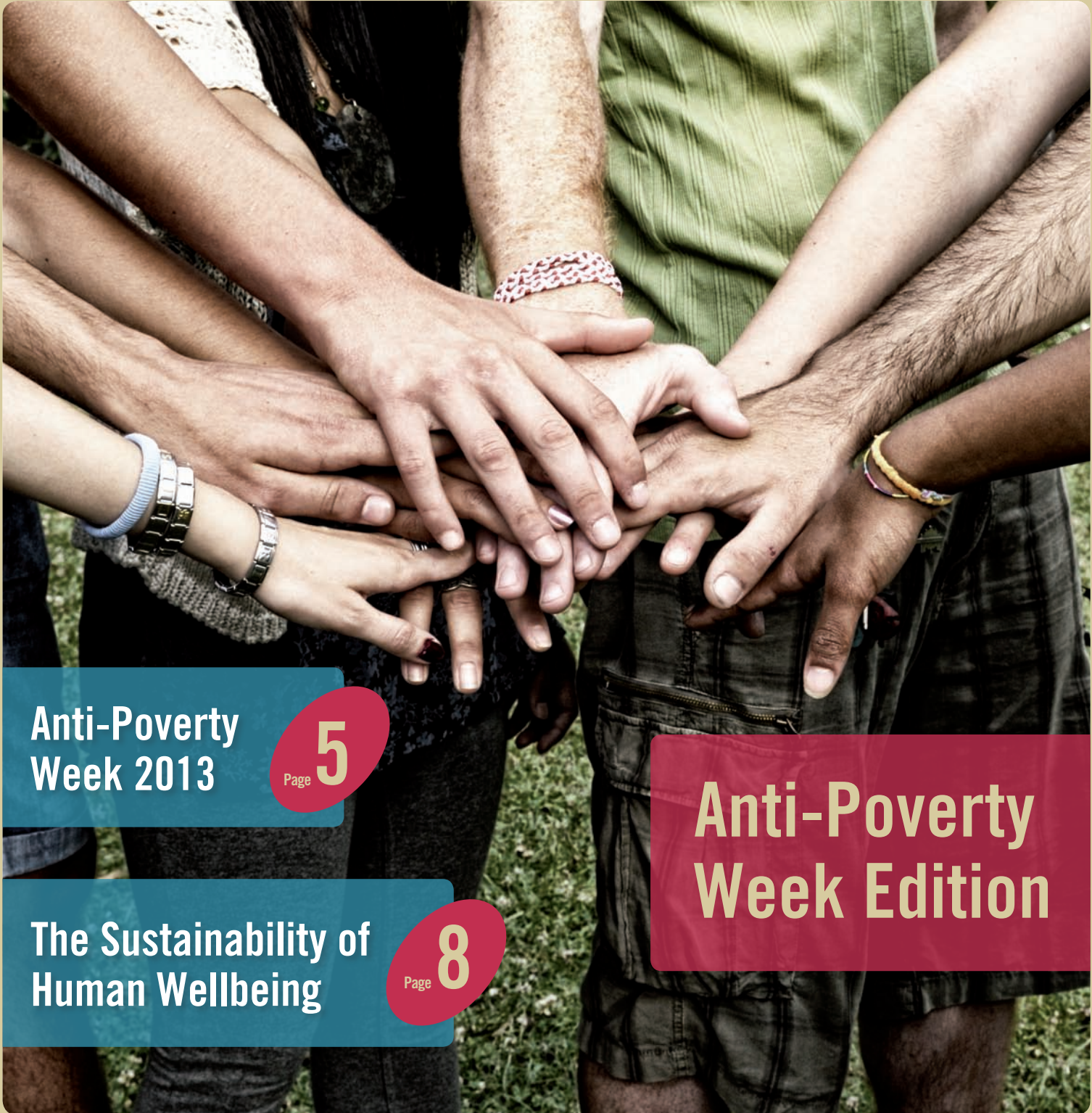


SACOSS NEWS

Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians



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Week 2013

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Anti-Poverty
Week Edition

Spring 2013



SACOSS

South Australian Council
of Social Service

As the peak non-government representative body for the health and community services sector in South Australia, the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) believes in justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians.

For information on membership, we invite you to visit our website or phone us.

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Government of South Australia
Department for Communities
and Social Inclusion



Editorial

Ross Womersley
Executive Director, SACOSS

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Sometimes even I still get surprised at how our world operates. I have just finished an interview discussing Burnside City Council's recent decision to refuse a Big Issue vendor permission to sell copies of the Big Issue on the footpath outside one of the most elite shopping centres in Australia.

Now I assume most of you reading this will be more than aware that The Big Issue magazine is a fortnightly, independent magazine that is sold on the streets by homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people. The Vendors buy copies of the magazine for \$3 and sell them for \$6, earning the difference. It's a great little magazine and it's a way of earning a little bit of extra income at a point when life is pretty tough. For some people it has become a big step on their journey to escape poverty.

The suburbs surrounding Burnside shopping centre are some of the wealthiest in Adelaide and the centre prides itself on the high class retail shopping experience it offers the public. Of all the places where one should expect to find people happy to support someone trying to get ahead in the world, this might be the place.

So why would a local council refuse someone actively working to overcome severe disadvantage permission to sell in these circumstances? Had community members, the shopping centre's operators, other retailers in the centre made representations to Council opposing this opportunity? And if so, on what basis? I suspect not but I suppose I might again be surprised.

The official line as I understand it is that a more junior official had misunderstood what the Big Issue was and concluded that it would afford a Big Issue vendor an unfair advantage in contrast to other retailers and thus shouldn't be approved.

Now to most people it would be obvious that your local Big Issue vendor is not your average retailer and is probably not going to be in any real competition. Fortunately, and presumably after being embarrassed by exposure in the local press, the centre's CEO announced that they have re-considered this decision and The Big Issue would now be welcome to lodge another application (which presumably would now be approved). If it was me I would be very tempted to just say shove it and move on to support vendors in other Council areas where they are likely to be made more welcome. However, I still suspect this could be a great spot where a vendor might really be able to succeed.

That issue aside, what I really want to know is why it took being publicly embarrassed to get a sensible outcome? Is this just another example of how deeply embedded our unconscious feelings are about poverty and about where the poor belong – not in my back yard!

This edition of SACOSS News comes your way just in time for Anti-Poverty Week and there are a series of stories focussed on this. This year together with LGA CEO Wendy Campana, I have been privileged to be the Co-Chair of the SA facilitating group and am very proud of the work so many people have been doing to shine a light on poverty. Of course this is pretty core business for the COSS network and all our members, not just in this Week but every day of the year. This Week serves as a great opportunity to add some focus to the challenges and to celebrate some of the great work that is helping to re-shape people's worlds for the better.

This edition also arrives following the federal election which saw a change of government. As always we strongly encourage the Abbott government to recognise the wisdom and knowledge that exists across the sector and to actively engage with and seek this out. Of all the groups well placed to advise on needed reforms and helpful evolutions, the sector is it.

This SACOSS News emerges in the shadows of another election – the one that elects our next state government. In the lead up to the election SACOSS will be working hard to ensure the issues confronting people experiencing poverty and disadvantage are front and centre. We of course need and want all the help you might be able to give us. As you'll see from Greg Ogle's terrific contribution on tax, one of the overarching issues we think must be tackled is the issue of establishing a sustainable revenue base.

