SACOSS

79TH ANNUAL REPORT



South Australian Council of Social Service

2025–26

FROM THE CEO AND CHAIR

As we reflect on the past 12 months, there is much to be proud of.

CEO Catherine Earl has led the SACOSS Board and staff through a transitional period at a time when the broader societal environment continues to change and evolve around us.

Our foremost concern remains, and always will be, South Australians experiencing poverty and disadvantage. For nearly 80 years SACOSS has been steadfast in its commitment to further our understanding of the impact of poverty and disadvantage, and to progress tangible steps to reduce and ultimately eliminate them.

It is a commitment which has delivered results.

The People's Health Voice grew in strength and importance, receiving an additional – and thoroughly deserved – four years of state government funding. Our longstanding and vital work across our policy interests, particularly housing, energy and water, continued to have an impact. And our disaster resilience project work with Australian Red Cross achieved a major milestone with the launch of the People at Increased Risk in Emergencies Framework.

Guided by Catherine, SACOSS's focus on sector engagement has also been impactful. Her efforts in meeting and engaging with member organisations, peak bodies and the broader sector resulted in a much better understanding of the challenges we all face.

There is no doubt demand for our sector's services grew during 2025-26. And while this was not matched by a rise in the level of funding our sector needs, our engagement and advocacy did result in much better outcomes than otherwise would have been the case.

Much of SACOSS's efforts and energy in 2026-27 will be towards our efforts in this space, and we thank the sector for working with us while also continuing to deliver their vital services and supports.

SACOSS's unwavering commitment to its mission is even more important when placed in its current political context.

In March 2026 the Labor government was comprehensively returned for a second term by South Australian voters. We congratulate Premier Peter Malinauskas and the government on this achievement, and acknowledge the meaningful actions from its first term, particularly around improving concessions and reversing a decades-long decline in the numbers of public housing stock.

We look forward to working with the government for this term, building relationships with new ministers, departments and offices while still continuing to hold it to account if it could be doing more to improve the lives of all South Australians. Importantly, we will also keep working to better understand why an increasing number of people – many of whom experience poverty and disadvantage – feel alienated from the major parties.

We thank SACOSS Board members for their diligence and commitment to our organisation. We also thank our operational team, whose hard work and advocacy continue to impress.

Finally, we thank you – our members, allies and broader community – for your support and engagement throughout 2025-26. SACOSS's fight is your fight, and we are glad you are with us.

In solidarity,



Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Catherine Earl



Board Chair
Nicole Chaplin

Our Impact

SACOSS's successes in 2025-26 included:

Sector Support

Continued advocacy for appropriate sector funding, including a new coalition of more than 50 community service organisations and peak bodies, resulted in a new formula and 3.3% indexation rate in the 2026 state budget.

People's Health Voice

PHV secured an additional four years of funding after strong engagement with more than 200 community representatives and major contributions to state policy processes.

People at Increased Risk in Emergencies project

SACOSS and Australian Red Cross established a statewide framework and implementation plan for people at increased risk in emergencies.

Give Credit campaign

Sector-wide campaign featuring more than 880 staff and volunteers and 60-plus organisations was seen by an audience of more than 300,000.

SACOSS is the South Australian Council of Social Service, the peak body for the non-government health and community services sector in South Australia.

We envision a future of justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians. To achieve this vision, we speak out on issues that affect our community, our state, our nation and our world. We lead and support our community to take action. We hold governments, business and communities to account – especially when their actions disadvantage people.

We believe that developing a fair and just community is possible. We believe that a thriving community sector will help to address poverty and disadvantage. And we will continue to speak with, alongside and for all South Australians – no matter who you are, where you live or what your current circumstances are.

Front cover image: 'Building Blocks', by Adelaide cartoonist and social commentator Simon Kneebone. Simon is a SACOSS life member whose works have appeared in the *New Internationalist*, *Pro Bono* and many more publications.

SACOSS acknowledges the traditional lands of the Kaurna people on which we live and work, and pay our respects and acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and the Greater Adelaide Plains. We acknowledge and respect the cultural authority and sovereignty of the elders, communities and organisations across all the lands on which our member organisations live and work. We underscore the importance of Aboriginal-led responses to address the interests and rights of Aboriginal families and communities.

