

**NT COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.**

*'Growing the NT Fairly'*



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2014/2015**



**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.**

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# INTRODUCTION

## **NTCOSS**

The Northern Territory Council of Social Service Incorporated (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.

### **Vision**

A fair, inclusive and sustainable Northern Territory where all individuals and communities can participate in and benefit from all aspects of social, cultural and economic life.

### **Our Mission:**

To promote an awareness and understanding of social issues throughout the NT community and to strive towards the development of an equitable and just society.

### **Our Purpose:**

- 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 Council of Social Service (COSS) network.

### **How we work:**

NTCOSS is a member-based organisation and our primacies for allocating resources are determined by an assessment of:

- The impact on disadvantaged Territorians both individuals and communities;
- How best to work with other peaks, organisations and partners;
- Adequate capacity and expertise available to have a positive impact or strategic influence;
- Environmental, economic and social sustainability.

NTCOSS acknowledges that we work on the land of the First Peoples of the Northern Territory and respect the continuing cultural connections and the Traditional Owners of this country.

## NTCOSS BOARD MEMBERS 2014/2015

**President**

**Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**Executive Board Member**

**Public Officer**

**Ordinary Board Member**

Bernard Dwyer

Caitlin Perry

Betti Knott

Robyn Wardle

Sandra Cannon

Wendy Morton

Vicki O'Halloran

Ilana Eldridge

Ann Owen

Jillian Smith

Ann Buxton

Toni Vine-Bromley

Patrick McDonald

## STAFF MEMBERS 2014/2015

**Executive Director**  
**Administration Coordinator**  
**Central Australian Coordinator**  
**Sector Development Coordinator**

Wendy Morton  
Roma Hill  
Christa Bartjen-Westermann  
Janine Sims

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

High profile issues this year have been domestic violence, child protection, youth justice, youth services, alcohol, drugs, and gambling. NTCOSS has been asked for input to all of these areas from the non government area, Government Departments and the media. The staff have endeavoured to respond and advocate from an evidence informed basis. A number of submissions have been written and presented at inquiries including the NT 'Ice' Select Committee and the Senate Inquiry into Children in Out of Home Care.

The year brought uncertainty to the members of the organisation and the entire sector as a result of Federal Government funding. The Commonwealth community service tendering processes has been subject to a Senate enquiry and it found that the 2014 tendering process was 'poorly planned, hurriedly implemented, and resulted in a loss of services". NTCOSS has focused on advocacy in this area for its member organisations. It, as a member of the national councils of social service headed up by ACOSS, has provided input into a national response to the uncertainty as well as supporting organisations effected through representation and media. By contrast to the uncertainty in the Federally funded services the Northern Territory Government has mostly moved to three year funding agreements which has provided better predictability and certainty for Territory funded organisations and for service provision and staff retention.

Apart from working to support its members regarding funding issues the NTCOSS staff organised another successful conference in Alice Springs this year. The conference theme was 'Tough Times, Hard Decisions, Strong Sector' and focused on the areas of Positioning the Territory for the Future, Social Policy on the Ground, Community Driven Solutions, Ethical Behaviour in Tough Times, Working Together for Outcomes and Strengthening Community. I would like to thank the staff for their excellent work which I believe delivered a challenging and thoughtful view of where we currently are and key issues for the sector in the future.

Wendy Morton, the Executive Director of NTCOSS, took a much deserved and needed extended break of leave and some long service leave and Janine Sims stepped up to her role. Janine did a great job taking on the responsibilities of leadership of the organisation and working with the board to enable good governance. Thank you Janine for your willingness to take on the role of Acting Executive Director and Christa and Roma for their commitment and input over the year to deliver continuity and quality outputs during the challenges of the year.

I would like to thank the Board for their commitment to good governance and guidance. It is a pleasure to work with this group of professional and experienced people.

NTCOSS remains a strong voice for the sector that works to strengthen the community by addressing and supporting people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.

**Bernard Dwyer**  
President

## TREASURER'S REPORT

NTCOSS is pleased to present our audited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2015 prepared by Susanne Lee & Associates Pty Ltd. The net operating surplus of NTCOSS at the end of the year was \$8,752.29.

For the third time we ended the year with a surplus while operating on a very frugal budget. Once again careful planning and a twenty-seven percent increase in other income helped our bottom line considerably. This happy result was achieved after the Board agreed to reinstate the staff to full-time status and we organised and ran a large conference in Alice Springs.

