

VCOSS
Annual Report
2013-14

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From the President



This year has again highlighted the vital role played by the community sector in advocating for policy change, providing vital services on the ground, and working in partnership with government to plan and shape our sector.

Under the leadership of CEO Emma King and in collaboration with its members, VCOSS continued to strengthen the sector's capacity in each of these important areas.

We saw VCOSS' role showcased at our highly successful 2014 Summit in May – with Premier Denis Napthine and Deputy Opposition Leader James Merlino both addressing the sector on issues of disadvantage in the lead-up to the State Election.

VCOSS' policy and advocacy strength was also evident in the response to a harsh Federal Budget. Through public commentary, sector information events and a range of community actions organised in partnership with the COSS network across Australia, we were prominent in advocating for a fairer Federal Budget.

VCOSS has also continued to oversee and represent the interests of the community sector in the Victorian Government's Service Sector Reform Project. As co-chair of the Community Sector Reform Council, which brings together sector leaders and departmental secretaries to lead the reform process, I've seen the tremendous value of this work.

This is a great chance to help drive innovation and reform, but it is also a challenge, given the nature of many of the reforms, and the issues that so many organisations still face, such as lack of investment in back-office operations, inflexible funding arrangements, and excessive and duplicated reporting requirements that are often not focused on client outcomes.

We were very pleased at the VCOSS Summit to have Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge announce a halt to any further recommissioning until she receives further feedback from the Reform Council. This was an important recognition of the significance of getting this process right and followed valuable input and feedback from VCOSS members.

Thank you also to the VCOSS board for its support and guidance on this and many other issues. My thanks go particularly to John Lawrence and Eric Passaris, who retired after many years of service, and to Tony Keenan and Simon Trivett, for their strong contributions since joining this year.

Thank you also, of course, to Emma King and the VCOSS staff for another outstanding year of work.

I look forward to working with you all on the challenges and opportunities to come in working to help vulnerable Victorians to overcome poverty and disadvantage, and fulfil their potential.



Micaela Cronin, VCOSS President

From the CEO



This year delivered one of the toughest federal budgets we have seen in many years, one that aimed its harshest measures at some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

The Federal Budget created anxiety for many Victorians, and with the Abbott Government using language like “lifters” versus “leaners”, it threatened to divide the community – to blame individuals and ignore the structural barriers to social and economic participation that so many people face.

But I believe the clear inequity that characterised the Budget – and the broad community recognition of this – opened a very welcome public debate about equity, opportunity, and justice.

It is these principles that have led our work with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and our COSS colleagues across the country in responding to the Budget, and in our core work of putting the needs of vulnerable Victorians high on the agenda at the 2014 State Election.

One in five Victorians live near or below the poverty line and there is a growing divide between rich and poor. Our schools are becoming more unequal, and child protection rates are at record highs. The number of homeless people is rising, as is the number of people in prison. Family violence makes up nearly half of all assaults. Unemployment is on the rise, particularly for young people, and

lack of investment is putting rapidly growing communities on Melbourne’s outer fringe at risk.

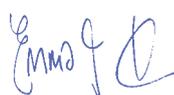
These issues were at the forefront in developing our State Election Platform: *Victoria Without Poverty*, our 2013-14 State Budget Submission: *Sharing the Benefits*, and at the highly successful 2014 VCOSS Summit: *Setting the Agenda*.

We have also delivered several research and policy initiatives, many in collaboration with other organisations, including plans for social housing and energy concession caps, highlighting the needs of vulnerable groups in disasters, and forming the Education Equity Coalition to protect the Education Maintenance Allowance.

We have been pleased to welcome many new VCOSS members, including from regional and rural Victoria, who enjoy a range of benefits through our ever expanding VCOSS Link support programs, while also creating a stronger, united voice for vulnerable Victorians.

For all that work, and the many other highlights detailed in this Annual Report, I would like to thank VCOSS staff. My thanks also go to the VCOSS Board, particularly president Micaela Cronin, and to all our members, colleagues, sponsors, and other partners, who enable us to do the work we do. Finally, I would like to thank former deputy director Carolyn Atkins for her contribution at VCOSS over 12 years, driven by her passion for social justice and commitment to a strong and effective community sector.

