



NTCOSS

Northern Territory
Council of Social Service

Annual Report



2023-2024



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.

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Dear Members and Stakeholders,

It is with great pleasure we present the NTCOSS 2023-24 Annual Report to our members and community.

It has been a year of significant change and movement for NTCOSS. We finished the financial year with stable leadership and have attracted several extremely skilled policy staff to lead the team into the future. We also appointed Sally Sievers as the Chief Executive Officer. Sally brings extensive experience from her previous roles as the NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and Acting Children's Commissioner.

This year we farewelled Dr Stephanie Kelly. We want to thank long-term staff member and supporter Wendy Morton for stepping in as interim CEO and long-term staff member Caitlin Perry for her stellar job covering until Sally commenced in mid-April 2024.

We would like to acknowledge the significant contribution Sarah Holder has made to the history and work of NTCOSS. Over 7 years, Sarah was pivotal in guiding the NTCOSS policy direction and keeping us moving forward. We celebrate Sarah's legacy here and her ongoing contributions to the sector.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Michelle Barton who also left us over this period. Michelle is remembered by the team as a driven Operations Manager who was generous with her time and with the support she offered.

The Voice Referendum

In collaboration with many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, NTCOSS actively supported the Voice referendum, reflecting our commitment to amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and promoting equitable representation.

Youth Voice NT supported three young leaders from across the Territory to attend the Hands on Heart National Youth Voice Conference on Gadigal land, Sydney, from 24-27 August 2023.



NTCOSS supported the social media activities of Conor Bowden and Jaiden McGregor to create content to educate and better engage young Territorians in conversation about the Voice.

Whilst the referendum was unsuccessful on this occasion, living and working in the NT we know that with the resilience and ambitions of First Nations people it is only a matter of time.

Sustainability

NTCOSS remains committed to a sustainable NGO sector and alongside our members we were successful in advocating for appropriate indexation of five-year grants for funding awarded by NTG.

A core group of members exchanged letters and ultimately met with the former Chief Minister, and in November 2023 achieved a funding increase for frontline service across DFSV, Housing and Homelessness, AOD and Mental Health. Five percent in 2023-24 and five percent in 2024-25 meant a total increase of \$10 million dollars to relevant organisations.

With other peaks, we presented strong election asks and continued advocacy for sustainable sector funding, removal of the efficiency dividend and budget repair measures from funding agreements, the introduction of appropriate indexation measures to ensure funding reflects the real cost of delivering services and for funding to recognise increasing demand.

The value of the sector cannot be overstated. There is still much to be done to ensure our communities and governments understand how crucial not for profits are in achieving their ambitions for the Northern Territory. There is the imperative, ongoing research data on the value of the sector; but also ensuring the stories of the sector are told.

Social, community and health services make vital contributions to the economic and social life of the NT. NTCOSS is renewed and resolved to ensuring these contributions are properly valued.

Yours Sincerely,
Jayne Lloyd, President and Sally Sievers, CEO



Anais Henry-Martin and Aaliyah Anderson interviewing CEO Sally Sievers at NT Youth Parliament



Ms Jayne Lloyd OAM for service to the community through social welfare organisations.

NTCOSS CEO, staff and members congratulate NTCOSS Chair Jayne Lloyd on being awarded Member of the Order of Australia for service to the community through social welfare over more than two decades.

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 & advocacy.



Michelle Barton (Operations Manager), Cassandra Goldie (ACOSS CEO), Sophie Hantz (Senior Policy Officer), Steph Burgess (Youth Voice Project Officer), Emma Stevenson (Aboriginal Justice Agreement Project Officer), Caitlin Perry (Senior Policy Officer), Mollie Harding (Senior Policy Officer), Stephanie Kelly (Former NTCOSS CEO).

Our 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

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.



Regional Forums

Between February and May 2024, NTCOSS ran a series of regional forums in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. These forums were an opportunity to connect face to face with NTCOSS members and colleagues across the sector.

Representatives from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet and other key government agencies were invited to provide updates on relevant areas of work and hear from the sector.