We are currently living through taxing times and as a result many important services are being reduced and dismantled. Tragically so many of the services being cut are ones which try to make early investments in helping people overcome really difficult social and health issues. Of course these will inevitably have a disproportionate and profound impact on those members of our community for whom we have most concern.

We are going to need all your help to really get this message across. Let's not cut taxes... and let's restore state revenues to at least the level they were before the Global Financial Crisis hit our economy.

The SACOSS Board, Members and Staff wish to extend their deepest sympathy to the Gillespie family for their loss of Neil.

Neil was a former Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement for 10 years and will be remembered for his Advocacy on Human Rights.



RECIPE COMPETITION

CAN YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE MAKE A LITTLE GO A LONG WAY?

AS PART OF ANTI POVERTY WEEK 2013, WE ARE ASKING OUR COMMUNITY CENTRES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TO RUN A RECIPE COMPETITION WHERE PARTICIPANTS INVENT A RECIPE USING ONLY THE INGREDIENTS PROVIDED IN A FREE FOODBANK SA HAMPER.

AN AWARDS CEREMONY RECOGNISING THE BEST RECIPES WILL BE HELD ON **FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2013, AT THE BOWDEN BROMPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

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week
2013

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Anti-Poverty Week 2013

Jill Lang

National Coordinator
Anti-Poverty Week

Anti-Poverty Week in Australia is inspired by the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17). In order to enhance the breadth, flexibility and profile of activities that organisations and individuals might undertake, it has been expanded in Australia to include a full week and it addresses local as well as international issues. This year the week is being held between 13th and 19th October.

SACOSS has been a long-time supporter of Anti-Poverty Week and Ross Womersley is a co-chair of the State Facilitating Group. The other co-chair is Wendy Campana, CEO of the South Australian Local Government Association.

The Week is concerned with poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. The main aims are to

- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and within Australia;
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

The Week aims to encourage as many people as possible to express publicly their interest and concern about poverty and hardship, particularly in a country that is as wealthy as ours. It seeks to demonstrate in this way that, contrary to assertions by many politicians and media commentators, most Australians remain concerned about these problems and want action taken to address them.



I encourage all members and supporters of SACOSS to organise activities and speak out about poverty, its causes and consequences and the solutions, during the Week 13th to 19th October.

Ideas for activities include forums, speeches, exhibits, performances, meetings and publications – on whatever topic reflects best your local group's concerns.

We have a range of resources that can be printed from our website www.antipovertyweek.org.au. We could send you posters, flyers and postcards if you would like them.

And if you do decide to organise an activity, make sure you register it on the Anti-Poverty Week website (click on the red button on the front page - "Notify us of your activity") so that Australia knows that many thousands of people in this country care about this issue and want to do something about it. This is an election year so this year it is particularly important to express our concern.

For further information: phone **1300 797 290** or email apw@antipovertyweek.org.au



Forgotten people can't be left behind

Dr Cassandra Goldie
CEO, Australian Council of
Social Service (ACOSS)

Tony Abbott assured Australia in his acceptance speech that the Coalition “will not leave anyone behind.” The true test of his government will be the extent to which it provides today’s ‘forgotten’ a hand-up to lift our nation’s fortunes.

Australia’s elected Prime Minister Tony Abbott set an early tone for his government with the pledge to govern for all people in Australia, including those who didn’t vote for him.

In his acceptance speech he said, “A good government is one with a duty to help everyone to maximise his or her potential ... We will not leave anyone behind.”

It was indeed a defining start to his prime ministership, drawing a distinct marker by which the ultimate success of his government can be judged.

Only a week earlier at the Coalition’s campaign launch he outlined his vision that, “Our country will best flourish when all of our citizens, individually and collectively, have the best chance to be their best selves.”

Since 1956 ACOSS has been the voice for the needs of the forgotten people in our country, with a vision for a fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia where all individuals and communities can participate in and benefit from social and economic life.

Although most people are better off today than they’ve ever been, the harsh reality is that despite two decades of unprecedented growth, an increasing number of people on the lowest incomes are falling behind.

Late last year we calculated that 2.2 million people were living below the poverty line, including nearly 600,000 children. Disturbingly, the recent annual report of the

longitudinal study of households (HILDA) showed that child poverty increased by 15% since 2001. Clearly this is unacceptable for a country as wealthy as ours and will need the attention of the new government.

An urgent priority to guard against worsening hardship and poverty is action to tackle rising unemployment, with the number of people reliant on unemployment payments long-term rising from 300,000 to 500,000 since the Global Financial Crisis. Too many people are at risk of being left behind in the labour market permanently and denied the chance to be their ‘best selves’.

Governments cannot reduce unemployment by their own efforts alone. The incoming Government will need to partner with others: with unemployed people to stay active in the labour market, with employers and unions to ensure that they are not frozen out of jobs by lack of skills, age or disability, and with employment and community services to invest in training and work experience.

ACOSS has been working with business and unions on solutions to unemployment and one of the important first steps of the new government should be to bring these key stakeholder groups together to forge a compact about growing job opportunities, particularly for people who are long term unemployed.

The Coalition has already made some positive announcements around incentives for employers to take on mature-age unemployed people. ACOSS has developed concrete proposals in this area, including expanding the proven wage subsidy scheme and paid work experience, and greater investment in case management. In addition, we will need to tailor training and support to better prepare long term unemployed people for the available jobs of the future.



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The new government will also have to repair the serious holes in the social safety net, including disability services, equitable access to quality schooling, health and aged care services for older people, the economic and social conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the \$150 gap between weekly 'allowance' and 'pension' payments. There's no getting away from the fact that each of these areas will require significant public investment over many years.

Ultimately, one of the biggest challenges for the incoming government is the growing gap between people's expectations of Governments and the revenue available to them. Clearly this problem will not be resolved in a single Budget. It can only be resolved through a dialogue with the Australian community over what we can realistically expect from Government and how the tax system can best be reformed to collect public revenue in a fairer and more efficient way.

It is time we had a mature national discussion about this, including much needed structural reform of Australia's tax and transfer systems. Long term this will be the only way to meet the fiscal challenge that our nation faces. It's the only way to move us towards a sustainable Budget bottom line and finance the important social programs we all want – such as disability services, school funding, adequate income support payments, dental and mental health, affordable housing, and the future costs associated with population ageing.

Reform of tax and public expenditure is also a partnership between Government and the community. Far reaching reform is more likely to happen if the Government sets clear long-term goals and enters into a well structured dialogue where all interests are represented.

To achieve the promise that the new government 'will not leave anyone behind', Mr Abbott will need to work with the community to improve the plight of the forgotten people in today's Australia to enable them to participate and contribute – while ensuring that those with the means to do so also play their part and contribute a fair share of tax, so together we can lift our nation's fortunes.

The Sustainability of Human Wellbeing

Kate Pickett

Professor of Epidemiology,
University of York

Richard Wilkinson

Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology,
University of Nottingham

When people think about how to move our societies towards sustainability, they usually think simply about reducing our collective environmental impact. But the related question, of how human wellbeing can be produced more efficiently, is often ignored. Modern economic systems are disastrously inefficient ways of producing wellbeing. The vast majority of people in rich countries live at historically unprecedented standards of comfort and luxury. Yet between 10 and 25 percent of their populations suffer some form of mental illness each year as measured by the World Health Organization (WHO) standard diagnostic questionnaires. Rates of violence, drug abuse, self-harm among teenage girls, and many other problems are also appallingly high. And all this is achieved at levels of material consumption so damaging to the planet that climate disruption is already estimated to be causing several hundred thousand deaths a year.