An Informed and Thriving Community Sector

Appropriate funding and related issues dominated the 2025-26 sector landscape as SACOSS continued to advocate on behalf of a sector facing unprecedented financial pressures.

Indexation and Sector Statement

Much of SACOSS's 2025-26 work with and for the sector centred on indexation funding, which continues to be a major issue for SA's community service organisations.

In October 2025 SACOSS released 'Indexation for the SA Not-For-Profit Sector', a major publication which detailed both how government funding was failing to keep pace with increasing service costs, and also proposed a purpose-built sector indexation formula to properly reflect these costs.

Disappointingly, the government's mid-year budget review in December 2025 failed to acknowledge or incorporate any elements of our proposal.

Following this, and ahead of the March state election, more than 50 sector organisations signed up to a SACOSS-led statement. This statement was a strong public message highlighting the unprecedented funding pressures faced by the sector. It called on the major parties to provide an immediate funding boost to assist in covering cost increases from the past year, and to adopt the new purpose-built indexation formula.

Ongoing representation was then made in the lead-up to the 2026-27 State Budget. Our Budget submission included a proposed 5.4% indexation rate (1.8% supplementation for 2025-26 cost increases, plus 3.6% indexation for 2026-27).

The Budget ultimately delivered a lesser indexation figure of 3.3% for frontline health and community services (not the entire NFP sector), and 2.5% for other services.

While these figures did not match those proposed in our submission, they did represent a positive outcome in the sense that the 3.3% increase for frontline services was above a blanket 2.5% increase. Also encouraging was that the government did choose to apply an indexation formula as part of its calculations, although it was based on their existing indexation rate for government fees and charges rather than our proposed bespoke formula.

We continue to advocate for an appropriate and sustainable indexation funding model to ensure our sector can meet increasing demand and costs.

Fuel costs

Beginning in March 2026, the Middle East conflict caused global oil prices to rise, with a corresponding impact on South Australian community service organisations. This impact was felt most acutely by organisations with presences in non-metropolitan SA, who often had much greater distances to travel in order to provide their services.

SACOSS convened an emergency sector meeting in late March 2026, where we heard directly from some 20 organisations on how more expensive – and limited availability of – petrol affected both the people they supported and the organisations' ability to provide the necessary services.

In early April SACOSS then wrote to the Premier outlining the sector's concerns and proposing policies that would immediately provide support to people and the sector.

SCHADS Award changes

SACOSS continues to lead work on behalf of the state's community services sector on exploring the impact of two Fair Work Commission decisions in 2025-26.

After finding that work covered by the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Award had been the subject of gender-based undervaluation, the FWC determined that it would restructure work classifications under the Award.

The FWC's final classification structure was released in June 2026. It will consist of a single consolidated structure which will come into effect on 1 October 2027. All staff will need to be classified according to the new structure, and there will be additional wage increases in some categories and protections to ensure no employee's basic pay rate is reduced.

Separately, in the same week as the June 2026 state budget, the FWC also announced a national minimum wage increase of 4.75%. This increase was welcomed by SACOSS, as it provides better pay for award-based employees in our sector and elsewhere, while we also recognise the additional financial pressures this places on organisations.

Following the FWC decisions, SACOSS immediately took steps to work with the sector to communicate the changes and to help prepare for their implementation. This work will continue in the first half of 2026-27.



Vital Support Conference

In October 2025 SACOSS hosted its major event for the 2025-26 financial year, 'Vital Support: A Community Sector Funding and Workforce Conference' at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Featuring an opening address from the Governor, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, the conference was attended by more than 100 delegates from across the sector.

Major themes for the conference included workforce planning, artificial intelligence in the workforce, funding sustainability, procurement, and valuing lived experience.

SECTOR



Regional representation

SACOSS continued its focus on the state's regions in 2025-26, with activity across health, water and sector portfolios in such areas as the Yorke Peninsula, Ceduna and the Far West, and Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast.

In partnership with service providers and broader regional communities, SACOSS remains committed to advocating across eight priority areas. The major areas of focus include:

People and Work: Creating youth pathways, and attracting and retaining essential health and care workers.

Housing and Homelessness: Expanding affordable, public and community housing, support infrastructure, and region-specific homelessness responses.

