



Call for Board Nominations

The ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS) is inviting Delegates from Member Organisations and Associate Members to nominate for Board positions that will be open for election at our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 28 November**.

Board vacancies

There are six (6) positions able to be elected for 3-year terms, including:

- Vice-Chair; and
- Five (5) Ordinary Directors

Note: The ACTCOSS Board is recommending a change to the Constitution that would see one of the elected ordinary positions be filled by a nomination from the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. This is reflected in this call for five board nominations instead of six. This change has been discussed with members at our Member Forums and we envisage that this will be passed at the Special General Meeting. For more information, refer to the Notice of Special General Meeting.

The following Directors' terms on the Board will continue beyond 2026:

- Jeremy Halcrow (The Benevolent Society) – Chair
- Blessy Pascual-Gutierrez (Woden Community Services) – Treasurer
- Melissa Bell (Barnados Australia)
- Lucy Hohnen (St Vincent De Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn)
- Lauren Anthes (Women's Health Matters)

The current Directors who are eligible to nominate for another term on the Board are:

- Lisa Kelly (Mental Health Community Coalition ACT) - Vice Chair

- Amanda Tobler (Associate Member)
- Sue Webeck (Domestic Violence Crisis Service)
- Tracey Hall (Sexual Health Planning ACT)
- Maurice Walker (ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body nominated board member), appointed by the Board last year.

The majority of current board members eligible for re-election intend to stand again. However, there will be at least two additional board seats to be filled. Eligible ACTCOSS members with an interest in board membership are encouraged to consider this option. I would like to thank all current board members for their commitment and valuable contributions over the last year.

Call for Board nominations

ACTCOSS recognises that we operate in a diverse community and welcome and encourage applications from all ages and genders, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, the LGBTQIA+ community, people from a refugee background and people with disabilities.

The current Board of ACTCOSS have undertaken a review of the Board skills and diversity and would like to encourage applications from ACTCOSS members who represent one or more of the following:

- Associate members or small member organisations
- People with lived experience of disadvantage or connection to emerging refugee or migrant communities
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- People from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- People with lived experience in other areas which ACTCOSS advocates; or
- People under the age of 40 or over 55.

Board requirements

Formal board training is not a pre-requisite, however previous board or governance related experience is valued. More experienced members of the ACTCOSS Board can offer mentor support to new Directors and ACTCOSS will support Board members to access the required governance training to strengthen capacity and competence.

Directors, as a minimum, should have:

- A demonstrated understanding of organisational governance.
- An understanding of financial management.
- A demonstrated commitment to the ACTCOSS vision for an inclusive ACT and region, where no one lives in poverty.
- A commitment to strongly supporting ACTCOSS to advocate for social justice.

Regards

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Jeremy Halcrow | Board Chair

ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS)