



# 40th Annual Report

2000 = 2001

TASMANIAN  
COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL SERVICE  
INC.

ABN 69 078 846 944

# Contents

<b>1. About TasCOSS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. President's Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Executive Director's Report</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 State and Federal Budgets	5
3.2 Employment	6
3.3 Conferences	7
3.4 Aged and Disability Project	7
3.5 Reconciliation Walk	7
3.6 Just Tasmania coming to a close	8
3.7 TasCOSS Presentations	8
3.8 Committees	9
3.9 Media	9
<b>4. Policy Officer's Report</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Partnership Project	10
4.2 Policy Development	11
4.3 Correctional Justice Reform Alliance	12
<b>5. The Newsletter and Website</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1 The Community Cafe	13
5.2 The Coffee Bean	13
<b>6. The Unemployed Workers Network Project</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7. HACC Consumer Consultation Project</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8. TasCOSS Staff for 2000/2001</b>	<b>16</b>
8.1 Core Operations	16
8.2 Projects	16
<b>9. TasCOSS Board for 2000/2001</b>	<b>17</b>
9.1 Executive	17
9.2 Board	17
<b>10. TasCOSS Membership for 2000/2001</b>	<b>18</b>
10.1 Affiliated (non-voting)	18
10.2 Individual –North	18
10.3 Individual - North West	18
10.4 Individual – South	18
10.5 Organisation – North	18

10.6 Organisation - North West	19
10.7 Organisation – South	19
10.8 Peak	19
<b>11. Financial Statements</b>	<b>20</b>

## **1. About TasCOSS**

### **MISSION**

The mission of TasCOSS is to represent and uphold the interests of low income and disadvantaged people in Tasmania.

### **TASCOSS VALUES**

- equality of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and participation for all individuals and communities.
- the equal consideration of social, economic and environmental goals to improve community living standards for all in a fair and sustainable manner.
- the expertise and experience of people living on a low income and experiencing disadvantage, their communities and the sector organisations who work with them.
- working with people affected by poverty and inequality in a consultative, collaborative and participatory way on issues which impact on their lives.
- good governance and organisational management and the independent non-party political nature of the organisation.

### **AIMS**

TasCOSS as a peak council for the community welfare sector fulfils its mission by:

- establishing effective representative structures
- consulting with low income and disadvantaged people and the sector
- providing strategic advice to government and other bodies through research and social policy development and analysis
- systemic advocacy to effect social change
- providing leadership in shaping community opinion
- supporting sector development
- maintaining a well governed, well managed and well resourced organisation.

## 2. President's Report

The year commenced with Rhonda Voigt as President, until she took up employment at Housing Tasmania. Rhonda contributed over a number of years to TasCOSS, firstly representing SHELTER, but more recently in the position of President for some 16 months. We thank her particularly for her enthusiasm and commitment to issues facing low-income people in Tasmania, and particularly her knowledge and experience in housing.

TasCOSS has continued to strongly pursue its mission to uphold the interests of low income and disadvantaged Tasmanians and act as a peak council for the community welfare sector. We have been able to balance these two equally important roles and have used our regular dialogue with the Minister for Health and Human Services as one avenue to progressing some key priorities. One demonstration of this success has been the collaboration with ACROD and CSEOT to argue for community sector funding indexation, achieving a result very close to our recommendation to the Minister.

The issue of employment has been a very high priority for TasCOSS over the past year, and included a specific project working with long-term job seekers culminating in the publishing of their stories in the report *Dead Man Shoes*. Particular and focused solutions are required for our state, given the regional issues Tasmania faces. As one of four Tasmanians awarded a Churchill Fellowship, our director Lis de Vries will next year be heading to Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. TasCOSS is proud to be supporting Lis, who will be looking at programs that address long term unemployment and regional issues. TasCOSS hopes to contribute some workable and practicable initiatives and will share the overseas experience by holding a conference on employment late in 2002.

TasCOSS is an active member of the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), and it has been my privilege to be a member of the ACOSS board as a TasCOSS nominee since November 2000. We have actively supported ACOSS policy development and national advocacy campaigns, in particular around employment, breaching and the federal budget. ACOSS President Michael Raper recently visited Tasmania to seek our input to the development of strategies for the upcoming Federal Election. TasCOSS will be active in the campaign striving for a better deal for low-income people.

