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## Who are we?

The ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS) is a social justice organisation. We are the peak body for not-for-profit community organisations and people experiencing disadvantage in the Australian Capital Territory.

ACTCOSS was formed in 1963 and is a member of the nationwide COSS Network. The COSS Network is made up of each of the state Councils and the national body, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

ACTCOSS' objectives are to:

- Assist and support organisations to build their capacity so that they can provide a service that best meets the needs of people experiencing disadvantage in the ACT
- Make explicit and pursue a social justice agenda for the people of the ACT
- Function as a peak body for the ACT community sector
- Participate as part of the national COSS Network.

## Our vision

Canberra is a just, safe and sustainable community in which everyone has the opportunity for self-determination and a fair share of resources and services.

## Who are ACTCOSS members?

ACTCOSS members come from the community services sector, advocacy and self-help groups, as well as individuals and organisations that are committed to the objects of ACTCOSS and the social change agenda for which we advocate.

- **Community Organisation Members:** Over 100 ACT community organisations are members of ACTCOSS. Member organisations range from large regional community services to small consumer-run support groups.
- **Associate Members:** We also have a number of associate members – individuals interested in and committed to the goals and activities of ACTCOSS.
- **Affiliate Members:** For-profit service providers, corporations, statutory bodies and government agencies are also welcome to support ACTCOSS through affiliate membership. Affiliate members can contribute their views and support our work, but do not have a role in governing ACTCOSS or determining our policy positions.

Next: Member Benefits ►

## Member representation in policy & advocacy

ACTCOSS membership gives member organisations and associate members a voice in public debate and opportunities to influence decisions about policies that affect individuals and the sector. Our work with members includes:

- Listening to and amplifying the voice of people living with disadvantage and exclusion, and the services that work with them
- Submissions to government (ACT and Federal) on programs, policy, regulation and legislation, such as ACT Budget submissions
- Representation on advisory bodies and working groups
- Research
- Building strategic partnerships with organisations and peak bodies that share our advocacy goals
- Influencing the national reform agenda and public debates through our relationships with the network of state and territory Councils of Social Service and with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

## Membership benefits

Membership benefits include:

- Three hours per year of free face-to-face tailored support, such as training on topics including strategic planning, governance, and more, tailored to your specific organisation's needs
- Discounts on ACTCOSS services and events such as:
  - Learning and development training opportunities
  - ACTCOSS conferences, symposiums and other events
  - Advertising in the quarterly journal
  - Job ads and sponsored ads in the weekly eNotices
- A subscription to the quarterly journal *Update* – keeping you informed of ACT social justice issues
- Free hard copies of major ACTCOSS publications posted to you on request
- Reduced insurance premiums from Gallagher for community organisations
- Opportunities for involvement in policy development and advocacy through member forums and consultations
- Opportunities for involvement in the governance of ACTCOSS through the Committee and representation at General Meetings.

### Interested in becoming a member of ACTCOSS?

Visit the ACTCOSS website & download an application form:  
[actcoss.org.au/membership](http://actcoss.org.au/membership)

### Connect with us

Facebook: [facebook.com/actcoss](https://www.facebook.com/actcoss)

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