Local Services: Expanding mental health, early learning, child care, alcohol and other drug, and violence-support services.

Portable Long Service Leave scheme begins

After many years of advocacy, discussion and planning from SACOSS with other sector allies, the state's Portable Long Service Scheme formally began on 1 October 2025.

The scheme means that if a worker moves between different employers in the community services sector, their period of service will continue to be recognised, and they will be able to access long service leave after 10 years of service across the sector as a whole.

It should create an incentive for workers to retain their skills in the sector, reduce staff turnover, improve worker satisfaction, and minimise the cost to business of recruiting and training replacement staff.

SACOSS remains an active participant in administering the scheme, with SACOSS Senior Policy Analyst Dr Greg Ogle a member of the Portable Long Service Leave – Community Services Board.

Housing

South Australia's housing crisis remained a central focus of SACOSS advocacy throughout 2025-26.

We strengthened our leadership in the sector by establishing a Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Working Group, bringing together members and stakeholders to drive coordinated action on housing affordability, public housing, rental reform and homelessness.

In the lead-up to the 2026 state election, SACOSS worked closely with housing, homelessness, community housing and local government partners to champion practical solutions and build support for our policy priorities. This included parliamentary briefings, public events, engagement with decision-makers and contributions to major advocacy forums across the state.

We welcomed signs of progress, including the first significant increase in public housing dwellings this century, after a long period of divestment. The state government housing roadmap's promised new public housing builds, federal and state government investment in new properties, and renovating and bringing vacant public housing properties back into use, finally saw a net increase in the public housing estate.

At the same time, unmet demand for housing and homelessness services remained unacceptably high, reinforcing the need for sustained reform.

The state government has also been investing considerable effort in increasing housing stock overall. This is important across all categories of housing, but it creates challenges for planning, standards and infrastructure supports, and SACOSS continues to remind the government of the need for this housing to be genuinely affordable.

Looking ahead, SACOSS is continuing to build momentum for change through a new renting advocacy coalition, direct engagement with renters, support for stronger homelessness sector representation, and collaborative work on the Housing Continuum project to advance long-term solutions for all South Australians.



Energy

As South Australia continues its transition to a cleaner energy future, SACOSS has remained focused on ensuring that the benefits of transition are shared fairly and households experiencing disadvantage are not left behind.

Throughout 2025-26, SACOSS played a leading role in major state and national energy policy discussions, advocating for reforms that improve affordability, strengthen consumer protections and deliver a more equitable energy system. Our work spanned issues including electricity pricing, network costs, hardship protections, energy efficiency, rental housing standards, gas transition planning and consumer access to emerging technologies. We also continued to champion the interests of households who are unable to access rooftop solar, batteries and other cost-saving technologies, ensuring their voices were represented in critical policy and regulatory processes.

A highlight of the year was our successful Connecting Fairness and Energy forum, which brought together consumer advocates, regulators, industry representatives and policymakers to explore how fairness and equity can be embedded in the energy transition. The forum helped strengthen relationships across the sector and highlighted the importance of designing policies that work for all South Australians, not just those able to actively participate in energy markets.

Alongside this work, SACOSS made numerous submissions to government, regulators and market bodies, influencing discussions on the Default Market Offer, network tariff reform, smart meter deployment and consumer protections. Our advocacy also contributed to stronger protections for customers in remote communities and improved consideration of affordability and equity in energy market reform.

However, there is still a long way to go. South Australian households continue to pay the highest effective price per unit of electricity in the nation, and SA bills increased by 22% over the year. Energy debt levels remain high and increasing, and there is growing hardship and disconnection risk. Our energy advocacy, particularly for low-income energy consumers, has never been more needed.

Water

Access to safe, affordable water is fundamental to health and wellbeing, yet for many South Australians, particularly those in regional and remote communities, water affordability and access remain significant challenges.

SACOSS continued to advocate in 2025-26 for stronger consumer protections, fairer regulation and more equitable access to essential water services, while undertaking research into the impacts of water costs on vulnerable households and communities.

The year's most significant policy development was the State Government's announcement of the proposed SA Gas and Water Trust, which would fundamentally reshape how water services are delivered and regulated in South Australia. In 2025-26 SACOSS began engaging with government and stakeholders to ensure that this generational change maintained strong consumer protections and equitable pricing, while creating opportunities to improve water security and access for disadvantaged communities.

