



**NTCOSS**

Northern Territory  
Council of Social Service



# Annual Report

## 2021/2022



## Northern Territory Council of Social Service Incorporated

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NTCOSS respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout the Northern Territory and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.

This Annual Report has been designed by [Refuel Creative](#)

Cover design created by Melanie Rose Gunner Art



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# The Year in Review

As President and CEO of the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS), we are proud to jointly present this Annual Report which showcases the collaborative approach and social impact of our work.

We continue to advocate for better outcomes across our six key focus areas:

- Domestic, family and sexual violence
- Children and young people
- Aboriginal justice
- Income support
- Energy
- Sector support

We appreciate and thank Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC) for its recognition of the need to raise the voices of young people in the Northern Territory (NT) and for generously funding Youth Voice NT for five years. Youth Voice NT aims to raise the voices of young people across the NT who might not have had an opportunity to have their say and improve engagement with government in the development of future policies and strategies that directly affect them. We were excited to launch our Youth Voice NT website in May and meet with youth stakeholders in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

We work in partnership with the specialist domestic family and sexual violence (DFSV) sector and NT Government to advocate for adequate funding in the NT. NTCOSS facilitates

constructive communication and information sharing between the NT Government and the specialist DFSV sector to effectively feed into and influence policy development and public discourse. NTCOSS coordinated advocacy with the NT Government through the office of Minister Kate Worden and the DFSV specialist services around federal funding. This advocacy resulted in an extra allocation of \$10.7 million committed to the NT as part of the National Partnership Agreement of DFSV. This is in recognition of the high level of need in our communities.

It is a privilege to continue to work in partnership with the Paul Ramsay Foundation and the Aboriginal Justice Unit to deliver on the Aboriginal Justice Agreement which will be a transformative policy. It is both an ambitious and overdue reform. It will reduce offending and imprisonment rates for Aboriginal Territorians and engage and support Aboriginal leadership. During this reporting period, the Agreement was launched in both Darwin and Alice Springs in 2021 and we achieved bi-partisan support in 2022.

Climate change is one of the most significant issues facing people, communities, economies and our planet. While climate change affects all life, those who are experiencing disadvantage and poverty are the most vulnerable to its impacts and to a poorly managed transition to renewable energy. In this last year, NTCOSS convened an Energy Policy discussion group and also worked with Power and Water Corporation to bring together a group of culturally and linguistically diverse customers to provide a community perspective.

At our core is supporting the sector to thrive and be sustainable. We do this in a number of ways. One is to collate the evidence to demonstrate sector needs. For example, NTCOSS produced 'The State of the Community Sector: Findings from the 2021 Northern Territory Community Sector Workforce Survey', a report outlining the findings from the 2021 Northern Territory Community Sector Workforce Survey. The survey was conducted in June-July 2021 and was completed by 236 staff from the NT community sector.

We continue to support and enhance the NTcommunity online directory which is actively used across the Territory and feedback has been positive. We continued with our information dissemination and coordinated response re: COVID, such as facilitating NT Government responses in regular CEO meetings.

Part of sector support is sector development, and we supported the development of the sector in a number of ways. By way of example, we supported the management and governance knowledge and expertise around financial literacy with the AICD scholarships for the community sector, funded through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and another round specifically for the DFSV sector.

AT NTCOSS we value being part of a broader network across the country with ACOSS and the COSS network in every jurisdiction. This enables us to contribute at the federal level and to understand the trends across the country.

NTCOSS cannot achieve what it does without its members, volunteer board and our staff. Your

collective commitment makes it a privilege to be part of this organisation that challenges systems and structures that create inequality.

Another year of collaboration and impact and we look forward to many more with all our members, supporters and the community.



Handwritten signature of Jayne Lloyd in blue ink.

**Jayne Lloyd**  
President

Handwritten signature of Deborah Di Natale in blue ink.

**Deborah Di Natale**  
CEO



# About Us

NTCOSS is the peak body for the Social and Community Sector in the NT and an advocate for social justice on behalf of people and communities who may be affected by poverty and disadvantage.

The NTCOSS team is located in both Darwin and Alice Springs, and for over 40 years has worked with its membership base, governments and other stakeholders to strive for better outcomes for Territorians.

The community sector plays a vital role in creating social wellbeing for all Territorians and in building safe and healthy communities. The sector provides services that enable people to access and participate in society, including health, education, employment, economic development and family and community life.

NTCOSS represents a varied service sector, with members contributing different experiences and perspectives. The sector in the NT is made up of community managed, non-government, not for profit organisations that work in social and community service delivery, sector development and advocacy.

## Vision

A fair, inclusive and sustainable Northern Territory.