Over the course of the year NTCOSS received significant support through sponsorships and self-generated activities including the NTCOSS conference in June. This allowed NTCOSS to carry out its core business outside of government funding for 12 months. The Darwin City Council and the Department of Children and Families in Alice Springs continue to support the organisation by providing office space at a reasonable rent. We thank them for their support.

NTCOSS has achieved great things in the past financial year. These achievements are due in large part to the dedication and passion of our staff. To Wendy, Janine, Christa and Roma we offer our thanks for their commitment to the organisation.

**Betti Knott**  
Treasurer

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual report time is always an opportunity to reflect on the last 12 months, both internally for NTCOSS and also for the broader sector. Like most years, there have been challenges, opportunities, low points and highlights.



The NTCOSS Conference in Alice Springs in June was an opportunity for the sector to come together at a time of policy challenges, federal funding uncertainty and cutbacks. It was also though an opportunity to show the strength and passion of the NGO sector. Our keynote speaker Dr John Falzon (pictured left) was undoubtedly a highlight and set the scene for a great few days.

For the past 12 months we have been working with NAPCAN, Anglicare NT and Foster Carers NT to develop a Children and Family Wellbeing Framework for the NT. We have held many forums over the last year to get as many views included as possible. While still in draft stage, it has already been used in forums, reviews and submissions.

NTCOSS has been a co-chair of the NGO and NTG partnership group (NNPG). During the year, the group developed the Statement of Principles and they were signed by the Chief Minister in February 2015. The principles detail the ways in which we will work together in order to provide quality and culturally appropriate services for Territorians. Already we have had really positive feedback about the principles assisting NGO's in their relationship with NTG. Thank you to all of the group members for their commitment especially the staff from Department of Chief Minister.

It was fantastic to see the launch of the Tennant Creek transport service in August 2014. This grew out of an action from an NTCOSS conference several years earlier. You may also recall a project that NTCOSS undertook several years ago in mapping what services were available for Asylum Seekers in the NT and also provided recommendations for the future of DASSAN. We noted only recently that with the incorporation of DASSAN, all of the report recommendations have now been achieved. Both the Tennant Creek Transport Project and the Asylum Seeker Project were almost entirely funded by member organisations and great to have such positive outcomes.

One of the strengths of NTCOSS lies in our relationship with our members and this is particularly important when we are responding to policy change and parliamentary inquiries. Several times in the past year, we have appeared before inquiries and I am always really grateful for the willingness of our members to appear with us and share their expertise. All of our submissions are on our website however some of the submissions, inquiries or letters written to Ministers this past 12 months include;

- NTCOSS pre budget submission
- Submission to the NT Inquiry into Electricity Pricing
- Submission into Utilities – Power and Water
- Submission into the Senate inquiry into Children in Out of Home care and appearance at the Inquiry

- Submission into the Commercial Passenger Vehicles Industry Review
- Submission to the NT 'Ice' Select Committee
- Letter to the Minister re Permanent Care Orders

We also contribute to ACOSS or COSS network submissions for a national response including:

- ACOSS submission to the DSS Inquiry on Community Service Tendering Process
- COSS network submission to the Competition Policy Review
- ACOSS/NTCOSS submission to the Stronger Futures in the NT Inquiry
- ACOSS submission to the Senate Select Community Inquiry into Health Policy, Administration and Expenditure.

We have continued to release our Cost of Living Reports. Every second report has a particular focus on one area and in the past year this included Income Support and Pensions, the Cost of Food and the Cost of Health. These reports always generate media and community debate on the affordability of living in the NT especially for those on low incomes. Thank you to Jonathan Pilbrow for his work in this area and to SACOSS for continuing to provide support and expertise.

Janine's report will provide more detail on sector development activities that have happened through NTCOSS. The training always receives really positive feedback for its quality and relevance. The networks, training and other sector activities are one way that we can ensure we are hearing the voices of our members.

We have had a strong media presence throughout the year and have developed our social media platform. We joined Twitter in May so that we have another way of getting our key messages out.

We are fortunate at NTCOSS to have long term, skilled, experienced and passionate staff. Thank you to Christa who manages to deal with being the only Alice Springs staff member and all of the complexities that involves. Roma, our office Coordinator in Darwin, provides such great support to us all and did such an amazing job in organising the conference. Janine pretty much manages all of the sector development work on her own and does such fantastic work. We have a great team. I took 4 months leave last year and I knew it would all be in capable hands while I was away (and it was!).

Finally thank you to all of our board members who give so much time and expertise to NTCOSS. In particular, my thanks to our President, Bernie Dwyer who always gives so much of his time and knowledge and to Betti Knott, our Treasurer who has been a great mentor.