A major focus of the year was the commencement of the Meter at the Gate project, supported through the Department for Environment and Water's Consumer Advocacy and Research Fund. Working with Aboriginal communities across Ceduna, Port Augusta and Coober Pedy, SACOSS began investigating how historical funding decisions, ageing infrastructure and complex governance arrangements have left some communities responsible for maintaining water networks and managing substantial debts, often without the support and protections available to other South Australians.

Findings from Meter at the Gate, to be released in 2026-27, will inform recommendations to address historical water debts, strengthen consumer protections, improve infrastructure investment and establish fairer, more sustainable funding arrangements, helping advance SACOSS's ongoing advocacy for water justice across South Australia.

2026 South Australian Election

The March 2026 South Australian election was a major focus of SACOSS's advocacy work, providing an opportunity to elevate the issues affecting people experiencing disadvantage and shape the public policy agenda for the next parliamentary term.

SACOSS developed a comprehensive election platform covering five priority areas: community sector funding and workforce development, housing, energy, human rights, and healthy communities. The platform brought together practical policy solutions aimed at reducing inequality, addressing cost-of-living pressures and strengthening community wellbeing.

Alongside the platform, SACOSS published its Election Report Card, assessing political parties and candidates against SACOSS priorities. The report card generated public and media interest, helping voters better understand where parties stood on issues affecting South Australians experiencing poverty or disadvantage.

Throughout the campaign, SACOSS worked closely with members, sector partners and decision-makers to build support for these priorities. More than 50 organisations signed a SACOSS-led sector statement calling for urgent reform of community service funding arrangements and a long-term workforce strategy for the sector (see earlier Sector section for more information).

A highlight was the 'Balancing Power: A Legislative Council Election Panel,' delivered in partnership with Uniting Communities and *InDaily*. Facilitated by *InDaily* editor Belinda Willis, the event brought together key Legislative Council candidates and members, including (pictured below) Kyam Maher, Connie Bonaros, Tammy Franks, Melanie Selwood, Michelle Lensink and Chris McDermott to discuss issues of interest to SACOSS and the broader sector that would shape the next Parliament.

The forum provided a valuable opportunity for community sector organisations and stakeholders to engage directly with candidates on topics including housing, energy, human rights, and community wellbeing.



People's Health Voice



People's Health Voice (PHV) consolidated its position as an established, community-governed mechanism for influencing health policy and service reform in South Australia.

PHV engaged 223 community members and representatives, contributed evidence to major state policy processes, strengthened relationships across the health system and secured a further four years of government funding. The year also saw significant outcomes from its regional health advocacy and the launch of a dedicated public website.

Regional advocacy and connection

PHV provided evidence gathered from some 80 Yorke Peninsula residents to a SA Parliamentary Inquiry; the SA Government later adopted all 16 recommendations stemming from the inquiry which addressed longstanding gaps in regional healthcare. Separately, PHV engaged with nearly 60 community members and providers in Ceduna and the Far West, with the findings – which documented significant gaps in access to services such as primary care, specialists, dialysis and mental health – later presented to SA Health.

Influencing state policy and government practice

PHV translated community evidence into formal submissions and advice across five major policy and consultation processes: SA's Public Transport Strategy; Draft 2025 State Public Health Plan; Draft Strategic Plan for Preventive Health Action 2026-2034; SA Health Sitting Fees and Reimbursement Policy; and SA Public Health Communications During the SA Algal Bloom.

Securing the PHV future

PHV secured an additional four years of state government funding in February 2026, providing continuity for its community-governed approach. This followed an independent evaluation by the Centre for Social Impact at Flinders University, which found strong support for PHV as a unique and effective mechanism for bringing often-unheard community perspectives into health policy and planning.

SACOSS South Australian People's Health Voice



Preventive Health SA partnership

SACOSS strengthened its partnership with Preventive Health SA during 2025-26, culminating with the two parties entering into a new two-year agreement designed to continue advancing health equity.

The agreement builds on work conducted by SACOSS in areas such as policy advocacy, community engagement, sector mobilisation and workforce development.

