




Annual Report  
2017-18







The Victorian Council of Social Service is the peak body of Victoria's social and community sector.

Our members reflect the diversity of the sector and include large charities, peak organisations, small community services, advocacy groups and individuals interested in social policy.

In addition to supporting the sector, VCOSS represents the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians in policy debates and advocates for the development of a sustainable, fair and equitable society.

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VCOSS acknowledges the traditional owners of country and pays our respects to Elders past and present.





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# Chair's Report

**Amid the bustle of June's VCOSS Good Life Summit I took a quiet moment to scan the room, and really take it in.**

What I saw was literally hundreds of people from a range of diverse organisations and backgrounds, who had come together to discuss our biggest challenges, hear from experts and consider how we can be more powerful in our pursuit of good social policy.

It was an inspiring sight—and one that spoke broadly to the work, worth and impact of VCOSS; the organisation's power to bring the sector together on issues that really matter.

This is of immense importance in 2018, amid a raft of industry changes. We must adjust to emerging workforce challenges, new ways to fund, design and run social programs, and the growing struggle of effectively communicating the need for smart social reforms.

These changes also present untold opportunities for those who embrace authentic collaboration and work together with shared vision and purpose.

VCOSS has shown a rock-steady commitment to working alongside its members, whether through consulting on policy measures, distilling sector views to be presented back to government, developing VCOSS' first Reconciliation Action Plan (see page 14) or strategising advocacy platforms and tactics.

The partnership with RMIT has also demonstrated what genuine collaboration can look like. The early work of the jointly-administered Future Social Service Institute already stands testament to the power of this cooperation (see page 13).

Working with members in 2018–2019, I believe VCOSS is well placed to advocate on behalf of Victorians experiencing disadvantage, and to influence the direction of Victoria's 59th Parliament.



**Stella Avramopoulos**  
VCOSS President

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stella Avramopoulos'.

**Stella Avramopoulos**  
President



# From the CEO



**Emma King**  
VCOSS Chief Executive Officer

**It's almost become cliché to remark on the scope and frenetic pace of activity across the Victorian community sector. The past year has been no exception.**

As Victorians prepare for an election, it is a time to reflect on the last four years of government and the substantial reforms that have occurred, including the changes recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence, working towards a smooth transition to the NDIS, continuing the Roadmap to Reform: Strong Families Safe Children process and creating the architecture for a respectful pathway to Treaty.

VCOSS members have been kept busy ensuring these reforms are delivered in a fair, transparent and sustainable fashion, while also continuing to deliver the daily services and supports so crucial to people facing poverty and disadvantage in Victoria.

2017-18 has been a period of great achievement for our sector. Working together, we've advocated strongly to make Victoria's rental laws fairer, increase energy hardship supports and develop workforce initiatives to support the rapid growth of the Victorian community sector, such as free TAFE. VCOSS is proud to continue to work in genuine partnership with members and other stakeholders to achieve change. Collaboration isn't just a goal for us—it's part of our DNA.

We have worked closely with our members to develop our State Budget submission 'Building a better Victoria' and State election platform 'Delivering a good life for every Victorian'. We were proud to launch the election platform at the VCOSS Summit alongside so many of our member organisations who played a key role in developing the goals and priorities for delivering a good life. It was fantastic to be joined by the leaders of our political parties to be able to discuss these priorities and their vision for the next four years.

Over the past year we've also visited over 160 organisations throughout regional Victoria, with a dedicated focus on working closely with our members outside metropolitan Melbourne. Working with our regional members has been key to ensuring our budget and election priorities reflect the whole of Victoria.

We have also consulted members and made representations to more than 40 public reports and submissions. We've valued participating in groups like Smart Justice for Young People, One Million Homes and the Education Equity Coalition. And we've continued to develop our relationship with RMIT University through the Future Social Service Institute, which is now leading Australia by devising new ways to manage and celebrate the booming social care workforce.

Across all this—in all the submissions we write, the events we run and the speeches we deliver—VCOSS continues to focus on capturing and amplifying the voices of people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.

For all of the critical work that VCOSS undertakes I would like to thank the VCOSS staff. My thanks also go to the VCOSS Board, particularly president Stella Avramopolous, and to all our members, colleagues, sponsors, and other partners, who enable us to do the work we do.

Victoria still faces many challenges, but I truly believe the future is bright. Together we can continue to champion the values of fairness, justice and equality in Victoria.

**Emma King**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Policy output

## VCOSS constantly consults with members and individuals on matters of importance.

Collected views are then used to help inform the contents of VCOSS policy documents. These documents are crucial to our advocacy both

within formal policymaking frameworks (such as government inquiries, reviews of legislation, etc.) and as part of our contribution to broader public debates. In 2017-18 VCOSS produced 40 public reports and submissions, and nine confidential policy briefing papers.