I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma King'.

Emma King, VCOSS CEO

Advocate for social justice

Building a 'Victoria without poverty' was the basis of our 2014 State Election Platform, our submission and response to the 2014-15 State Budget, much of our media work, and at the 2014 VCOSS Summit, where we aimed to set the agenda for the State Election.

The need for strong advocacy also took on a national dimension in the face of a 2014-15 Federal Budget containing measures that would severely affect many vulnerable groups in the community and cut funding and certainty for many Victorian organisations.

We also advocated strongly on individual policy areas, including social housing, education access, energy concession caps, vulnerable young people, the impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, and opportunities for people with disabilities.

As well as advocating strongly on state-based issues, VCOSS has been prominent in calling for a fairer Federal Budget.



WE ALSO ADVOCATED STRONGLY ON INDIVIDUAL POLICY AREAS, INCLUDING SOCIAL HOUSING, EDUCATION ACCESS, ENERGY CONCESSION CAPS, VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE, THE IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON VULNERABLE GROUPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

- Launched *Victoria Without Poverty*, our comprehensive 2014 State Election Platform, outlining the need for action across social justice priority areas.
- Staged the 2014 VCOSS Summit: *Setting the Agenda*, with international, national and Victorian speakers, exploring critical social and economic issues facing Victoria.
- Made the case for vital social services funding in our 2014-15 State Budget Submission, *Sharing the Benefits*, which laid out more than 50 ideas for smarter and fairer spending.
- Provided a detailed *2014-15 State Budget Analysis*, welcoming infrastructure programs that would create jobs, but warning on gaps and wasted spending in education and early childhood, transport, justice and housing.
- Helped secure an extra \$13.8 million over the next four years for the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) as a member of the Cancer Council alliance.
- Raised the profile of a range of social justice issues in mainstream and social media.
- Launched *Disaster and Disadvantage: Social vulnerability in emergency management* report, showing how severely emergencies and disasters affect vulnerable people.
- Highlighted gaps and needs in responses to children and young people in disasters, through a roundtable, and summary report with a set of recommendations for government, called *Children and Young People: Emergency Management*.
- Investigated gaps in responses for vulnerable communities in the Hazelwood coal mine fire disaster in Morwell, to ensure better responses in future emergencies.
- Formed the Education Equity Coalition in response to the loss of the Education Maintenance Allowance, which will affect more than 200,000 school students.
- Laid out the detailed case on the urgent need for social housing investment in *Making Social Housing Work*, a comprehensive report produced through an alliance of seven Victorian peak bodies.
- Co-hosted a forum with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) to discuss the way ahead for youth support services in Victoria following on from the launch of the *Building the Scaffolding: strengthening support for young people in Victoria* report.
- Worked with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to reduce the impact on vulnerable families of truancy fines and new processes around suspension and expulsion.
- Launched *Winners and Losers: the impact of energy concession caps on low-income Victorians*, with the Consumer Action Law Centre.
- Strengthened disability advocacy through a series of Advocacy Sector Conversations presented by the VCOSS-auspiced Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU).
- DARU highlighted the work of independent disability advocacy by producing the report *Disability advocacy by the numbers*, a summary of the Victorian Government Office for Disability 2012-2013 aggregated quarterly data collection.
- Provided a submission to the Productivity Commission's Childcare and Early Childhood Learning Inquiry.
- Participated in a roundtable to discuss the Productivity Commission's Geographic Labour Mobility Inquiry and provided a submission to the inquiry.
- Worked with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and broader COSS network to put social policy issues on the agenda during the 2013 Federal Election.
- Campaigned nationally with ACOSS and the other state bodies for fairer funding for vulnerable groups following the 2014-15 Federal Budget.