Recognising and mobilising the community sector's role in prevention

SACOSS completed the Preventive Health in NGOs Sector Mapping Project, producing an interactive sector map, a catalogue of relevant organisations and two substantial reports examining the sector's preventive health contribution and opportunities to strengthen its capacity. This work provided Preventive Health SA with new resources to inform cross-sector collaboration and established a foundation for developing a health equity alliance or community of practice.

Influencing health policy and government priorities

SACOSS contributed to three significant parliamentary and government consultation processes: the Social Development Committee Inquiry into Programs Addressing Child Hunger in Preschools and Schools; Draft 2025 State Public Health Plan; and Preventive Health SA Draft Strategic Plan.

Building health equity capability within government

SACOSS designed and delivered a health equity capacity-building workshop for 23 Preventive Health SA staff in May 2026. The workshop connected health equity principles with practical policy and program design, using community experiences to examine how structural disadvantage affects access to prevention.



Climate and Disaster Resilience

During 2025–26, SACOSS made a significant contribution to advancing equitable disaster resilience in South Australia through policy development, cross-sector collaboration, emergency preparedness and sector capacity building.

The year's major achievements included the public launch of the People at Increased Risk in Emergencies (PaIRE) Framework, completion of its Implementation Plan, delivery of a major disaster resilience conference and contributions to state and national emergency management initiatives.

Established a statewide framework and implementation plan for people at increased risk in emergencies

SACOSS and Australian Red Cross achieved two significant milestones in the PaIRE project: the public launch of the People at Increased Risk in Emergencies Framework by the South Australian Minister for Emergency Services in February 2026, and completion of the accompanying Implementation Plan.

Delivered a major statewide conference on equitable disaster resilience

SACOSS convened From Risk to Strength: Equity-Driven Climate and Disaster Resilience at the Adelaide Convention Centre in February 2026. With lived experience front and centre, the conference brought together representatives from emergency management, government, community services and research to examine the relationship between inequality, social vulnerability and disaster resilience.

Advanced collaboration on extreme heat preparedness

SACOSS worked with Australian Red Cross and other stakeholders to strengthen cross-sector engagement on extreme heat and its disproportionate impacts on people experiencing disadvantage. This included the Heat-Ready South Australia event, held in October 2025 and led by Australian Red Cross, which brought together stakeholders to examine heat risks and approaches to preparedness.

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

SACOSS gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organisations through grant and activity funding:

PEAK FUNDING

Supported by Government of South Australia

human services

ADVOCACY AND PROJECTS

Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Government of South Australia
Department of Treasury and Finance

Government of South Australia
SA Health

Government of South Australia
Preventive Health SA

Government of South Australia
South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission

OTHER SUPPORT

We thank our member organisations for their continued support, including those who provided additional financial support to help us further advance our advocacy. We thank the organisations that sponsored our conferences and other events throughout 2025-26: Australian Energy Council, Beyond Bank Australia, Child and Family Focus SA, ElectraNet Pty Limited, Essential Services Commission of South Australia, Humanihut Group Pty Ltd, Minda Incorporated, Relationships Australia SA, SA Portable Long Service Leave, SA Power Networks, Shared Services SA, The Wyatt Trust, UnitingSA and Volunteering SA&NT Inc.

SACOSS BOARD MEMBERS 2025-26

The SACOSS board is responsible for the governance of the organisation. SACOSS sincerely thanks all board members for their commitment and service to the organisation in 2025-26.

BOARD MEMBERS 2025-26		
POSITION	**NAME**	**YEAR TERM EXPIRES (NOVEMBER)**
Chair	Nicole Chaplin	2026
Deputy Chair	David Adamson	2027
Treasurer	Emma Crosby	2027
Member	Jane Mussared	2026
Member	Jeremy Brown	2026
Member	Michele Wachla	2027
Member (Co-opted)	Sarah Fraser	2027
Member (Co-opted)	Patricia Cotton	2027
Ex-Officio Member	David Panter	Term ceased 20 January 2026
Member	Nancy Penna	Term ceased 19 September 2025
Member (Co-opted)	Khatija Thomas	Term ceased 20 January 2026

GIVE CREDIT
TO OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE SECTOR

SACOSS led an innovative awareness campaign throughout the second half of 2025, featuring hundreds of sector staff, volunteers and organisations.

Give Credit was developed in coordination with local agency NATION, with Volunteering SA&NT later becoming co-brand partners.