SUBMISSION	POLICY STATEMENT	FLAGSHIP REPORT	OTHER
Retail electricity supply and pricing Submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission inquiry			Submission
NDIS Costs Submission to the Productivity Commission's Position Paper			Policy statement
Safeguarding quality services for people with disability Submission on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment ( <i>Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures</i> ) Bill 2017			Submission
A smooth NDIS transition Submission to NDIS Joint Standing Committee inquiry into Transitional Arrangements for the NDIS			Submission
A growing industry A snapshot of Victoria's community sector charities			Flagship
Power struggles Everyday battles to stay connected			Flagship
Skilling our future workforce Submission on enhancing Victoria's economic performance and productivity			Submission
Integrated care at home for older Australians Submission to the Future Reform integrated care at home discussion paper			Submission
Community Services Industry Plan Joint Discussion Paper with the Department of Health and Human Services			Other
Sharing information for timely and effective interventions Submission to the child information sharing consultation paper			Submission
Sharing information to promote safety and protect women and children Submission on the Family Violence Information Sharing Regulations and Guidelines			Submission
A high quality disability workforce Submission to registration and accreditation consultation paper			Submission
Helping victims of crime recover Submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Review of the <i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act</i>			Submission
Inclusive education policy Short submission to the inclusive education policy discussion paper			Policy statement
Payment difficulty and disconnection Response to the Essential Services Commission draft guidance note on payment difficulty and disconnection			Policy statement
Retail Electricity Pricing Response to the ACCC <i>Retail Electricity Pricing Inquiry: Preliminary Report</i>			Policy statement
Build social housing for the future Submission to the Victorian Parliamentary inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program			Submission
Building a better Victoria VCOSS State Budget Submission 2018-19			Flagship
High expectations and meaningful career advice Submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Career Advice Activities in Victorian Schools			Submission

## A fair and just Victoria

SUBMISSION	POLICY STATEMENT	FLAGSHIP REPORT	OTHER
Building financial capability Submission to ASIC consultation on the National Financial Literacy Strategy			Submission
Fixed benefit periods notification obligations Response to the ESC draft decision on fixed benefit periods notification obligations			Submission
Vulnerable people in emergency policy Submission to the <i>Review of the Vulnerable people in emergency policy Discussion Paper</i>			Submission
Minimum feed-in tariffs Response to the ESC draft decision			Policy statement
Quality and safety for aged care residents Submission to the House of Representatives Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into Quality of care in residential aged care in Australia			Submission
Community Services Industry Plan VCOSS Consultation Report			Other
Non-licensed electricity providers Response to the ESC's registration guideline			Policy statement
Supporting Australia's future community services workforce Submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers			Submission
Strengthening the NDIS Submission to NDIS Joint Standing Committee inquiry into market readiness for provision of services under the NDIS			Submission
Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) legislation Joint Submission with the Councils of Social Service (COSS) Network			Submission
Real-time Prescription Monitoring Submission to the Regulatory Impact Statement			Policy statement
A fair energy market for people on low incomes Submission to the Interim Response to the Review of Electricity and Gas Retail Markets			Submission
Energy efficiency and the National Construction Code Response to National Construction Code 2019 Public Draft and progress towards the 2022 update			Policy statement
Developing a reference price methodology for Victoria's energy market Response to the ESC consultation			Policy statement
Reporting on Literacy and Numeracy attainment in Victorian senior secondary qualifications Response to the consultation paper			Policy statement
Does the 2018 Victorian budget deliver on social policy? VCOSS 2018-19 Victorian Budget Analysis			Flagship
Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs			Submission
Stronger Schools An action plan for inclusive education			Flagship
Delivering a good life for every Victorian VCOSS State Election Platform 2018			Flagship
Closing the Gap: Where to for Victoria? Submission to the Closing the Gap and Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework refresh			Submission
Choice, control and certainty in SDA Submission to the Department of Social Services' Review of the SDA Pricing and Payments Framework			Submission

# Advocacy

## Traditional media

VCOSS was prominent in the media throughout 2017-18, with appearances across prime time television and radio and a significant presence in print media.

The release of the 2018 Victorian Budget Submission was a highlight, garnering significant coverage on radio and in print media.

## Digital channels

VCOSS once again livestreamed the post-Budget stakeholders' press conference via **Facebook Live**.

VCOSS was also proud to host the inaugural **VCOSS Treasurer's Breakfast**, and livestreamed the event via **Facebook Live** for regional members and those who could not attend.

## Events

VCOSS continued to host a significant number of public events, the largest being the June 2018 VCOSS Good Life Summit and the October 2017 VCOSS/ACOSS National Conference on the theme 'Australia 2030'.

Notable events in 2017/18 included:

- The VCOSS Treasurer's Breakfast, which gave members the chance to question Treasurer Tim Pallas on the details of the 2018 budget
- *Australia 2030*: The ACOSS-VCOSS National Conference
- The VCOSS CEO & President's Forum and series of lectures, seminars and workshops, featuring an International Visiting Fellow from Kings College London in partnership with Future Social Service Institute
- *Delivering a good life for every Victorian*: the 2018 VCOSS Summit
- 10-Year Community Services Industry Plan Forum.