**Wendy Morton**  
Executive Director

## POLICY

Policy work has continued to be a key area of focus for NTCOSS. Over the past 12 months, we have been involved in a range of different policy areas including youth justice, child protection, child and family well being, transport, welfare reform, domestic and family violence, AOD and cost of living.

NTCOSS has maintained a strong focus in Central Australia including the Barkly region for over 10 years. Our presence in Central Australia enables NTCOSS to have direct engagement and input from organisations and individuals. This is essential to maintain strong relationships and understanding of locally based issues, which is vital in being able to offer relevant information and contribute to an informed decision making process and discussion. NTCOSS CA participated in a number of consultative and advisory groups, which presented opportunities to advocate for the needs and concerns of regionally identified issues. The role also supports NTCOSS sector development activities in Central Australia. The collaboration with other locally based peak bodies (such as the continued co-location with NT Shelter) strengthens the effectiveness and role peak bodies play in a civil society.

### **Advocacy and Challenges**

#### ***Anti Poverty***

NTCOSS was involved in activities during the Anti-Poverty week in Darwin and Alice Springs. The events included a session provided by a board member focussing on the perception of poverty in Australia and what it means for people affected by poverty. The connection between child poverty and child neglect was looked at during another event. Among all types of abuse, neglect is most strongly associated with poverty and low socioeconomic status. The week highlighted the contextual and demographic issues in the Northern and demonstrated how ATSI people are overrepresented among the poor and in the child protection system.

In addition the COSS network, consisting of State and Territory Council of Social service organisations, advocated collectively for the social and economic reforms required to reduce poverty and inequality and ultimately number of children living below the poverty line. NTCOSS believes reducing poverty and inequality is a key strategy to ensure individuals and communities are included in the social and economic developments of a broader society. This viewpoint is shared by the COSS network, which strongly advocates that everyone be afforded the basic human right of an adequate standard of life.

NTCOSS has continued to publish the Cost of Living reports to identify and share the challenges of the cost of living in the NT. During the 12 months 5 reports focussed on cost of food, health, CPI rises and whether Income support and concessions are keeping up with price rises. These reports are an important summary of the impacts of price rises on vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the NT and provide recommendations, which government policy can take into their consideration. One of the main recommendations in the November Cost of Food report is to hold a food summit to address food pricing in the NT, particularly for those in remote centres. Food is a necessity and low income households spend proportionately more of their income on necessities and hence are greater impacted upon when price changes occur particularly in remote areas.

## **Child Protection framework**

Following the announcement by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to mainly focus on vulnerable children and families in the child protection system and Out of Home Care, peak and key organisations identified the need to advocate for a broader framework to meet the needs of children and families in the NT. There was a concern that the focus of the Department was seen as too narrow and neglected evidence based, effective and culturally appropriate methods. An initial forum was held in Darwin with the involvement of some key experts in the child protection field. This led to the development of a draft framework which was subsequently revised based on consultations held in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and the NTCOSS conference in Alice Springs. The draft version is looking at a coordinated service system to promote child and family wellbeing in the NT. The framework is still being consulted on and will be introduced in discussions with key stakeholders once finalised.

The Department of Children and Families progressed with their Family Intervention Framework, and NTCOSS was instrumental in relation to sharing the information about the proposed framework with the sector and provided a submission in collaboration with other organisations. NTCOSS facilitated the attendance of key organisations for the face to face consultation in Central Australia and thereby ensured a strong presence and voice of the sector.



NTCOSS continued to play a role in the DCF – NGO Partnership meetings in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. This has led to improved collaboration and networking between DCF and other organisations in Tennant Creek culminating in a combined services sector day.

## **Youth Justice and Youth issues**

NTCOSS has continued its involvement with the Central Australian Youth Justice committee. The main aim is to advocate for the rights of young people, both legal and social, in the Central Australian youth justice system. Young people in youth detention have been a major focus, amongst other issues. The improvement of youth detention facilities, a purpose built youth detention centre and treatment of young people in youth detention are key issues. Supported bail accommodation, education access in detention and independent monitoring of youth detentions centres are critical issues being focussed on. CAYJ links in with the Northern Territory Making Justice Work group and ensures that Central Australian issues are equally represented to improve outcomes for Young people. NTCOSS is also involved with Making Justice Work in Darwin. The ongoing advocacy for Young people in the NT justice and corrections system, of which the majority are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, is crucial to ensure that Young People are being treated in accordance with the Youth Justice Act and the obligations under the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Alice Springs Youth Action group, of which NTCOSS is a member, continues to promote the necessity for young people in Alice Springs to have access to After Hours activities, early intervention and prevention services, accommodation options, and youth specific health services.