The TasCOSS board has been considering and reviewing its own practices, and has committed to put in place a new framework for governance. Draft governance policies have been developed and are close to finalisation, and they will provide a strong base to support further organisational growth and development. I thank all board members for their effort and contribution over the past 12 months, and members of the executive who have supported me when I came into the role of President in April of this year.

I wish to sincerely thank all of TasCOSS's staff for their efforts over the last year. As Executive Director Lis de Vries continues to strongly represent TasCOSS right across our community. The increased requests for TasCOSS input and participation and our

comment on community issues are testament to her approach, and hard work. All members of TasCOSS must also be thanked, because it is through your support and willingness to work cooperatively that we have been able to achieve the level of involvement in projects, and been able to pursue issues that affect our community and our sector.

The increased profile and credibility of TasCOSS and relationship building, has firmly established our position to be able to influence government policy. We are well placed to face what we know will be the challenges in 2001/2002, but also the unexpected that inevitably comes up. I look forward to an exciting and interesting year, and to working with you all.

Sue Ham  
President

### **3. Executive Director's Report**

#### **3.1 State and Federal Budgets**

A number of welcome initiatives were contained within the Federal Budget; health initiatives in rural and remote communities, mostly channeled via GPs, are likely to be of great value, as are interesting and overdue programs relating to homelessness and problem gambling. However the extension of a range of concessions to self-funded retirees while ordinary pensioners received, a one-off \$300 payment can only be considered unfair. Others on benefits such as Newstart, Austudy and Youth Allowance, despite being demonstrably under any of the accepted poverty lines, are clearly not "deserving" of such support.

Of most interest to many of us was the actual shape of the much-touted 'Welfare Reform', now called 'Australians Working Together' initiatives. As feared, the allocation of funds to the reform package was very low, a net \$700 million over four years, with only \$76m being spent in the first year. As expected, the seemingly relentless push towards a generalised "mutual obligation" structure was furthered by an extension to older Newstart recipients and parents with teenage children.

The positives emerging from Australians Working Together are extra places in disability employment programs, the extension of the Personal Support Program (formerly Community Support Program), better assistance for CDEP participants and the re-introduction of a "working credit" system for Newstart recipients.

Contained within the state budgets were some important employment initiatives, however we do fear that many of the jobs created by the infrastructure development programs will only be short-term. The Treasurer's prediction of a flat level of unemployment seems optimistic given the national trend upward, and the predicted 2.4% growth in GDP is well under the 4% figure usually quoted as being necessary for employment growth. The cuts in payroll tax will undoubtedly help the business sector, but it is difficult to see many jobs arising from these cuts.

Other measures contained within the state budget will make little or no difference to most low-income households. The removal of the 5% Aurora levy is irrelevant to those on the lowest of incomes, who were exempt anyway. The task now is to ensure that existing concessions are not diluted by the push by the Commonwealth to include the extra cardholders created by the ill-targeted assistance given to self-funded retirees.

For community organisations, or at least those organisations funded by DHHS, there was some overdue good news. Treasury has recognised that our organisations are struggling to stay afloat and has allocated funds to DHHS that will permit an indexation this coming year equivalent to 3% of total grants. A further \$1 million allocation from within DHHS's budget will also be disbursed to community organisations, though details on this remain sketchy. Since the delivery of the budget, we have also welcomed the news that the Government will match HACC growth funds. .

A disturbing trend within the state budget is the reduction in state revenues overall, largely because of the changes to payroll tax rates and thresholds. Still increasing, however, is the reliance on revenue from gambling turnover. We need to keep this issue in perspective, as state taxation revenues are increasingly a small component of overall revenues, but the growing proportion of these state taxes coming from gambling must still be concerning. Two years ago, 10.8% of state taxes came from gambling. Last year, it was 11.8%. This year, we find it has risen to a predicted 13.3%.

### **3.2 Employment**

Employment is the single most important factor for individuals and communities in achieving social and economic well-being. Sustained high levels of unemployment, high levels of long-term unemployment and high levels of part time and casual work are the biggest problems facing this state at the present time.