## Our Values

Our work is guided by three core values:

**Collaboration** – We build coalitions for change with our stakeholders and the community

**Integrity** – We work with honesty and courage, and base our work on evidence

**Independence** – Our actions are guided by the best interests of Territorians

## We Believe in

Empowering families and communities to make or influence decisions that affect them

Harnessing the full potential of the social services sector as an agent for positive change and economic growth

Focusing on long term outcomes through prevention and early support and building community strengths

Supporting the self-determination of First Nations people and the development of the ACCO sector

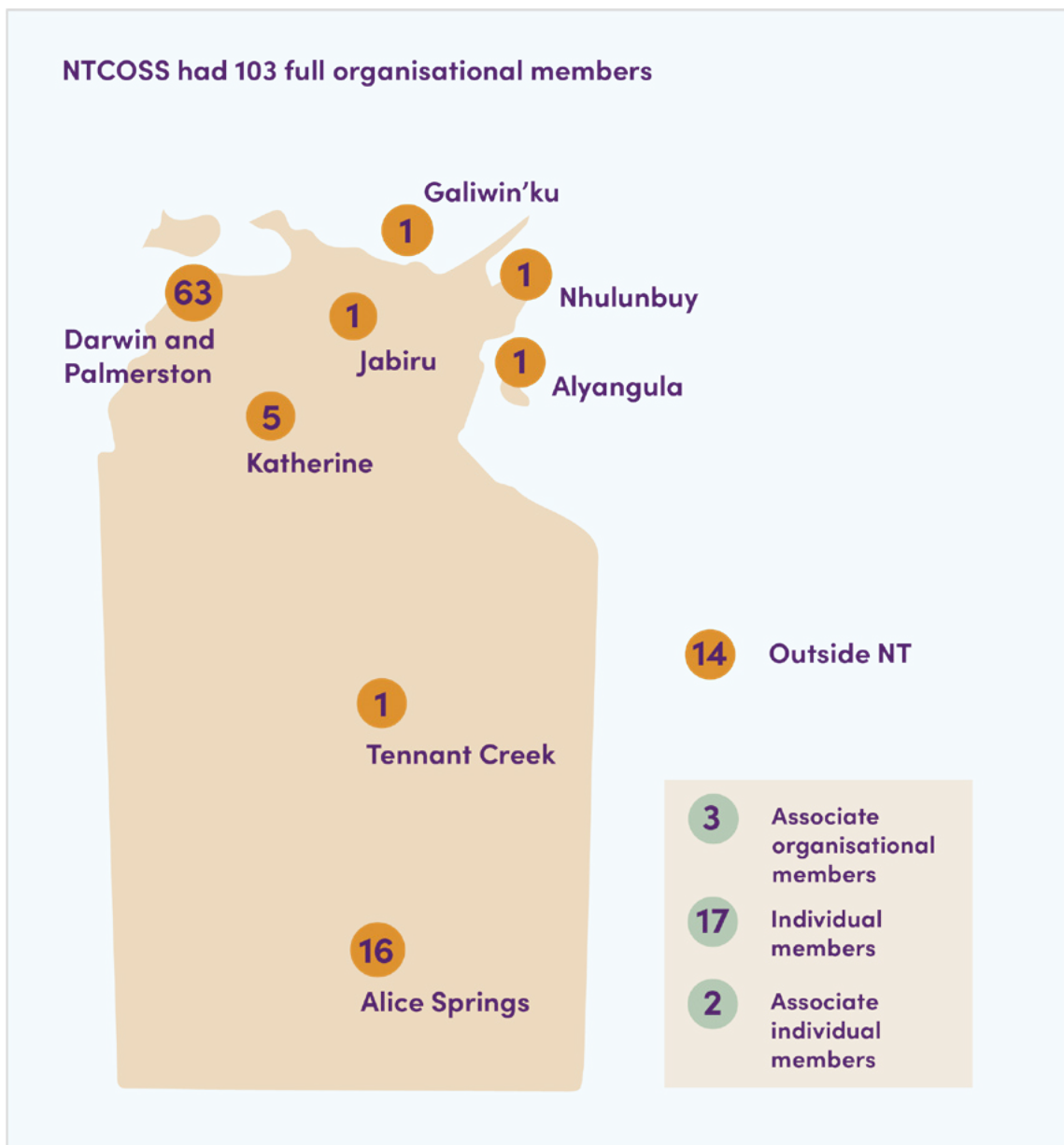


# Our Members

NTCOSS represents a wide range of community sector organisations across the NT. The majority (88%) of NTCOSS' members are involved in direct service delivery, while 12% are other peak and industry groups.

NTCOSS members are central to our work and advocacy. As a representative voice of

the sector to Government, NTCOSS seeks to strengthen the sector so that it can continue providing its essential services to the NT community. We assist our members through a range of services aligned with their needs, from capability building to networking and online resources.



NTCOSS members work in the areas of:



Accommodation & housing support



Alcohol, drugs & other dependencies



Children & families



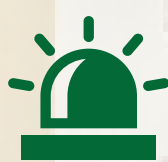
Carers



Disability



Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence



Emergency support



Employment, Training & Volunteering



Environment



Financial



Health and Wellbeing



Legal



LGBTQIA+



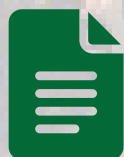
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention



Multicultural Services



Older People



Policy and Advocacy



Transport



Young People



# Policy and Advocacy

NTCOSS works collaboratively with our members, governments, and other stakeholders to develop and advocate on quality social policy. NTCOSS strives for change that supports and promotes fair, just, and inclusive communities for all Territorians.