Events

Member Briefings

NT Budget Information Session – 11 April 2024

Presentation by NT Department of Treasury and Finance to help members understand what's in the budget and the budget process.

Anti-Discrimination Commission – 23 November 2023

A briefing on the latest amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act and chance to meet the new Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Jeswynn Yagaratnam.

Road to the Referendum with Georgie Corrie, Yes 23 – 13 September 2023

Chance for members to gain perspective on campaign progress from Yes 23 and explore avenues for meaningful engagement within the social services sector.

Member Breakfast with Cassandra Goldie – 1 August 2023

Presentation on ACOSS' Federal Advocacy on tax and other sector concerns, with the opportunity for questions and networking.

2023 Human Rights Awards

NTCOSS has continued to support the NT Human Rights Awards and sit on the event steering committee.

Jaiden McGregor and Conor Bowden won the Fitzgerald Youth Award for their work engaging young Territorians in the lead up to the 2023 referendum. Their work was supported by NTCOSS' Youth Voice project through the Youth Voice NT grant.

NTCOSS' current CEO, Sally Sievers, was awarded the Fitzgerald Justice Award for her work over many years, including in her previous role as NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, to highlight and address injustices in the Territory.



Anti-Discrimination Commission

Campaigns

Indexation and Portable Long Service Leave Campaign

NTCOSS worked with a core group of members to address the impact of cumulative funding cuts, both due to year on year efficiency dividends and lack of appropriate indexation on five year funding, which resulted in members operating at between 16 to 22 per cent less funding than in 2018.

This is in the context of Fair Work Award wage increases, national superannuation rises, CPI and rising cost of living. This resulted in the impact being felt by the NT community, the people who access and rely on the services and program provided by our members.

An advocacy plan was developed by NTCOSS in consultation with members. Advocacy commenced in early 2023 to immediately restore the 16 to 20 percent funding shortfall experienced by members and for the government to work with the sector to develop partnership principles to achieve a sustainable indexation formula/framework for the future.

Letters were sent from 21 June 2023, raising the matter with the Chief Minister, with further correspondence on 16 October 2023 and September 2023 to other Cabinet Ministers; as well as behind the scenes work with Treasury officials.

The Chief Minister held a session with sector CEOs on 22 November 2024. The Chief Minister announced the provision of a funding increase for organisations (including DFSV, Housing and Homelessness services, AOD & Mental Health organisations) of \$10 million in total:

- \$5 million for 2023-24
- An additional \$5 million in 2024-25

Whilst this was not the 16 per cent minimum sought, it was a good start and clearly articulated two longer term issues for the sector:

- Ceasing the efficiency measures for the social and community sector.
- Noting the social and community sector's desire to contribute to the design of future budget indexation parameters.

Many, including NTCOSS, included the restoring of funding to the sector and the above two issues as NT election asks. This is a high priority for future advocacy.

Aboriginal Justice Agreement and Smarter Justice for Safer Communities

Until April this year, NTCOSS employed a project officer with a dual focus:

- The implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA)
- Supporting the Smarter Justice for Safer Communities Campaign

This work is funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

Secretariat support was offered to the AJA Governance Committees and working groups, including NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement Governance and Monitoring Committee, the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement Executive Action Committee, the Community Courts Working Group, and the AJA Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group.

Secretariat functions have now been transferred to the Aboriginal Justice Unit (AJU). NTCOSS meets with AJU regularly. The Smarter Justice for a Safer Communities Campaign, led by Shape Agency in partnership with NTCOSS, seeks to change community opinions and perspectives by presenting alternatives to the incarceration of Aboriginal people. The campaign, launched in March 2023, creates stories for social and mainstream media showcasing community-led alternative to custody initiatives. To date these stories have featured:

- Brother to Another
- Groote Eylandt Law and Justice Group
- Arrernte Boxing
- Jason, owner for Goldfields Hotel Motel in Tennant Creek
- Kunga Stopping Violence Program
- Alice Springs Alternatives to Custody

There is now high brand awareness of Smarter Justice for Safer Communities and increased use of the language of this campaign within our community.



