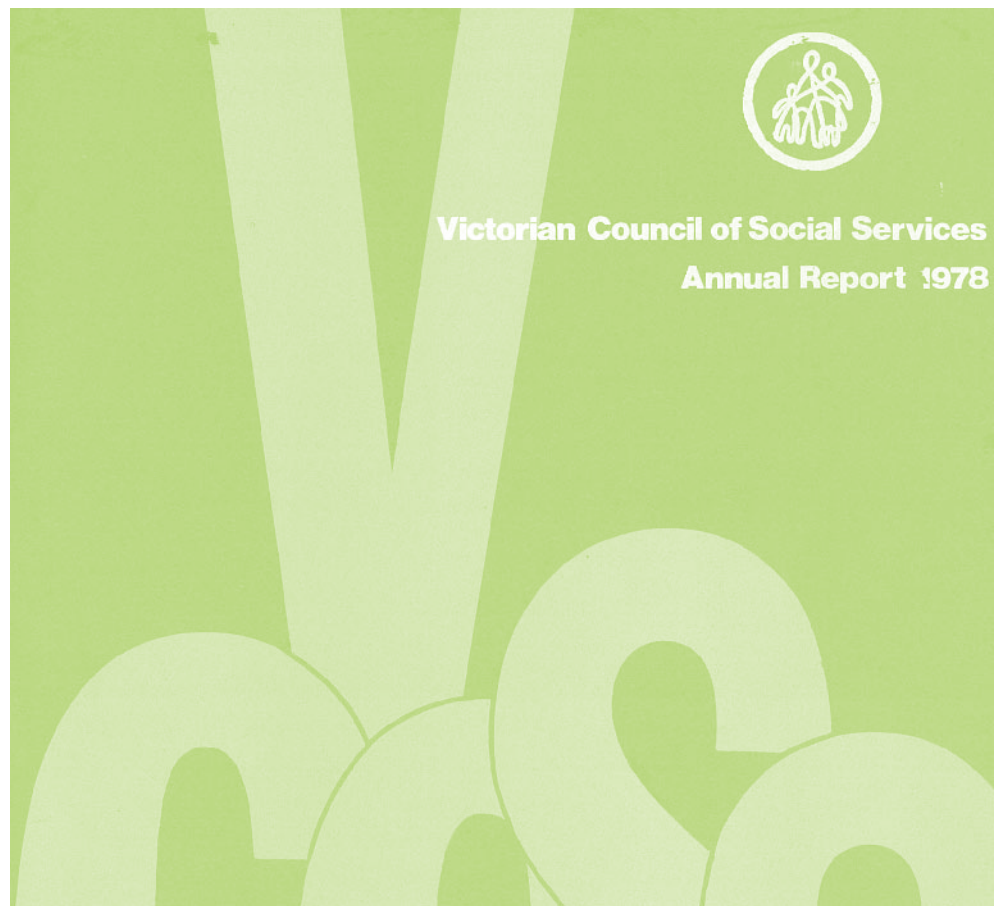


Victorian Council of Social Service Annual Report 2005-6

The cover of the VCOSS Annual Report 1978



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What is VCOSS



VCOSS Staff: front (l to r) Rivkah Nissim, Angela Savage, Dean Lombard, Jennifer Heaney, Andrew Wilson
back (l to r) Carolyn Atkins, Stephanie Cauchi, Kate Johnson, Francis Stiglec, Scott Hall and Sharon Brown
Absent: Jackie Anders, Jessica Brown, Kate Colvin, Marcia Leonard, Jean Sloman and Cath Smith

This is the 60th Annual report of the Victorian Council of Social.
A number of illustrations in this report reflect our history while others present some of our activities in 2005-2006.

Vision

We are a society where people are interdependent of one another and committed to living out the principles of equity and justice. We respect the land we live in and recognise the indigenous custodians of the country.

We have reconciled all injustices with indigenous Australians.

Our vision is one where social well being is a national priority, and:

- Ensures everyone has access to and a fair share of the community's resources and services
- Involves all people as equals, without discrimination
- Values and encourages people's participation in decision making about their own lives and their community

Mission

As the peak body of the social and community services sector in Victoria we pursue just and fair social outcomes through policy development and collaborative advocacy.

Values

The values that guide VCOSS in all the work we do are:

- Energy and vision
- Integrity and result
- Collaboration, inclusiveness and team work
- Continuous improvement and sustainability
- Open constructive communication