As a small team, most of NTCOSS' work continues to focus on the key policy areas of DFSV; children and young people; Aboriginal justice; energy; and income support. Close, strategic partnerships with other NT peak bodies and key advocates enables NTCOSS and our stakeholders to support each other's work and area of expertise and allows us all to maximise our resources. As well as supporting the work of our stakeholders, and leading in key policy areas, NTCOSS also engaged in emerging or one-off policy and advocacy work throughout 2021-22.

This year NTCOSS shifted our policy and advocacy approach to align with the NT Social Outcomes Framework, with a focus on the following domains:

Territorians are safe

Territorians are able to live a healthy life

Territorians have appropriate and secure housing

The Territory has a natural and built environment that supports a high quality of life

Territorians are financially secure and have material basics



with the NT Government to the Australian Government on issues relating to DFSV, including the need to increase Federal resourcing to help us meet the need in our communities when it comes to addressing DFSV. This advocacy was recognised when an extra \$10.7 million was announced as being delivered to the Territory as part of the National Partnership Agreement on DFSV responses.

All NTCOSS' policy focus areas are connected, though there are greater intersections between our domestic, family and sexual violence; children and young people; and Aboriginal Justice work. Our work is guided by interconnected, overarching principles and frameworks including the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Framework 2018-2028; Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory; National Agreement on Closing the Gap (2020); the Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Agreement; recommendations in the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT (2017); and recommendations in the Productivity Commission study report on Expenditure on Children in the NT (2020). We will continue to build on and embed this approach.

NTCOSS' strength is in the experience and expertise of our members, which brings rigour to our policy and advocacy work. NTCOSS collects input from our members through a variety of mechanisms to strengthen the sector and develop quality social policy, including targeted consultations, network meetings and stakeholder engagement. This included The State of the Community Sector Workforce Survey, completed by 236 staff from across the sector. We value the input and generosity of our members in providing their time and energy to these processes.

The majority of NTCOSS' policy and advocacy work was targeted to the NT Government, however significant areas of advocacy were targeted to the Australian Government. This year, NTCOSS and specialist non-government service providers advocated in collaboration



# Campaigns

## Federal Election

NTCOSS created the opportunity for the sector and NT community to engage with local candidates and leaders, including senators, ahead of the 2022 Federal election, through a virtual interview-style podcast and video. The majority of political parties engaged with this process; their responses to a set of questions posed by NTCOSS members on issues related to our sector and people experiencing disadvantage in the NT were uploaded to the NTCOSS website and social media ahead of the election. This material reached thousands of people, making more than 2300 impressions across social media.

## National Raise the Age Alliance

NTCOSS continued to represent the NT at the national campaign calling for state, territory and the Commonwealth governments to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Australia to at least 14, as a matter of urgency.

Aside from some commitments in some jurisdictions, there was little outward-facing action from governments on this issue during 2021-22. However, the election of a new Federal Government gave cause for cautious optimism, and the Alliance called for leadership from the new government in the Meeting of Attorneys-General discussions of raising the age.

## National Raise the Rate for Good campaign

Alongside our COSS colleagues and campaign supporters, NTCOSS continued to advocate to fix our social security safety net for good so that it keeps people out of poverty. The campaign

brings together community organisations, unions, not-for-profits, grassroots campaigners and others to campaign to Raise the Rate for Good.

## Hands off our Charities

NTCOSS campaigned with this alliance of more than 100 NT and interstate/national charities against the then Australian Coalition Government's proposed changes to Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) regulations, which would have given the regulator sweeping powers to deregister charities for speaking out on behalf of the communities they serve. This campaign culminated in the introduction of Senator Rex Patrick's disallowance motion against the changes, which the Senate voted in favour of. This was a huge win for our sector and for the future of our independent advocacy.

## Healthy Homes for Renters

We collaborated with community services in all states and territories in calling on all governments to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in rental housing.

## Healthy Affordable Housing

NTCOSS joined ACOSS and its partners in developing the National Low-Income Energy Productivity Program, a comprehensive proposal to the Federal Government for effective, economic stimulus measures that also deliver benefits to low-income households. NTCOSS seeks to influence policy development and to bring the voices of the community sector and people in the NT experiencing

# Advocacy

disadvantage to the decision-making process.

## Energy

NTCOSS continued to grow our influence and advocacy on energy related policy and advocacy work in the NT during 2021-22. NTCOSS advocates for a clean, fair energy system and for improved energy standards for NT housing as a way of reducing costs and improving health and wellbeing.

NTCOSS has worked on building relationships with agencies and government departments that intersect with energy policy, including the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, the NT Utilities Commissioner, and Power and Water. Over the past year, NTCOSS has advocated to bring the voices of our sector and culturally and linguistically diverse people

into policy design and decision making. NTCOSS also convened an Energy Policy discussion group, which brings together a diverse group of specialists to inform NTCOSS' energy policy platform.

NTCOSS worked with a coalition of organisations that grew out of the 2020-21 Climate Justice Series, including Jesuit Social Services, the Environment Centre NT, Arid Lands Environment Centres, Unions NT and Original Power, on convening a sector-wide discussion about climate justice. As a sector, we view climate change as more adversely affecting those who are experiencing disadvantage, poor health and poverty in the NT. This is driving our work to provide a community perspective and hopefully more equitable decision making.



