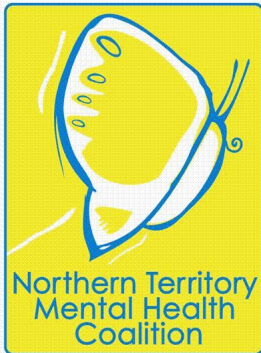
This has been a busy year of responding to changes to legislation at all levels of Government. This has involved a significant amount of collaborative work with the NGO Sector in terms of advocacy and highlighting issues of concern for NGOs and people who face poverty and disadvantage in Central Australia and the NT. Much more will need to be done, as the community sector deals with the impact of these legislative changes on their clientele.

NTCOSS, in conjunction with other peak bodies and organisations, has a critical role to play in the monitoring and highlighting of these impacts. Involvement in various public forums and meetings, and representation on various steering committees and working groups, as well as media work, has continued to raise NTCOSS' profile in Central Australia.

Thank you to Wendy Morton (ED) for your support and supervision, as well as to Kathy Bannister (Community Sector Development Officer), Marilyn Starr & Phil Dempster (Mental Health Coalition) and Jane Gordge, Rachel Ruta & Nfanwy Walsh (Administration Staff) and to the NTCOSS Board for their support during the year. Thank you also to Andrew Johnson and the staff at ACOSS for their advice, information and support.

*Jonathan Pilbrow*

Central Australian Policy Officer



## **NT Mental Health Coalition**

### **Annual Report for NTCOSS**

**July 2006 to June 2007**

The NT Mental Health Coalition is the peak body recognised by the NT Minister for Health and Community services as representing Northern Territory non-government organisations that provide services to people with mental health needs, and it has a seat on the Mental Health Council of Australia, the National Peak Body. We are also a member of the National Alliance of State Peaks.

The Coalition is currently funded for one part time project worker, and the work done between July 2006 and June 2007 fits into the following categories:

#### **1. Development of the Coalition as a Non Government Organisation Peak body for mental health in the Northern Territory, including**

- ◆ ***Developing the Coalition to include a range of stakeholders***
  - ◆ Arrangements are still ongoing with prospective members
  - ◆ The Indigenous service providers previously consulted have had major staff changes/restructuring of their service and have been unable to commit to joining as yet
  - ◆ Attendance at a number meetings, both by phone and in person, to establish a National Alliance of MH Peak Bodies
  
- ◆ ***Developing a greater participation by consumers and carers***
  - ◆ Consumer and career representation of the Coalition on the Tamarind Centre's Inpatient Task Force until it ceased in February 2006
  - ◆ Attendance at the NSW CAG Conference in December 2006 where networks were established with national and state consumer groups
  - ◆ Liaising with and preparation of, consultations to be held in Darwin of the Australian Mental Health Consumer Network
  
- ◆ ***Developing links with government service providers and health professionals***
  - ◆ Member of the Indigenous MH Allied Health Workforce Task Force Steering Committee to identify the gaps in remote indigenous workforce in May/June 2006
  - ◆ Continued existence of the Mental Health Week Planning Committee made up of various MH service providers,

# Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

- ◆ Attendance at the Vicserv Conference in Melbourne in April 2006 where links were established with many service providers and other professionals
- ◆ The continued representation on the Disability Support Pension Steering Group (via the Mental Health Council of Australia) advising the federal minister on the projected changes to this pension
- ◆ Represented Coalition at meetings of NT Peaks Group, developing symbiotic relationships between government and non-government eg. Training, scholarships
- ◆ Attendances at meetings/workshops, on such topics as the Welfare to Work Reforms, Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation, to provide relevant mental health sector input
- ◆ ***Providing secretariat support***
  - ◆ Arranging, chairing and/or taking minutes of meetings of the Coalition
  - ◆ Following up on the decisions made at the Coalition's Planning Day in June 2006
  - ◆ Support the Coalition's delegate to the Federal Peak Body by making her travel arrangements, appointments, and perusing and preparing documents to establish the NT's position in many areas of Mental Health and attending meetings
  - ◆ Providing media releases, interviews and background information for members' interviews on a range of topical issues in the mental health sector throughout Australia and the Northern Territory
  - ◆ Research and prepare documents and reports and attend meetings with Alliance of State MH Peaks, DHCS, and MHCA regarding the COAG's rolling out of funds through the National Action Plan
  - ◆ Produce reports to NTCOSS, Dept Health and Community Services and the NT MH Coalition on the Coalition's activities
  - ◆ Prepare and present documentation to request an increase in the level of funding from DHCS and longer tenure
  - ◆ Liaising on behalf of member organisations with government departments regarding recent changes under the Associations Act.
  - ◆ Develop NT MH Coalition logo, letterhead and business cards

