



Weston Community Hub  
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## Who are we?

The ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS) is the peak representative body for people living with low incomes or disadvantage, and not-for-profit community organisations in the Australian Capital Territory.

ACTCOSS was formed in 1963 and is a member of the nationwide COSS network. The COSS Network is made up of each of the state Councils and the national body, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

ACTCOSS' roles are to:

- Take action to achieve positive social change
- Influence the social change agenda and decision makers
- Provide support and guidance to build the social capital of people who are disadvantaged and vulnerable and the capacity of community-managed organisations

## Our Vision

To live in a fair and equitable community that respects and values diversity, human rights and sustainability and promotes justice, equity, reconciliation and social inclusion.

## Who are ACTCOSS members?

ACTCOSS members come from the community services sector, advocacy and self-help groups, as well as individuals and organisations that are committed to the objects of ACTCOSS and the social change agenda for which we advocate.

- **Community Organisation Members:** Over 100 ACT community organisations are members of ACTCOSS. Member organisations range from large regional community services to small consumer-run support groups.
- **Associate Members:** We also have a number of associate members – individuals interested in and committed to the goals and activities of ACTCOSS.
- **Affiliate Members:** For-profit service providers, corporations, statutory bodies and government agencies are also welcome to support ACTCOSS through affiliate membership. Affiliate members can contribute their views and support our work, but do not have a role in governing ACTCOSS or determining our policy positions.

Next: Member Benefits ►

## Member Representation in Policy and Advocacy

ACTCOSS membership gives member organisations and associate members a voice in public debate and opportunities to influence decisions about policies that affect individuals and the sector. Our work with members includes:

- Listening to and amplifying the voice of people living with disadvantage and exclusion, and the services that work with them
- Submissions to government (ACT and Federal) on programs, policy, regulation and legislation, such as ACT Budget submissions
- Representation on advisory bodies and working groups
- Research
- Building strategic partnerships with organisations and peak bodies that share our advocacy goals
- Influencing the national reform agenda and public debates through our relationships with the network of state and territory Councils of Social Service and with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

## Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include:

- A subscription to the quarterly journal *Update* – keeping you informed of ACT social justice issues
- Discounts on ACTCOSS services and events such as:
  - Learning and development training opportunities
  - Biennial ACTCOSS conference
  - Advertising in the quarterly journal
  - Job advertising in the weekly e-notices
- Three hours per year of free face-to-face consultancy services, such as tailored training on topics including strategic planning, governance, and more
- Free hard copies of major ACTCOSS publications posted to you on request
- A discounted subscription to Jobs Australia's Community Sector Industrial Relations Service for community organisations
- Reduced insurance premiums from Arthur J. Gallagher for community organisations
- Opportunities for involvement in policy development and advocacy through member forums and consultations
- Opportunities for involvement in the governance of ACTCOSS through the Committee and representation at General Meetings
- Equipment hire such as laptop, light projector, projector screen, and portable hearing loop

### Interested in becoming a member of ACTCOSS?

Visit the ACTCOSS website & download an application form:

[www.actcoss.org.au](http://www.actcoss.org.au)