Nhulunbuy Regional Forum

NTCOSS works with our members, governments and other stakeholders to advocate for better outcomes across our key focus areas:

- Poverty
- Housing and energy efficiency
- Climate justice
- Domestic, family and sexual violence
- Children and young people
- Aboriginal justice

In September 2023 we said goodbye to Policy Manager, Sarah Holder. Sarah joined NTCOSS in January 2017 as a Senior Policy Officer. She then became the Policy Manager and the policy and advocacy work of NTCOSS has been in her stewardship for the years since.

Sarah has been the engine behind a huge amount of submissions, reports and research development. Sarah sat with many of our members and sector colleagues on high level working groups and had a particular passion for youth justice and women's safety.

While Sarah's contributions at NTCOSS and the NT social and community sector more broadly are far too numerous to list, of particular note are:

- The development and establishment of a dedicated policy officer for domestic, family and sexual violence at NTCOSS.
- The development and establishment of Youth Voice NT.
- Contributions to the response to the NT Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection.
- Advocacy for increasing the age of criminal responsibility.

NTCOSS, its members and the broader social sector would like to thank Sarah for her leadership. We have learned so much from Sarah and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



Social Security and Cost of Living

NTCOSS' advocacy regarding poverty continues to focus on the households with the lowest incomes and those experiencing disadvantage. NTCOSS advocates for the rate of income support to be increased, including through ACOSS' Raise the Rate campaign, compulsory income management to be abolished, a fairer concessions system and affordable housing including greater protections for renters.

In August 2023, NTCOSS convened the first meeting of the income management and social security network. This brings members and other community sector stakeholders together in an informal network to share information and collaborate on relevant policy and advocacy work in the income management and social security space in the NT.

In 2023-24 we released 5 cost of living fact sheets.

These fact sheets are an important evidence base for our own advocacy and a resource for members and the broader sector.

- Utilities (Sept 2023)
- Transport (Sept 2023)
- Housing (Sept 2023)
- Transport (May 2024)
- Housing (May 2024)



In 2023-24, we made the following submissions:

- Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into compulsory income management – May 2024.
- National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper – Oct 2023.
- Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs inquiry into the worsening rental state.

Other network participated in:

- ACOSS Poverty Research Network.
- ACOSS Income Support and Employment Policy network.

Housing and Energy Efficiency

NTCOSS, with its members and other stakeholders, advocates for policies and programs that reduce the impact of energy hardship and contribute to the elimination of energy poverty in the NT. NTCOSS undertakes a range of activities to identify issues and develop responses.

Areas of focus for advocacy are:

- A fair and equitable energy system in the NT that ensures all households have access to and can afford the energy they need.
- Targeted energy concession schemes that address affordability.
- Minimum energy standards for rental housing.
- NT wide program to roll out solar energy for all social housing.
- Fast and fair transition to renewable energy.
- Development of safe and clean energy infrastructure throughout the NT.

The NT Utilities Network

The NT Utilities Network, convened by NTCOSS, brings together people who work in community services to work to reduce the impacts of and eliminate energy poverty in the NT. The NT Utilities Network aims to share information, provide opportunities to meet relevant stakeholders and identify systemic issues.

NT Concessions

The NT Concession scheme provides financial assistance to some low income Territorians, including up to \$1200 per year in energy concessions. It provides useful benefits for eligible members, however there are significant gaps in its coverage and operation. NTCOSS recommends expanding eligibility criteria, and making it easier to join and remain in the scheme.

NTCOSS also calls for indexation of the benefits provided. Activities in the reporting period included:

- Information for inclusion in pre-budget submission and cost of living fact sheets.
- Engagement with [The Energy Charter](#) to help deliver national campaign aimed at increasing take up of concession scheme.
- Information gathering and sharing with NTCOSS members (mostly financial counsellors and family/DV/employment/housing support workers).
- Raising the issue with NT ministerial and departmental staff.
- Participating in forums and processes that looked at concessions reform across the country.