## Amplifying the voice of people with lived experience

A common thread through VCOSS advocacy—be it media stories, publications, reports, online communication or events—is the involvement of people with lived experience. For instance, through more than 30 policy consultations and consistent engagement with our member organisations, VCOSS has profiled and amplified the voices of people with lived experience in our Election Platform, State Budget Submission and in the VCOSS blog.





# Regional

**In 2017–18 VCOSS devised a new strategy to better engage and communicate with regional communities. This was driven by an increasing recognition of the complexity and geographic nuances of social challenges across regional Victoria. Another factor was the desire for VCOSS members in regional areas to have stronger lines of communication to predominately Melbourne-based policymakers.**

The strategy was conceived around the broad objective of taking a unified approach to regional engagement in order to partner with local organisations in creating relevant, place-based social policy that responds to the diverse priorities of different regions.

A dedicated Regional Engagement Coordinator was hired in November 2017 to execute the strategy. Stage One included more than 160 one-on-one visits to leaders of regional organisations. These visits produced feedback and guidance on the remaining stages of the program. Organisations were then asked to nominate an issue facing their local community and a strategy to successfully meet this challenge.

Stage Two involved VCOSS 'roundtable meetings' in 10 regional centres. These meetings had a focus on identifying specific priorities of the different communities, and formulating place-based strategies that VCOSS and regional organisations can jointly campaign around.

In late 2018 the focus of the Regional Engagement program will shift to pre-election campaigning and advocacy, as well as preparing for the 2019 state budget.





# Campaigns

VCOSS continues to contribute to a range of advocacy and awareness campaigns in partnership with our members. In 2017–18, formal campaigns VCOSS participated in included:



## Public housing renewal /Everybody's Home

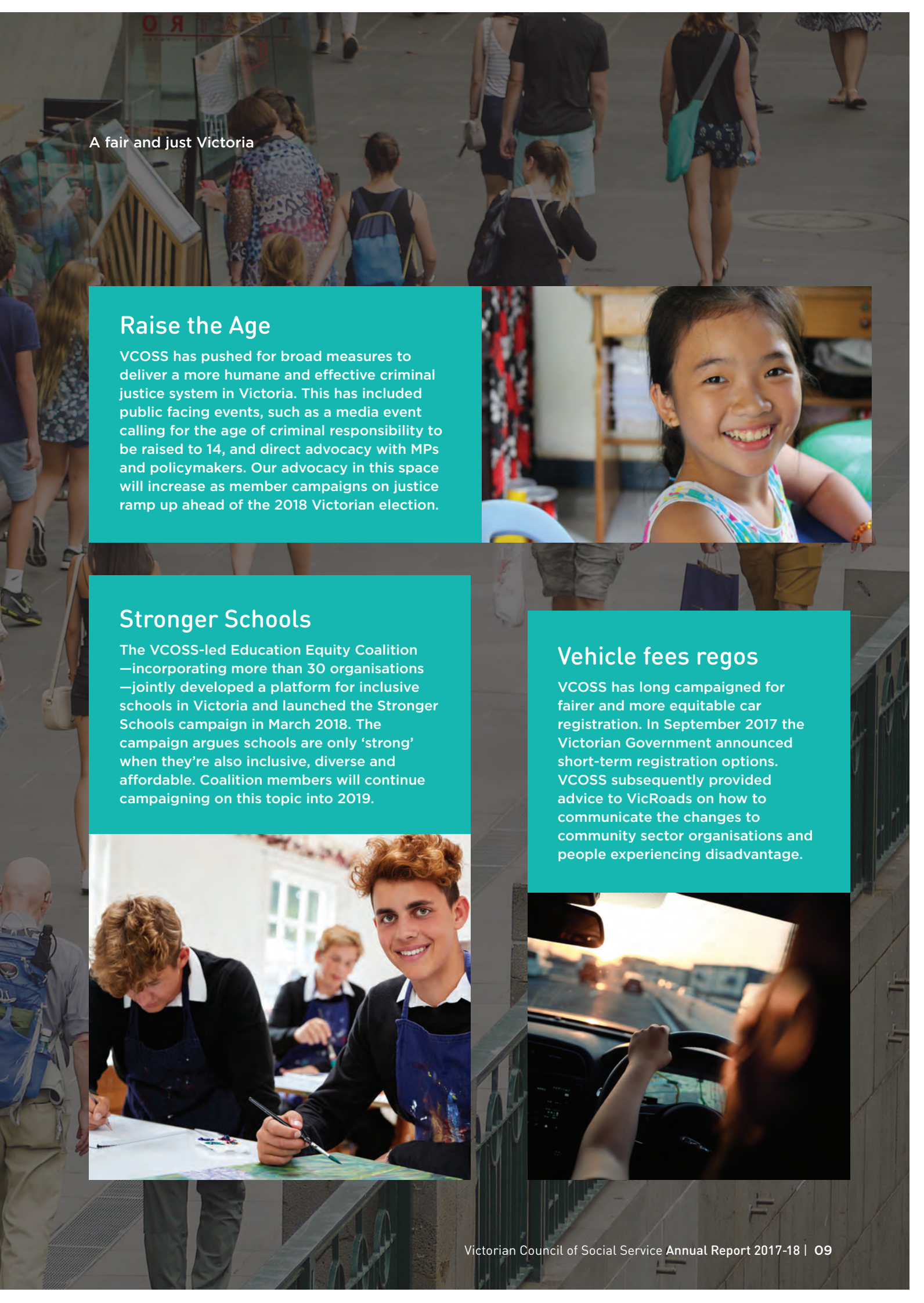
Alongside VCOSS member organisations, VCOSS champions the provision of additional public housing in Victoria. We have been strong advocates for both the immediate renewal of public housing properties through existing program and broader measures to dramatically increase the existing housing stock. This output includes active support for the national Everybody's Home campaign to end homelessness.