## **2. Undertake a range of mental health promotional and prevention awareness raising activities.**

### ***During this year they were:***

- ◆ Maintaining the Coalition's mental health promotional activities on the Auseinet website ([www.auseinet.com](http://www.auseinet.com))
- ◆ Make available NT MH Coalition's information on the NTCOSS' website, and maintain it.

# Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

- ◆ Support ARAFMI's Art in the Park display in Raintree Park for Schizophrenia Awareness Week by provision of banner and balloons and personal attendance.
- ◆ Provision of mental health information at World Environment Day stall
- ◆ Organisation of and provision of mental health information monthly at Casuarina and Palmerston shopping centres
- ◆ Sponsorship of Darwin Runners and Walkers Club cross country event during Mental Health Week 2006 – The NT MH Coalition's presence appears on their calendar of events for 12 months.

### 3. Organise and co-ordinate activities around Mental Health Week

- ◆ ***Mental Health Week 2006***

*An extensive program of activities was arranged for this week, including:*

- ◆ Art and poetry competition Darwin
- ◆ Fun run/walk in Darwin and Alice Springs
- ◆ Official Launch of Mental Health Week attended by the Administrator of the NT, Minister Delia Lawrie and Arana Pearson which included announcement of winners of art & poetry competitions, & performance by Young Carers in Rain Tree Park, Smith Street Mall, Darwin
- ◆ Monday 9th Oct all day Art & Poetry displays open in Smith Street Mall windows (near Café 21), Vic Arcade windows, Darwin Post Office windows
- ◆ Monday 9th Oct 11am-12pm Wayne Schwass visits Tiwi Islands
- ◆ Monday 9th Oct 5.00pm – 7.20pm Darwin Forum Arana Pearson, Wayne Schwass & Craig Hamilton at St Mary's football club room, Marrara, Darwin
- ◆ Tuesday 10th Oct All day Art & Poetry Displays Various windows Darwin City (see Monday for details)
- ◆ Tuesday 10th Oct 9.00am-12.30pm Arana Pearson Workshop Hearing Voices That Are Distressing – A Simulated Training Experience Namarluk Room, Mirambeena Hotel, Cavanagh St Darwin
- ◆ Tuesday 10th Oct 9.30-1.30pm Mental Health Week information stand Casuarina Secondary College
- ◆ Tuesday 10th Oct 6.00pm Consumer and Carer Celebration Dinner to book, please contact Marita Gibbs, NT ARAFMI on 8949 1016, 0434 144 450, [petesplace@inet.net.au](mailto:petesplace@inet.net.au) Happy Garden Beachfront, Nightcliff
- ◆ Tuesday 10th Oct 5.00pm 5.40pm Alice Springs Forum Arana Pearson and Wayne Schwass Alice Springs Salvation Army Hall, at 13 Stuart Terrace (big yellow building)

# Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

- ◆ Wednesday 11th Oct All day Art & Poetry Displays Various windows Darwin City (see Monday for details)
- ◆ Wednesday 11th Oct Starts at 6.15pm Darwin Fun Run/Walk & BBQ Lake Alexander, East Point Reserve, Darwin
- ◆ Wednesday 11th Oct 10am-2pm MHW Info Stall (run by GROW) Katherine Shopping Centre
- ◆ Wednesday 11th Oct 1.00pm-4.30pm Arana Pearson Workshop Hearing Voices That Are Distressing – A Simulated Training Experience Andy McNeill Room, Alice Springs Town Council
- ◆ Thursday 12th Oct All day Art & Poetry Displays Various windows Darwin City (see Monday for details)
- ◆ Thursday 12th Oct 8.00 am - 4.30pm Palmerston Shopping Centre Mental Health Information Stall Outside Target, Palmerston Shopping Centre
- ◆ Thursday 12th Oct 6.00pm/7.30pm Deckchair Cinema “Cosi” 6pm BBQ & ticket box open, 7.30pm film starts at the Deckchair Cinema, Darwin
- ◆ Thursday 12th Oct 9.00am-3.30pm Arana Pearson Workshop Working With Voices Andy McNeill Room, Alice Springs Town Council
- ◆ Friday 13th Oct All day Art & Poetry Displays Various windows Darwin City (see Monday for details)
- ◆ Friday 13th Oct 12.00pm-1.00pm Community Visitor Program Free Sausage Sizzle and Info Stall–Announcement of Art & Poetry Competitions People’s Choice by Tony Fitzgerald Darwin City Smith St Mall shop window (near Café 21)
- ◆ Friday 13th Oct 9.00am - 11.30am Mental Health and Community Visitor Program Info Stall Free Sausage Sizzle Todd Mall, Alice Springs
- ◆ Friday 13th Oct 1.00pm – 4.00pm Community Visitor Program Workshop Human Rights & Mental Health Andy McNeill Room, Alice Springs Town Council
- ◆ Monday 16th Oct 9.30am - 4.00pm Arana Pearson Workshop Darwin Working with Voices Namarluk Room, Mirambeena Hotel, Cavanagh St Darwin
- ◆ Monday 16th to Friday 20th Oct Various times Artist Greg Wilson School Visits Please see separate itinerary below:
  - ◆ Tuesday 17th Oct Morning Taminmin High School
  - ◆ Wednesday 18th Oct Morning Darwin High School
  - ◆ Wednesday 18th Oct Afternoon Casuarina Secondary College
  - ◆ Thursday 19th Oct All day Nhulunbuy, including Nhulunbuy high school
  - ◆ Friday 20th Oct Morning Nightcliff High School

While most events were well supported, some were not so well, and adjustments will be made to reflect this in Mental Health Week 2006 arrangements.

# Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition

## ***Mental Health Week 2007***

Arrangements for Mental Health Week 2007 stalled because of a changeover of Project Officers, the arrangements began in earnest in Late June 2007. There have been some very big changes for the next 12 months and beyond. They will be reflected in the report for next year.

## ***Ongoing***

The Coalition met with the Department of Health and Community Services to increase the funding to provide the coalition with one full time employee from June 30, 2007 onwards. The Department agreed to provide ongoing funding of the Coalition at 5 days a week but asked for a commitment to provide an action plan for Mental Health Promotion by the 31<sup>st</sup> August, with a review of the situation at the conclusion of the first year of the current contract, June 30, 2008. This commitment to future funding enables long term planning to be put in place and provides real opportunities for the needs of people with a mental illness to be better met.

Thank you to the Coalition membership and NTCOSS for their support throughout this year.

Most of this report is based on the activities carried out by the outgoing Project Officer Marilyn Starr and I would like to thank her for the effort and the commitment she had to people with a mental illness, with this sort of commitment from her and others, things can only get better for the organisations we work with and for Consumers and Carers within our membership

*Phil Dempster*

**Mental Health Project Officer**



NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# Financial Statements

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Independent Audit Report

Balance Sheet

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Notes to and forming part of the Accounts

Program Profit & Loss reports

# Financial Statements

## NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCORPORATED STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

In our opinion –

the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 4-7 being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;

the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and

there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

The name of each committee member of the association during the relevant financial year were:

President	Barry Hansen
Vice President	Bernie Dwyer
Secretary	Tracey Brand
Treasurer	Caitlin Perry
Executive Member	Vicki O'Halloran
Other Board Members	Toni Vine-Bromley, Kirsty Carter, Alison Edwards, Gary Halliday, Des McKenzie,, Moira McCreesh, Bonnie Moss, John Nai Smith, Graeme Suckling, Toni Vidot, Lee Toogood

The principal activities of the association during the relevant financial were:

The Northern Territory Council of Social Services Incorporated is a peak body for the Social and Community Sector in the Northern Territory and a voice for people affected by disadvantage and inequality.

(c) The net deficit of the association for the relevant financial year was: **-\$35,755.16**

Signed at Darwin on                    /   /

.....

President

.....

Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.  
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

# Auditors Report

**CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS**

ABN: 87 343 921 485

PO Box 475 Mudgeeraba QLD 4213

Registered Office: 117 Dick

Ward Drive

Darwin:

Tel: (08) 8985 2294 Fax: (08) 8985 3548

Coconut Grove NT

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCORPORATED

### Scope

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the Northern Territory Council of Social Services Incorporated for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The Association's Board of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report, and the information contained therein, and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the entity's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of the Northern Territory Council of Social Services Incorporated on its preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Association's constitution and the *Associations Act*. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial report and the requirements of the *Associations Act*. These do not require the application of all Accounting Standards.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the *Associations Act*, the financial position of the Northern Territory Council of Social Services Incorporated at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



SUSANNE LEE, CPA  
DATED: 06/08/07



# Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 2007

This Year

Last Year

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Bendigo Bank Cheque A/C	\$395,562.33	\$284,220.56
CBA Cheque Account	\$914.37	\$166,517.54
TIO Cash Management Acc	\$71,040.68	\$68,158.62
Electronic Transfer Clearing	\$0.00	-\$207.90
Petty Cash Float/Darwin	\$250.00	\$250.00
Petty Cash Float/Alice Springs	\$150.00	\$150.00

### Total Cash on Hand

**\$467,917.38** **\$519,088.82**

Trade Debtors	\$20,323.22	\$25,139.46
Unauthorised Pmts Recoverable	\$4,141.80	\$0.00

### Total Debtors

**\$24,465.02** **\$25,139.46**

Prepaid Business Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,449.23
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### Total Current Assets

**\$492,382.40** **\$545,677.51**

### Fixed Assets

Office Equip >\$5000 at cost	\$6,263.64	\$6,263.64
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$4,866.77	-\$2,361.31

### Total Office Equipment

**\$1,396.87** **\$3,902.33**

Motor Vehicles at cost	\$36,942.50	\$17,550.46
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Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$17,988.77	-\$12,020.62
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### Total Motor Vehicles

**\$18,953.73** **\$5,529.84**

### Total Fixed Assets

**\$20,350.60** **\$9,432.17**

### Total ASSETS

**\$512,733.00** **\$555,109.68**

## LIABILITIES

### Current Liabilities

Trade Creditors	\$25,804.93	\$46,496.59
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	\$0.00	\$1,930.37
Prov for Auditors Remuneration	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00

### Funding Liabilities

Unexp Grant/DEET	\$100,271.81	\$0.00
Unexp Grant/Mental Health	\$23,358.52	\$0.00
Unexp Grant/Alice Springs	\$9,093.18	\$4,112.10
Unexp Grant/Chief Minister	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Unexp Grant/Conference	\$0.00	\$24,200.00
Unexp Grant/Family Violence	\$0.00	\$49,371.53

### Total Funding Liabilities

**\$182,723.51** **\$127,683.63**

### Payroll Liabilities

Accrued Wage Expense	\$0.00	\$357.51
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### Employee Benefits

Annual Leave Accruals	\$32,459.00	\$30,013.21
JET Provisions	\$0.00	\$41,127.65

**\$32,459.00** **\$71,140.86**

### Total LIABILITIES

**\$243,487.44** **\$250,108.96**

### Net Assets

**\$269,245.56** **\$305,000.72**

## EQUITY

Surplus/Deficit to 30/6/06	\$305,000.72	\$223,459.27
Surplus/Deficit Current Year	-\$35,755.16	\$81,541.45

### Total EQUITY

**\$269,245.56** **\$305,000.72**

# Financial Statements

Profit and Loss July 2006 through June 2007

## INCOME

NTCOSS Income	\$222,791.00	\$216,565.00
Other Income	\$317,318.45	\$209,564.87
Project Admin/Management Fees	\$47,201.66	\$43,850.00
Grant Income	\$52,831.85	\$107,691.00
INACTIVE ACCOUNTS	\$0.00	\$300,217.66

<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$640,142.96</b>	<b>\$877,888.53</b>
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## EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages	\$330,221.56	\$435,142.36
Travel/Accommodation	\$31,762.43	\$42,071.75
Communication Expenses	\$12,670.87	\$18,636.94
Vehicle Expenses	\$11,761.37	\$19,702.00
General Office Expenses	\$32,945.25	\$29,894.44
Publicity & Marketing	\$9,962.46	\$789.36
Program Expenses	\$122,794.33	\$182,202.85
Rent & Office Overheads	\$45,273.42	\$41,149.42
Financial Services	\$4,600.96	\$4,011.78
Conference Expenses	\$73,905.47	\$19,057.81
INACTIVE ACCOUNTS	\$0.00	\$3,688.37

<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$675,898.12</b>	<b>\$796,347.08</b>
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<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$35,755.16)</b>	<b>\$81,541.45</b>
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# Summary of Accounting Policies

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 2007

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2007

### 1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies adopted by the Association are stated in order to assist in a general understanding of the financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied except as otherwise indicated.