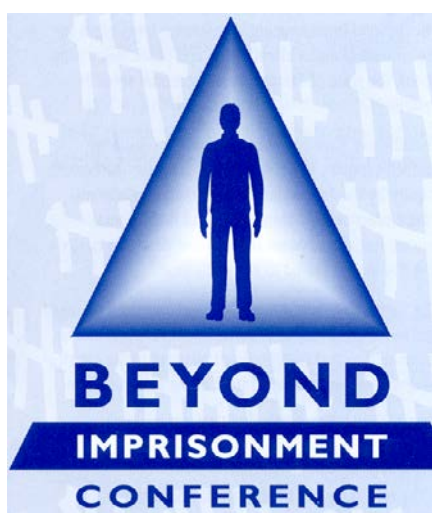
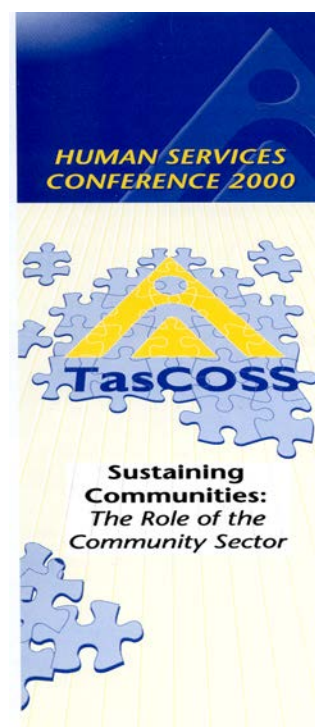
For individuals who are unemployed, they face not only the loss of self esteem and confidence often associated with unemployment, they also face the blame of the wider community, and the task of getting through the maze of employment services.

TasCOSS has sponsored a project called the Unemployed Workers Network, which aimed to bring unemployed people together, hear their stories and set up support networks for unemployed people. This has resulted in a moving account of the experiences of 60 unemployed people from around Tasmania called *Dead Man's Shoes*. The report has initiated wide discussion on employed and the picture of employment in regional Australia, which is worlds apart from that in the big cities.

Our work around employment will continue over the next three years and we hope to link this with discussions and action on employment creation.

### 3.3 Conferences

TasCOSS ran two major conferences during the year. The sixth Human Services Conference was held on 23/24 August, 2000 in Hobart, with 193 delegates. The theme, Sustaining Communities, the role of the community sector was developed by a range of impressive speakers including Stuart Etherington from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK and Lindsay Tanner, ALP Member for Melbourne. Betty Hounslow, the previous Director of ACOSS spoke on welfare reform and a panel of journalists gave some insights into the portrayal of social issues in the media.



The Beyond Imprisonment Conference was held on 21 September 2000 at the University of Tasmania. The conference was timely in stimulating public debate on the issue of prisons and the situation leading to deaths in custody within Risdon Prison. An impressive line-up of speakers covered issues from the Victorian experience by John Griffin through to community input into prisons from Brett Collins. The

conference was attended by over 240 people and conference proceedings were released as a paper developed by the Criminology Research Unit from the University of Tasmania and TasCOSS.

### 3.4 Aged and Disability Project

For the first time, TasCOSS is sponsoring a project specifically focusing on consumer related aged and disability issues. This exciting development emerged from funding through Home and Community Care, DHHS who are 'outsourcing' their functions around consumer consultation. This ongoing project is currently in a strategic planning phase and our hope is that community care supports keeping people in their homes will become more responsive, flexible and able to meet the needs of individuals and communities.

### 3.5 Reconciliation Walk

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2000, TasCOSS staff joined thousands of Tasmanians in walking across the Tasman Bridge in support of reconciliation. This important event gave TasCOSS an opportunity to tangibly support the reconciliation process. We have also supported the handing back of land to the Aboriginal Community (and in particular the



Aboriginal Land Amendment Bill 1999), an issue that has remained unresolved to date.



### 3.6 Just Tasmania coming to a close

Just Tasmania has been a very strong and successful campaign developed by Anglicare, the Poverty Coalition and TasCOSS. It drew together in a powerful way the voices of Tasmanian's living on a low income. The five most important issues emerging from the voices included dental health, access to general practitioners, transport, access to education and concessions. These issues were developed into a policy document, *Hearing the Vices, Calling for Change* and this was launched in February 2001. Many discussions have been held at a senior government and political level and some progress has been made in these areas.