That wellbeing has parted company with per capita income in countries with a certain level of wealth has been documented clearly and repeatedly. But what would we do if we wanted to maximize wellbeing at the same time as we move toward sustainability? Greater equality has a central role to play in achieving both objectives. Reducing the income gap between rich and poor can help free us from consumerism—the greatest threat to sustainability—while at the same time making powerful direct contributions to the wellbeing of whole societies.

Smaller income differences between rich and poor mean that we are less driven by the status competition that intensifies consumerism. In more unequal societies, people judge each other more by money and social position. As a result, money becomes even more important: it is how we show what we are worth. This is why people in more unequal societies work longer hours, save less, and get

into debt more. The implication is that if we are to rein in consumerism, we must reduce the inequality that tends to amplify our worries about social comparisons.

Part of the reason why smaller income differences improve wellbeing is that the addition of a dollar of income makes more difference to a poor person's quality of life than the same addition makes to a rich person's life. But this is not the most important way in which greater equality contributes to wellbeing. More equal societies do better in numerous other ways. Almost all the problems associated with those nearer the bottom of the social ladder (e.g., poor physical and mental health, low standards of child wellbeing, violence, drug abuse, teenage births, and incarceration rates) are more common in societies with bigger income gaps. And rather than being just a little more common, problems like these are two to ten times as common in unequal but developed countries.

More and less equal societies perform so differently because inequality damages the social fabric of the whole society from top to bottom. The data confirm what many people have always thought: that inequality is divisive and socially corrosive. It damages social cohesion, weakens community life and reduces people's sense that they can trust others. Life becomes more stressful and more dominated by status competition and status insecurity.

This means that rather than just hurting the poor, greater inequality reduces quality of life for the vast majority of the population. Some studies allow us to compare people living in more and less equal societies at the same position in their respective social hierarchies. They show that even those already comfortable do better in more equal societies. What that means is that if someone with a good education, job, and income lived (with the same education, job, and income) in a more equal society, that person might live a little longer, would be less likely to become the victim of violence, and could have children who might do a little better at school and be less likely to use drugs or to become teenage parents.



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There are many ways to reduce inequality. One easy way is to reduce tax loopholes among the super-rich and large corporations. That should include international action to close down tax havens. But a weakness of relying too much on reinstating redistributive taxes and social security systems is that progress can be undone at the stroke of a pen by a new incoming government. Much more important in the long run is to reduce income differences before tax. Income differences within the largest corporations have widened ten- to fifteen-fold in the last 30 years. The bonus culture reveals the lack of any effective democratic accountability at the top. The solution is to pursue all forms of greater economic democracy: legislation requiring employee representatives on company boards and remuneration committees (as exists in more progressive countries); systems of tax advantages to employee-owned companies, cooperatives, and mutuals; plus funds providing loans to assist employee-buyouts.

More democratic companies have many advantages: they tend to have much smaller internal pay differentials, they are usually more efficient, they tend to perform better ethically (including environmentally), they redistribute wealth from external shareholders to employees, and they can turn companies from being pieces of property into communities.

The convenient truth then is that greater equality, achieved partly through more economic democracy, allows us to combine sustainability with a better quality of life for all.

Richard Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research on the social determinants of health and on the societal effects of income inequality. He is Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham Medical School, Honorary Professor at University College London, and a Visiting Professor at the University of York. Richard co-wrote "The Spirit Level" with Kate Pickett, which won the 2011 Political Studies Association Publication of the Year Award.

Kate Pickett is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of York and a cofounder and director of the Equality Trust. She is co-author, with Richard Wilkinson, of the best selling book "The Spirit Level," now translated into 23 languages and voted one of the top ten books of the decade by the New Statesman.

This article first appeared in Solutions Journal, Volume 4, Issue 2 May 2013
<http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/node/22231>

Food Rescue Charity to Feed South

OzHarvest

OzHarvest Adelaide and Celebrity Chef, Adam Swanson host an event in Anti-Poverty Week to raise awareness and feed those in poverty in the inner South of Adelaide.

More than 180,000 meals a year will be served to people in need following the announcement today that the food rescue charity OzHarvest will be increasing its services in Adelaide's inner southern suburbs.

Cities of Marion and Holdfast Bay have used Anti-Poverty Day to announce they have teamed up with OzHarvest to expand the reach of the service in the region.

OzHarvest founder and CEO Ronni Kahn, Marion Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis, SACOSS CEO Ross Wormersley and celebrity chef Adam Swanson celebrated the partnership before 250 people at the Marion Cultural Centre.

OzHarvest SA state manager Hayley Everuss said the expansion was the next step in helping the community and saving good food from landfill in Adelaide's south.

"It's extremely exciting that the City of Marion with support from the City of Holdfast Bay has provided us with an opportunity to introduce our food rescue program to about 200 food businesses in the inner south," Ms Everuss said.

"I expect we'll save at least 50 tonnes of food in this region throughout the next year which will be used to make 180,000 meals for charitable agencies in southern Adelaide."



Greek mezze
zucca.

left: OzHarvest supporter Adam Swanson

Founded in 2004, OzHarvest is a national, non-denominational charity that rescues excess food from landfill and redistributes it to other charities supporting vulnerable people.

The charity currently rescues quality food from 300 Adelaide food businesses and re-distributes it to 50 charities in suburbs from the CBD to Gawler - providing meals for 60,000 people a month.

Adam Swanson, who is the owner and executive chef of Zucca Greek Mezze and appears on cooking show Ready Steady Cook, is an avid supporter of OzHarvest.

"As a chef I have seen over the years just how much food can get wasted," Mr Swanson said. "I'd encourage other restaurants to donate surplus food to OzHarvest who can use it to feed the homeless or others in need."

Marion Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis: "I want to welcome OzHarvest to the region and the important work it does to help reduce poverty in our community."

"Council will use its contacts to help connect OzHarvest to the local food industry and community agencies."

In addition to supporting Adelaide's needy, OzHarvest has operations in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Through funding from the Zero Waste SA and other key supporters, OzHarvest has been able to establish two refrigerated vans, which have helped them support the expansion of the service into the southern region.

They have saved more than 350,000kgs of good food from landfill and 560 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions since starting work in South Australia in January 2011.

Healthy Communities Initiative has collaborated to support OzHarvest in the south and facilitate linking business and community agencies.

Bringing OzHarvest to the Cities of Marion and Holdfast Bay is supported by the Healthy Communities Initiative.

This initiative is funded by the Australian Government.

OzHarvest Adelaide Partners



SACOSS Anti-Poverty Week \$2 Talk

SACOSS

Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas.

As part of APW 2013, SACOSS invites you to explore the relationship between welfare policy, deprivation, and health, now and into the future.

The aim of this session is to reflect on overarching directions in welfare policy and their human implications. The forum will bring together speakers from a range of activist and academic backgrounds who will highlight different aspects of recent welfare reforms and how these reforms impact on the experience of deprivation, on health, and on community wellbeing.

