

TASCOSS ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

Read this year's report online:
tascoss.org.au/ar201819/



The full TasCOSS Annual Report 2018/19 is available online

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018/19

Federal housing debt waived

This past year will be remembered for the victorious end of 14 years of community service industry lobbying for the waiving of Federal housing debt repayments. In the midst of Tasmania's housing affordability and availability crisis, our state government now has \$15 million more to direct towards increasing housing supply for Tasmanians struggling to find a place to call home. We acknowledge in particular, the untiring leadership of Shelter Tas on this issue.

10-year Community Services Industry Plan

Tasmania's community services industry came together throughout the past 12 months to define, scope and prepare a plan for its next ten years. Led in partnership by TasCOSS and Communities Tasmania, more than 100 industry workers, managers and thinkers shared their aspirations and passion to build the framework that will ensure the state's fastest growing industry area continues to deliver the services Tasmanians need in the places they need them.

Policy

Our policy work has focused on understanding the drivers of poverty and putting forward solutions. This work included highlighting inadequate social security payments, addressing unemployment and understanding cost of living pressures. Throughout the year, TasCOSS undertook consultations with a wide variety of job seekers, community leaders, TasCOSS members and many others across the community services industry in Tasmania to ensure our submissions to government and policy proposals were informed by real life experience alongside data to provide a compelling evidence-base.

TasCOSS State Conference 2019

This year's State Conference was attended by more than 120 industry representatives and showcased the voices of youth through a content partnership with the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT). Highlights included presentations by renowned activity and retired Senator Christine Milne, State Parliament House of Assembly Speaker Sue Hickey, community activist and organiser Mariam Issa and tourism star Rob Pennicott.

Innovation & Strategic Partnerships

TasCOSS worked across industry sectors to build and maintain strong intra- and inter-industry partnerships and alliances that further our Mission and Vision. This included working with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania (TICT) to advocate for increased data collection with respect to short-stay accommodation in the state. This work resulted in Short-Stay Legislation passed in late 2018 that will contribute to the evidence-base for future planning of affordable housing.

A Quality, Learning Organisation

TasCOSS was named an Employer of Choice in 2019. The annual Employer of Choice Awards recognise Tasmanian organisations that demonstrate contemporary workplace practices and outstanding support for their staff. TasCOSS, along with twelve other new inductees, was commended for demonstrating a commitment to supporting a work-life balance, employee engagement, communication, leadership and continuous improvement.

Thank you

This year sees us farewell our Board President, Debbie Evans. Debbie has been with the TasCOSS Board since 2012, serving as President since 2017. Both professionally and personally, Debbie has been an amazing resource for TasCOSS and its Members and we thank her for her generosity of time and spirit. We would like to thank and express our gratitude to outgoing Board Member Janine Arnold. We would also like to thank all Board Members for the commitment they make to support TasCOSS.

To view the TasCOSS Annual Report 2018/19 in full, please visit tascoss.org.au/ar201819/