## Aboriginal Justice Agreement

NTCOSS continued working with the NT Attorney-General Department and Aboriginal Justice Unit (AJU), the Paul Ramsay Foundation and community sector representatives to implement the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (the Agreement).

The Agreement was launched on 9 August 2021, with NTCOSS co-signing the Agreement as a foundation party. The Agreement then received bipartisan support in March 2022, which is testament to the strength of the Agreement and will ensure its implementation beyond government cycles.

NTCOSS sits on and actively participates in the Aboriginal Justice Agreement Governance Committee to support and drive the implementation of the Agreement. NTCOSS has recently recruited and hosts the Project Officer/Secretariat to the Governance Committee and Working Groups. NTCOSS is also auspicing several contracts for the Governance Committee.

During this period new Law and Justice Groups were launched in targeted communities. These groups are a mechanism to empower Aboriginal leaders to implement local strategies to promote safety and strengthen communities.

NTCOSS recognises the important contribution of the Paul Ramsay Foundation to the Agreement and congratulates the AJU Director Leanne Liddle and AJU Deputy Director, Warren Jackson. Their tireless work has made the Agreement a reality. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively on the implementation of the Agreement.

## Children and Young People

NTCOSS continued to focus heavily on policy and advocacy relating to children and young people. Key work in this space included our ongoing involvement with the Children and Families Tripartite Forum, which was set up in response to the NT Royal Commission's recommendation for structured and sustained, high level engagement between the NT Government, Commonwealth Government and the community sector. The focus of the group is on children experiencing vulnerability, young people and families, and child protection and youth justice issues. While outstanding Royal Commission recommendations and reforms to the youth justice system remain of particular interest to NTCOSS and our community sector colleagues on the Tripartite Forum, oversight of the development of the 10 Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families was a key focus over the past financial year.

As well as continuing to advocate on outstanding Royal Commission recommendations, NTCOSS provided input and responses to reforms to the care and protection of children system. This includes providing input to the review and reset of the Multi-Agency Child and Community Safety Framework, and providing a submission to the NT Care and Protection of Children Amendment Bill discussion paper, in consultation with NTCOSS members.

## Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence

NTCOSS continued to develop our work with the specialist DFSV sector across the course of the last financial year. We continued to coordinate responses to both the Territory and Federal governments on behalf of the DFSV sector on a range of issues, including the development of the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032, the National Women's Safety Summit (of which NTCOSS was the lead delegate for the NT) as well as advocacy in conjunction with the NT Government on funding delivery to the region under the National Partnership Agreement.

NTCOSS consulted with the community sector on the development of Action Plan 2 under the NT's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028, the next Action Plan to inform the reform agenda across the Territory now Action Plan 1 has passed, and continued to represent the sector on a range of forums relating to domestic, family and sexual violence reduction and reform, including the Cross Agency Working Group, the oversight mechanism for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework.

## Income Support

Throughout 2021-22 NTCOSS continued to advocate on a range of measures relating to income support, with stakeholders locally and nationally. NTCOSS continued to support ACOSS' Raise the Rate campaign, a national campaign encouraging the Federal Government to lift people out of poverty and increase rates of JobSeeker and Youth Allowance. We continued to support the work of the Aboriginal Peaks of the NT (APONT)

in abolishing the Community Development Program and advocating for the introduction of alternative employment pathways for those living in remote communities. We also advocated for the abolishment of the punitive Cashless Debit Card, and compulsory income management more generally.



# Emergent Advocacy Work

In 2021-22, NTCOSS responded to several reviews and inquiries that sit outside our core policy areas, but which were related to our vision for a fair, inclusive, and sustainable NT, and our commitment to supporting a strong and sustainable sector. At the NT level, these included submissions on:

- the NT Strategic Water Plan,
- the Community Justice Centre,
- the proposal to increase taxi fares in the NT,
- the NT Infrastructure Plan and
- the NT Anti-Discrimination Act.

At the Commonwealth level, NTCOSS provided a submission to the Indigenous Digital Inclusion Plan and supported various ACOSS submissions.

NTCOSS welcomed the Fair Work Commission ruling to increase the National Minimum Wage in mid-2022. It was an important recognition of the increasing cost of living that Australians are experiencing, and is particularly important for women, given that women make up more than half of the low-paid, award-reliant workforce.

However, without an increase in funding from the Australian and NT governments, NTCOSS is concerned that our community service organisations will be unable to fund increases to wages and superannuation for their frontline employees. Along with our NT peak body colleagues, NTCOSS wrote to the NT Chief Minister to raise these concerns. As this action was taken directly prior to the end of June 2022, this has not reached a conclusion and advocacy is ongoing and a key priority for NTCOSS.



# Build Sector Capacity

## Youth Voice NT

We appreciate and thank TFHC for generously funding Youth Voice NT for five years. In lieu of a youth peak body, Youth Voice NT provides targeted youth sector support to raise the voices of young people in the Territory, who might not have had an opportunity to share their stories.

Youth Voice NT aims to improve engagement with Government in the development of future policies and strategies that directly affect young people and the Youth Sector. Through the project NTCOSS advocates for Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse young people; young parents; those not engaged in education, training or employment; in out of home care; at risk of or involved in the youth justice system; at risk of or experiencing homelessness; with chronic health and mental health conditions; with alcohol and other drug issues; LGBTQIA+ people; from low socioeconomic backgrounds; with a disability; and who have experiences with DFSV.

