ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS)
Strategic Plan 2019-2022

# Acknowledgement

ACTCOSS acknowledges Canberra is built on the land of the Ngunnawal people. We pay respects to their Elders and recognise the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and ongoing contributions to the ACT community.

# Vision

Canberra is a just, safe and sustainable community in which everyone has the opportunity for self-determination and a fair share of resources and services.

# Purpose

ACTCOSS works collaboratively with organisations and individuals who support our vision and goals for positive social change. We advocate to government on social policy, encourage individuals and groups to take action, and provide capacity building services and resources to community organisations. We do all this with support and input from our membership.

# Objectives

## Build capacity

Assist and support organisations to build their capacity so they can provide a service that best meets the needs of Canberrans living in difficult circumstances by:

* Providing affordable, relevant, timely and effective organisation and workforce development services and resources
* Promoting the value and importance of locally grown solutions and services
* Stewarding implementation of the ACT Community Services Industry Strategy 2016-2026.

## Promote social justice

Make explicit and pursue a social justice agenda for the people of

the ACT by:

* Representing the views and priorities of our constituency and our members
* Getting new issues into policy and service reform agendas
* Influencing public debate and decision makers
* Holding the ACT Government to account
* Monitoring progress towards our vision for Canberra.

## Be an effective peak body

Function as a peak body for the ACT community sector by:

* Securing sufficient resources to sustain a strong staff team, fulfil our mandate and deliver on our ambitions
* Renewing our ICT infrastructure
* Ensuring most effective use of resources
* Expanding our membership reach and engagement
* Building strong alliances and partnerships with people’s voice, service provider and business organisations
* Maximising and monitoring our impact on decision makers.

## Strengthen COSS network

Participate as part of the national COSS network by:

* Contributing to and supporting social justice advocacy and capability development at the national level
* Sharing information and resources that will increase the reach and impact of COSS.

# Guiding principles

* Reconciliation
* Social justice
* Accountability
* Human rights
* Understanding opportunities and costs
* Collaboration
* Being well informed
* Respect
* Honesty
* Strength-based approaches
* Creativity
* Reflective practice
* Integrity
* Sustainability.

# Ambitions

* Social and economic policy reduces inequality
* Advocacy agenda is relevant beyond election-led decision-making cycles
* Not-for-profit organisations prioritise collective value generation and strong collaborations
* Funding for community services ensures sustainable, effective service delivery
* Growth of human capital is part of the economic agenda.

# Guiding documents

* ACT Community Shared Statements for ACT Elections
* ACT Community Services Industry Strategy 2016-2026
* ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028
* 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart
* 2016 Congress of Australia’s First Peoples Redfern Statement
* 2016-2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Contact

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ACTCOSS represents not-for-profit community organisations and advocates for social justice in the ACT.