SACOSS \$2 Talk: Exploring the Relationship Between Welfare Policy, Deprivation and Health, Now and Into the Future

Guest speakers for this session include:

Tauto Sansbury

SA Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice

Pas Forgione

Stop Income Management in Playford (SIMPla)

Kathy Lee

Single Parents Action Group

Professor Fiona Verity

Flinders University

Event Details

Date Wednesday 16 October 2013

Time 3pm talk followed by nibbles and networking

RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/event/8237732279>

Entry by gold coin donation

Location

John Fennessey Conference Room
33 Wakefield Street, Adelaide





Taxing Times Ahead for SACOSS

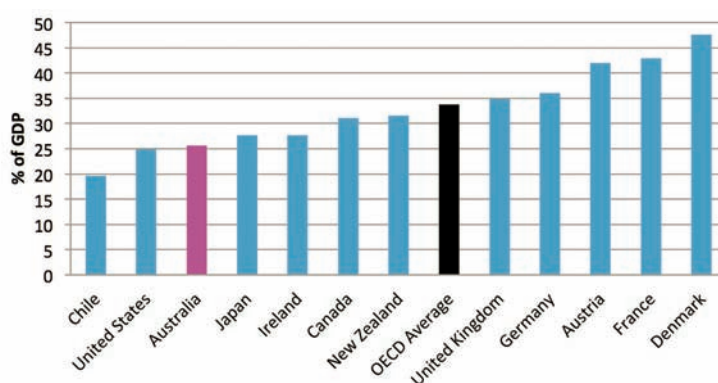
Dr Greg Ogle

SACOSS Senior Policy & Research Analyst

While people are often unhappy about paying tax, a healthy and sustainable tax system is necessary to provide the essential public services and infrastructure that enables us to live, learn, age and work safely. Taxes pay for hospitals, schools, roads, and a range of vital community and business services that allow our country to prosper.

By international standards, Australia is not a high taxing country. As a proportion of the overall economy, Australia is the 4th lowest taxing nation in the OECD – with only Chile, Mexico and the United States collecting a smaller share of GDP.

Tax as a Share of GDP – Selected Countries



Source: OECD StatsExtract

In Australia tax is primarily collected by the Federal government. In 2011-12 the Federal government collected \$309.9b in taxes. This accounted for 81.5% of total tax revenue collected across Australia, although some \$46b of is transferred from the federal to state governments under GST sharing arrangements. Local government accounts for 3.3% of tax collection.

Main Australian Taxes

Federal Government		SA State Government	
Tax	% of tax revenue	Tax	% of tax revenue
Individual Income Tax	48	Payroll Tax	26
Company Income Tax	22	Conveyance Stamp Duty	18
GST	16	Land Tax	15
Excise & Other Duties	10	Motor Vehicle Taxes	13
Super Fund Income Tax	2	Gambling Taxes	11
FBT	1	Taxes on Insurance	10

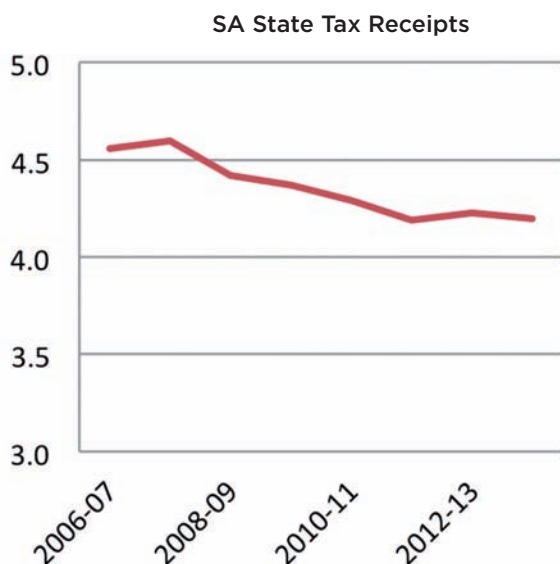
Source: ABS, Taxation Revenue Australia 2011-12; ATO, Taxation Statistics 2010-11.

These figures are particularly problematic for the state government because, as SACOSS argued earlier this year in a submission to the Parliament's Finance and Economic Committee, many of these taxes are unfair or economically inefficient. For instance, land tax ends up getting passed on as increased rent to those who generally have less income and assets (ie. renters). This means that two people on the same income effectively pay different levels of tax depending on whether they own a home or pay rent. Similarly, stamp duty on property sales means that someone who moves often ends up paying much more tax than someone potentially with a higher income and means but who stays in the same house. It is also economically problematic as it creates a disincentive for people to move to take jobs elsewhere, and because it follows fluctuations in the property market, it is a very unstable tax base for the state government.

The other big problem with these tax numbers, particularly for the South Australian government, is that tax receipts have fallen in recent years – in particular since the Global Financial Crisis. This places increasing pressure on government budgets at a time when increased

financial hardship has also meant extra calls for support for individuals, businesses and the community. While government estimates predict some recovery, revenue will likely remain below the level they were prior to the GFC

Tax Revenues as a percentage of the South Australian Economy



Given these figures, it is no surprise that our sector is often told by government that they understand the problem and would like to fund programs to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people, but they simply don't have the money. That may be true, but in part it is a problem of the government's own making as politicians in the lead up to elections often race to promise tax cuts to a wide variety of people and vested interests. This erodes the tax base which is already under pressure from global financial currents.

SACOSS wants to see a public debate where there is a clear understanding and consensus that taxes are important and benefit all Australians. They benefit business by paying for the education and skills of their employees, the infrastructure (like telecommunications and transport) that help them do business, and the regulation which keeps business and citizens protected from harm. Taxes benefit individuals by providing basic services like schools, health care and transport and they provide income and other supports for those who are struggling. And taxes benefit communities by ensuring that in a wealthy country like Australia, there is fairness and everyone has the opportunity to achieve and thrive. This is a perspective we need to (and will) here more of.

For more detailed analysis, including the source of the statistics quoted in this article, see the SACOSS submission to the SA Parliament Economic and Finance Committee Taxation Review at

http://www.sacoss.org.au/online_docs/submissions-current/130211%20SACOSS%20State%20Tax%20Submission.pdf

SACOSS Forum: Towards a Paradigm Shift for DisabilityCare¹

Dr Angie Bletsas

SACOSS Policy Officer

On 1 July the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) was officially launched in five trial sites across Australia, including here in SA where it is available to eligible children. The NDIS is a new universal insurance scheme funded from general government revenue as well as a nominal increase to the Medicare levy. The NDIS takes a personalised approach to funding disability supports. Until recently, it has been the established practice for government to provide funding to a range of disability support services (alongside which also operate some for-profit services). People eligible for government assistance applied for existing services and supports that were offered. By contrast, in the new scheme people are given the opportunity to manage their own funding and, in this way, it is hoped, the opportunity to purchase the things that they actually need, rather than make restricted choices from a narrow pool of available services.

This new scheme has been described as constituting a 'paradigm shift' for disability services. But the NDIS is not just radical because of the change in funding – personalised funding packages were being introduced prior to the scheme being implemented, even if only for a relatively small group of people. The NDIS can be seen to constitute a paradigm shift because the shift from the question 'what of the available services might be appropriate for me?' to asking, 'what do I need?' creates the space to ask a further question that people living with disability have not always been given the opportunity to ask – 'what is it that I would like to achieve?' Ordinarily when we ask what our needs are we ask this question in the context of our hopes and desired achievements. When we think about what it is we need in a given situation,

those needs are usually determined by what it is that we want to do. 'What would I like to achieve?' is, in fact, a simple question that most of us take for granted as our right to ask, over and over again, throughout the course of our lives. However, historically, policy models for providing support to people living with disability have treated disability in such narrow terms that the sole focus has been on providing meagre functional and personal supports beyond which little if any social support was given. In other words, in the case of people living with disability the question 'what are your needs' has been disconnected from the larger question 'what are your goals?'