### 3.7 TasCOSS Presentations

- Social justice, who cares? AASW, Hobart
- Researching Unemployment, Sociology Students, University of Tasmania
- The Ethics of Mutual Obligation, Community Workers, Northwest TAFE
- Down in the Dumps or Depressions, Mental Health Workers, Rokeby
- Living on a Low Income, St Vincent de Paul Volunteers, Hobart
- Where is the Welfare Sector Heading, Centrelink Social Workers, Swansea

### 3.8 Committees

TasCOSS has been represented on the following committees:

- Agency Sector Forum
- Community Support Levy, charitable organisation grants program, Assessment Panel
- Correctional Justice Reform Alliance
- Emergency Relief, State Advisory Committee
- Health Complaints Act Review
- Mature Aged Employment Committee
- Office of the Electricity Regulator, Customer Consultative Committee
- Poverty Coalition
- Productivity Plus Tasmania
- SAAP Tender Panel, Women's Emergency Accommodation
- Settlement Research, Anglicare
- Tasmanian Immigration Settlement Committee
- Tasmanian Organisation of Employment Seekers
- Tasmania Together, Employment and the Economy Benchmarking Committee

### 3.9 Media

TasCOSS continued to be represented in the media on a very broad range of issues. A total of 35 Media Release were issued (compared to 15 in the previous year), indicating a move towards setting the agenda rather than only responding to requests for comment from the media.

Media Outlet	Number of Interviews	
	1999-00	2000-01
ABC radio	38	58
ABC TV	25	20
Southern Cross	16	10
WIN TV	18	18
The Advocate	14	29
The Examiner	15	12
The Mercury	33	25
Other	7	4
<b>Total Interviews</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>176</b>

I would like to extend a thank you to all those individuals and organisations who have supported and worked with TasCOSS over the past year. Our work in a number of areas, such as correctional justice, gambling, employment, and poverty has succeeded only because of strong collaborations and the support of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals.

I would particularly like to thank the staff of TasCOSS. We are a small but very committed organisation often running on adrenaline and the belief in what we do.

Teamwork is at the heart of a healthy organisation and we have been lucky enough to maintain a great team despite a number of staff changes over the past year.

Thanks also to the Board, they work hard to maintain a governance focus on the organisation and keep ahead, as much as possible, of emerging social justice issues. Thanks to Rhonda Voigt who stepped in at short notice to Nick Toonen's shoes as President. I would also like to extend a special thanks to our current President, Sue Ham, who is a constant source of support and encouragement.

Lis de Vries  
Executive Director

## **4. Policy Officer's Report**

### **4.1 Partnership Project**

The Partnerships Project is the structured relationship between the Department of Health and Human Services and the community service organisations funded by that Department. TasCOSS is contracted to manage the community sector participation in the Partnerships Project.

In essence, the Project has a 'construction' phase and a 'maintenance and development' phase. The first of these is nearing completion. All four DHHS Divisions that fund community organisations have now developed regular Consultative Forums involving community representatives (excepting Housing Tasmania, which has held a very successful Roundtable as a precursor to a full Forum). The Agency-Sector Forum (ASF), overseeing the Project and focusing on agency-wide policy and program issues, has now been operational for two years. During the past year, both the ASF and the Child, Youth and Family Support Divisional Forum have conducted process evaluations.

Each of these above Forums has established working groups, arguably the strength of the Project, where agency and sector representatives tackle the detailed implications of current and projected developments in DHHS and the sector.

In October this year, a series of regional Reference Group meetings will review the progress of the Partnerships Project and plan the next phase of Project activity. Reference Group meetings are open to all groups funded by DHHS and are designed to provide a 'mandate' to representatives on the various Project Forums and to identify issues that these representatives should take forward to Forum meetings.

The coming year will be a challenging one. The 'maintenance and development' phase of the Project obliges us to clarify the outcomes we expect from the considerable amounts of time and effort being devoted by a wide range of individuals from the community sector and DHHS. The pursuit of these outcomes, in the context of a funded sector that is coming under increasing pressure from a range of Departmental policies, will provide a significant test of the structures developed during the past two years.

I would like to record my gratitude to the various community representatives on the consultative Forums for their energy and enthusiasm for the Project generally, and their support for me in my role as Policy Officer. We should recognise that a number of these representatives have been working on these consultative structures since the early days of the “Changing Relationships” processes that preceded the Partnerships Project. This persistent and consistent effort has been a remarkable indication of those representatives’ commitment to cooperation and consultation. It is a commitment that defines our sector, that makes us different from others. I hope that those of us new to the Partnerships Project can build on the crucially important work already contributed. I run a terrible risk in mentioning specific people, given the wide range of contributors in recent years, but I would nevertheless like to go on record in thanking Dave Willans, Geraldine Harwood, Lorraine Polglase, Ian Paterson and Kay Thompson — all of them battle-scarred veterans — for their past and continuing work.

## **4.2 Policy Development**

The primary focus of my policy development work since joining TasCOSS has been on poverty generally and the growing gap between rich and poor specifically. Apart from being a central component of TasCOSS’s mission, work on poverty policy currently has added impetus because of the opportunities presented by a Federal Election this year and a Tasmanian Election sometime next year.

At a national level, TasCOSS is actively participating in two important campaigns. First, the ACOSS Challenge to the Parties in the lead up to the Federal Election has a significant poverty focus. TasCOSS will be ensuring that candidates in marginal seats and Senate contests are held accountable on the range of policy issues relating to poverty alleviation. Second, TasCOSS is an active participant in the National Coalition Against Poverty (NCAP). I am currently the Tasmanian NCAP contact and TasCOSS will be working with a range of other community organisations to pursue the main goals of NCAP: the lifting of Commonwealth benefits to a minimum 25% of average earnings and the creation of a Royal Commission into poverty in Australia.

At a state level, I am delighted to report that the Tasmanian Poverty Coalition has reformed and is holding regular and well-attended meetings. A wide range of community organisations and individuals are represented on the Coalition and members have already made a significant contribution to the NCAP petition and are planning activities around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in October.

I am currently preparing a statistical ‘snapshot’ of poverty in Tasmania to serve as a baseline for TasCOSS advocacy in the lead up to the next Tasmanian Election. Our task—difficult but not insurmountable—is to convince the major parties that they can make a difference on poverty issues at a State level, and then show them how. With assistance from ABS and other sources, we hope to be able to develop a reliable indicator of poverty levels in Tasmania that can be updated annually as a means of assessing the progress towards the alleviation of poverty in this State.

I am also currently reviewing the range of processes wherein TasCOSS develops and disseminates social policy, and will be encouraging dialogue, both within TasCOSS and also in the sector generally, about how we can increase the quantity and coherence of social policy work. I am always keen to hear from members who have views on these issues, so please do not hesitate in contacting me.

### **4.3 Correctional Justice Reform Alliance**

The Correctional Justice Reform Alliance (CJRA) is a coalition of community organisations and concerned individuals with a mission to “provide a forum for the improvement of existing conditions within the Tasmanian corrections system and for the development of a corrections system that is appropriate for Tasmania, complies with all applicable domestic and international human rights law, and accords with world best practice benchmarks”. Developed during 2000 with auspicing assistance from TasCOSS, especially my predecessor Mary Massina, the CJRA has developed into an important lobby group that has had significant impacts on the thinking of the Tasmanian Government and the broader Tasmanian community.

Important milestones this year included:

- A vigil in St David’s Park to mark International Prisoners’ Day, in memorial to the five Risdon prisoners who died in custody.
- the long-awaited release of the Coroner’s report into deaths in custody at Risdon Prison, with important recommendations given added focus and prominence because of CJRA media work.
- a Parliament House lawn vigil in memory of those who have lost their lives in Tasmania’s prison system. In response to this vigil, Justice Minister Patmore brought forward his announcement of the allocation of over \$53 million for the redevelopment of the Risdon Prison complex.
- Broadcast of the Four Corners program documenting the circumstances in which recent Risdon Prison deaths occurred. CJRA members featured prominently in this program.
- The release of the Ombudsman’s report on Risdon Prison and the Prison Hospital.
- Important CJRA contributions to the public debate over the use of strip-searching procedures at Risdon Prison.

The CJRA will, in the coming year, play an important role in the planning of the redeveloped Risdon complex and the establishment of appropriate services to prisoners and their families. It is likely that diversionary programs for offenders will also feature on this year’s work program.

In last year’s report, Mary Massina paid tribute to the contributions made by Rose Macaulay and Vickie Douglas to the work of the CJRA. I can do no more than echo those sentiments. It continues to be a privilege to work with Rose, Vickie and the other Alliance members.

David Owen  
Policy Officer

## 5. Newsletter and Website

### 5.1 Community Cafe

The IT funding received from Networking the Nation enabled not only the design of a comprehensive website by Murchison Productions during the past year, but also provided for some additional project work on content development, promotion and training.



Initially my work involved developing and editing content for the TasCOSS area of the site but it soon became evident that if the site was to reach its potential, work on promotion and training was required. Individual sessions were held with a wide range of Peak Bodies aimed at getting their organisational details onto the site as well as supporting them to develop particular topic areas (such as ‘disability’ and ‘youth’).