#### **Reporting entity**

The association is not a reporting entity because in the committee's opinion there are likely to exist users who are able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore "special purpose accounts" that have been prepared solely to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the *Associations Act*.

#### **Accounting policies**

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost conventions and does not take into account changing money values except to the extent that they are reflected in the revaluation of certain assets.

In order for the financial report to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for the year, Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted to the extent disclosed in this note.

#### **Government Grants**

Government grants are brought to account as income when the Association receives them. Unspent Grants are transferred to an appropriate liability account.

#### **Assets**

The current policy is to capitalise and depreciate purchases, on a straight line basis, that cost in excess of \$5,000.

#### **Employee Entitlements**

The amounts expected to be paid to employees for their pro rata entitlement to annual leave, sick leave and long service leave are accrued annually at current pay rates.

#### **Income tax**

The Association is of the opinion that it is not subject to income tax.

### 2. LAND

NTCOSS rents office space at Nightcliff

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.  
This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

# Financial Statements

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

## Income

DHCS Core Funding	\$222,791.00
Rent Recovered	\$9,841.05
Interest Received	\$22,379.68
Forums & Other Charges	\$4,038.70
Photocopy Chgs/Equip/Venue Hire	\$887.63
Membership Fees	\$14,410.48
Sales/FCNI Data Base Directory	\$515.91
Reimbursements	\$2,595.17
Conference Registrations	\$5,881.83
Conference Sponsorships	\$5,000.00
Insurance Recoveries	\$336.36
Unauthorised Pmts Recoverable	\$4,141.80
Project Mgmt Fee-Crime Prevent	\$5,000.00
Project Mgmt Fees - SUS Proj	\$3,511.66
Project Mgmt Fees-CAP Position	\$12,500.00
Project Mgmt Fee-Mental Health	\$20,000.00
Project Mgmt Fee-AASW	\$5,200.00
Project Admin Fee/HACC Distribution	\$990.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$340,021.27</b>

## Expense

Executive Director	\$91,405.19
Office Co-ord/Admin Staff	\$46,024.62
Admin Support (Casual)	\$2,042.53
Casual AASW Admin Wages	\$5,569.26
Wages & Salaries/Projects	\$3,332.48
Leave Loading	\$2,304.03
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$9,253.81
Superannuation	\$13,643.62
Workers' Compensation	\$2,052.17
Transf LSL & A/L to Provisions	\$3,966.62
Staff Development	\$1,217.28
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$1,350.00
Financial Mgmt Consultant	\$11,975.00
Mileage Allowance	\$444.96
Staff Recruitment	(\$159.49)
Staff Travel & Travel Incident	\$7,571.45
Staff Accommodation	(\$340.60)
Staff Travel Allowance	\$1,080.00
Board Travel	\$6,433.97
Board Accommodation	\$465.78
Board Travel Associated Costs	\$136.86
Travel/Consultants/Other	\$3,090.06
Accommodation/Other	\$386.36
Telephone/Fax	\$5,030.83
IT Support/Internet Service Pr	\$1,514.67

# Financial Statements

## Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007 Continued

Fuels & Oils	\$1,087.32
MV Insurance & Registration	\$2,079.68
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	(\$3,400.00)
Book-keeping	\$1,380.45
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$8,931.86
Printing/Publications (Outsourced)	\$459.01
Postage	\$1,512.36
General Office - Other	\$1,103.37
Office Equipment <\$1000	\$1,614.41
Office Equipment <\$5000	\$1,813.64
Photocopier charges (In House)	\$4,090.96
Promotion/Marketing	\$5,712.91
Central Aust Position Funding	\$46,500.00
Program Expenses	\$28.80
Resource Material	\$27.27
Subscriptions/Membership	\$2,990.51
Forums/Venue Hire	\$576.45
Catering	\$1,322.81
Board Support	\$346.36
Petty Cash Float Deficiency	\$149.15
Website Upgrade-Including Registers	\$2,727.27
Website Maintenance	\$5,454.56
Cleaning	\$1,364.99
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	\$8,473.61
Electricity	\$1,836.00
Insurance	\$4,080.94
Rent	\$15,278.60
Office Maintenance & Repairs	\$308.00
Security	\$135.46
Waste Disposal	\$388.88
Audit	\$2,500.00
Bank Charges	\$633.39
Other Financial Charges	\$1,335.45
Credit Card Interest	\$132.12
Conference/Administration	\$2,590.91
Total Expense	\$345,358.96
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$5,337.69)</b>