In part this can be explained by the tendency to treat disability as a medicalised, pathologised 'problem' to be 'fixed' or 'solved'. The question of quality of social life, of being integrated into and afforded opportunities to join social, community and economic life, have not typically been part of government policy or government thinking. The NDIS can therefore be said to constitute a paradigm shift when it enables people living with disability to determine and easily realise their functional support needs themselves and in so doing, to ask – and what would I like to achieve?



L-R Bernadette Barry, Sam Paor

Yet the rapid development of the scheme means that questions still remain as to exactly how this paradigm shift will be realised. On Monday 29 July SACOSS hosted a forum with leaders from across the disability sector to explore the implications of the paradigm shift and to discuss their hopes and fears for the NDIS. The day took the form of a series of panel presentations by Phillip Beddall, Glenda Lee, Robbi Williams, Dr Lorna Hallahan, Sam Paor, Nick Schumi, Bernadette Barry, Denice Whardhall and Dougie Herd. Listening to the presenters talk about their hopes and fears for the new scheme it was clear that, in judgements about whether the scheme has the potential to realise the paradigm shift it promises, cautious optimism competed with scepticism and a long history of being disappointed by government policies. As one participant put it, the presentations 'spanned the spectrum of optimism'. Our speakers shared their concerns, their frustrations, and, at times, their ambivalence, developed over years of negotiating with existing service systems. Listening to the presentations the importance of the question 'and what now for me?' was highlighted again and again. For this particular policy sceptic, if nothing else, the day made clear why the NDIS must become a paradigm shift.

Following the panel sessions, presenters and audience members together worked to develop a list of signs of success against which we might judge whether the NDIS achieves the paradigm shift that we hope it will. The team at SACOSS will be developing a written document, drawn from this discussion, which we hope to use as a reference document in the future. So once again, thank you to all those who attended the day and shared their wisdom and their insight and watch this space for the written document 'The NDIS: Signs of a Paradigm Shift'.

1. In July when we held our forum the national disability insurance scheme was known as DisabilityCare Australia and referred to as DisabilityCare, a name selected by the Labor government. With the change in government in September there has been a name change back to the National Disability Insurance Scheme by the Liberal-National Coalition and the agency administering the scheme is now named the National Disability Insurance Agency.



Telecommunications: A Hidden Cost of Living Pressure

Dr Greg Ogle

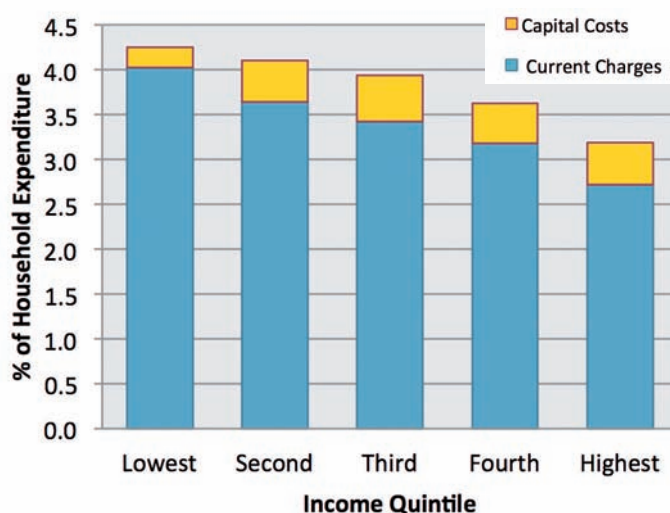
SACOSS Senior Policy & Research Analyst

In early August SACOSS released its quarterly Cost of Living Update with figures from the June Quarter this year. The overall figures showed that living costs for welfare recipients went up by 0.4% in the last quarter, and 2.5% in the last year. While increases in the Aged Pension covered these price rises, those on Newstart and other base level allowances fell further behind.

The June Quarter Update also featured an analysis of telecommunications prices and expenditure. The data was hard to assemble because communications expenditure is changing rapidly with the uptake of more and more digital devices and applications. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has added new expenditure categories over time, but there is not a summary communications category in most of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) data. However, by adding the data spread through the survey report, SACOSS estimated from the last HES 2009/10 that on average South Australian households spent over \$40 per week on phone and internet. This equated to 3.8% of their total expenditure on goods and services, while younger households spent about 20% more than average, equating to 4.4% of their total expenditure. This is a significant expenditure when it is considered that electricity and gas accounted for 3.3% of all household consumption expenditure.

The comparison with electricity, gas and water is important because like those other utilities, telecommunication bills are lumpy and unpredictable, and impact more on low income households. As Figure 1 shows, low income households spend proportionately more of their household expenditure on telecommunications than higher income households, and given that they also spend less on the capital costs (the phones, computers and digital platforms) it can be assumed that also have lower standard services and devices. And of course low income households have less room to move in their household budgets to pay phone bills.

Figure 1: Telecommunications Expenditure as a percent of all household expenditure

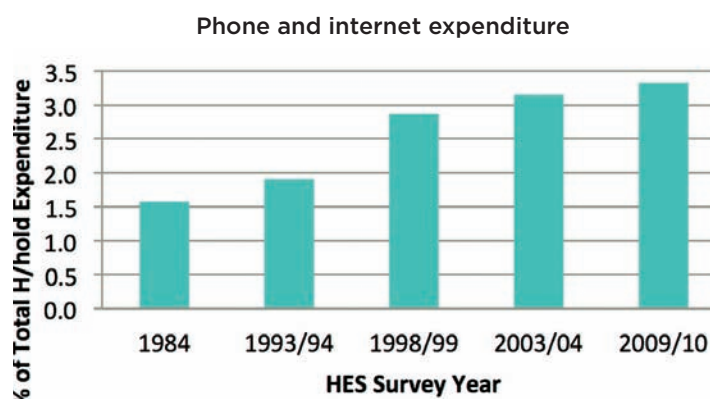


All of this is important because the ability to connect with society is fundamental to human wellbeing, and increasingly much of that connection happens online or via phones, texts and tweets. The issue is not about kids with mobile phones downloading music, it is about access to public information, government services and payments, employment advertisements and a range of other vital social connections. If people can't afford to access telecommunications, they risk becoming more isolated in an increasingly digital age.

The good news from the SACOSS report is that, unlike electricity, gas and water prices, telecommunications have actually been getting cheaper over time in real terms over the last twenty years. Unfortunately though, the benefits to consumers' budgets from lower prices are overwhelmed by the increased level of expenditure driven by demand for new technologies and changed cultural expectations of accessibility.

SACOSS estimates that if the CPI (price index) for telecommunications is applied to the 1993 expenditure, that basket of telecommunications goods would be worth \$11.04 in 2009/10 – but since households were actually spending \$34.71, they were actually buying about 3 times the value of services. And these figures are based only on current charges, not capital items (as there are no expenditure figures for mobile phones and digital media devices in the earlier HES data) so the increase in expenditure could be even greater.