## Make Renting Fair

VCOSS has campaigned strongly (both individually and as part of existing coalitions) for rental reform in Victoria, to make homes safer and more affordable and also more modern and energy efficient. This culminated in VCOSS joining Premier Daniel Andrews on November 2017 to announce a substantial rental and housing reform package, which passed Victorian Parliament in September 2018.







A fair and just Victoria

## Raise the Age

VCOSS has pushed for broad measures to deliver a more humane and effective criminal justice system in Victoria. This has included public facing events, such as a media event calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14, and direct advocacy with MPs and policymakers. Our advocacy in this space will increase as member campaigns on justice ramp up ahead of the 2018 Victorian election.



## Stronger Schools

The VCOSS-led Education Equity Coalition —incorporating more than 30 organisations —jointly developed a platform for inclusive schools in Victoria and launched the Stronger Schools campaign in March 2018. The campaign argues schools are only ‘strong’ when they’re also inclusive, diverse and affordable. Coalition members will continue campaigning on this topic into 2019.



## Vehicle fees regos

VCOSS has long campaigned for fairer and more equitable car registration. In September 2017 the Victorian Government announced short-term registration options. VCOSS subsequently provided advice to VicRoads on how to communicate the changes to community sector organisations and people experiencing disadvantage.





# Summit

On 13 June 2018, more than 300 people came together at the Good Life Summit to explore the key social issues confronting Victoria.

The day featured a range of speakers and perspectives: including people with disability, people with first-hand experience of poverty and disadvantage, politicians, policymakers, academics and members of the community sector.

We were pleased to be joined by Victoria's three major political leaders: Premier Daniel Andrews, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, and Greens Leader Dr Samantha Ratnam, who were all asked to detail how their parties' policies would help deliver 'a good life' for every Victorian. Each used the event to make a significant policy announcement.

Keynote presentations were delivered by Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner Jill Gallagher AO, and paralympian and disability advocate Dylan Alcott. Conversation panels explored how to work together on a basis of shared values, the shifting nature of leadership and how to build an effective campaign.

The VCOSS Good Life Summit was made possible thanks to the generous support of: Family Safety Victoria, HESTA, RMIT University, Uniting Vic/Tas, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, Pro Bono Australia, Analysis and Policy Observatory, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Carers Australia Victoria, Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria, Gather My Crew, Hands of Change, Save the Children and skysdesign.







# A thriving sector

**VCOSS works to strengthen the skills of the Victorian community sector and to find solutions that prevent and remedy disadvantage. VCOSS works closely with its member organisations through providing member-only consultations and training opportunities, working collaboratively with the broader sector to build capability.**

## CEO and Presidents Forum

In partnership with the Future Social Service Institute, VCOSS hosted a CEO and Presidents Forum on *Key issues for the social service workforce: Lessons from the UK* with Dr Shereen Hussein. Dr Hussein is a demographer with expertise in labour migration, sociology and economics. Her main research revolves around ageing, family dynamics, migration and long-term care.

## 10-year Community Services Industry Plan

The Community Services Industry Plan is a sector led 10-year plan to enhance the capacity of community service organisations to improve the lives of Victorians and enhance Victorian communities. The Plan is being developed jointly by VCOSS and the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Health and Human Services Partnership Implementation Committee (HSHPIC). It is overseen by the Community Services Industry Plan Working Group. As part of the development of the Industry Plan, four regional consultations were held in Bendigo, Traralgon, Benalla and Wyndham in October 2017. An Industry Planning Symposium was held in April 2018. The plan has been finalised in the second half of 2018.

## Regional Consultations

Having now met with over 160 regional leaders throughout Victoria, the VCOSS Regional Engagement Strategy is moving into the second phase. Regional leaders were invited to make short contributions highlighting issues and strategies relevant to their region, which will form the basis for the regional consultation discussion papers. There were 119 registered attendees for the 10 regional consultations scheduled throughout June 2018. In all, more than 100 issues were highlighted.