Campaigns, alliances, committees, consultations in 2023-24

- Make Renting Fair
- Healthy Homes for Renters
- National Energy Consumers Roundtable
- Power and Water Corporation community and business consultation
- Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board Reference Committee
- COSS Policy Leads
- ACOSS Healthy Affordable Housing
- ACOSS Climate and Disasters Network
- ACOSS Tax Network

Meetings with stakeholders including:

- Utilities Commission.
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Building Services Team. The department oversees energy efficiency policy in the NT and designs and builds public housing in the NT.
- Ministerial staff.
- The Energy Charter.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

NTCOSS’s Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Senior Policy Officer is funded by the NT Government. The role is dedicated to DFSV sector and workforce support.

In 2023–24 the DFSV Senior Policy Officer regularly attended:

- Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network
 - Darwin Family Violence Network
 - Top End Remote Safe House Network
 - DFSV Cross Agency Working Group
 - National Alliance of DFV Specialist Services.
- The priority of this group is the development of a national workforce strategy with a national workforce round table to occur in September 2024.

In 2023–24 the DFSV Senior Policy Officer facilitated:

- Quarterly DFSV Sector meetings with NTG and NGO representatives. The purpose of these meetings was for sector updates, government updates, the sector to raise systemic issues and the DFSV Senior Policy Officer to provide an update on their work.
- Quarterly meetings between the DFSV sector and the Minister for DFSV Prevention and the Attorney General.

In 2023–24 financial year NTCOSS was contracted to facilitate the delivery of the NT Risk Assessment Management Framework training. For urban areas this was one-day training and for remote areas, two-day training. During this period, Alex Richmond delivered this training. We thank Alex for her dedication to the provision of high-quality training.



Training in progress with trainers Alex Richmond and Rachel Neary, and participants in Wadeye. March 2024.



Participants in Galiwinku with trainer Alex Richmond and Project Worker Sue Brownlee, January 2024.



Meg Wright & the RAMF Champions at the Conference
Meghan Wright (NTCOSS) Siennah Rose (CCNT), Nathalia Perez Alfonso (RA NT), Rachel Jewell (Miwatj), Litisha Baker (Yalu), Noelene Jorgensen (One Tree), Elaine Wills (CAAC), Annie Cain (Yalu), Jasmine Yunupingu (Yalu), Francesca Szakaly (KWHB), and Kerry Barker (KWHB).

Other significant events in this period:

- Coronial inquest into the deaths of Miss Yunupingu, Ngeygo Ragurrk, Kumanjayi Rabuntja and Kumanjayi Haywood.
- 22 September 2023: Day of Action Against Family and Domestic Violence.
- 5–6 June 2024: Sharing and Strengthening Our Practice Conference in Alice Springs.

Climate Justice

The NT is already being significantly impacted by climate change and while everyone is affected, it is people with the least who are impacted the most as they have fewer resources to cope, adapt and recover from climate impacts or to benefit fully in the energy transition.

NTCOSS calls for fast, fair and inclusive action to transition to a low carbon future. Addressing climate change is an opportunity to address long term social and economic disadvantage and exclusion in the NT.

Climate justice work in the reporting period included:

- Participation in NT Climate Justice Alliance.
- Attendance at member events including Environment Centre NT’s “State of the Environment” planning day.
- Contributing to ACOSS climate justice work and facilitating NT NGO participation in ACOSS consultations to develop ACOSS Fast Fair and Inclusive Action on Climate Change.
- Contributing to Recharging the Territory: <https://www.ecnt.org.au/recharging>.

Transport

Transport plays a big role in people’s lives. It’s essential for work and economic activity, and facilitates access to education and health, helping people and communities connect, grow and thrive. Too many people in the NT have limited or no access to transport services.

Improving public transport and regional and remote transport networks across the NT would significantly ease cost of living pressures and improve food security across the NT, particularly for residents on low incomes.

The creation of place-based transport plans for geographically different areas across the Territory, based on principles of access and equity, would assist in addressing this.