In 21-22 Youth Voice NT met with members and stakeholders across the NT, and represented their views and needs to both the NT and Federal governments. We produced two key reports, the Young Territorians Reports and the Youth Sector Report.

This year Youth Voice NT launched its website and social media page on Instagram, to promote to the sector and young people about events, trainings, grants and read up on recent youth sector reports. Visit the website [here](#).



## NTcommunity

NTCOSS, funded by TFHC, partnered with Refuel Creative to bring a new, human-centred services directory to life in a way that reflected the NT spirit and was easy to understand for a range of users. To deliver the best user experience and engagement, extensive consultation was undertaken to understand how people would be most likely to use the site to find the right service providers. Rather than Territorians trying to find the right organisation to access the service they needed, the model was switched around to focus the search on the outcome people were looking for.

Officially launched on 26 March 2021, the new NTcommunity Service Directory provides access to more than 215 community organisations offering 440 services across 380+ locations throughout the NT. The directory is available on the website and on mobile apps. It is updated with new organisations and services as they become available. This financial year was the final year of a five year funding agreement for the project. Throughout this period, the project was focused on contact with stakeholders to encourage promotion of value and use of the directory, continuous evaluation and

development of the website, training for stakeholders in self-management of information and collection of analytical usage data.

## Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Project

NTCOSS received funding in November 2020 for a 12-month DFSV policy project in partnership with TFHC. In 2021, this funding was extended under a five-year funding agreement.

This project has enabled NTCOSS to continue to provide policy and advocacy support to the community sector, increasing services' capacity to engage meaningfully with government reforms. Further, NTCOSS has played a pivotal role in strengthening sector relationships with the NT Government, as well as facilitating the comprehensive and systematic identification of sector needs, which NTCOSS has then raised with the NT and Federal governments.

NTCOSS also coordinates the delivery of the Risk Assessment Management Framework training in partnership with the Department across the Territory.



## Generational Strategy

The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT recommended the development of a 10-year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the NT. The Generational Strategy sets out a vision and policy framework to improve services for the wellbeing and safety of all children, young people and families in the NT. The framework will describe strengthened collaboration and coordination between local communities, service providers and governments.

The Generational Strategy Working Group was established in early 2021 to lead the development of the Strategy, which has been overseen by the Tripartite Forum. The Group is made up of representatives from NTCOSS; the Federal Government Department of Social Services and National Indigenous Australians Agency; the NT Government Reform Management Office and Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet; Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT and North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency.

Through the second half of 2021, the Group engaged in consultation across the Territory to develop the Strategy. The Strategy was finalised at the end of 2021 and a Steering Group set up to direct the implementation work. NTCOSS presented at regional consultations

on the Generational Strategy in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin.



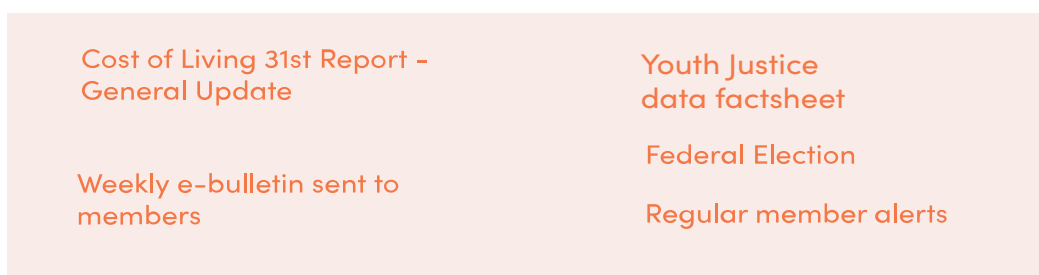
# Our Collective Voice

NTCOSS is the leading voice on matters affecting the NT community sector. We built on our reputation as a trusted voice to represent the diverse interests of the NT's thriving community sector and speak out for communities experiencing extreme vulnerabilities and disadvantage in the NT.

This year we developed and published media releases, opinion pieces and digital content across new and existing platforms relating to NTCOSS advocacy and policy positions for people who are impacted by inequality and disadvantage in the NT.

Our communications include regular consultation with NTCOSS members and stakeholders through member alerts, weekly e-bulletins and social media posts.

This year we featured in local, national and international news articles.



## Topics where we led the debate in the Northern Territory

NTCOSS's annual Cost of Living Report was well received by the media and the sector, amid the highest inflation level in many years.

Lobbying the Federal Government to #RaisetheRate of income support.

#RaisetheAge campaign. Attorney-General Chansey Paech has committed to raise the age of criminality to 12 years of age. NTCOSS will continue to push for 14.

Working to highlight the continued use of chairs and spithoods on children in detention.

Calling for the closure of the Don Dale Detention Centre and to do more on rehabilitation as the Royal Commission recommended, amid reports of self-harm and human rights abuses.

Significant campaigns to highlight that the Federal Government was under-funding DFSV in the NT, where rates are the nation's highest.

Invitation to attend the announcement of the NT's first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Kate Worden.