# Financial Statements

## ALICE SPRINGS OFFICE

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Bring in PYR Unexp Grants	\$4,112.10
Wages Recovered/ NT Shelter	\$1,350.00
NTCOS CAP Funds	\$46,500.00
NT Shelter - CAP Funds	\$46,500.00
Unexpended Grant Balance C/Fwd	(\$9,093.18)

### Total Income

**\$89,368.92**

### Expense

Admin Support (Casual)	\$702.00
CA Policy Officer Wages	\$45,807.68
Leave Loading	\$363.81
Superannuation	\$3,983.56
Workers' Compensation	\$726.00
Transf LSL & A/L to Provisions	(\$2,087.17)
Staff Development	\$789.09
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$201.45
Financial Mgmt Consultant	\$200.00
Mileage Allowance	\$18.72
Staff Travel & Travel Incident	\$4,027.51
Staff Accommodation	\$1,708.18
Staff Travel Allowance	\$900.00
Telephone/Fax	\$1,960.19
IT Support/Internet Service Pr	\$539.07
Car Lease	\$6,000.00
Fuels & Oils	\$552.87
MV Maintenance & Repairs	\$166.36
MV Insurance & Registration	\$1,085.70
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$844.30
Printing/Publications (Outsourced)	\$7.64
Postage	\$105.68
General Office - Other	\$366.32
Office Equipment <\$1000	\$126.32
Office Equipment <\$5000	\$2,289.20
Promotion/Marketing	\$145.00
Program Expenses	\$36.36
Catering	\$103.08
Sponsor Costs/Project Mgmt fee	\$12,500.00
Rent	\$5,200.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$89,368.92</b>

### Net Profit (Loss)

**\$0.00**

# Financial Statements

## CONFERENCE

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Bring in PYR Unexp Grants	\$26,713.82
Conference Registrations	\$46,152.70
Conference Sponsorships	\$10,072.28
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$82,938.80</b>

### Expense

Wages & Salaries/Projects	\$8,435.99
Superannuation	\$759.25
Mileage Allowance	\$450.00
Staff Travel & Travel Incident	\$331.61
Staff Accommodation	\$368.18
IT Support/Internet Service Pr	\$48.17
Fuels & Oils	\$67.71
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$159.82
Postage	\$439.09
Photocopier charges (In House)	\$142.60
Promotion/Marketing	\$421.82
Conference/Venue Expenses	\$7,985.61
Conference/Audio Visual & IT	\$9,864.40
Conference/Travel	\$1,713.90
Conference/Accommodation	\$10,826.37
Conference/Catering	\$4,718.19
Conference/Speakers & Entertainment	\$2,892.32
Conference/Printing & Promotion	\$2,097.82
Conference/Administration	\$5,454.54
Conference/Variable Costs	\$1,355.75
Conference Subsidies	\$24,405.66
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$82,938.80</b>

**Net Profit (Loss)** **\$0.00**

# Financial Statements

## MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Bring in PYR Unexp Grants	\$27,903.65
Grant/Mental Health Program	\$121,919.00
Unexpended Grant Balance C/Fwd	(\$23,358.52)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$126,464.13</b>

### Expense

Admin Support (Casual)	\$739.99
Wages & Salaries/Projects	\$45,453.15
Leave Loading	\$729.85
Superannuation	\$3,856.17
Workers' Compensation	\$1,532.67
Transf LSL & A/L to Provisions	\$231.00
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$922.18
Financial Mgmt Consultant	\$1,000.00
Mileage Allowance	\$44.64
Staff Travel & Travel Incident	\$1,235.86
Staff Accommodation	\$470.77
Staff Travel Allowance	\$720.00
Board Travel	\$1,855.85
Board Accommodation	\$649.69
Board Travel Associated Costs	\$670.90
Telephone/Fax	\$1,194.32
IT Support/Internet Service Pr	\$1,048.01
MV Insurance & Registration	\$721.73
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	\$3,400.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$1,275.91
Postage	\$324.73
General Office - Other	\$429.57
Office Equipment <\$1000	\$2,871.77
Office Equipment <\$5000	\$1,178.18
Promotion/Marketing	\$3,682.73
Program Expenses	\$336.59
Mental Health Week Expenses	\$24,241.30
MH Consumers & Carers Costs	\$227.27
Forums/Venue Hire	\$120.00
Board Support	\$12.00
Sponsor Costs/Project Mgmt fee	\$20,000.00
Electricity	\$417.30
Rent	\$4,150.00
Office Maintenance & Repairs	\$720.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$126,464.13</b>