## Inaugural Budget Breakfast with Treasurer Tim Pallas MP

VCOSS organised the first post-budget breakfast with the Treasurer, Tim Pallas MP, held in May 2018. Over 100 representatives from the community sector attended this key briefing session. The session examined budget changes that impact on the Victorian community sector, as well as taking a broader economic outlook.

## The VCOSS Summit

Held 'under the spire' at the iconic Arts Centre Melbourne in June 2018, the VCOSS Summit *Delivering a good life for every Victorian* brought together leaders, advocates, strategic thinkers and workers in the community sector, government and business, along with people with lived experience, to explore a vision for a new Victoria. Keynote speakers included Premier Daniel Andrews, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy and Victorian Greens Leader Dr Samantha Ratnam.

## Enhanced Pathways to Family Violence Project

The Enhanced Pathways to Family Violence Work Project is being led by the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of Family Safety Victoria, and in partnership with VCOSS, Domestic Violence Victoria, Domestic Violence Resource Centre and the Future Social Service Institute.

It aims to support the development of the family violence and community services workforce through:

- Student placements in community services sector organisations that provide specialist and/or non-specialist family violence services
- Supervision training for experienced workers to enhance their competence and confidence (in working with students and practice entrants)
- Developing and transitioning graduates and new workers to family violence roles.

VCOSS is providing overall project management for the Project, which will be independently evaluated by the Future Social Service Institute.



## A thriving sector

### Collaborations

#### Disability Advocacy Resource Unit

The Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) successfully held its annual Strengthening Disability Advocacy conference in September 2017. VCOSS began developing an online advocacy training tool, and hosted its Advocacy Sector Conversations Forum.

#### Victorian Primary Care Partnerships (VicPCPs)

VicPCPs has had a successful year developing and implementing the 2 Year Future Directions Plan. Inclusion in important forums such as the Community Services Industry Plan working group and participation in broader sector consultations and events has allowed us to share the learnings and expertise of PCPs across the state.

#### Ageing, Disability and Mental Health Collaborative Panel

Together with the Collaborative Panel, VCOSS held a forum on *Taking good practice in consumer directed care* to the next level in September 2017. The forum brought together consumers, advocates and organisations to showcase good practice.

#### ACOSS-VCOSS National Conference

The ACOSS-VCOSS National Conference 'Australia in 2030: Creating the Future we want' was held in October 2017.

#### VCOSS Community Communications Alliance

A range of opportunities for communications officers in member organisations have been provided through the VCOSS Community Communications Alliance. This includes VCOSS hosting a 'Meet The Media—and ask them anything!' event, and free 'lunchtime workshop' sessions on digital campaigning and message framing.

### Future Social Services Institute

The Future Social Service Institute (FSSI) began operating in 2016, and has had its second successful year thanks to the FSSI team and the leadership provided by the Director, Professor David Hayward, and Deputy Directors Sally Thompson and Paul Ramcharan, and with the support of the RMIT Vice-Chancellor, Martin Bean CBE.

FSSI is a partnership between VCOSS and RMIT, supported by the Victorian Government. It supports the social service workforce to be service-delivery leaders at a time of major growth and disruption. Among FSSI's key activities have been the delivery of the Leadership Intensives program for community service leaders, the Certificate III in Individual Support and Certificate IV in Disability VET streams, PhD Scholarships, publication of high-level research reports and submissions, and hosting of seminars, forums and lectures, including with visiting International Fellows.



# A healthy VCOSS

## Reconciliation Action Plan

VCOSS believes a genuine recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture is vital for a just and prosperous Victoria, and crucial to a respectful and culturally safe workplace. VCOSS officially launched its Reconciliation Action Plan at the VCOSS Summit in June 2018. This is the first phase of a continuing journey to respectfully partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, organisations and communities to advocate for community-led solutions to achieve reconciliation, understanding and meaningful self-determination.

## Team development

VCOSS staff participated in a variety of professional development opportunities during the year, including information sessions about effective writing and communication, and a training session on Managing Difficult Interactions and Behaviours that equipped our staff with key strategies for dealing with complex and challenging situations. VCOSS and FSSI staff also participated in a joint training session about effective use of social media.

## VCOSS Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Negotiations were finalised for VCOSS' new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), which came into effect in July 2018.

**VCOSS**  
**Reconciliation**  
**Action Plan**  
March 2018 - March 2019





# COSS Network

**VCOSS is a proud and active member of the Australian network of Councils of Social Service.**

**Together, the COSS network has a unity of purpose and presents a compelling case to end inequality and poverty. That's what motivates us and where our power to influence resides.**

Our combined national network has almost 4,000 organisations and tens of thousands of individuals working with them: that's the foundation of who we are, that is our power to influence.

One purpose, one message, one goal, thousands of voices.

That's why our network is engaged with government in negotiating policies that will meet our goals—and theirs. Only by staying engaged can we achieve change.