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

2014 saw the launch of the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy 2014-2017. This strategy is aligned with the National Plan to Reduce Violence against women and their Children 2010- 2022. This is a government led initiative, based on the Alice Springs Integrated Response to Family and Domestic Violence. A local reference group, which includes NTCOSS, has been established to provide strategic advice, contribute professional recommendations and to develop an integrated service system.

NTCOSS has a long standing history in relation to advocating for the human right of safety for women and children in the Northern Territory and has been involved with the Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network (CAFVSAN). CAFVSAN is a strong advocate and will continue its work around the introduction of a Death review process for the Northern Territory. This is an important issue as it is currently not identified in the Domestic and Family Violence Strategy.

This last year has seen a number of uncertainties and changes in the sector due to the changes in federal and state funding arrangements. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the member organisations for their ongoing and continued support and drive to strive for an inclusive community. Great thanks is also addressed to the team in Darwin for their endless ongoing support and assistance.

**Christa Bartjen – Westermann**  
Coordinator, Central Australia



**DRUM ATWEME performing at the NTCOSS  
Conference in Alice Springs June 2015**

## SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

### ***A strong and sustainable social and community services sector***

Over the past twelve months NTCOSS sector support activities have been developed and delivered in response to the considerable challenges facing the NT not for profit sector, including threats to the viability of organisations from changes in government policy and the impact on grants or procurement processes. Maintaining income levels to meet service demand is a constant job for boards and managers who have to make difficult choices around staffing and viability of services. Demanding application and reporting requirements by funders along with inadequate funding and contract length, leave programs vulnerable regardless of their demonstrated benefits for the community. Improved performance measurement is vital to helping funders understand a programs impact on individuals and the community.

In an environment of reduced income and improved transparency of performance measurement, organisations need to ensure they are as efficient as possible. NTCOSS encourages strategic financial management and funding diversity, advocates the assessment of impact, rather than a focus on arbitrary measures such as administration costs and promotes the value of staff development and the provision of supervision. NTCOSS also encourages and facilitates opportunities for community sector organisations to be involved in the decisions made about them and their business practices by policy-makers and governments.

### ***2014/2015 Sector Support Highlights***

- Providing community sector staff with an opportunity to develop skills with a diverse suite of training including; Grant Seeking and Writing Submissions, Value Based Recruiting, Working with GST, Peer Supervision, Workplace Sustainability, Human Resource Investigations, Marketing to Mission and Social Media. Participants engaging in NTCOSS training reported a high level of satisfaction with the content, delivery and, in particular, the exposure to new ideas and practices.

- Supporting organisations through the NTCOSS brokerage services, including, but not limited to, research, supervision, recruitment and retention strategies, standards and compliance issues, policy and procedure improvements, risk management strategies, partnership development, governance and ongoing help with grant management reform.

- Actively seeking value added opportunities for the sector, including BNG NGO Services Online offering tailored portals of the Standards & Performance Pathways (SPP) and Management Support Online (MSO) to member at a 15% discount, CBB the Not for Profit People providing discounted training and bringing their Exnet Event to Darwin and promotion of the NT Department of Business not for profit organisations business support program.



- Distributing information and resources to assist support sector organisations to respond to an increasingly dynamic service environment. NTCOSS has continued to inform the sector and facilitated members to attend information sessions on sector reforms. Sector development resources continue to grow with the Consultant Register, the Community Sector Training and Professional Development Calendar and Jobs Board being utilized by the sector. The NTCOSS website, e-bulletin, twitter and Facebook all assist with information dissemination.

- Facilitating networks, that bring the community sector and the broader community together including the Managers Skill Swap, Community Sector Peer Supervision Network, Asylum Seekers Service Network, NT NGO Peak Body Network, Alice Springs Interagency Meetings and the newly established Finance Managers and CEO Networks.

- Engaging with the NT Department of Health (DoH) in regards to the Grants Management Framework and Grants Management System (GMS) Implementation. NTCOSS provided information sessions to the Department of Health GMS staff on effective ways to engage with the community sector and is part of the GMS reference group. NTCOSS also working with DoH to get information out to the sector on the new standard funding contract and facilitate information sessions on the new standard funding across the NT. NTCOSS was also a panel member for DoH to employ a new grants management staff member.