In June training was offered (through Productivity Plus) for the broader sector with sessions in both the North and South. These were well attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive with a good deal of interest in follow up sessions. In addition to this work and consistent liaison with the designers of the site, promotional materials have been developed and the site was launched at Drifters Internet Café in April. Having gained much needed sponsorship I will now be able to continue working on the site to keep it up to date, undertaking further promotion and providing ongoing support to the sector in making the most of the Community Café.

### 5.2 The Coffee Bean

Having begun work on the website as a major communication tool for the sector, attention was turned to TasCOSS’s other major vehicle for communication, its newsletter

In conjunction with the Policy Officer at the time, Mary Massina, a plan for re-vamping the newsletter was developed. Three editions were planned, and budgeted for, with further editions being dependant upon attracting sponsorship.

The newsletter has a new ‘look’ (soon to be improved further and provided in colour) and some new features. Each edition includes a feature article on a current ‘hot’ issue as well as profiles of TasCOSS Board Members, news from Peak Organisations and current TasCOSS policy work. The three planned editions have been produced and distributed but as we have managed to attract some healthy sponsorship, the quarterly newsletter (now known as the Coffee Bean) has a more certain future.

One of the sponsorship agreements is with NewPrint who will be printing the Coffee Bean in colour as well as finishing (folding and stapling) each copy. I am continuing to focus energy on developing the newsletter, particularly in terms of content, to the point where it is a leading publication for the community and other sectors in Tasmania.

Faorligh Hunter  
Newsletter & Website Editor

## 6. Unemployed Workers Network Project

Unemployment in Tasmania is the core social justice issue for the state and the single biggest indicator for marginalisation and disadvantage. The unemployment statistics for the state are sobering and have remained largely stagnant for around a decade, there are around 20,000 “officially” unemployed people in Tasmania.

However, the actual number of unemployed is without doubt much higher given that people are counted as employed on a part-time basis if they engage in work in excess of one hour per week.

“Persons aged 15 and over are considered employed if, during the week of the survey, they worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business, or on a farm” (Explanatory Notes in ABS Cat. No 6202.0).

Other employment statistics for the state illustrate a worrying trend:

- 41% of all unemployed in Tasmania are long-term unemployed, i.e. 12 months or more with absolutely no work; the national average is 29%;
- for every job vacancy in Tasmania there are 15 unemployed people; the national average is less than half this;
- the unemployment rate in Tasmania is around 9%; the national average is around 6%
- 30% of all work in Tasmania is part-time work;
- the proportion of income units with the main source of income from government payment (Commonwealth pensions and benefits) is a staggering 39.8%, compared with a national average of 28%.

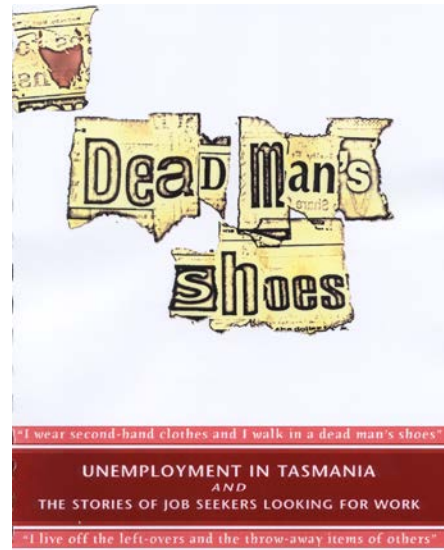
Through funding from the Community Support Level TasCOSS has now completed a pilot project, developing three Unemployed Workers Networks around the state in order to collect, and document in a public report, the stories of individuals, families and communities affected by unemployment.

The Project created three networks in George Town, the Huon Valley and the greater Hobart region, which included participants from New Norfolk, Sorell, the Tasman Peninsula and Snug. These three locations were chosen because of their distinct differences including employment levels, location issues and availability of local services.

These networks sought to address the negative impact on unemployment on individuals, families and communities, to break down the barriers and divisiveness created by unemployment, to address the disruption unemployment causes to family life, and to reduce the social isolation and the loss in self-confidence, self-belief and self-esteem.