[youthvoicent.org.au](http://youthvoicent.org.au)



[facebook.com/  
youthvoicent](https://facebook.com/youthvoicent)



[instagram.com/  
youthvoicent](https://instagram.com/youthvoicent)

We launched on LinkedIn, grew our Twitter and Facebook followers and launched Youth Voice NT's website and social media accounts.



# Publications, Presentations and Submissions

NTCOSS advocates with and for the community sector and Territorians experiencing disadvantage, to influence decision makers at both the Northern Territory and Federal levels. Throughout 2021–22 NTCOSS produced evidence-based recommendations on social justice issues in various formal reports and submissions:

## Reports and Submissions

NTCOSS Northern Territory Government Pre-Budget Submission 2022–2023

NTCOSS Submission to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Remote Engagement) Bill 2021

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Department of Education's Education Engagement Strategy

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Department of Education's Review of Part 7 of the Education Act 2015

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice's Community Justice Centre 2021 Review

NTCOSS Submission to the National Indigenous Australia Agency's Indigenous Digital Inclusion Plan consultation

NTCOSS Submission to the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and their Children 2022–2032

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Care and Protection of Children Amendment Bill Discussion Paper

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics' Proposal to increase taxi fares in the NT

NTCOSS Response to the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security's NT Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper

NTCOSS Submission to the NT Government an NT Infrastructure Plan.

Cost of Living Report No.31 – General Update

The State of the Community Sector: Findings from the 2021 Northern Territory Community Sector Workforce Survey

Youth Voice NT – Young Territorians Report 2021

Youth Voice NT – A Glance at the Northern Territory Youth Sector 2021

NTCOSS Action Plan 2 Consultation Report

NTCOSS submissions and publications can be found online at [www.ntcoss.org.au](http://www.ntcoss.org.au)

# Our Collaborations

As a peak body, NTCOSS values our key role in sector stewardship. Through this, we play a role in steering sector-wide reform and cooperation to set and execute a shared agenda. NTCOSS engages with our diverse membership and stakeholders through many networks, committees and groups. Additionally, regular NTCOSS network meetings provide opportunity for the sector to connect, both in person and virtually.

## Sector Representation

NT Government, Non-Government Organisations Partnership Group (Co Chair)

Aboriginal Justice Agreement Governance Committee

NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework Cross Agency Working Group

National Women's Safety Alliance DFSV Working Group

Youth Justice Advisory Committee

Children and Families Tripartite Forum

Generational Strategy Implementation Group

NT Human Rights Award Committee

Domestic and Family Violence Justice Reform Working Group

Child Wellbeing and Safety Working Group

ACOSS and COSS Directors Network

COSS Climate Network

COSS Policy Network

COSS Tax Network

COSS Income Support and Employment Network

ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey Steering Group

National Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility Organisational Supporters

National Youth Advocacy Network

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

Raise the Rate Organisational Supporters

National Advocacy Group – Women on Temporary Visas

Healthy, Affordable Housing Network



## Sector Engagement and Development

Central Australian Youth Justice Network

Child Friendly Alice Advisory Group

Darwin Working with Youth Network  
(DARWWYN)

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services  
Network (PARYS)

AADANT Youth AOD Network

AADANT Cross Sector Network

Darwin Domestic and Family Violence  
Network

Central Australian Family Violence and  
Sexual Assault Network

Top End Safe House Reference Group

Katherine Local Reference Group

Barkly Family Safety Network

Jacana Energy Issues Forum

NT Utilities Network

Energy Policy Discussion Group

Cashless Debit Card Working Group

NTCOSS CEO Network

NTCOSS Quality and Compliance Network

NTCOSS Tax and Economic Network

NTCOSS Social Policy Network

NTCOSS NT Peaks Network

NTCOSS Domestic, Family and Sexual  
Violence Group

NTCOSS Alice Springs Interagency Network



# Strengthening the Sector

## Training and Events

NTCOSS 'NT Budget Information session' online event with the Department of Treasury and Finance, offered free to all NTCOSS members

2022-23 NT Budget Briefing with Ken Davies, CEO Territory Families, Housing and Communities, offered free to all NTCOSS members

NT Anti-Discrimination Act Briefing with Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Sally Sievers, offered free to all NTCOSS members

NT Territory Families Legislation Amendment Bill Briefing, offered free to all NTCOSS members

Coordination and support for the delivery of regular Risk Assessment Management Framework (RAMF) workshops, in partnership with the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, across five regions in the NT

Facilitation of Introduction to Asset Based Community Development training with the Jeder Institute

Support for managers and board members across the sector to develop knowledge and expertise around financial literacy with scholarships to attend Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) workshops, funded through Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade and Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

Facilitation of NTCOSS Women in For Purpose Leadership Series, highlighting the stories and experiences of three local leaders and influencers, offered free to all NTCOSS members

Partnership with HESTA to deliver two general superannuation information sessions, offered free to all young people and the youth sector

Collaboration with members and other peak bodies to deliver workshops and networking opportunities, as identified in the 2021 Northern Territory Community Sector Workforce Survey findings

NTCOSS members also continued to utilise hot desk opportunities and use of training/conference rooms in our Alice Springs and Darwin offices throughout 2021-22.