- Organising a meeting place for key stakeholders across the social policy, service provision and welfare community to build a strong vision for the NT community sector and for social justice at



the NTCOSS conference in Alice Springs. The NTCOSS conference provided an opportunity to share information, ideas and practical strategies to assist growing a fair Northern Territory. The 2015 NTCOSS Conference theme was 'Tough Times, Hard Decisions, Strong Sector'. In an environment of significant challenges for the sector, he NTCOSS Conference opened conversations around identifying and communicating effectively the priorities of the supporting of

vulnerable people in the NT, maintaining the values and ethics that underpin the work of a community sector under increased pressure; and working strategically and in creative ways to meet increased demand for services in a rapidly changing and resource reduced environment. Key note address was from Dr John Falzon, Chief Executive Officer St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia

- Partnering with Australian Red Cross to conduct consultations with stakeholders in regards to the future operation of the SHAK youth service in Casuarina. Following on from consultations an Advisory Group consisting of three local youth services, a number of young people, the Red Cross and NTCOSS met between September and November 2014 to consider feedback from

the community consultation as well as the capacity of the Red Cross to deliver services from the 'SHAK' over the 2015 – 2017 period. A new service delivery model was developed that centered on collaboration.

- Conducting advocacy around the Department of Social Services and Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding process, outcomes and impacts on the sector and on people experiencing disadvantage and living in remote areas. NTCOSS provided information to and consulted with the sector.

- Delivering the Stronger Links Project to support non-government AOD services to improve drug and alcohol treatment service outcomes, and reduce drug related harm for individuals, families and communities. Key activities that have complimented other NTCOSS sector support work included: the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder workshop for residential care and family support in Alice Springs, training in Case Management Principles and promoting good governance through a partnership with Australian Institute of Company Directors that has provided in boardroom workshops for a range of organisations on three key areas commonly grappled with by boards, Duties and Responsibilities of the Not-for-Profit Director, Strategy and Risk for the Not-for-Profit Director and Finance for the Not-for-Profit Director.

### **Sector Support Project – DASSAN**

Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network

A local community organisation driven by purpose and supported by NTCOSS members

At the 2011 NTCOSS conference, a session was held about Asylum Seekers, specifically those who were held in mandatory detention less than a kilometre from the conference venue in Darwin. Darwin was being called the 'detention capital of Australia' with the expected expansion of detention centres to reach 3000 beds. The session presenter was an advocate from the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN). DASSAN was a non incorporated community based network established in 2010 by a group of members concerned about issues affecting asylum seekers in detention in Darwin and beyond. Within 12 months the group had grown to a large and active network undertaking a range of activities across three main areas, these being; support, education and advocacy.

During question time conference delegates discussed ways in which their organisations could become involved in supporting people in detention and ratified a request that NTCOSS play a role in assisting organisations to play a greater role and provide support to DASSAN to. As asylum seekers in detention was a relatively 'new' issue to the Darwin community sector, many organisations were unsure what role they could potentially play and whether that be with existing resources or through additional funding. It was also clear that there needed to be more clarity as to referral points and the 'who was currently doing what'. NTCOSS committed to work with DASSAN and sought financial and participatory support from member organisations to support a short term project.

The response to the NTCOSS request was positive and project funds were raised to employ a short term project officer, in partnership with DASSAN, focusing on asylum seekers in detention in Darwin. The project primary aims were to: map existing and potential stakeholders and partnerships, identify how best to deliver support, education and advocacy to people in detention, identify potential resources including funding, develop recommendations as to the future strategic direction and role of DASSAN to ensure that it is a sustainable network and identify any future role of NTCOSS. A major forum was held for community sector agencies

providing support or interested in providing support to people seeking asylum, including those people in detention in 2012. The sector was in fact highly engaged with approximately 24 agencies providing some level of support or service delivery both in the community and in detention in Darwin with more agencies interested in providing services.

A project report titled 'The Community Services Sector and Asylum Seekers in the Northern Territory' was released that included the national context, a summary of the consultations undertaken and documentation of the findings. The report included a map of NT community sector organisations providing services to asylum seekers, particularly those in detention and 9 recommendations. One recommendation was that NTCOSS established a network meeting of community based organisations involved in supporting asylum seekers. The Asylum Seeker Services Network was established in 2012 and with support from DASSAN, Australian Red Cross and Melaleuca Refuge Centre continues to meet regularly. Three years on from the original project all recommendation has been actioned.