A report, *Dead Man’s Shoes* was produced, some of the main findings of the many negative effects of unemployment are:

- social isolation;
- loss of community participation;
- sheer financial hardship and the resultant deprivations to them, their children and their families;
- negative self-esteem, self-blame, loss of self-confidence and self-belief
- loss of skill development;
- severe disruption to family life and to their relationships;
- depression – regarded as the fastest growing mental health problem in Australia;
- a sense of “powerlessness” and of being “trapped” – there are not sufficient jobs, and
- being “without a voice” and often “hidden” within their communities - rarely if ever are they, as a group, invited into community partnerships and social coalitions.



The report details what people said about their experiences with Centrelink, the Job Networks and in seeking work. It came up with a series of findings and recommendations, which are now actively being followed up.

A local network called the Tasmanian Organisation of Employment Seekers (TOES) has now developed and is actively working on employment matters.

Vince McCormack  
UWN Project Officer

## 7. HACC Consumer Consultation Project

TasCOSS is auspicing a HACC Consumer Consultation Project. The project is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Home and Community Care Unit (HACC). The HACC Program supports people living in the community by providing services such as home help, personal care, community transport, information and advocacy to aged persons, people with disabilities, and their carers. The program has, in the past, carried out consultations with consumers for the purpose of informing planning and development, but placing coordination of consumer input with the non-government sector is a new initiative.

The project is overseen by a Steering Committee that includes representatives from: Tasmanians with Disabilities; Carers' Association of Tasmania; Consumers' Health Forum; Advocacy Tasmania; Tasmanian Pensioners' Union; TasCOSS; Migrant Resource Centre; COTA and DHHS. I was appointed Project Officer in May 2001 and am based at TasCOSS 25 hours per week.



Without having an established structure and processes to follow, the project is very much in a developmental phase, and will be for at least its initial 12 months. It involves identifying issues that are significant in the lives of older people, people with disabilities and their carers – practical issues, health issues, financial, social - a wide range of concerns and aspirations that might inform the development of home and community care. It also involves developing a structure that will facilitate inclusive and meaningful consultation, and effective communication of consumer views to other stakeholders within the community and government sectors. So far, a preliminary round of consultations has taken place, for the purpose of submitting input to the 'HACC Annual Program Plan 2001-2002'. The main themes that emerged were: calls for significant service expansion; more flexible service provision, and services that are better placed to respond to individual needs. Further consultations will be conducted around the State, some focusing on specific issues, with a comprehensive consultation planned for March –May 2002 leading up to the 2002-2003 HACC Program Plan.

A research component has been included with the project's funding. Consequently, a research consultancy addressing the HACC/mental health nexus, a topic identified by the Steering Committee as requiring examination and clarification, is being auspiced by TasCOSS. A report on this project is anticipated early in 2002.

Debbie Quarmby  
HACC Project Officer.

## **8. TasCOSS Staff for 2000/2001**

### **8.1 Core Operations**

(names in capitals are current staff as at 1/7/2001)

Executive Director	LIS DE VRIES
Office Manager	KATHY AIKINS
Office Assistant	Ruth Virth
Policy Officer	DAVID OWEN Mary Massina
Social Work Student	Melita Chen

### **8.2 Projects**

Beyond Imprisonment Conference	Ruth Virth Mary Massina
GST Startup Assistance Project	Cameron Gardiner Ruth Virth
HACC Consultation Project	DEBBIE QUARMBY LEANNE STANELOS
Human Services Conference (Consultants)	Liz Foster Brian Hey

	(Conference Assistant)	Ruth Virth
Partnerships Project		DAVID OWEN KATHY AIKINS Mary Massina
RTIF - Consultative Gateway	(Consultant)	Faorligh Hunter
Unemployed Workers Network	(Social Work Student)	Vince McCormack Melita Chen

## 9. TasCOSS Board for 2000/2001

### 9.1 Executive

#### *President*

Sue Ham Board Position: President  
Colony 47 Inc

Rhonda Voigt  
Shelter Tasmania Inc *(resigned 17/4/01)*

#### *Vice President*

Esme Murphy Board Position: Individual - South

#### *Secretary*

Chris Jones Board Position: Organisation – South 2  
Anglicare Tasmania Inc

Sue Ham Board Position: Organisation 1  
Colony 47 Inc *(elected President 27/4/01)*

#### *Treasurer*

Noel Wilson Board Position : Organisation 2  
Launceston Community Legal Centre

### 9.2 Board

#### *Current*

Glynnis Flower Board Position: Peak 2  
Tasmanian Assoc. of Community Houses

Lizanne Goodwin Board Position : Individual - North West

Lucia Ikin Board Position: Individual - North

Rhonda McIntyre Board Position: Organisation - South 1  
Salvation Army

Gerard Moore Board Position: Organisation - North West 2  
Family Based Care Assoc. North West Tas.