Reports published and submissions made

Jul 2013	Submission to the 2012 Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002
Sep 2013	Submission to the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper on Geographic Labour Mobility
Oct 2013	Winners and Losers: the impact of energy concession caps on low-income Victorians
Nov 2013	Joint Submission to the National Smart Meter Consumer Protection and Safety Review – Consultation Paper – National Energy Retail Rules Amendment Rule 2013, September 2013 (Amendment Rule 2013)
Nov 2013	Submission to the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper on Access to Justice Arrangements
Nov 2013	Community Sector Organisations and Emergency Management
Dec 2013	Phase II of Energy Made Easy: proposed offer results display
Feb 2014	Submission in response to the Department of Justice's Review of Sexual Offences Consultation Paper
Feb 2014	Joint Submission to the Energy White Paper
Feb 2014	Submission to the Productivity Commission Childcare and Early Childhood Learning Inquiry
Feb 2014	Joint Submission to the Water Bill Exposure Draft
Mar 2014	Joint Submission to the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria: Independent Review Issues Paper
Mar 2014	Making Social Housing Work
Mar 2014	Senate Standing Committee Inquiry into grandparents with primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren
Mar 2014	Joint Submission to the DSDBI Consultation Paper: Reforms to Retail Regulation 2014 and Planned Outages
Mar 2014	Submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with a Disability
May 2014	VCOSS Submission to Hazelwood Inquiry
May 2014	Children and Young People: Emergency Management Roundtable key findings and recommendations, April 2014
Jun 2014	Disaster and disadvantage: Social vulnerability in emergency management
Jun 2014	Joint Submission to Economic Regulation, Governance and Efficiency in the Victorian Water Sector: Preliminary Advice from the Independent Reviewer
Jun 2014	Disability Advocacy by the Numbers

Build a strong community sector

VCOSS hosted a highly successful Summit in May 2014, bringing together leaders and strategic thinkers from the community sector, government, business and the media to discuss social change, collaborations, leadership and ways of setting the agenda with the stories that matter, particularly in the lead-up to the State Election.

We also represented our members and the community sector throughout the Victorian Government's Service Sector Reform Project. As part of this process we have provided feedback from ongoing member consultations to the Community Sector Reform Council and advocated for change that would enable community sector organisations to be more flexible, innovative and effective.

Our resource hub VCOSS Link has gone from strength to strength, with new and continuing business partnerships helping us to expand the training and support we offer our members, including the development of a rural and regional training program.



OUR RESOURCE HUB VCOSS LINK HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, WITH NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS HELPING US TO EXPAND THE TRAINING AND SUPPORT WE OFFER OUR MEMBERS.

- Represented and consulted widely with members and the wider Victorian community sector on the State Government's Service Sector Reform project.
- Hosted a range of events on sector reform to maximise input from and information for the sector, including the launch of the *Service Sector Reform* report by Professor Peter Shergold and Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge.
- Launched the improved VCOSS Link website as a resource hub for the Victorian community sector, offering specific benefits for VCOSS members.
- Expanded the VCOSS Link network, with more than 300 participants from a growing number of community organisations taking part in activities, training and events.
- Developed training and support programs to deliver at 2014 VCOSS Link Rural and Regional Training Program sessions at six locations across Victoria.
- Hosted CEO and President's forums to promote partnerships, innovation and reform.
- Developed a partnership between VCOSS Link and the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) to offer members free or discounted professional services training opportunities.
- Grew the **bankmecu**-VCOSS Finance Network, offering training to community organisations in a range of areas, including building community assets, social enterprises, shared services and independent revenue streams.
- Matched several community sector organisations with IT students to develop tailored IT solutions for their organisation



through the VCOSS Link partnership with the Monash University IT Experience project.

- Partnered with Officeworks to provide a range of further benefits for VCOSS members.
- Worked with member organisations and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) to secure an extension to the funding agreement between the Victorian and Commonwealth governments for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.
- Established a Service Agreement Sector Working Group to support the sector in negotiating new service agreements.
- DARU contributed to the establishment of the Barwon Disability Advocacy Network in response to the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the Barwon, Otway and Surf Coast region.
- Co-hosted a sector forum on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, for community sector organisations providing child and family services, or those working with people who wished to participate in the Commission proceedings.