## COVID-19 Information Dissemination and response

During 2021-22, NTCOSS was active on several fronts to support our members and the community sector throughout the pandemic. We kept the sector informed and up to date on developments around both local and national responses to COVID-19 and amplified public health messages and resources across our networks. This was achieved through regular CEO Network meetings with representation from the Department of Health to offer accurate and consistent advice, our weekly e-bulletin and other NTCOSS-facilitated network meetings.

As a peak body, we brought member questions and concerns to the table in regular meetings established by the NT Government as part of the pandemic response. The meetings brought together government and health officials, in addition to peak body and sector leaders, to enable key sector and community issues to be brought forward as they were developing, and to channel and share important information about health and government actions.

## National COSS Network

NTCOSS is a member of the national Councils of Social Service network. All states and territories have an independent, non-partisan and respected COSS that advocates for the broader community's needs. Working together, alongside the national body ACOSS (the Australian Council of Social Service), our combined network represents more than 4,000 organisations and community sector workers.

We collaborate on issues of national importance and broad impact. We share information and insights across jurisdictions, assisting individual

COSS organisations to perform most effectively.



# NTCOSS Board

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
President	<b>Jayne Lloyd</b>	CatholicCare NT
Vice President	<b>Patrick McDonald</b>	Tangentyere Council
Treasurer	<b>Noelene Swanson</b>	54 Reasons / Save the Children Australia
Secretary	<b>Ann Buxton</b>	Anglicare NT
Executive Member	<b>Priscilla Atkins</b>	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
General Board Member	<b>Jill Smith</b>	CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation
General Board Member	<b>Carol Quill</b>	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
General Board Member	<b>Larissa Ellis</b>	Women's Safety Services of Central Australia
General Board Member	<b>Andrew Kenyon</b>	Australia Red Cross NT
General Board Member	<b>Cheryl Schmidt</b>	Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT
General Board Members Resigned November 2021 (AGM)	<b>Robert Cooper</b>	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
	<b>Robyn Wardle</b>	Family Planning Welfare NT



# NTCOSS Team

## Staff

**Deborah Di Natale,**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Sarah Holder,**  
Policy Manager

**Michelle Barton,**  
Operations Manager

**Caitlin Perry,**  
Senior Policy Officer

**Tessa Snowdon,**  
Senior Policy Officer

**Julia Perdevich,**  
Senior Policy Officer (up to January 2022)

**Mollie Harding,**  
Generational Strategy Senior Policy Officer  
(from February 2022)

**Laetitia Lemke,**  
Media and Communications Officer (from  
February 2022)

**Marissa Pattison,**  
Research Officer

**Aysha Kerr,**  
Youth Voice Project Officer (up to November  
2021)

**Stephanie Burgess,**  
Youth Voice Project Officer (from May 2022)

**Sean Newcombe,**  
Member Engagement Officer (July 2021-January  
2022)

**Kathryn Dwyer,**  
Administration Officer

## Contractors

**Kate Sieper,**  
Communication and Media (up to January 2022)

**Jonathan Pilbrow,**  
Cost of Living Reports

**Refuel Creative**

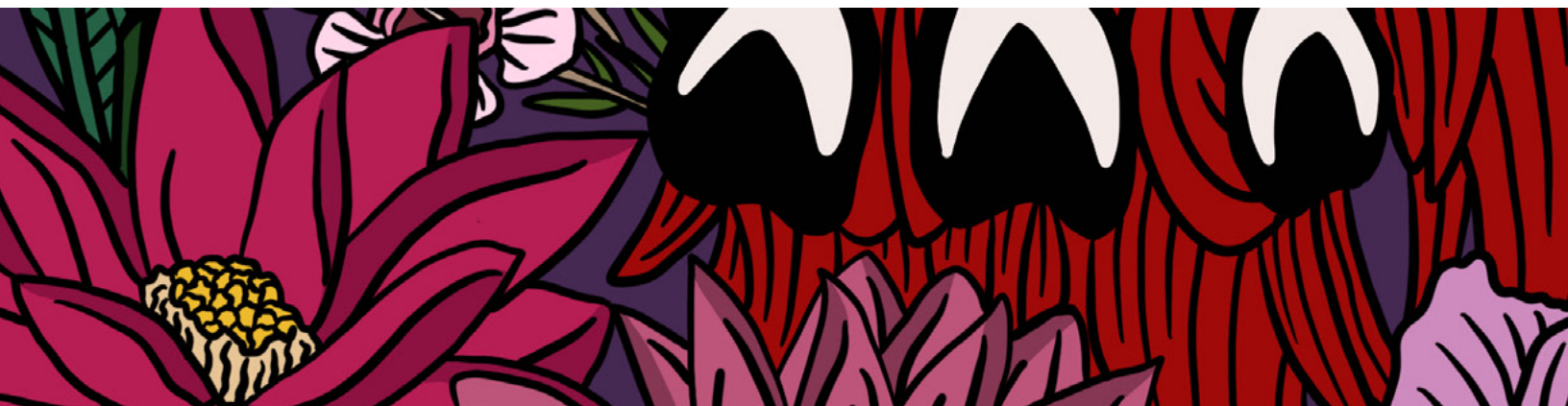
**Dropln Solutions**

**Zoya Godoroja-Prieckaerts,**  
NTcommunity online directory

**Rachel Neary,**  
Risk Assessment Management Framework  
trainer

**Alex Richmond,**  
Risk Assessment Management Framework  
trainer

**Julianna Marshall**  
Risk Assessment Management Framework  
trainer



# Treasurer's Report

For the year ended 30 June 2022, NTCOSS has reported an operating surplus of \$940,470 (2021: \$35,147), with total revenue for the financial year of \$2,800,830 (2021: \$1,400,689); however, this surplus is largely a carryover of allocated grant funding for future financial years.