NTCOSS recommends investment in a review of regional and urban public transport in the NT, including the establishment of consultation and planning processes that encourage local engagement for the development of local and regional transport plans to facilitate an informed response to transport issues in the NT. Based on best practice approaches, the review should consider accessibility, affordability, equity, safety and carbon emission reduction. The review should also consider how to ensure Territorians in regional and remote areas can harness the benefits of low and zero emissions vehicles (LZEVs).

In 2024 NTCOSS convened a meeting of transport stakeholders, aiming to:

- Better understand the public transport needs of the community.
- Develop a priority list of solvable problems for the group to focus on.
- Work together to develop recommendations for implementation.
- Work together and link in key parties to develop solutions, where appropriate.

Alice Springs Transport Working Group

In September 2023, the Alice Springs Transport Working Group released the final report for the Mparntwe (Alice Springs) Transport Disadvantage Research Project. NTCOSS has been a part of the Working Group, along with several leading community-based agencies and government departments, since 2021.

The Working Group commissioned this project to better understand transport disadvantage in Alice Springs and new ways of addressing the social issues involved. The Project provides important evidence base and recommendations that we hope will be highly useful in shaping future responses relating to transport access in Alice Springs.

NTcommunity

NTcommunity: Connecting a community to support services (refuelcreative.com.au)

NTCommunity

In partnership with the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, NTCOSS developed and manages the online services directory, NTcommunity. This tool is designed to support the sector, government and community in linking people to human services across the Northern Territory.

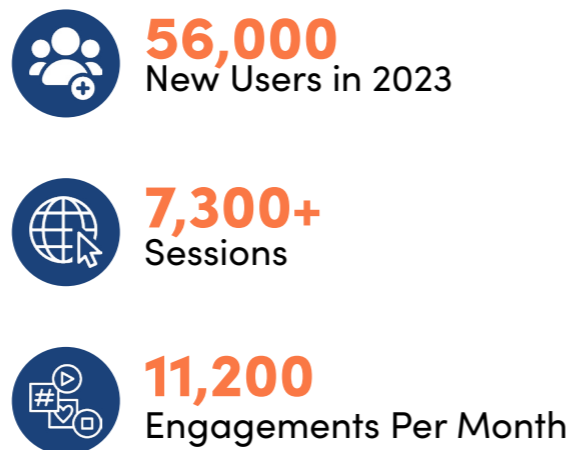
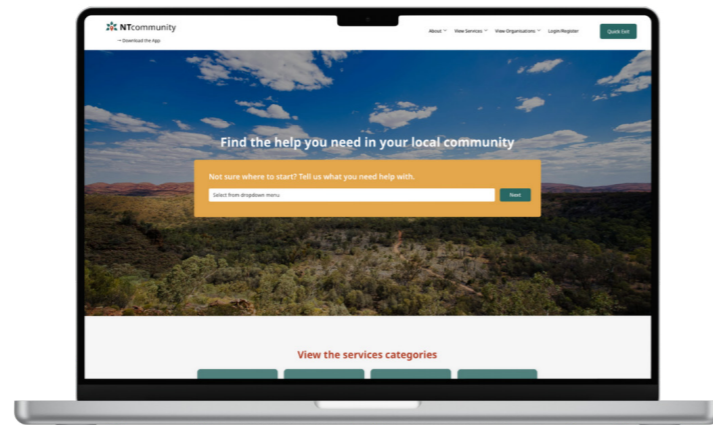
NTcommunity was developed in a phased approach, including consultation and collaboration with a large and varied range of stakeholders from across the Territory. The directory is available on the website and a mobile app, to assist with offline access to service information.

Through gathering and measuring feedback, NTCOSS and platform developers and hosts, Refuel Creative have worked on aesthetic redesigns and bug fixes as the website and app continued to grow, continuously improving the user experience on a regular basis.

NTcommunity now houses 800 distinct services delivered by 390 organisations out of 750 locations across the NT.

This year a marketing campaign, targeted at the community, rolled out via TV advertising and Refuel Creative's search engine optimisation strategy has turned NTcommunity into the place where Territorians find their support services online.

There were 56,000 new users in 2023 with the website currently getting more than 7300+ sessions and 11,200 engagements per month, making it a must-use for service providers across the Northern Territory.