John Newton Board Position: Organisation - North 1  
Tasmanians with Disabilities Inc

Thom Ryan Board Position: Organisation – North 2  
East Coast Counselling Service

David Willans Board Position: Peak 1  
Youth Network of Tasmania

Vacant

Board Position: Organisation 1

Vacant

Board Position: Organisation – North West 1

Vacant

Board Position: Peak 3

***Past***

Elvie Hales

Board Position: Organisation - North West 1

Drug Education Network Inc

*(Resigned March 2001)*

## **10. TasCOSS Membership for 2000/2001**

### **10.1 Affiliated (non-voting)**

National Council of Women of Tasmania Inc

Voluntary Support Service

### **10.2 Individual –North**

Doris Cornford

Anita Smith

Lucia Ikin

### **10.3 Individual - North West**

Lizanne Goodwin

Sid Sidebottom

Dr Marianne Haughton

Jon Williams

Brian Sardeson

### **10.4 Individual – South**

Toosey Bannerman

Kath McLean

The Hon. Fran Bladel

Terry Martin

Brian Braint

Esme Murphy

Denise Brazendale

Jane Palfreyman

Penny Cocker

Dorothy Pearce *(life member)*

Janine Combes

Bill Pearson

Cecily Gilson *(life member)*

Bob Rayner *(life member)*

Lorraine Heron

Helen Rees

Maureen Holloway

Julie Roach

Carol Hughes

Kevin Ryan

The Hon. Judy Jackson MHA

Nick Toonen

Marie Kennedy

Rhonda Voigt

The Hon. Duncan Kerr MP

### **10.5 Organisation – North**

Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania Inc.

Launceston City Mission Inc.

East Coast Counselling Service

Launceston V. F. C. Services

Family Based Care (North)

Laurel House

Glenhaven Family Care Inc

Mersey Community Care Assoc.

Karinya Young Womyns Refuge Inc

## 10.6 Organisation - North West

Community Connections Inc  
Family Based Care Assoc. North West Tas.  
Lifeline North West Tasmania

Mersey Community Care Assoc.  
Warrabee Womens Shelter  
Wyndarra Centre Inc

## 10.7 Organisation – South

Advocacy Tasmania Inc  
Anglicare Tasmania Inc  
Bethlehem House Homeless Men's Assistance  
Centre Inc.  
Brain Foundation Tasmania Ltd  
Centacare Tasmania  
Clarence Citizens Advice Bureau  
Clarendon Children's Home  
Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre  
Clubhouse Tasmania Inc.  
Colony 47 Inc  
Community Based Support South Inc  
Cosmos Recreation Services  
Drug Education Network Inc  
Family Planning Tasmania Inc  
Foster Carer's Association of Tasmania Inc.  
Gamblers Anonymous  
Geeveston Community Centre Inc.  
Good Beginnings  
Greek Welfare Centre (Hobart)  
Health Services Union of Australia  
Hobart Benevolent Society  
Hobart City Mission Inc.  
Hobart Community Legal Service Inc  
Hobart Women's Health Centre

Hobart Women's Shelter  
Huon Valley Respite Centre Inc.  
Jireh House Association Inc  
Lady Gowrie Tasmania  
Lifeline Hobart Inc.  
Meals on Wheels Association Tasmania Inc.  
Migrant Resource Centre (South)  
Montagu Community Living Inc  
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Tasmania  
Nexus Inc.  
Playgroup Association of Tasmania Inc.  
Pregnancy Support Service Tas. Inc.  
Positive Solutions  
Salvation Army (Tasmanian Division)  
Sexual Assault Support Service  
South Eastern Nursing & Home Care Assoc  
Speak Out Association of Tas. Inc.  
Stepping Stone (Tas) Inc.  
TasCARD  
Tasmanian Deaf Society  
Tasmanians with Disabilities Inc  
Tenants Union of Tasmania  
The Link Health Service Inc  
Women's Legal Service Tasmania Inc.  
Working Women's Centre

## 10.8 Peak

Council on the Ageing (Tas) Inc.  
Shelter Tasmania Inc  
Tasmanian Association of Community Houses

Volunteering Tasmania  
Youth Network of Tasmania

## **11. Financial Statements**















