The 2014 VCOSS Summit brought community sector and other social change leaders together to discuss leadership, collaboration and ways of telling the stories that matter.

Strengthen our public presence

VCOSS sought to lead and influence public debate on critical social issues through a combination of campaigns, research, analysis, media coverage, social media, publications and events, often in collaboration with our members and the broader social policy community.

Our consistent presence in the print, broadcast and online media, as well as a growing social media presence, enabled us to raise and respond to issues and to support the work of our members.

We staged a number of public events, including a 2013 Anti-Poverty Week forum on family violence, and the 2014 VCOSS Summit. Both attracted political, business and community leaders and engaged senior Victorian media figures to consider better ways of telling the stories that matter.

Our *Insight* magazine continued to attract expert contributors and strong sponsorship support, shining a spotlight on the policy and advocacy priority areas of vulnerable children and the growing disadvantage on Melbourne's fringes.



OUR CONSISTENT PRESENCE IN THE PRINT, BROADCAST AND ONLINE MEDIA, AS WELL AS A GROWING SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE, ALLOWED US TO RAISE AND RESPOND TO ISSUES AND TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR MEMBERS.

- Raised the profile of the community sector and social policy issues in metropolitan and regional media, with a regular presence and commentary in print, broadcast and online coverage of key issues.
- Assisted member organisations and peak bodies to generate and respond to public interest in issues and initiatives, including media stories.
- Increased our social media presence, growing the number of Twitter followers to almost 5,000, through thousands of tweets highlighting media coverage, policy initiatives, analysis and events led by VCOSS and other social policy organisations.
- Established the VCOSS website as an important platform for members and the broader community, with the level of search engine traffic rising by 45 per cent, and the number of users rising by 65 per cent.
- Provided insights and analysis on research, policy and emerging issues, and a high-profile



VCOSS CEO Emma King speaks to the media following the release of the 2014-15 State Budget.

platform for social policy commentary through regular blogs on VCOSS Voice.

- Published *Insight* magazine editions on *Vulnerable children: better start, better lives* and *On the fringes: tales of two cities*, with international and national contributors.
- Kept VCOSS members up-to-date on issues and events with the monthly VCOSS e-bulletins, including *Noticeboard* and the redeveloped VCOSS Link publication *Pieces*.
- Assisted the development of social policy goals with the release of timely and comprehensive research and analysis on issues affecting vulnerable people.
- Assisted campaigns on education costs, making social housing work, rising levels of joblessness in Victoria, and the unfair impact of the 2014-15 Federal Budget on vulnerable people.
- Attracted high profile speakers and media coverage for the 2014 VCOSS Summit, which was attended by more than 200 people from across the community and

public sector. Speakers included Premier Denis Naphine, Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge, Deputy Opposition Leader James Merlino and Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Ken Lay.

- Explored how issues of social disadvantage can be better told through a high profile VCOSS Summit media panel including Jon Faine (ABC 774), Andrew Holden (*The Age*), Misha Ketchell (*The Conversation*), and Alan Attwood (*The Big Issue*).
- Staged the *Family Violence: Changing the Conversation* forum for Anti-Poverty Week 2013, which brought together the *Herald Sun*, Victoria Police, Domestic Violence Victoria and No to Violence.
- Hosted a further range of events across Victoria on a broad range of issues from sector reform through to emergency management.
- Responded to the 2014-15 State Budget through immediate media statements and the release of further detailed analysis.

Collaborate for greater impact

VCOSS collaborated and consulted extensively with members and others in social policy in a number of areas throughout the year.

This included developing the 2014-15 State Budget Submission and 2014 State Election Platform, bringing social change leaders together at the 2014 VCOSS Summit, advocating on members' issues through the State Government's sector reform process, and helping to shape and strengthen effective responses in a range of policy areas, from child protection to energy concessions.

We co-hosted events with other organisations around issues including family violence, mental health, emergency management, and services for vulnerable young people and people with a disability. We also forged coalitions on campaigns to cut the costs of education for low-income families and to fix Victoria's broken social housing system. Regular Peaks and Statewide forums ensured ongoing collaboration and information sharing across the sector.

We also worked closely with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and the broader COSS network, to advocate around the 2013 Federal Election and 2014-15 Federal Budget, and to build the sector's capacity.

- Consulted closely with VCOSS members and the broader community sector to develop our 2014 State Election Platform and 2014-15 State Budget Submission.
- Worked closely with the Council of Social Service (COSS) network on national advocacy issues, particularly in the lead-up to and following the 2013 Federal Election and following the 2014-15 Federal Budget.
- Worked on the ongoing COSS Collaboration project to develop community sector capacity for principles and governance procedures, research strategy and branding.
- Hosted Mark Yettica-Paulson to speak at the 2013 VCOSS Annual General Meeting on opportunities to promote the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through sustainable partnerships.
- Collaborated with other organisations and sectors to engage high-level speakers for the 2014 VCOSS Summit, including UK community sector leader Julia Unwin (through the support of the Reichstein Foundation), Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Ken Lay, Australian Property Council Executive Director Jennifer Cunich, and Centre for Policy Development CEO Travers McLeod.
- Formed the Education Equity Coalition comprising more than 20 community organisations to campaign for the replacement of the Education Maintenance Allowance, following a roundtable on the issue.
- Co-hosted with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) an inaugural Emergency Management Forum to showcase best-case examples of strong and active partnerships between local government and the community sector in emergency management planning, with a focus on vulnerable Victorians.



Throughout the year VCOSS worked to bring community leaders together to discuss ways of setting the agenda.

- Consulted with DARU and the broader disability advocacy sector on a joint submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into social inclusion and Victorians with a disability.
- Worked together with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) to organise and co-host a forum discussing the way ahead for youth support services in Victoria, following on from the launch of the *Building the Scaffolding* report.
- Worked with the Coalition for Aboriginal Health Equality Victoria (convened by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)) to monitor progress on closing the gap in Aboriginal health outcomes.
- Helped build the capacity of ageing, disability and mental health community services through a collaborative panel with VICSERV, COTA Victoria, the National Disability Service, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Carers Vic, Ethnic Communities Council Victoria and the State Trustees Australia Foundation.
- Supported the 2013 Power to Persuade Symposium, which was a joint project of Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service and The Centre for Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science. The symposium brought together community sector, government and academic researchers and practitioners to share knowledge, develop networks and build capacity across sectors.
- Convened the VicUtilities policy and advocacy network.
- Contributed to the ACOSS-led project on national harmonisation of utilities concessions.

Sustain a healthy organisation

VCOSS membership grew significantly through the year, through a strategy of maintaining a strong public presence, developing specific member benefits, expanding the support offered by VCOSS Link and broadly promoting the value of membership.

New members have been welcomed and supported with access to training, events, publications and participation in VCOSS consultations on policy and reform.

We strengthened our financial systems and also secured significant sponsorships and partnerships to support our work across a range of areas.

VCOSS management and staff also successfully negotiated a new three-year Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.



NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED WITH ACCESS TO TRAINING, EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN VCOSS CONSULTATIONS ON POLICY AND REFORM.



VCOSS staff work together across a range of areas to support members and bring about positive social change.

- Developed and implemented a new membership strategy including maintaining a strong public presence and developing targeted benefits to promote, which has resulted in the welcoming of many new VCOSS members.
- Developed better monitoring of financial systems to ensure accurate forecasting of year-end income and a robust debtor control system.
- Installed new computers as part of a recurring IT replacements program, and shifted to a stable, higher capacity internet connection.
- Secured sponsorships for the 2014 VCOSS Summit from the Department of Human Services, Victoria Legal Aid, HESTA, AccessPay and Officeworks.
- Negotiated partnerships with a range of organisations and sponsors, including **bankmecu** (bankmecu-VCOSS Finance Network), the Australian Institute of Management (AIM), Monash University Faculty of Information Technology, Officeworks, Berry Street and the Interface Councils.
- Provided staff with free flu vaccinations, as part of health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Provided office refurbishments to improve staff amenities and accessibility.
- Negotiated a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, which was formally approved by Fair Work Australia in July 2014.