Youth Voice NT

Funded by the NT Government, Youth Voice NT is a voice for young people and the youth sector in the NT. It aims to elevate the voices of young people aged 15 to 24 and improve the engagement young Territorians have with all levels of government.

Youth Voice NT has continued to raise the voices of young people across the Territory at a local and national level. It platformed young people's voices through our Youth Voice NT grant, national consultations, media opportunities, the Hands on Hearts Conference, and The Y's NT Youth Parliament's first press gallery, just to name a few.

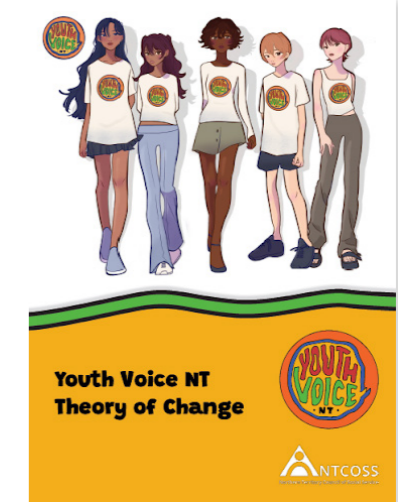
In February this year we launched the Youth Voice NT Theory of Change, which outlines the four main pillars of the Youth Voice NT project.



Conor Bowden at the Youth Voice NT Theory of Change launch 1 February 2024

Hands on Heart Conference

Youth Voice NT supported three young leaders from across the Territory to attend the Hands on Heart National Youth Voice NT Conference on Gadigal land, Sydney from 24-27 August 2023. The three young people had intersected with the Youth Voice Project, both Jaiden and Armani had been profiled by Youth Voice.



They were chosen as they were seen as ambassadors of the project, and all had a desire to educate their peers around the Voice to Parliament Referendum. The Conference was led by the Uluru Youth Dialogue and was designed to bring young people from across the country with all different backgrounds to grow their knowledge and advocacy regarding the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the upcoming Voice referendum.

More than 100 delegates aged between 18-30 attended, representing a wide range of cultures, languages, religions, locations and educational and professional backgrounds.



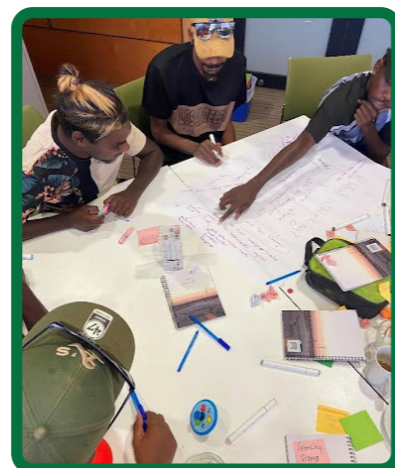
The Hands on Hearts Conference: Jaiden McGregor, Auntie Pat Anderson, Armani Francois, Conor Bowden

Over 3 days, we participated in a series of presentations, workshops and networking opportunities. We heard directly from the Co-Chairs of Uluru Statement from the Heart and Youth Dialogue ambassadors to learn about the history and process leading up to the issuing of the Uluru Statement, and subsequent referendum announcement. We had presentations from media, campaign and social media experts to learn how to best use these tools of engagement in ongoing advocacy around the Voice. The in-depth workshops allowed participants to learn from one another and develop a plan for how to advocate on the Voice within our own communities. We created content for social media and some delegates engaged directly with the mainstream media on site.

The weekend culminated in the delegates issuing a joint statement reaffirming the group's deep commitment and support for a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament as called for by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



ABC article with Conor Bowden & Jaiden McGregor (recipients of the Youth Voice NT Grant and the Fitzgerald Youth Award, Human Rights Awards 2023).



NPY Women's Council Youth Leadership Summit 2023, What is advocacy? Workshop with Youth Voice Project Officer Steph Burgess.



Left to Right, Steph Burgess (NTCOSS), Clare Horsfall (JSS), Emma Stevenson (NTCOSS), Shaleena Musk (NT Children's Commissioner).