The campaign's primary aim was to celebrate the sector for its role and contribution to the state, while also reinforcing to decision-makers the sector's importance.

The campaign culminated in November 2025 with Give Credit Week, where its central premise – a credit roll where individual sector staff and volunteers could add their name to a scrolling list that would stream 24x7 – appeared on many public screens across SA, plus on internal-facing screens at participating sector organisations.

State Governor Her Excellency Francis Adamson AC was an enthusiastic and public supporter of the campaign, and the Human Services Minister the Hon. Nat Cook took part in Give Credit Week while all 69 SA politicians were emailed about the campaign.





Outcomes included:

- **A total of 884 staff and volunteers from 64 different organisations added their names to the credit roll**
- **With exceptional assistance from Credit Union SA, a ten-fold return on investment for the campaign's advertising budget**
- **The 60+ public screens purchased across South Australia represented an estimated audience of 300,000 who saw the roll up to nine times**
- **More than 20,000 views of associated social media activity on SACOSS's channels, and 3,200 visits to the Give Credit website**







SACOSS wishes to thank the following sector organisations for their contributions to the Give Credit campaign:

- Minda
- Uniting Communities
- Centacare Catholic Country SA
- Relationships Australia SA
- St John's Youth Services
- SA Financial Counsellors Association
- Uniting Country SA
- The Wyatt Trust
- Your Place Housing

Our Member Organisations 2025-26

Aboriginal Community Care (SA)
Aboriginal Health Council of SA
Anglican Community Care
Anglicare SA
Australian Association of Social Workers
Australian Health Promotion Association SA
Australian Migrant Resource Centre
Australian Red Cross (SA Division)
Australian Refugee Association Inc.
Australian Services Union
Baptist Care SA
Barkuma Inc.
Carer Support and Respite Centre Inc.
Carers SA Inc.
CareWorks
CCI Services Limited*
Centacare Catholic Community Services
Centacare Catholic Country SA Ltd.
Child and Family Focus SA
City of Onkaparinga
Community Housing Industry Association SA
Community Justice Services SA Ltd.
Community Living Project Inc.
Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA
Council On The Ageing SA
CREATE Foundation
Embolden SA Inc.
Family Drug Support
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
Hepatitis SA Inc.
Homelessness SA
Hutt Street Centre Ltd.
Infinity Community Solutions
Julia Farr Association
Junction Australia Ltd.
Justice for Refugees SA
Justice Reform Initiative*
JusticeNet SA
KWY Aboriginal Corporation
LELAN - Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network
Life Without Barriers
Livit Disability Support
Lutheran Community Care
MarionLIFE Community Services
Mental Health Coalition of SA
MINDA Incorporated
Mission Australia - SA Region
MoneyMob Talkabout
Neami National
OARS Community Transitions
Playgroup Association of SA Inc.
Reconciliation SA Pty Ltd.
Relationships Australia South Australia Ltd.
South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network
Save the Children Australia
SIN
Skylight Mental Health
Sonder
South Australian Financial Counsellors Association Inc.
South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance Inc.
St John's Youth Services Inc.
St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc.
STTARS - Survivors of Torture & Trauma
SYC Ltd.
Terandi Pty Ltd.*
The Australian Centre for Social Innovation
The Reily Foundation
The Salvation Army
The Smith Family
The Wyatt Trust
Uniting Communities
Uniting Country SA Ltd.
UnitingCare SA
UnitingCare Wesley Bowden
UnitingSA
Unity Housing Company Ltd.
Volunteering SA&NT
Women's Safety Services
Working Women's Centre SA Inc.
YourPlace Housing Ltd.
Youth Affairs Council of SA Inc.
Zahra Foundation Australia

*Associate Members

Investing in Our Purpose

SACOSS maintained a sound financial position during 2025–26, while continuing to invest in the advocacy, policy and sector development work that underpins its purpose. Against a backdrop of ongoing financial pressures across the community services sector, the year's results reflect the importance of sustained funding partnerships and prudent financial management.

Total revenue increased by 14.1% to $2.30 million (prior year: $2.01 million), driven largely by increased grant and project funding. This included additional funding for sector development and disaster resilience initiatives, alongside increased campaign and conference revenue. These funding partnerships are essential to SACOSS's ability to advance policy solutions, foster collaborative action and support an informed and thriving community sector.