Since 2012 NTCOSS has provided practical assistance with events, promotions, advocacy and organisational planning. We have also provided pro bono office space and administrative assistance to a DASSAN researcher to develop a second report, Asylum Seeker Advocacy in the Northern Territory: Beyond 2014 that determined the most effective ways to meet the advocacy needs of asylum seekers in detention in Northern Australia. Finally, NTCOSS conducting a second project this year, funded by DASSAN supporters, to incorporate the Network. DASSAN is now an incorporated organization, registered charity with PBI and DGR status. An amazing outcome that started with concern for asylum seekers and community sector organisations.

### ***The year ahead***

NTCOSS will continue to provide the sector with access to information and resources, learning and training opportunities, as well as facilitating networking between organisations to build resilience and flexibility within the sector in response to a rapidly evolving environment. NTCOSS will aim to assist community service organisations to reduce their costs through sharing space and resources as well as looking at ways of harnessing the purchasing power of the sector by brokering discounts on core costs, such as insurance. NTCOSS is seeing a growing recognition that complex social issues need collaborative and cross-sectoral approaches. To this end consultation and collaboration will occur to identify and plan activities that meet future needs and continue NTCOSS's commitment in supporting the sector to build capacity and meet reform challenges.

I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution that my sector colleagues, project partners and consultants make to the numerous sector support activities, especially my NTCOSS colleagues Christa Bartjen-Westermann who leads the Central Australian sector support agenda and Roma Hill who provides vital administration and logistical support. Finally, I also wish to thank the NTCOSS Executive Director, Wendy Morton and the NTCOSS Board for their ongoing support of sector support initiatives.

**Janine Sims**  
Sector Development Coordinator

**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
INCORPORATED**

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015**

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

for the year ended 30th June 2015

In our opinion –

- (a) 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 30th June 2015 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) 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:

- (a) The name of each committee member of the association during the relevant financial year were:

President	Bernie Dwyer
Vice President	Caitlin Perry
Secretary	Robyn Wardle
Treasurer	Betti Knott
Executive Member	Sandra Cannon
Public Officer	Wendy Morton
Other Board Members	Toni Vine-Bromley Vicki O'Halloran , Ilana Eldridge, Jillian Smith, Ann Buxton, Ann Owen, & Patrick McDonald

- (b) The principal activities of the association during the relevant financial year were:

The Northern Territory Council of Social Service 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 operating surplus of the association for the relevant financial year was: \$8,752.29

Signed at Darwin on 6/8/2015



President



Treasurer

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

# SUSANNE LEE & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

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

### ***Report on the Financial Report***

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Northern Territory Council of Social Service Incorporated which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2015 and the income and expenditure statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the committee of management's statement.

### ***Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report***

The committee of management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### ***Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report***

This audit report relates to the financial report of Northern Territory Council of Social Service Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2015. This audit report refers only to the statements. It does not provide an opinion on any other information that may have been hyper linked to/from these statements. If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility/Scope***

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee of management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

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Liability is limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards legislation



NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED



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# SUSANNE LEE & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

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## Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical requirements.

## Audit Opinion

1. 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 Service Incorporated at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.
2. The financial accounts are complete and accurate and the balances of grant funds remaining are identified and are recorded as Unexpended Grants in the balance sheet.



**SUSANNE LEE, CPA**  
**DATED: 28 July 2015**

**SUSANNE LEE & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD IS A CPA PRACTICE**  
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**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL  
SERVICE INCORPORATED  
Balance Sheet**

June 2015

	This Year	Last Year
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash On Hand</b>		
Bendigo Bank Cheque A/C	\$277,819.16	\$819,299.41
Term Deposit	\$825,786.75	\$305,281.23
Unbanked Deposits	\$1,240.00	\$0.00
Petty Cash Float/Darwin	\$500.00	\$500.00
Petty Cash Float/Alice Springs	\$250.00	\$250.00
<b>Total Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$1,105,595.91</b>	<b>\$1,125,330.64</b>
<b>Debtors</b>		
Trade Debtors	\$15,850.00	\$34,865.00
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>\$15,850.00</b>	<b>\$34,865.00</b>
<b>Prepayments</b>		
Prepaid Fringe Benefits Tax	\$4,507.00	\$5,550.00
<b>Total Prepayments</b>	<b>\$4,507.00</b>	<b>\$5,550.00</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Security Deposit, Suite 4	\$2,687.27	\$2,687.27
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,687.27</b>	<b>\$2,687.27</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,128,640.18</b>	<b>\$1,168,432.91</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
Motor Vehicles at cost	\$55,233.99	\$55,233.99
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$38,129.51	-\$19,902.30
<b>Total Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>\$17,104.48</b>	<b>\$35,331.69</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$17,104.48</b>	<b>\$35,331.69</b>
<b>Total ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,145,744.66</b>	<b>\$1,203,764.60</b>

# NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

## Balance Sheet

June 2015

	This Year	Last Year
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	\$45,569.43	\$55,936.36
Bendigo Card/WM (M201)	\$3,476.45	\$2,802.03
Bendigo Card/RH (M203)	\$742.36	\$795.31
Bendigo Card/CB (M204)	\$158.13	\$379.98
Bendigo Card/JS (M205)	\$1,926.09	\$0.00
Provision for Auditors Remuneration	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Provision for Future Projects	\$240,000.00	\$200,000.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$296,872.46</b>	<b>\$264,913.68</b>
<b>Funding Liabilities</b>		
Grants In Advance/Minor	\$17,354.55	\$0.00
Unexpended Grant/AADANT Establishment	\$17,346.52	\$17,346.52
Unexpended Grant/Stronger Links	\$0.00	\$5,806.73
Unexpended Grant/Justice Reinvented	\$11,283.62	\$30,000.00
Unexpended Grant/Red Cross	\$66,271.07	\$150,000.00
Unexpended Grant/DASSAN	\$2,053.48	\$0.00
<b>Total Funding Liabilities</b>	<b>\$114,309.24</b>	<b>\$203,153.25</b>
<b>Payroll Liabilities</b>		
Accrued Wage/Super Expenses	\$15,842.00	\$10,913.00
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$15,842.00</b>	<b>\$10,913.00</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>		
<b>Annual Leave Entitlements</b>		
Annual Leave Accruals	\$60,338.00	\$85,418.00
<b>Total Annual Leave Entitlements</b>	<b>\$60,338.00</b>	<b>\$85,418.00</b>
<b>Other Employee Entitlements</b>		
LSL Accruals	\$60,298.00	\$52,406.00
Provision for Redundancy	\$53,466.00	\$51,094.00
<b>Total Other Employee Entitlements</b>	<b>\$113,764.00</b>	<b>\$103,500.00</b>
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$174,102.00</b>	<b>\$188,918.00</b>
 <b>Total LIABILITIES</b>	 <b>\$601,125.70</b>	 <b>\$667,897.93</b>
 <b>Net ASSETS</b>	 <b>\$544,618.96</b>	 <b>\$535,866.67</b>
 <b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated Funds	\$535,866.67	\$517,521.15
Surplus/Deficit Current Year	\$8,752.29	\$18,345.52
 <b>Total EQUITY</b>	 <b>\$544,618.96</b>	 <b>\$535,866.67</b>

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

# NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

## Profit & Loss

July 2014 through June 2015

	This Year	Last Year
<b>INCOME</b>		
Total Other Income	\$132,664.88	\$96,503.03
<b>Grant Income</b>		
Bring in PYR Unexpended Grants	\$150,000.00	\$0.00
Grant/DCF/NTCOSS Core Funding	\$370,459.00	\$354,354.00
Unexpended Grant Brought/Forward <FYR	\$35,806.73	\$45,830.97
Grants/Stronger Links NT	\$179,008.39	\$173,411.59
Unexpended Grant Balance Transferred	(\$79,608.17)	(\$185,806.73)
Justice Reinvestment Grant	\$0.00	\$33,000.00
Other Minor Grants/Income	\$0.00	\$6,250.00
Grant/Australian Red Cross NT	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Grant/DASSAN Project	\$31,012.72	\$0.00
<b>Total Grant Income</b>	<b>\$686,678.67</b>	<b>\$577,039.83</b>
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$819,343.55</b>	<b>\$673,542.86</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and Wages	\$584,373.36	\$507,775.81
Travel/Accommodation	\$21,949.59	\$26,649.47
Communication Expenses	\$39,813.81	\$44,832.62
Vehicle Expenses	\$9,495.21	\$13,619.87
General Office Expenses	\$13,767.24	\$26,396.59
Publicity & Marketing	\$617.73	\$135.86
Program Expenses	\$23,536.17	\$27,009.28
Rent & Office Overheads	\$30,870.99	\$29,740.52
Financial Services	\$7,069.67	\$8,191.88
Conference Expenses	\$39,097.49	\$845.45
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$770,591.26</b>	<b>\$685,197.35</b>
<b>Operating PROFIT</b>	<b>\$48,752.29</b>	<b>(\$11,654.49)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Profit on Sale of MV	\$0.00	\$30,000.01
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Transfer to Provisions	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$8,752.29</b>	<b>\$18,345.52</b>