Figure 2: Changing Telecommunications Expenditure Over Time



This should be no surprise when our day to day experience is informed (and formed) by iphones, androids, tablets and pads, but it does mean that despite falling prices, telecommunications could be contributing to cost of living pressures simply because their increased usage. This is not about bad budgeting or low income households spending too much, it is about changing cultural requirements of communication and about the move to put many government and private services online. In many ways phones and internet access today are as important to maintaining social connection as the physical connection paths of transport and public space. And given that such telecommunication expenditure impacts more on lower income households, it is a cost of living area that clearly needs more attention.

The Commonwealth government's telephone allowance for welfare recipients is miserly by comparison with the utilities allowance for electricity, gas and water, and there are no state government concessions for telecommunications to match the water and energy concession schemes.

ACOSS and the Australian Communication Consumers Action Network are developing policy responses for ensuring affordability of communications at the national level. Based on our Cost of Living Update research, SACOSS believes that state and federal governments need to develop a range of measures to assist with the affordability and accessibility of telecommunications for low income households. While the technology and access issues are complex, consideration should be given to:

- Low income support schemes for broadband, potentially extending some of the hardship provisions and packages from the voice-service to broadband suppliers (eg. Bill Assistance Packages, Centrepay options);
- Increasing public wi-fi availability so that those on low incomes are able to minimise download costs;
- Wi-fi availability in all government offices so clients can find and provide data without paying for the downloads; and
- Increasing and broadening the telecommunications allowances to ensure they reflect current telecommunication services and usage.



The Self-Representation Service – a new legal service for low-income South Australians

Tim Graham, Executive Director
JusticeNet SA

JusticeNet SA, South Australia's leading pro bono legal service, has launched a pilot legal service to help clients to help themselves.

The reality is that not everyone can be represented by a lawyer on their day in court. Our society's legal resources are not unlimited. But for those in the community who cannot afford to pay a lawyer (whose fees can easily exceed \$300 per hour) the option of 'self-representation' is unsatisfactory. While it is a fundamental right to appear before a court of law without a lawyer, exercising that right can be a high-risk endeavour, especially in the higher courts which strictly observe complex procedures and rules of evidence.

The dilemma arises most commonly for people involved in civil lawsuits, that is, disputes between private individuals or entities involving, for example, property, debt, employment or a range of other matters. Publicly funded legal aid for civil (as opposed to criminal) disputes has been virtually non-existent in South Australia since the mid-1990s. Legal aid is now reserved only for the most serious criminal disputes and some family law matters. Some assistance is provided to people with civil disputes by Community Legal Centres, but their ability to provide representation is curtailed by limited funding.

'Pro bono', the work done voluntarily by lawyers, can never fully bridge the gap between supply and demand. The challenge for organisations such as JusticeNet SA, that coordinate and foster pro bono work, is to devise improved ways to allocate finite pro bono resources.

JusticeNet, South Australia's leading pro bono legal service, has launched a 12-month pilot legal service to help self-represented people present their own case in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is South Australia's highest court, yet as many as 1 in 5 civil proceedings in the Supreme Court involve self-represented litigants.

The 'Self-Representation Service' will provide advice and assistance with 'discrete' legal tasks, but not representation; the client remains responsible for his or her own case. Providing targeted assistance, but not pro bono representation (which can involve tens or even hundreds of hours of effort depending on the case) is a way of making the pro bono resource go further, and is in some cases and for some clients, the preferred option.

The service aims to help clients present their own case in the best possible manner. It is modelled on similar services run by the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House since 2007. Their experience suggests that with appropriate assistance, many people can ably represent themselves.

Qualified volunteer lawyers from JusticeNet member firms will provide 45-minute advice sessions to clients from rooms close the Supreme Court. Appointments are available throughout the course of a person's legal matters. There is theoretically no limit to the number of appointments that an eligible client may obtain. Volunteer lawyers can help clients to understand the law, court procedures, the risks involved with litigation, and provide practical help with specific tasks such as drafting court documents or correspondence.

Ongoing assistance will only be provided to people who cannot afford private representation and who have a sound legal case. The service will put also considerable emphasis on discouraging unnecessary litigation. Clients with cases that are destined to failure will receive advice about their prospects and will be offered referral to alternatives to court-based dispute resolution.

The outcome of a Supreme Court lawsuit can have serious consequences on the welfare, dignity and livelihoods of people involved. Adverse outcomes routinely leads to homelessness and bankruptcy. The service hopes to give disadvantaged South Australians access to expert legal advice to help them make informed decisions and meaningfully assert their rights.



© Jackf | Dreamstime.com

The service is funded to run for one day per week (Wednesdays) for 12 months and is supported by Flinders University Law School, whose students will also do placements at the Service as part of their practical legal training.

Funding for the Self-Representation Service was generously provided by the Law Foundation of South Australia and IMF (Australia) Ltd.

For more information about the Service visit:
www.justicenet.org.au/srs.html



SA Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice

Our Purpose

To be a statewide collective voice for Aboriginal people in South Australia in order to build community capacity to address issues that are important and relevant to Aboriginal people.

Objectives

To seek positive outcomes for Aboriginal people through providing:

- a voice for Aboriginal people to raise issues and solutions about social justice and equity issues affecting Aboriginal people and communities
- a forum for Aboriginal people to come together to develop solutions to priority issues, including developing state-wide models and frameworks
- a network of people to assist Aboriginal organisations and agencies to enhance and build responsible business practices.

In pursuing these objectives the aim of the Coalition is to support and to amplify the efforts of existing organisations, agencies and informal groups, not to replicate existing work.

Priority policy areas

The Coalition has identified the following policy areas as potential priorities for discussion and action:

- Closing the Gap funding arrangements: monitoring agreements.
- Ending Compulsory Income Management.
- Housing and Homelessness: Re-establishing an Aboriginal Housing Authority and facilitating a conversation around decreased housing services delivered to Aboriginal people.
- Youth Justice: Improving early intervention and prevention programs in order to reduce the over-representation of young Aboriginal people in the justice system.
- Establishing principles of practice and rules of engagement in working with Aboriginal communities and organisations: Whole day community sector forum on relationships with the non-government sector.

These priority areas raise significant policy challenges; we have identified them as starting points for conversation and ongoing work. If you are interested in any one or all of these areas, or supporting the work of the Coalition more generally, please join us.

Membership

If you are interested in joining this conversation, the Coalition seeks involvement from Aboriginal individuals and agencies and a wider group as Friends of the Coalition who agree with and understand the objectives of this group.

Contact us

The Coalition is being supported by the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) and as a collective has nominated Tauto Sansbury as the designated public and media spokesperson for the group. For more information please feel free to contact either Tauto or Ross Womersley.

Tauto email: garridja@adam.com.au
mobile: 0403 165 193

Ross email: ross@sacoss.org.au
mobile: 0418 805426

SA Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice Community Sector Forum: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – Moving Forward

21

SA Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice

After much planning and preparation the South Australian Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice held its first public event, a community sector forum, on Friday August 9th at Tauondi College in Port Adelaide.

The aim of the forum was to initiate a new and ongoing dialogue on how the community sector works with Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal communities. The day-long forum was well attended and attracted significant interest and support from key organisations and individuals representing the Aboriginal community sector as well as non-Aboriginal community sector organisations.