Total expenditure was $2.32 million, compared with $2.07 million the previous year. Employee benefits remained the largest component of expenditure, reflecting the expertise and capacity required to deliver SACOSS's work. Consultancy expenditure also increased significantly, primarily associated with the Disaster Resilience Framework project. SACOSS's contribution to the Give Credit campaign, a joint campaign between SACOSS and Volunteering SA&NT, supported efforts to raise awareness of the vital contribution of the community services sector and its workforce.

The operating deficit reduced from $57,524 in 2024–25 to $20,531 in 2025–26. Following a $27,513 gain in the value of investments, SACOSS recorded an overall surplus of $6,982. While this represents an improvement on the previous year, the operating result highlights the continuing need to ensure that expenditure commitments are supported by sustainable funding.

At 30 June 2026, SACOSS held net assets of $4.06 million, including cash and cash equivalents of $818,115 and managed investments of $561,187. Cash holdings decreased by $97,104 during the year, with net cash used in operating activities of $146,500.

While SACOSS retains a sound financial position, these movements reinforce the importance of monitoring cash flow and maintaining sufficient resources to meet ongoing commitments. Marjorie Black House remains a significant long-term asset supporting the organisation's financial position.

SACOSS received an unmodified audit opinion from Nexia Edwards Marshall, providing independent assurance over the financial statements.

Looking ahead, our financial focus will be on sustaining the capacity needed to deliver SACOSS's strategic priorities whilst managing the demands of project-based funding. Financial management and sustainability enables SACOSS to remain independent, responsive and effective in advocating for a fair and just community, and cultivating an informed and thriving community sector.

On behalf of the Board and Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee, I extend my thanks to fellow Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk members, fellow Board members, SACOSS staff, members and funding partners for their contributions throughout the year. Their commitment helps sustain SACOSS's work towards its vision of justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians.

Yours in finance,



Treasurer
Emma Crosby

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2026

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.

	2026 $	2025 $
REVENUE		
Core Grant	571,350	495,210
Grants - Other	1,308,358	1,135,881
Contributions - Members	147,878	145,784
Event Income	115,390	85,901
Campaigns	61,405	14,095
Other Operating Revenue	92,621	136,537
Total Revenue	**2,297,002**	**2,013,408**
EXPENSES		
Conference Costs	70,518	76,226
Consultancy Fees	222,972	61,825
Depreciation	56,352	61,965
Employee Benefits Expenses	1,775,604	1,659,075
Office Accommodation	31,015	29,934
IT Expenses	32,249	29,485
Printing, Postage and Stationery	6,580	14,248
Insurance	20,768	19,255
Professional Services	32,280	51,073
Travel and Accommodation	18,928	27,295
Equipment	3,699	5,476
Sponsorship	2,000	11,000
Other Expenses	44,568	24,074
Total Expenses	**2,317,533**	**2,070,932**
Net Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) before fair value movement	**(20,531)**	**(57,524)**
OTHER INCOME		
Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Financial Assets	27,513	21,795
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the year	**6,982**	**(35,729)**

The SACOSS 2025-26 Audited Financial Report with accompanying notes is available on our website.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2026

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE INC.

	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash Assets	818,115	915,219
Trade and Other Receivables	84,141	124,565
Prepayments	22,822	6,977
Total Current Assets	**925,078**	**1,046,761**
Non-Current Assets		
Financial Assets	561,187	533,674
Property, Plant and Equipment	3,072,045	3,143,523
Total Non-Current Assets	**3,633,232**	**3,677,197**
Total Assets	**4,558,310**	**4,723,958**
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	151,512	181,997
Contract Liabilities	159,522	206,531
Provisions	146,525	251,893
Total Current Liabilities	**457,559**	**640,421**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Employee Provisions	41,852	31,620
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**41,852**	**31,620**
Total Liabilities	**499,411**	**672,041**
Net Assets	**4,058,899**	**4,051,917**
EQUITY		
Reserves	3,228,211	3,228,211
Retained Surplus	830,688	823,706
Total Equity	**4,058,899**	**4,051,917**

The SACOSS 2025-26 Audited Financial Report with accompanying notes is available on our website.



South Australian Council of Social Service

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