### Net Profit (Loss)

**\$0.00**

# Financial Statements

## DEET

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Grant/DEET	\$113,636.36
Unexpended Grant Balance C/Fwd	(\$100,271.81)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,364.55</b>

### Expense

Executive Director	\$698.40
Wages & Salaries/Projects	\$4,895.62
Superannuation	\$440.61
Transf LSL & A/L to Provisions	\$3,847.00
Staff Development	\$27.27
Staff Recruitment	\$744.65
Insurance	\$2,711.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$13,364.55</b>

<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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# Financial Statements

## CRIME PREVENTION

Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Program Cost Recovery	\$18,402.76
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$18,402.76</b>

### Expense

Admin Support (Casual)	\$282.85
Wages & Salaries/Projects	\$8,485.10
Leave Loading	\$191.24
Superannuation	\$712.04
Staff Development	\$5.00
Mileage Allowance	\$164.22
Staff Recruitment	\$445.45
Telephone/Fax	\$1,265.17
IT Support/Internet Service Pr	\$70.44
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$846.97
Postage	\$37.27
Office Equipment <\$1000	\$593.82
Resource Material	\$94.55
Sponsor Costs/Project Mgmt fee	\$5,000.00
Electricity	\$208.64
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$18,402.76</b>

<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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# Financial Statements

## CHIEF MINISTER / PEAKS PROGRAM Profit & Loss July 2006 through June 2007

### Income

Bring in PYR Unexp Grants	\$50,000.00
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Unexpended Grant Balance C/Fwd	(\$50,000.00)
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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# 2006—2007 Membership Register

## *Association*

- Centrelink
- Department of Veteran's Affairs
- Employee Assistance Service NT
- NT Legal Aid Commission
- Department of Veteran's Affairs
- Charles Darwin University

## *Organisational Members*

- Anyinginyi Congress Aboriginal Corporation
- Alice Springs Child Care Centre Inc
- Alice Springs Women's Shelter
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services
- Alzheimer's Australia NT
- Amity Community Services
- Anglicare NT
- Australian Red Cross Society (NT)
- Bindi Incorporated
- Carers NT Inc
- Central Australian Community Toy Library
- Central Australian Supported Accommodation
- Crisis Line Inc
- Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services
- Centracare NT
- Council on the Ageing NT
- Danila Dilba Butji Binnilutlum Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Disability Advocacy Service Inc
- Darwin Family Day Care
- Darwin Skills Development Scheme Inc
- Darwin Community Legal Service Inc
- Dawn House Inc
- Department of Local Government Housing and Sport
- Foster Care NT Inc
- Family Planning Welfare Association of the NT
- Forster Foundation for Drug Rehabilitation
- Frontier Services
- Gap Youth Centre

# 2006—2007 Membership Register

- HPA Incorporated
- Holyoake Alice Springs Inc
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Jabiru Town Council Childcare Centre
- Katherine Regional Aboriginal Health Scheme
- Kakadu Health Service
- Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia Inc
- Melaleuca Refugee Centre
- Mitchell Street Childcare Centre
- NT Association of Relative & Friends of the Mentally Ill
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
- NT Working Women's Centre
- Natural Family Planning Council NT inc
- NT Greens
- Northern Territory Shelter
- Ruby Gaea — Darwin Centre Against Rape
- Step Out Community Access
- Sunrise Health Service
- Somerville Community Services
- Tennant Creek Child Care Centre
- Tennant Creek Women's Refuge Incorporated
- Top End Association for Mental Health
- Total Recreation NT Inc
- Tangentyere Job Shop
- The Salvation Army
- Uniting Church Mission and Congregational Services
- Volunteering Australia
- Wurlu Wurlinjang Health Service
- Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation

## *Individual Members*

- Senator Trish Crossin
- Barry Hansen Chartered Accountants
- Shirley Brown
- Moira McCreesh
- Lucio Matarazzo
- Joanna Revill



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