Treasurer's report

For the year ended 30 June 2014 VCOSS has reported a surplus of \$123,657 (2012-13 surplus: \$20,195). A key objective of the VCOSS Board, Chief Executive Officer and senior management has been strengthening the financial viability and sustainability of the organisation. VCOSS, like many of our member organisations, is facing a competitive and often challenging funding environment. At this point in time, the reinvestment of our 2013-14 surplus into the organisation will support VCOSS to continue to provide effective services to our members and the community as a whole.

Throughout the year, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, established by the VCOSS Board, ensures the integrity of the organisation's financial reporting and management decisions on financial matters.

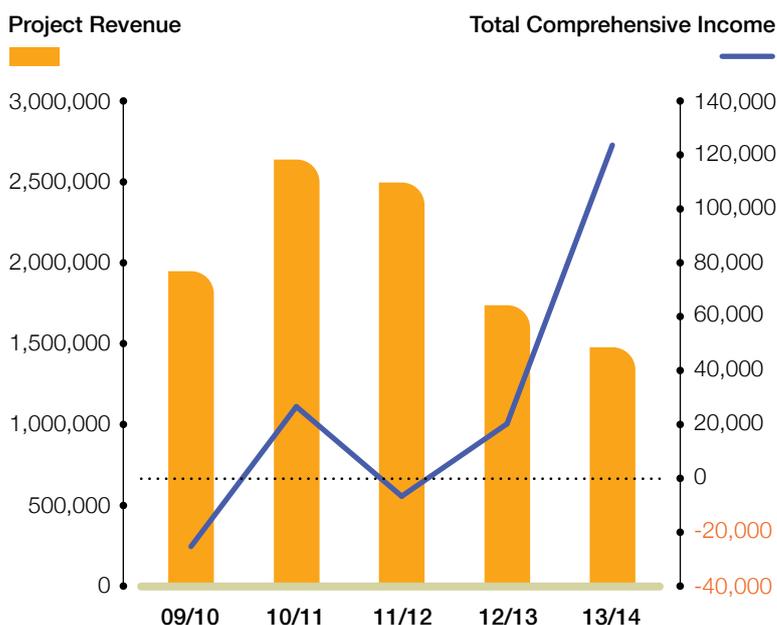
Income Statement

Revenue from operating activities overall has decreased by \$117,371 during the 2013-14 financial year. VCOSS has also experienced a significant decrease in project funding of \$260,386. With the support of the sector, we have been able to increase our membership base and revenue from other services. To ensure our ongoing efficiency VCOSS has implemented a number of cost saving strategies that resulted in a decrease in operational expenses of \$52,237.

Balance Sheet

It is critical for VCOSS to maintain a stable and financially viable organisation. This is reflected in VCOSS' solid net asset position of \$673,044 as at June 2014. VCOSS maintains a healthy working capital ratio of 1.34 (2012-13: 1.24).

The table below shows the trend of declining project income to VCOSS. The surpluses have been achieved by diversifying the source of our revenues, building our membership and controlling costs tightly.



The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position on the following pages have been extracted from the audited financial report of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue		
Operating Activities	2,704,339	2,821,710
Expenses		
Employment expenses	(925,848)	(925,126)
Occupancy expenses	(187,122)	(211,713)
Publications expenses	(8,440)	(20,118)
Investment expenses	(3,243)	(2,836)
Project expenses	(1,157,339)	(1,328,929)
Other operating and administration expenses	(310,994)	(328,091)
Total expenses	(2,592,986)	(2,816,813)
Surplus from operating activities	111,353	4,897
Non-operating activities		
Bequest income – interest	12,304	15,298
Surplus for the year	123,657	20,195
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	123,657	20,195

STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,798,567	1,718,165
Trade and other receivables	163,547	55,466
Total current assets	1,962,114	1,773,631
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investment property	228,229	233,905
Plant and equipment	59,464	79,329
Other assets	56,242	-
Total non-current assets	343,935	313,234
TOTAL ASSETS	2,306,049	2,086,865
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	239,362	215,957
Provisions	357,866	396,524
Income in advance	861,790	815,030
Total current liabilities	1,459,018	1,427,511
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	173,987	109,967
Total non-current liabilities	173,987	109,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,633,005	1,537,478
NET ASSETS	673,044	549,387
FUNDS		
Reserves	318,873	306,569
Retained earnings	354,171	242,818
TOTAL FUNDS	673,044	549,387

Board members

President – Micaela Cronin

Chief Executive Officer
MacKillop Family Services
Year appointed: 2005

Vice President – Kim Koop

Chief Executive Officer
VICSERV
Year appointed: 2011

Treasurer – Simon Trivett

Partner, Audit and Assurance
Grant Thornton Australia
Year appointed: 2013

Stella Avramopoulos

Chief Executive Officer
Kildonan UnitingCare
Year appointed: 2011

David Brant

Disability and Community Advocate
Executive Director
Victorian Universal Housing Alliance
Year appointed: 2006

Ric Holland (Rev)

Chief Executive Officer
Melbourne City Mission
Year appointed: 2012

Tony Lang

Barrister
Year appointed: 1998

Tony Keenan

Executive Director
Hanover Welfare Services
Year appointed: 2013

Paul McDonald

Chief Executive Officer
Anglicare Victoria
Year appointed: 2010

Dale Renner

Director
Iconic Consulting
Year appointed: 2008

Kim Sykes

Chief Executive Officer
Bendigo Community Health Service
Year appointed: 2012

Jodie Willmer

President
ER Victoria
Year appointed: 2009

Retired Board Members • Eric Passaris (Treasurer) • John Lawrence

Staff

Staff members

Amy Webster VCOSS Link Coordinator
Beck Pope Sector Sustainability Project Officer
Bridget Tehan Policy Advisor
Brooke McKail Policy Advisor
Claire Bauska Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer
Dean Lombard Policy Advisor
Dev Mukherjee Sector Sustainability Policy Advisor
Emma King Chief Executive Officer
John Kelly Media Coordinator
Kellee Nolan Publications Editor
Linda Sim Senior Finance Advisor
Liza Yousha Office Administrator
Llewellyn Reynders Policy and Programs Manager
Michelle Murphy Human Resources Manager
Natasha Brake DARU Projects Administration Officer
Pam Walford Finance Officer
Paula Grogan Policy Advisor
Renata Anderson Administrative Support Officer
Robyn Gaile DARU Coordinator

Staff members who left VCOSS during the 2013-14 year

Carolyn Atkins Deputy Chief Executive Officer
David Stanford Sector Reform Coordinator
Marie McInerney Publications Editor

Funders

Victorian Government
Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Victorian Department of Human Services
Victorian Department of State Development, Business and Innovation
Victorian Government Office for Disability

Partners and supporters

AccessPay
Australian Institute of Management (AIM)
bankmecu
Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre
Institute of Public Administration Australia (Victoria)
Monash University IT Faculty
Officeworks
Pathways Australia
Reichstein Foundation
RMIT
Victoria Legal Aid
The Wheeler Centre