As part of the day's activities, those in attendance were invited to work collaboratively in small groups to develop a list of indicators of where we would like to be in terms of outcomes for the Aboriginal community as well as the relationship with not-for profit organisations, the public sector, and government. Participants on the day were also invited to work in small groups to identify barriers preventing us from getting to where we would like to be. Some of the identified goals and barriers are produced in the text boxes.

The Community Sector Forum provided an excellent opportunity to begin a discussion about our shared goals and concerns. Much work remains to be done in overcoming the barriers identified in order to realise our shared goals. This work cannot be done without ongoing support and commitment. If you would like to continue to be involved in this important conversation, or were unable to attend on the day please register your interest so that we can include you in updates on the Coalition's future work on this and other similar issues.

And remember that it is still possible to become a member of the Coalition. For details on membership, or any aspect of the Coalition please contact:

Tauto Sansbury

Official Coalition spokesperson
Phone: 0403 165 193
Email: garridja@adam.com.au

Ross Womersley

SACOSS Executive Director
Phone: 0418 805 426
Email: ross@sacoss.org.au



**SA Aboriginal
Coalition for
Social Justice**

Relationships between NGOs and the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations

Where do we want to be? What are our shared goals?

- Aboriginal community controlled services are sustained with better funding for Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal programs.
- Political representation and a role in informing political decisions.
- Genuine and equitable partnerships with non Aboriginal organisations.
- Equal employment outcomes for Aboriginal people – both in and outside the community sector.
- Equitable access to services and improved outcomes in terms of housing and health.

What are the barriers to us achieving our goals?

- There is still a lack of understanding around the complexities involved in this work – by government, and in the wider community.
- Short-term funding and short-term vision inhibits long term commitment to progressing issues.
- Few grass-roots forums and few opportunities to inform the policy making process.
- Institutionalised racism and a lack of knowledge around what cultural competency requires.
- Existing funding structures promote territorialism within the public sector and the not-for-profit sector – this is antithetical to building genuine partnerships and sharing power.



Small Change - This Is Radio SACOSS

Marnie Round

SACOSS Communications Officer

Radio in this day and age could be considered a rather rudimentary and archaic media outlet. But around the world it continues to be the most accessible, affordable and creative form of media. Its use in grass-roots development contexts for communities to share information; to develop knowledge, attitude and practice change; to open often denied channels of discussion between citizens, civil society and government continually inspires me. Once radio was one of the few things to entertain and inform us – a place where our imagination had to create the visual reality of weekly radio serials; a place where a lifetime of insight into a person could be gained from the 5 discs they'd choose to take if stranded on a desert island.

But video didn't end up killing the radio star, someone got to video first. And the Internet, social media and smart-devices haven't managed to do what video couldn't... radio is still here. It's still here, it's still relevant, and it's still important. And what is important about Small Change, the

new SACOSS radio program, is that we have a platform to discuss the issues, ideas and questions around social justice and community development in more detail, and with more insight than has been available to our sector and wider community. Already we have spoken to Malcolm Fraser on asylum seeker policy, introduced the South Australian Aboriginal Coalition for Social Justice, visited WestCare Day Centre and Ladder St Vincent Street youth accommodation facility, and heard from passionate advocates on disability, young people, economic sustainability, housing affordability, homelessness and hardship. Podcasts are produced every week so you can listen back, download, and share around everything from the program. Our aim is to hear voices that could otherwise remain unheard, to share the amazing work of our members, and to inform, to question, to challenge. So get your best radio voice ready (but don't worry about your bad hair day, no one can see you), because we could be waving a microphone at you next.

SACOSS
South Australian Council
of Social Service

SMALL CHANGE

*Justice, Opportunity
and Shared Wealth for
All South Australians*

Tuesdays 6pm on

**101.5fm
Radio
Adelaide
DIGITAL**

**Tuesdays 6pm on Radio Adelaide -
online, digital and 101.5fm**

Small Change brings you news, analysis
and discussion as we share the voices of
poverty, social justice, opportunity and
community based achievement in South
Australia.

Listen to or download podcasts at
radio.adelaide.edu.au/program/small-change/

@SACOSSradio

**Got a question? Anything we should
be following up? Contact Marnie Round**
SACOSS Communications Officer

**e. marnie@sacoss.org.au
p. (08) 8305 4227**

SACOSS Pre-Election Forum

SACOSS

In the lead up to the Federal Election SACOSS hosted a pre-election forum to give our sector a chance to hear from and put questions to Senators and Senate candidates from the SA parliamentary parties. Present were:

- Senator Anne McEwen (ALP)
- Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (Greens)
- Senator Nick Xenophon (Nick Xenophon Group)
- Bob Day (Family First)

The Liberal Party did not send a representative.

The forum, at the Mercury Cinema, was chaired by Sonya Feldhoff from 891 ABC Adelaide's "Afternoon" show, and began with each Senator/candidate making an opening statement. These were followed by questions, some sent in advance by members and others direct from the audience. Questions ranged from the need to have a sustainable revenue base to fund vital services, to pay equity, the challenges facing regional areas and the role of public libraries in the community and in addressing mental health issues.

A particular highlight included the passionate questioning by a member of SIMPla (Stop Income Management in Playford) about Compulsory Income Management and her concerns that some of the candidates did not know or understand the problems created by this oppressive imposition on vulnerable people.

The other highlight was the support for the national charity regulator, the ACNC, from Senator Xenophon and Bob Day (noting that Labor and the Greens both already had clear policies supporting it). Given the widespread support for the ACNC (81% in the last sector survey) but also the Coalition's policy to abolish the ACNC, Senator Xenophon and Bob Day were asked if they would block any legislation to abolish the regulator or move charity regulation back to the tax office. Senator Xenophon was unequivocal saying that he supported the ACNC and wanted to see it strengthened, not abandoned. Bob Day also said that with his history on the boards of a number of charities, he would not do anything to harm the sector.

These commitments put a significant block in the way of any plans to scuttle the ACNC, so there is good reason to hope that we will continue to have a purpose-built regulator that understands the sector (rather than one whose main task is tax collection or regulation of large corporations).

By now of course the election is done and the new government is up and running. However, the opportunity for our sector to question our MPs and prospective MPs and to build ongoing relations with all sides of parliament is important. SACOSS thanks the parties for their participation.



1 L-R Senator Nick Xenophon
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (Greens)
Senator Anne McEwen (ALP)
Bob Day (Family First)

2 Forum audience

All photos by Marnie Round

SACOSS Hardship & Affordability Conference



Vivian Clark
SACOSS Events
Coordinator



Jo De Silva
SACOSS Senior
Policy Officer

As most South Australians have noticed in recent times, and we hate to state the obvious, but utility prices are going up and up. But did you know that at the moment South Australia has the highest electricity prices Australia-wide? Unsurprisingly these high utility prices have a significant impact on our cost of living, which in turn impacts the most vulnerable members of our community, for whom an inability to pay can often end in disconnection. So what were some outcomes from the recent SACOSS Hardship and Affordability Conference: Perspectives on Energy and Water? And what will they mean for South Australian consumers?

Wednesday 10 July saw the Conference come to life at The Science Exchange, Adelaide, where over 100 people came together to develop a better understanding of the very complex areas of utility policy and regulation, and to share and consolidate knowledge of issues within the area. Delegates engaged in genuine conversations around how the issue of affordability can be managed by all involved, whether they were from industry, providers or the welfare sector.