That's why both community organisations and the business sector want to form alliances with us. Those alliances make our network even more formidable.

From these strategic alliances a bipartisan approach is blossoming that Australians want to see but which politics has failed to deliver. This time of crisis in politics is rich with possibility for the new way of working that the COSS network has embraced.

Australians are recognising that the COSS network can be a voice not just for people surviving on the lowest of incomes and experiencing inequality and disadvantage, but for everyone who has a stake in creating a more equal, prosperous and inclusive nation.

To achieve the goal of ending inequality and poverty we, and our allies, build resilience within communities by enabling and amplifying their voice to challenge policies, systems, behaviours and attitudes.

We equip them, and our strategic partners, with the compelling evidence—the big picture on the social, economic and political need for change, and the dramatic, moving human experiences that are the motivator for what we do.

We listen to people in communities through consultation and grassroots engagement, we mobilise the skills and experience in communities, so their voice grows in power, endurance and eloquence now and through the generations.

We speak not only of the challenges faced by communities and individuals but, most critically, the successes. They are a critical part of the evidence for change.

Yes, the number of organisations, alliances and individuals is one measure of the COSS network's influence.

But the supreme indicator of our powerful influence and success is in the number of lives we change and the number of communities we enrich through an end to poverty, inequality and disadvantage and the creation of a more equal and inclusive Australia.

# The VCOSS Board

## President

**Stella Avramopoulos**

Kildonan UnitingCare  
Elected 2011

## Deputy President

**Kim Sykes**

Bendigo Community  
Health Service  
Elected 2012

## Treasurer

**Simon Trivett**

Grant Thornton Australia  
Co-opted 2013

## Professor David Hayward

RMIT University  
Co-opted 2015  
Departed June 2018

## Dr Jason Davies-Kildea (Capt.)

The Salvation Army (Victoria)  
Elected 2014

## Tony Keenan

Launch Housing  
(until May 2018)  
Independent member  
(from May 2018)  
Elected 2013

## David Brant

Disability and  
community advocate  
Elected 2006

## Vicki Sutton

Melbourne City Mission  
Elected 2017

## Caroline Mulcahy

Independent member  
Elected 2016

## Tony Lang

Barrister  
Co-opted 1998

## Lyn Morgain

cohealth  
Elected 2016

## Departed member

### Bridget Gardner

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria  
Elected 2015  
Departed May 2018



# Partners

VCOSS believes in the power of collaboration and community.  
We recognise our funders, partners and institutional supporters for 2017–18.  
Thank you for sharing our vision for a better Victoria.



# Treasurer's Report

For the year ended 30 June 2018, VCOSS has reported a surplus of \$3,511,093. This is inclusive of a gain of \$2,915,511 on a sale at public auction of the Wellington Street property, previously held as an investment. Through prudent management of the sale proceeds, VCOSS will be in an even better and more sustainable position to meet its objectives in years to come.

Excluding this gain, the surplus was \$595,582 (2017: \$138,561), which reflects the fact that certain funding is recognised as revenue this year, although it will sustain operations into the future. Nevertheless, this is a very healthy result from core operations. VCOSS has now achieved surpluses for six consecutive years. The net asset position has increased to \$4,478,280 (2017: \$967,187), largely due to the gain on sale of the property. I'm please to say that this tight financial management has meant VCOSS is able to hold each membership category subscription fee at the same level as 2018. VCOSS maintains a healthy working capital ratio of 2.39 (2017: 1.62).

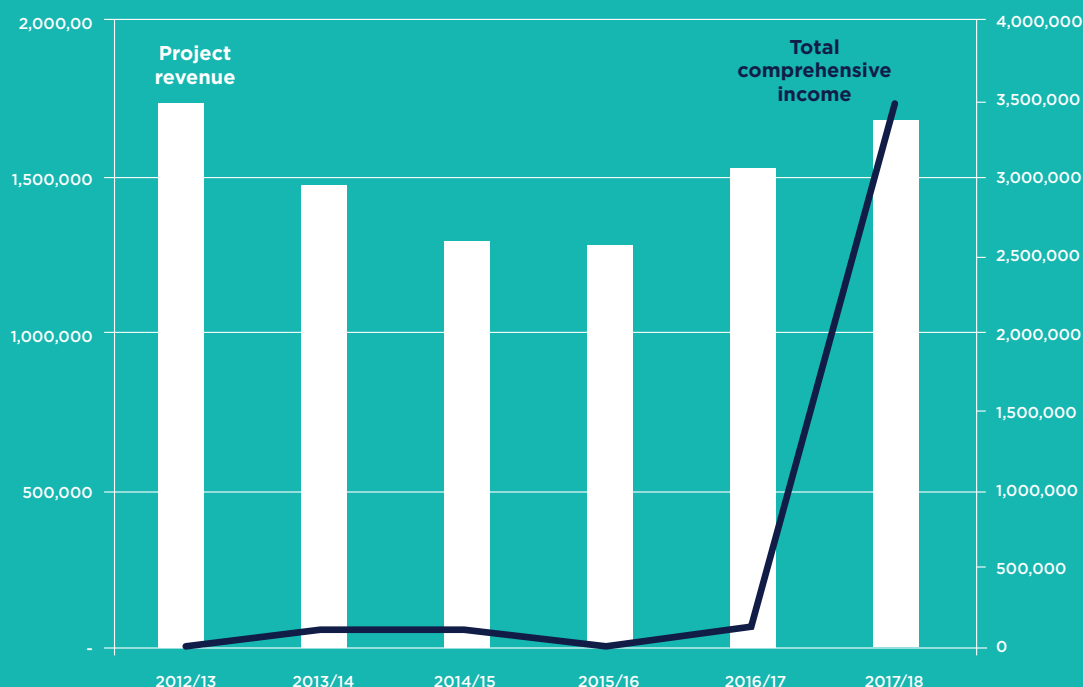
VCOSS' sustainability continues to depend on diversified and recurring revenue sources, and prudent expense management. And, like our member organisations, VCOSS needs to be financially healthy in order to deliver quality services. Surpluses will continue to be reinvested