Member organisations

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service • Action Research Issues Association • Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd • Alphington Community Centre • Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre • Amaze (Autism Victoria) • Anglicare Victoria • Ardoch Youth Foundation • Ashburton Support Services • Association for Children with a Disability • Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres • Australasian Housing Institute • Australian Communities Foundation • Australian Multicultural Alliance • Australian Multicultural Community Service Inc. • Australian Red Cross • Australians for Disability and Diverse Employment • Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council • Banyule Housing Support Group • Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network • Bapcare • Barwon Adolescent Task Force Inc. • Barwon Community Legal Service • Barwon Youth • Belgrave South Community House • Bendigo Community Health Services • Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre • Berry Street • Bethany Community Support Inc. • Borderlands Cooperative • Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House • Break Thru People Solutions • Brimbank City Council – Community Planning Unit • Brotherhood of St Laurence • Buoyancy • CAMCARE Inc. • CARA Inc. • Carers Victoria • Casey North CISS • Catchment Youth Services • Catholic Social Services Victoria • CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania • Central Highlands Community Legal Centre • Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare • Child and Family Services Inc. (CAFS) • Children’s Protection Society • Chronic Illness Alliance • Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House • Cohealth • Coefficiency Australia Ltd • Collaborations • Communication Rights Australia • Community Child Care Association Inc. • Community Houses Association of the Outer Eastern Suburbs • Community Housing Federation of Victoria • Community Hub Inc. • Community Information and Support Victoria Inc. • Community Support Frankston • Community West Inc. • Connect 2 Government • Connections UnitingCare • Consumer Action Law Centre • Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre • Council to Homeless Persons • Council to Single Mothers and Their Children • Counsellors’ and Psychotherapists’ Association of Victoria • Cranbourne Information and Support Service Inc. • Cystic Fibrosis Victoria • Dandenong Community Advisory Bureau • David Cherry and Associates • Deaf Vic • Diamond Valley Community Support • Diaspora Action Australia • Dingley Village Community Advice Bureau • Disability Discrimination Legal Service • Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. • Disability Justice Advocacy • Domestic Violence Resource Centre • Domestic Violence Victoria • Doncare Community Services • Doxa Youth Foundation • Early Childhood Australia (Victoria) • Early Childhood Intervention Australia • Early Learning Association Australia • Eastern Community Legal Centre • Eastern Domestic Violence Service • Eastern Suburbs Rental Housing Co-operative • Eating Disorders Foundation Of Victoria • Emerge Women and Children’s Support Network • Emma House Domestic Violence • ER Victoria • Family Access Network Inc. • Family Life • FamilyCare • Federation of Community Legal Centres • Field • Financial and Consumer Rights Council • Financial Counselling (Vic) • Fitzroy Legal Service • Flat Out Inc. • Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre • Foster Care Association of Victoria • Gawith Foundation Inc. • Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault • Gippsland Disability Advocacy • Good Samaritan Inn • Good Shepherd Micro-finance • Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service • Grampians Disability Advocacy Association • Hamilton Community House • Hanover Welfare Services • Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc. • Health Issues Centre • Holden Street Neighbourhood House • Homeground Services • Hope Street Youth and Family Services • Incolink Foundation • Independent Disability Services • Inner South Community Health Service • Ithaca CERC • Jesuit Social Services • Justice Connect • Kevin Heinze Garden • Kids Under Cover • Kidsafe Victoria • Kildonan UnitingCare Child and Family Services • Knox Infolink • Leadership Plus • Leadership Victoria • Leading Age Services Australia (Vic) • Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation Inc. • Link Community Transport Inc. • Living Positive Victoria • Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network • Macedonian Community Welfare Association • MacKillop Family Services • Mallee Accommodation and Support Program • Mallee Family Care • McAuley Community Services for Women • Melbourne City Mission • Meniere’s Australia Inc. • Mentone Community Assistance and Information Bureau Inc. • Mind Australia • Mission Australia • NEAMi Inc. • Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses • New Horizons Enterprises Ltd • North East Neighbourhood House Network • North Melbourne Legal Service • NorthWest Neighbourhood House Network • Opening the Doors Foundation • OzChild Children Australia • Playgroup Victoria • Port Phillip Community Group • Prahran Malvern Community Housing • Prahran Mission • Project Respect • Quantum Support Services Inc. • Reconciliation Victoria • Reinforce • Rural Housing Network • Sacred Heart Mission • Safe Futures Foundation • Slavery Links Australia Inc. • Social Traders Ltd • South East Volunteers Inc. • South Port Uniting Church and UnitingCare • Southern Peninsula Community Care • South Port Day Links • Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria • Sports Central • Spring Creek Community House • Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau • St Kilda 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