2023 NT Youth Roundtable visit to NTCOSS. Left to Right: Robina Ali (NTG), Tyreake Banjo, Sophia Rogers, Jai West, AmberPlumb, Kobi Javier, Chloe Lamont, Gurshan Dhillon, CJ Rankin, Izzy Craven, Armani Francois, Jessica Porter, Stephanie Burgess (NTCOSS), Ben Poveda-Alfonso (NTG).



NT Youth Parliament Chief Minister Armani Francois addressing the house.



NT Youth Parliament Press Gallery members with Youth Voice Project Officer. Anais Henry-Martin, Stephanie Burgess (NTCOSS), Joel Taban, James Finch, Hadisurya Temmuyin, Aaliyah Andreson, Ava Jones, Bri Alexander, Kiarah Mack.

The Youth Voice Project Officer facilitated:

- Nominating and supporting Mollie Harding, Conor Bowden, Jaiden McGregor and Armani Francois to attend the Hands on Hearts Youth Conference held by Uluru Youth Dialogue, UNICEF, MYAN and AYAC. This took place in Sydney one month before the referendum.
- Launching our Youth Voice NT Grants program and awarding the first grant to Conor Bowden and Jaiden McGregor to continue their work in providing easy and fun ways of understanding the Voice Referendum and their grassroots information sessions that took place at footy clubs across the top end.
- Northern Territory 2023 Youth Roundtable meeting in Mparntwe/Alice Springs visit to NTCOSS and session with Youth Voice.

The Youth Voice Project Officer attended (1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024):

- 68 youth sector network meetings
- 57 meetings with youth sector stakeholders
- 4 Youth Justice Advisory Committee meetings
- 24 meetings with Government Departments and Minister's Offices



- NPY Youth Leadership Summit workshop on ‘What is Advocacy?’
- Youth Voice Theory of Change launch February NTCOSS Darwin office.
- Youth Voice Democracy Dash activity for Democracy Dash Feb, Alice Springs.
- 3 Youth Voice Group meetings. This is a group of youth sector representatives and young people who are helping to guide the Youth Voice NT project to ensure good outcomes for young people across the Territory. The Youth Voice Steering Committee includes representation from:
 - MacDonnell Regional Council
 - Tangentyere Council
 - Anglicare NT
 - NPY Women’s Council
 - Headspace Darwin
 - Australian Childhood Foundation
 - Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
 - CREATE
 - Pathfinders
 - Mindfulness Project

RAMF Champions Project

The NT Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Risk Assessment & Management Framework (RAMF) aims to improve the ability of services to respond to DFV.

The RAMF Champion project coordinated by NTCOSS seeks to implement the RAMF in 8 universal services. Through this, it aims to strengthen these organisations knowledge about DFV, their internal systems and policies, staff capacity, referral pathways and inter-agency responses, to ultimately better respond to clients experiencing DFV.

The 8 services involved in the project are:

- Catholic Care NT
- Relationships Australia NT
- One Tree Community Services NT
- Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation
- Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Yalu Aboriginal Corporation
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Total number of Communities of Practice chaired between January –August 2024: 6

Topics covered:

- Implementation science and a whole of organisation approach
- How are other jurisdictions completing this work, a QnA with Djirra
- Setting goals and creating a theory of change
- Mandatory reporting for DFV train the trainer session
- Staff centred care
- Staff centred care and getting leadership onboard.

The RAMF Champions Coordinated travelled in 2023–24 to:

- Darwin in January to meet the team and meet RAMF champions based in Darwin
- Katherine in May to support RAMF training and do stakeholder meetings with KWHB
- Mutitjulu in June to support RAMF training and do stakeholder meetings with CAAC
- Katherine in July to see Katherine West Health Board Champions



Meghan Wright, Francesca Szakaly, Stephanie Bowden, and Kerry Barker (all KWHB).

Other sector support during 2023–24:

- Met NT Consumer Affairs Commissioner
- Australia Bureau of Statistics (Social Characteristics and Place Branch)
- Organised training on NT Budget Cycle for members (presented by NT Department of Treasury and Finance)
- CSIRO
- ACCAN Australian Communications Consumer Action Network Member Advisory Forum

Media

We are trusted to be a leading voice to represent the NT’s community and social sector and advocate on the issues faced by people and communities experiencing inequality and disadvantage in the NT.