into the organisation, with a particular focus on member engagement and support, and communications, which is demonstrably important around the forthcoming state election. Our surplus also enables VCOSS to provide research and advocacy in areas that don't necessarily attract external grants or funding, but are needed by those experiencing poverty and disadvantage in Victoria.

Throughout the year, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, established by the VCOSS Board, ensured the integrity of the organisation's financial reporting and internal controls. The VCOSS Risk Framework has continued to be embedded in the culture of the organisation and reviewed by the Committee. During the year we moved our accounting function to an external provider, to help achieve further efficiencies.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, and the VCOSS Board, for working together to achieve another positive financial result for the year ending 30 June 2018, enabling a financially stable organisation. VCOSS management has worked hard on achieving sustainable revenues and this facilitates the necessary resources to operate as the peak body of the social and community sector in Victoria, now and into the future.

The table opposite shows the trend of project income and the financial sustainability of the organisation through continued surpluses.





# Financial Report

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue – operating activities	2	4,049,482	2,812,520
Employee benefits expense		(1,433,044)	(1,116,162)
Occupancy expenses		(233,626)	(214,334)
Publication expenses		(61,154)	(19,156)
Investment expenses		(2,092)	(2,555)
Other operating and administration expenses		(489,753)	(230,965)
Project expenses		(1,243,192)	(1,099,793)
<b>Surplus from operating activities</b>		<b>586,621</b>	<b>129,555</b>
Interest income – bequest	2	8,961	9,006
Other income	2	2,915,511	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>3,511,093</b>	<b>138,561</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>3,511,093</b>	<b>138,561</b>

# Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	7,601,923	2,481,176
Trade and other receivables	5	294,350	135,790
Other assets	8	-	8,034
Non current assets held for sale	6	-	210,381
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>7,896,273</b>	<b>2,835,381</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	32,721	29,858
<b>Total non current assets</b>		<b>32,721</b>	<b>29,858</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>7,928,994</b>	<b>2,865,239</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	442,818	227,307
Short term provisions	10	-	7,426
Employee benefits	12	223,838	280,926
Other liabilities	11	2,642,192	1,237,927
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>3,308,848</b>	<b>1,753,586</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	12	61,520	59,111
Long term provisions	10	80,346	85,355
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>		<b>141,866</b>	<b>144,466</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>3,450,714</b>	<b>1,898,052</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>4,478,280</b>	<b>967,187</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves	13	355,809	346,848
Retained earnings		4,122,471	620,339
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>4,478,280</b>	<b>967,187</b>



