

Jubilee

Social workers got the Council going, a humble start in '63
with countless cups of coffee and ten pounds lent generously
for a newsletter, aged survey and a welfare services directory.

The combined strength of member agencies, gave us authority
to speak in favour of minorities, children and the elderly
for assistance out of poverty and a fair share of prosperity.

The Council ran on a members' fee and a few bucks from the TAB
no office space, staff salary, nor proper funding certainty.
The 70s saw the Council grow, printing off a vintage roneo.

The first seven years without an office (like working in an elevator)
with a Gestetner duplicator, then an Epson floppy disc computer.
We shared our old printer, breaking news and social data.

Are public needs served adequately by token acts of charity?
Is the affluent Capital Territory, pampered and social problem free?
ACTCOSSA reported factually that's not the actual reality.

We have the sense and sensibility, to be a wise and kind society.
From the Vinson Poverty Inquiry to the Havelock House victory
the Council fought passionately for public housing priority.

Homeless kids without a smidgeon, need more than a soup kitchen
and the lonely older generation have earned our patient consideration.
And refugees without a nation, deserve inclusion, not derision.

Single parents on a paltry pension, should not have to suffer deprivation.
Folks without sight or ambulation, we consult and listen to them
they'll exceed what anyone expected with a little augmentation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history requires honest recognition
not just knee jerk reaction and unilateral intervention.
Reconciliation means action with authentic self-determination.

For the poor are always with us, perhaps, but often hidden
and we are always with them, that's our purpose and our vision
to advocate with courage, backed by research and compassion.

Fifty years of conviction, hard won progress and evolution.