- In June 2024 we released our 2024 NT Election Priorities document, in which we called for Fairness and Equity for all Territorians and created a section on our [website](#) for the election, media releases and social media tiles.
- NTCOSS CEO Sally Sievers was interviewed live with [ABC Radio Darwin’s Adam Steer](#) on our election asks including: Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence; Cost of Living; Energy & Climate; Justice; Children & Families; and Sector Sustainability.
- We publicly advocated for our sector after the Labor Government’s introduction of [Portable Long Service Leave](#) for social and community sector employees, which we support in theory but not without a commitment to properly fund the essential services our diverse sector provides.
- CEO Sally Sievers was interviewed on ABC Radio Darwin and NTCOSS issued a [media release](#) amid concerns about Alice Springs twice facing curfews and the introduction of controversial new laws making it easier to impose curfews with few checks and balances and without consultation.

Widespread media coverage of the sector’s response was published in:

- The NT News
- ABC NT TV, radio and online
- NITV
- The National Indigenous Radio Service
- CAAMA
- 8CCC Radio in Alice Springs

Our DFSV Senior Policy Officer Sophie Hantz was sought after and spoke regularly in the media about the [national and territory-wide crisis](#) in DFSV and the need for stronger federal and NT Government responses, which resulted in:

- 10 Media Releases
- Weekly e-bulletin sent to members
- Regular member alerts
- Numerous media interviews

10 Media Releases

Weekly e-bulletin sent to members

Regular member alerts

Numerous media interviews with print, TV, online and radio.

Statement of Financial Position

	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,655,061	1,768,790
Trade and other receivables	48,969	10,173
Investments	410,869	
Other assets	11,502	14,442
Total current assets	2,126,401	1,793,405
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	436,757	450,405
Right-of-use assets	74,154	19,558
Total non-current assets	510,911	469,963
Total assets	2,637,312	2,263,368
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	105,001	135,072
Other liabilities	-	2,200
Lease liabilities	25,692	18,558
Employee benefits	103,881	174,554
Other financial liabilities	16,422	19,178
Total current liabilities	250,996	349,562
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease liabilities	46,570	-
Employee benefits	10,716	24,572
Total non-current liabilities	57,286	24,572
Total liabilities	308,282	374,134
Net assets	2,329,030	1,889,234
EQUITY		
Reserves	270,695	270,695
Retained earnings	2,058,335	1,618,539
Total equity	2,329,030	1,889,234

Northern Territory
 Council of Social Service
 Incorporated

NTCOSS 2024 Audited
 Financial Report with
 accompanying notes is
 available on our website
www.ntcoss.org.au.

Income and Expenditure

	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE		
Revenue from grants	3,111,499	2,500,918
Other revenue	66,652	126,958
Finance income	17,799	4,305
Total revenue	3,195,950	2,632,181
EXPENSES		
Employee benefits expense	1,251,800	1,156,961
IT support	151,770	83,328
Depreciation and amortisation expense	39,949	77,623
Audit and accounting	44,032	31,885
Program fees	17,487	-
Program expenses	52,436	52,313
Contract Trainers/Consultants	906,593	1,128,370
Travel and accommodation	127,018	109,666
Subscription and memberships	38,772	13,594
Venue hire	48,101	8,779
Insurance	5,893	15,178
Other expenses	70,728	159,217
Finance costs	1,575	1,743
Total Expenses	2,756,154	2,838,657
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	439,796	(206,476)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	439,796	(206,476)

Northern Territory
 Council of Social
 Service Incorporated

Statement of profit
 and loss and other
 comprehensive
 income

For Year ended
 30 June, 2024.

Our Partners

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



Thanks also to our 2023-24 contractors:

Alex Richmond, Open Circle Training

Penny Drysdale

Julianna Marshall

Rachel Neary

Conor Bowden

Tracy Minniecon

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