Previously SACOSS has reported that around 5,000 households in South Australia have their power cut off every year due to a genuine inability to pay. This alarming fact was again highlighted during the Conference which created the opportunity to exchange ideas about possible pathways to tackle this issue. Whilst South Australians have consumer protections under the National Electricity Consumer Framework (NECF) it appears that a broader whole-of-community approach is desired.

Suggested ideas from the Conference included implementing initiatives such as an independent arbiter of disconnections to ensure the decision to cut off power is a last resort, and would also ensure retailers have done all they can to prevent the disconnection from occurring. Another suggestion was the possible introduction of a mechanism such as 'supply capacity control' which would limit electricity supply to a level considered essential. This currently occurs with water supply where people who are unable to pay their bills have their supply restricted to an essential human needs level of supply. For electricity, this could mean that consumers could access a very basic level

of supply without being fully disconnected, an idea to be further explored. Disconnection of electricity services for an incapacity to pay, is an issue that SACOSS will continue to campaign on by highlighting the impacts on vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers.

Other popular themes which were discussed at the conference included improved consumer access to financial counsellors, effective and appropriate hardship programs, consumer education such as the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) and micro finance for the purchase of efficient appliances. These were all recognised as essential in supporting vulnerable consumers.

The electricity industry was identified as a party to the affordability conversation, and the role of market competition as a tool to keep downward pressure on electricity prices is seen to be part of the mix. Consumer ability to easily switch between electricity providers, and to exercise this choice, was highlighted as important elements of a competitive marketplace. However, many speakers and delegates also noted that a concessional framework that can respond effectively to the changes in a deregulated marketplace (as implemented across several states) is also needed in South Australia.

The Conference also explored what else could be done by energy retailers in the area of delivering the best possible customer service, as illustrated by the increased number of complaints received by the Energy and Water Ombudsman during the previous financial year. This includes easy access to effective and appropriate hardship programs for consumers who are struggling to pay their bills.

The SACOSS Hardship and Affordability Conference: Perspectives on Energy and Water is proud to acknowledge the double Major Sponsor, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI). Without the generous support of all our sponsors, events like this would not be possible.



The SACOSS Hardship and Affordability Conference: Perspectives on Energy and Water considered these three handy tips for navigating energy contracts and affordability (courtesy of Gavin Dufty, Manager Policy and Research, St Vincent de Paul):

Handy Hints

1. Try to find a better energy offer than you currently have - not the 'best' offer. As the best offer can very quickly become the worst (i.e. terms and conditions can change during the lifespan of a contract).
2. Gas prices are increasing and this has implications for dual fuel households. Bundling electricity and gas from the one provider does not always result in cheaper bills for both services.
3. Be aware that some market offers have higher late payment fees than standing offers and termination fees can be high.

Though the Conference has now passed, SACOSS believes it is never too soon to begin thinking of more ways in which we as an organisation can support, encourage and promote positive conversations and action on the topic. In a time of massive change SACOSS will continue striving to promote and support hardship program development and affordability both within the community sector and beyond.

- 1 **Andrew Reeves** - Chairman, Australian Energy Regulator
- 2 **Aunty Josie Agius**
- 3 L-R **Pam Lehman** - Uniting Communities
Rosalyn Williams - Uniting Care Wesley Bowden
- 4 **Gavin Dufty** - St Vincent De Paul
- 5 L-R **Vince Duffy** - DMITRE
Sean Kelly - SA Power Networks
Andrew Dillon - Energy Supply Association of Australia

All photos by Marnie Round



News from Marjorie Black House

Since the last edition, SACOSS has been working on a number of issues and submissions, including:

- Legislation to prohibit gag clauses in state government contracts with community organisations
- Informing the sector of key issues in the Federal Election campaign and arising from the policies of the new government
- Developing proposals for removing red tape in government contracting
- Cost of living issues in relation to water, electricity and telecommunications
- The tax base needed to fund vital community services
- Conducting our disconnections campaign, including developing our proposal for a third party review process to umpire disconnections
- Submissions to National Energy Advocacy Body (SCER), Review of Water Heaters (DMITRE), Energy Consumer Engagement (AER)
- Member of State Government Policy Roundtable on Climate Change Adaptation and Social Disadvantage

And also in the pipeline...

- Anti-Poverty Week (October 13-19)
- New SACOSS Website
- State Election Campaign
- SACOSS Conference 2014

Get involved with SACOSS

SACOSS puts out a fortnightly eBulletin to our members listing brief descriptions of upcoming events, job vacancies, and other items relevant to the community services sector. If you'd like to make a submission check out the guidelines and contact details at <http://www.sacoss.org.au/publications/ebulletin/index.html> If you haven't already you can subscribe to the eBulletin here too!

Follow us on Twitter @SACOSS

We aren't particularly witty in 140 characters or less, but we do like to discuss and share sector issues, news and events...and the adventures of Grumpy Cat.

SACOSS News Summer edition

The Summer SACOSS News will be a spotlight on the upcoming South Australian state election. If you'd like to contribute to it, please contact SACOSS Communications Officer Marnie Round at marnie@sacoss.org.au

Deadline for advertising and submissions is **Monday December 2 2013.**



Welcome Bronwyn Colby

For the past 10 years I have worked for several organisations that have strong community philosophies including as Project Officer with Anglicare SA; Administration and Executive Support at Hutt Street Centre; Marketing Administration, Information Management at HomeStart Finance, and previous to this a variety of administration roles within aged care and community employment services.

I have a keen interest in the electricity market, in particular the impacts of regulation on pricing and industry processes and how these elements affect low income consumers. This interest began during a research project I conducted last year at Anglicare SA which explored the national and South Australian electricity market mechanisms, consumer consumption and the implications for vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians.

My role at SACOSS is Policy Officer with an emphasis on energy and involves providing research and policy advice to SACOSS, supporting the sector to understand and engage with energy issues and assisting in the development of SACOSS campaigns.

66th Annual SACOSS AGM

Guest speaker Ian McAuley - adjunct lecturer in public sector finance at the University of Canberra and fellow at the Centre for Policy Development

Monday 25 November 3-5pm

RSVP essential sacoss@sacoss.org.au or phone 8305 4222

SACOSS COMMUNITY RIDE CHALLENGE

TOUR DOWN UNDER
2014

GET IN FAST
TO SAVE UP
TO 50%

SACOSS encourages and supports workers and managers in the community services sector to improve their health through the **Healthy Workers Healthy Futures Program**. We believe physical activity can be a fun, social activity and are calling on workers in the community services sector to join our team in the Bupa Community Challenge Ride on 24 January 2014.

SACOSS is offering:

- 50% off** for the first 10 people to sign up for the 33km challenge who have not competed in an organised ride previously.
- 25% off** for the first 10 people to register for any of the other ride lengths.

The ride is suitable for all levels from beginners to advanced and offers a range of four different lengths:

- 154.5km Unley to Victor Harbor
- 112.5km Meadows to Victor Harbor
- 75.5km Mount Compass to Victor Harbor
- 33km Yankalilla to Victor Harbor



Join the

SACOSS Healthy Workers Team:

SMALL
CHANGE

Team registration cut off 1 November
Riders must agree to the 2013 SKODA Breakaway Series
Terms and Conditions of Entry.

To join the SACOSS team, contact our Healthy Workers Adviser
Kate Kameniar katek@sacoss.org.au or phone 8305 4231.

This initiative is funded by the Australian Government

More people in health and community services choose HESTA than any other fund



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