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

# NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2015

### 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

The service operates from rented premises in the Nightcliff Community Centre

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

**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL of SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**  
**Reporting Period: July 2014 To June 2015**

**PROGRAM: DCF Sector Development (Peak Body Funding)**

<b>Income</b>	
Interest Received	\$4,097.80
Membership Fees	\$2,227.73
Program Cost Recovery	\$4,545.46
Grant/DCF/NTCOSS Core Funding	\$370,459.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$381,329.99</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Wages & Salaries	\$257,435.20
Leave Loading	\$10,583.53
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$17,294.76
Superannuation	\$24,282.45
Transfer LSL & A/L to Provisions	(\$17,188.00)
Staff Development	\$1,360.90
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$560.93
Financial Management Consultant	\$8,923.75
Staff Recruitment	\$140.00
Travel & Accommodation	\$5,242.45
Telephone/Fax/Conferencing	\$12,973.95
IT Support/R & M/ISP	\$14,234.76
Fuels & Oils	\$3,962.24
MV Maintenance & Repairs	\$480.01
MV Insurance & Registration	\$4,967.19
Bookkeeping	\$6,667.50
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$1,200.62
Postage	\$439.60
Office Equipment <\$5000	\$1,087.06
Printing/Publications/Photocopier	\$1,910.76
Freight	\$395.63
Promotion/Marketing	\$502.73
Program Expenses	\$706.87
Resource Material/Development	\$63.64
Subscriptions/Membership/Regis	\$2,218.64
Forums/Venue Hire	\$285.61
Catering	\$2,516.82
Website Maintenance	\$1,616.90
Electricity/Water/Sewerage	\$1,719.12
Insurance	\$3,061.82
Office Rent	\$4,301.88
Office Maintenance & Repairs	\$311.00
Audit & Accounting	\$6,236.00
Bank Charges	\$283.29
Credit Card Interest	\$0.32
Merchant Fees	\$550.06
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$381,329.99</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL of SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**  
**Reporting Period: July 2014 To June 2015**

**PROGRAM: Stronger Links Project NT**

**Income**

Unexpended Grant B/Forward <FYR	\$5,806.73
Grants/Stronger Links NT	\$179,008.39
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$184,815.12</b>

**Expense**

Wages & Salaries	\$89,868.00
Superannuation	\$8,532.10
Staff Development	\$986.37
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$27,340.52
Travel & Accommodation	\$3,926.21
IT Support/R & M/ISP	\$2,298.80
MV Lease	\$5,375.04
Fuels & Oils	\$43.04
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$231.10
Printing/Publications/Photocopier	\$973.09
Subscriptions/Membership/Regis	\$1,101.95
Forums/Venue Hire	\$1,485.00
Catering	\$2,167.18
Project Management/Admin Fee	\$33,999.96
Office Rent	\$3,249.96
Conference/Venue Expenses	\$895.90
Conference/Audio Visual & IT	\$68.18
Conference/Accommodation	\$318.18
Conference/Catering	\$1,954.54
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$184,815.12</b>

<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL of SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**  
**Reporting Period: July 2014 To June 2015**

**PROGRAM: JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT**

<b>Income</b>	
Unexpended Grant B/Forward <FYR	\$30,000.00
Unexpended Grant Balance C/Forward	(\$11,283.62)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$18,716.38</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$17,667.29
Travel & Accommodation	\$1,049.09
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$18,716.38</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL of SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**  
**Reporting Period: July 2014 To June 2015**

**PROGRAM: RED CROSS GRANT**

<b>Income</b>	
Bring in PYR Unexpended Grants	\$150,000.00
Unexpended Grant Balance C/Forward	(\$66,271.07)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$83,728.93</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$58,029.55
Travel & Accommodation	\$597.28
Program Expenses	\$10,000.00
Catering	\$102.10
Project Management/Admin Fee	\$15,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$83,728.93</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL of SOCIAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**  
**Reporting Period: July 2014 To June 2015**

**PROGRAM: DASSAN GRANT**

**Income**

Unexpended Grant Balance C/Forward	(\$2,053.48)
Grant/DASSAN Project	\$31,012.72
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$28,959.24</b>

**Expense**

Contract Trainers/Consultants	\$27,524.00
Telephone/Fax/Conferencing	\$166.30
IT Support/R & M/ISP	\$140.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$173.39
Office Equipment <\$5000	\$569.09
Promotion/Marketing	\$115.00
Program Expenses	\$52.80
Subscriptions/Membership/Regis	\$218.66
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$28,959.24</b>

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