NTCOSS firmly believes that the sustainability of our organisation relies on diversified and recurring revenue sources. While the primary funding source continues to be Department of the Chief Minister, we appreciate the continuing support from TFHC, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Australian Department of Health, and now, the Paul Ramsay Foundation, who is a key partner for the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

We are also very fortunate to receive sponsorship and invaluable pro bono support from our partners Nous Group, Refuel Creative, Ategra and HESTA.

NTCOSS needs to be financially healthy in order to deliver quality member support and advocate on issues that matter. I'm pleased to confirm that NTCOSS continues to hold our membership category subscription fees at pre-2018 levels, acknowledging the incredible work that our member organisations do to support our NT community affected by poverty, inequality and the rising costs of living.

Self-generated funds remain important, ensuring NTCOSS maintains an independent voice and can amplify the sector's voice through policy development, reports, submissions and campaigns. These funds have enabled us to provide advocacy and research in areas needed by those experiencing disadvantage in

the Northern Territory including the allocation of funds to produce our 2021 'The State of the Community Sector: Findings from the 2021 Northern Territory Community Sector Workforce Survey' and Cost of Living reports.

July 2021 saw NTCOSS engage a new bookkeeper and accountant for financial management and support. We sincerely thank Clubhouse Territory and APG Accounting for your guidance and assistance to NTCOSS and our team this year. Our auditors, TDH Chartered Accountants, have issued an unqualified report and have not identified any major issues with accounting practices or financial management.

I would like to thank the NTCOSS Team and in particular, Michelle Barton, for supporting my role as Treasurer, even when resolving complexities while always maintaining a happy demeanor.

It has been my pleasure to work in this role alongside my fellow board members and I am sure the incoming Treasurer will benefit from the hard work and systems improvements that have taken place this year.

**Noelene Swanson**  
Treasurer

# Statement of Financial Position

Northern Territory Council of Social Service  
Incorporated

As at 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,928,191	1,192,085
Trade and other receivables	11,263	6,565
Other assets	14,619	25,153
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,954,073</b>	<b>1,223,803</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	505,374	524,491
Right-of-use assets	41,792	66,755
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>547,166</b>	<b>591,246</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,501,239</b>	<b>1,815,049</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	71,969	81,736
Borrowings	11,555	6,050
Lease liabilities	31,112	27,228
Employee benefits	211,186	262,064
Other financial liabilities	18,131	190,273
Other liabilities	37,400	37,400
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>381,353</b>	<b>604,751</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Lease liabilities	11,002	40,216
Employee benefits	13,174	14,843
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>24,176</b>	<b>55,059</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>405,529</b>	<b>659,810</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,095,710</b>	<b>1,155,239</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	270,695	270,695
Retained earnings	1,825,015	884,544
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>2,095,710</b>	<b>1,155,239</b>

# Income and Expenditure Statement 2022

Northern Territory Council of Social Service  
Incorporated

As at 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Income Other rendering of services revenue</b>	<b>39,525</b>	<b>24,067</b>
Interest income	1,345	2,369
Member subscriptions	27,832	31,636
Grants	2,790,758	1,394,289
Donations	9,545	6,400
Recoveries	326	-
Other income	200	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,869,531</b>	<b>1,458,761</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting fees	18,009	21,943
Administration and management fees	116	-
Auditors remuneration	6,000	6,000
Bank charges	747	903
Cleaning	8,471	8,145
Computer expenses	51,627	14,724
Conference/Seminar costs	12,742	-
Consulting and professional fees	283,990	187,394
Depreciation	48,561	45,598
Electricity and water	5,881	5,385
Equipment < \$5,000	27,726	19,136
Interest expense on lease liability	2,794	3,798
Insurance	14,318	5,482
Motor vehicle expenses	9,089	6,101
Operating expenses	7,246	5,866
Other employee costs	6,402	7,193
Postage	36	407
Printing and stationery	22,344	10,828
Promotion	11,703	2,007
Program expenditure	174,396	36,585
Repairs and maintenance	2,086	1,326

Salaries	967,065	832,513
Staff training	12,332	2,467
Subscriptions	15,448	10,602
Sundry expenses	-	750
Superannuation contributions	102,996	76,017
Telephone and fax	6,579	7,983
Travel expenditure	99,776	35,975
Workers compensation insurance	10,581	8,486
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,929,061</b>	<b>1,423,614</b>
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>940,470</b>	<b>35,147</b>

NTCOSS 2022 Audited Financial Report with accompanying notes is available on our website [www.ntcoss.org.au](http://www.ntcoss.org.au).



# Our Partners

Thank you to the organisations and agencies who worked with us this year to help advance our vision of a fair, inclusive and sustainable Northern Territory.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**



