



**INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
INFLUENCE**

ANNUAL
REPORT
2019/20
SUMMARY

Read the full report online at
tascoss.org.au/ar201920



ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge & Change

The end of the cruel and illegal Robodebt recovery program was the standout highlight of the year for TasCOSS and the culmination of four years of advocacy. Additional highlights in communications and advocacy included the Federal Government waiving Tasmania's historical housing debt repayments, publishing of the 2019 Tasmania Report, in which Deloitte highlighted the robustness and accelerating growth of the state's community services industry and the increasing need for health and allied health support services for our ageing population.

Community Sector Development

Industry-wide consultations to inform a ten-year Community Services Industry Plan (2020-2030) took place during the reporting period, with the COVID-19 health crisis delaying the finalisation of the plan. This delay has led to a more robust re-draft to incorporate the learnings of the health crisis. The second annual Tasplan International Women's Day Awards for Excellence were presented on 6 March 2020 with Sue Leitch (COTA Tasmania) and Amanda French (Dress for Success) awarded Inspirational Leader and Aspiring Leader awards in the Community Sector category.

Policy

During the 2019/20 Financial Year, TasCOSS worked to prioritise and innovate in the area of collection and incorporation of lived experience and the voices of Tasmanians within the bulk of policy submissions to state and federal governments. Public consultations provided a rich resource of firsthand experiences and insights that have raised the quality of our policy work. Work continued in the key areas of energy affordability and the Working Together project that aims to address barriers to early years education.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery

As it became clear in March 2020 that the COVID-19 pandemic was going to have extreme effects across Tasmanian communities, the state's community services organisation moved into action. TasCOSS took on the role of coordinating and channelling information to and from the State Emergency Centre's Recovery Partners Network and managed delivery of \$350,000 in essential technology grants to industry organisations.

A Quality, Learning Organisation

Adrienne Picone, former CEO of Volunteering Australia, took on the role of TasCOSS CEO in mid-June 2020 following the departure of Kym Goodes in February 2020. Life Memberships were awarded to well-known, dedicated contributors to the community services industry, Kath McLean and Tim Gourlay.