# Our members

Ardoch Youth Foundation | Association for Children with a Disability | Australian Association of Social Workers | Australian Multicultural Alliance / Blue Study | Australian Red Cross | Balancing of Life | Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council | Banksia Gardens Community Services | Baptcare | Barwon Adolescent Task Force Inc. | Barwon Child, Youth & Family | Barwon Community Legal Service | Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Centres | Belgrave South Community House | Bendigo Community Health Services | Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre | Berry Street | Beyond Housing | Borderlands Co-operative | BrainLink Services Limited | Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House | Break Thru People Solutions | Brimbank City Council - Community Planning Unit | Broadmeadows Progress Association | Brotherhood of St Laurence | Camcare Inc. | Capital City Local Learning & Employment Network | Carers Victoria | Casey North CISS | Catholic Social Services Victoria | CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania | Celebrating Abilities Inc. | Central Goldfields Shire Council | Central Highlands Community Legal Centre | Centre Against Violence Inc. | Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare | Chelsea Community Support Services | Child and Family Services Inc. (CAFS) | Children's Protection Society | Chronic Illness Alliance | Cobaw Community Health Service | Cohealth | Communication Rights Australia | Community Child Care Association Inc. | Community Houses Association of the Outer Eastern Suburbs | Community Housing Industry Association Victoria | Community Hub Inc. | Community Information and Support Victoria Inc. | Community Support Frankston | Concern Australia Welfare Inc. | Consumer Action Law Centre | Consumer Policy Research Centre | Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc. | Council On The Ageing (VIC) Inc. | Council to Homeless Persons | Craig Family Centre Inc. | Cranbourne Information and Support Service Inc. | Cystic Fibrosis Community Care (CFCC) | Deaf Victoria | DES Action Australia | Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. | Disability Discrimination Legal Service | DJIRRA | 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 Metropolitan Region Regional Family Violence Partnership | Eastern Suburbs Rental Housing Co-operative | Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria | Elizabeth Hoffman House Aboriginal Women's Services Inc. | Emerge Women and Children's Support Network | Emma House Domestic Violence Services Inc. | Family Access Network Inc. | Family Life Limited | FamilyCare | Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre | Federation of Community Legal Centres Vic | Financial and Consumer Rights Council | Fitzroy Legal Service | Flat Out Inc. | Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre | Foster Care Association of Victoria | Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership | Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) | Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault | Gippsland Disability Advocacy | Good Samaritan Inn | Good Shepherd Australia & New Zealand | Good Shepherd Microfinance | Grampians Disability Advocacy Association | Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership | Hamilton Community House | Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc. | Health Issues Centre | Holden Street Neighbourhood House | Hope Street Youth and Family Services | Humanist Society of Victoria | Hume City Council - City Communications | Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network | Iconic Consulting | Inclusion Melbourne | Inner East Primary Care Partnership | Inner Eastern Local Learning & Employment Network (IELLEN) | Inner Melbourne Community Legal | Inspired Carers Inc. | IPAA Victoria | Ithaca CERC | Jesuit Social Services | Justice Connect | Kevin Heinze Garden Centre | Kids Under Cover | Kidsafe Victoria | Knox Infolink | Launch Housing | Leadership Plus | Leadership Victoria | Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation Inc. | Lifeworks Relationship Counselling & Education Services | Link Community Transport Inc. | Living Positive Victoria | Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network | MacKillop Family Services | Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc. | Mallee Accommodation and Support Program | Mallee Family Care | MC Two Pty Ltd | McAuley Community Services for Women | Melbourne City Mission | Mental Health Victoria Ltd | Mentone Community Assistance and Information Bureau Inc. | Merri Community Health Services | Mind Australia | Mission Australia | Morwell Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre | Navigating Outcomes Pty Ltd | Neighbourhood Houses Victoria | Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses | No To Violence incorporating the Men's Referral Service | Non Profit Training | North East Neighbourhood House Network | North Western Melbourne PHN | Northern Community Legal Centre | Office of the Public Advocate | Opening the Doors Foundation | Owl Learning Australia | Pathways Australia | Playgroup Victoria | Port Phillip Community Group | Prahran Malvern Community Housing | Prahran Mission | Primary Care Connect | Quantum Support Services Inc. | Queen Elizabeth Centre | Reconciliation Victoria | Reinforce | Relationships Australia Victoria | Ross House Association Inc. | Sacred Heart Mission | Safe Futures Foundation | Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre | Samarinda Ashburton Aged Services | Slavery Links Australia Inc. | Social Traders Ltd | Social Ventures Australia | South Coast Primary Care Partnership (Bass Coast Health auspice) | South East Community Links | South East Volunteers | South Port Day Links | Southern Peninsula Community Support & Information Centre | Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria | Sports Central | Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc. | St Kilda Community Housing Ltd | St Kilda Gatehouse | Star Health | Tandem | Taskforce Community Agency Inc. | Tenants Union of Victoria | The Centre Connecting Community in the North | The Gianna Centre Inc. | The Salvation Army | The Youth Junction Inc. | Travellers Aid Australia | Tweddle Child and Family Health Service | Unison Housing | United Way Ballarat Community Fund | Uniting (Victoria & Tasmania) Ltd | Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership | Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd | Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc. | Victorian Aids Council | Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association | Victorian Clinical Genetics Services | Victorian Health Promotion Foundation | Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council | Victorian Primary Care Partnerships | Victorian Public Tenants Association | Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. | Volunteer West | Volunteering Geelong | Volunteering Victoria | Wellsprings for Women Inc. | West Footscray Neighbourhood House Inc. | Western Community Legal Centre Limited (trading as Westjustice) | Whirled Foundation | Whittlesea City Council | WIRE | WISHIN Inc. | Women with Disabilities Victoria | Women's Health East Inc. | Women's Health Grampians Inc. | Women's Health in the North | Women's Health Loddon Mallee | Women's Health Victoria | Women's Health West | Women's Liberation Halfway House | Women's Property Initiatives | WRISC Family Violence Support | Wyndham City Council | Yarraville Community Centre | Young People in Nursing Homes Alliance | Youth Affairs Council of Victoria | YouthLaw | YSAS (Youth Support and Advocacy Service)



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