Strategic Objectives

1 *Strong research and advocacy
for good quality of life outcomes for all*

2 *Building a strong sector
that can lead social change*

3 *Creating a strong public
presence for the changes
required*

4 *Sustaining just and equitable outcomes
through collaboration.*

Victorian Council of Social Service

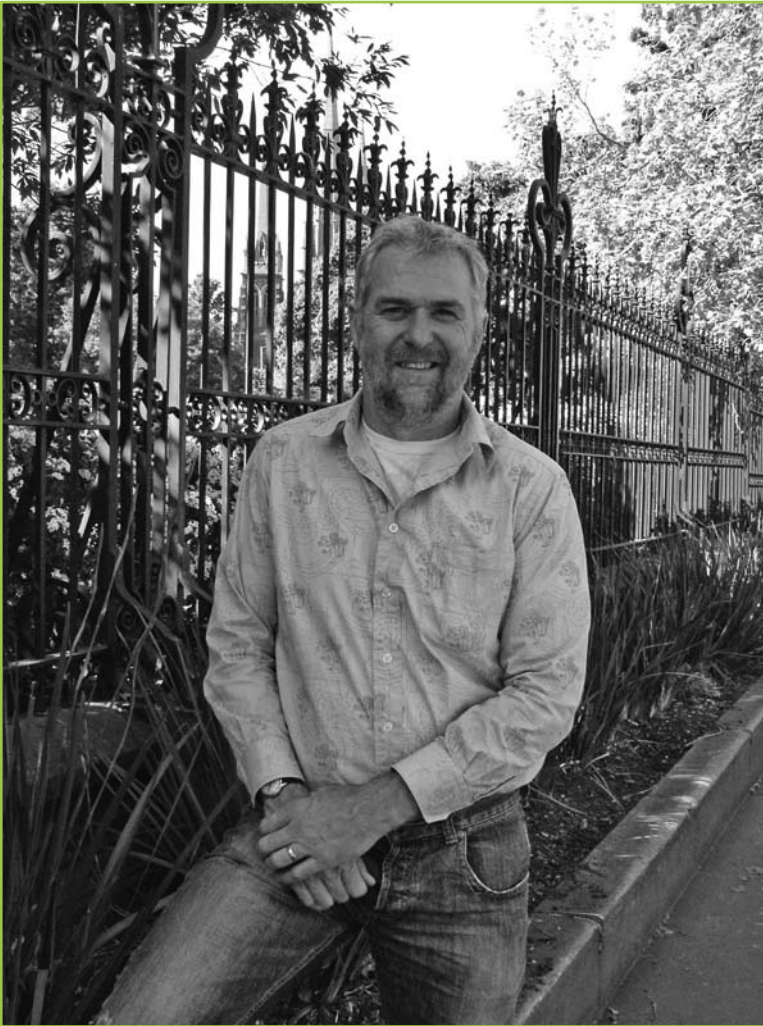
20TH ANNUAL REPORT

“Civilisation, instead of increasing our contents, merely augments the possibilities of our discontents.” (ADRIAN BELL).

The past two years have seen a tremendous upsurge in interest in welfare matters in Victoria, but instead of congratulating each other, as is usual in annual reports, let us accept that we have made progress but recognise that there are still many matters requiring our attention.

VCOSS Annual Report 1965-66

President's report



It is the role of boards to set an organisation's direction, to set policies and resources in place to achieve that direction, and to monitor performance along the way. How should VCOSS Board assess our organisation's performance in 2005/2006? How should social change organisations measure their effectiveness?

Certainly it's been a busy year, and an eventful one. Resource wise we have invested significantly: in information technology, new premises and in staffing. It has been a year that saw VCOSS celebrate its 60th birthday and acknowledge all that had been achieved in those eventful post war years and up to today. It was also the year that marked the first year of our new four year strategic plan, the plan that set our four goals as:

- Strong research and advocacy for good quality of life outcomes for all;
 - Building a strong sector that can lead social change;
 - Creating a strong public presence for the changes required; and
 - Sustaining just and equitable outcomes through collaboration.
- But beyond busyness, how do we measure our effectiveness? As a board we carefully monitor a range of inputs and outputs:
- Our financial reporting is of the highest calibre and our financial reports demonstrate ongoing financial health.
 - Our CEO provides the Board with detailed monthly reports of activities against Key Performance Areas. For example, in March alone VCOSS staff participated in 26 activities (meetings, publications) on the goal of 'Effective advocacy' alone. The 'Collaborate and work through alliances' goal had 64 activities in the same month!
 - Policy analysis and anecdotal evidence indicates that VCOSS continues to have a significant influence over State Government policies. Our October 2005 VCOSS *State Budget Submission 2006-07* was considered by a number of ministerial advisors to be highly influential.

These measures are partial indicators of effectiveness. But real measurement of effectiveness across such a broad social change agenda is extremely difficult. What we do know, however, is that change is most likely to be sustained if advocacy is closely partnered with research, service delivery and public education. VCOSS is doing this. And change is sustainable if our way of 'being' is as important to us as is our way of 'doing' and is consistent with our mission. The values of VCOSS, values such as openness, energy and collaboration are enlivened so effectively by our committed CEO and staff, Board and members. This embodiment of the values of a fairer society also helps to ensure that VCOSS can continue to be an effective agent for social change for another 60 years! But ongoing measurement and refinement of our approach remains an ongoing challenge and area of development for us as an organisation.

The Board believes we are well on track with our strategic plan. On behalf of the Board I offer our sincere thanks to Cath Smith and the staff for their skilled and committed work, to our volunteers and to our active membership. I'd also like to make special mention of several Board members. Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge Dr John Honner and Mr Rob Nicholl, both long service Board members who in resigning this year were offered life membership of VCOSS. I'd also like to offer special thanks to our Treasurer, Mr Eric Passaris for his skill and commitment to his financial leadership role.



David Pugh, President



VCOSS Board members: above, (front, L to R) Pauline Spencer, Eric Passaris and Melissa Afentoulis, (back L to R) Barry Pullen, Deb Tsorbaris, David Pugh, Tony Lang, Micaela Cronin; top, Sam Biondo; centre (L to R) Paul Linossier, Marilyn Webster and Linda Hancock

Chief executive officer's report



The year 2006 marks 60 years since VCOSS began. The period of VCOSS endeavour has been one of significant social change. While many Victorians still struggle to access opportunities and to participate, progress on many counts has been achieved. In 1946 when VCOSS was founded, Indigenous Victorians were not deemed to be full citizens; women were expected to give up paid work after marriage; young people frequently left school in their early teenage years; and on the whole, governments left the task of community and social services to the charitable sector.

In 2005/06 VCOSS advocacy has improved outcomes for Victorians who experience poverty and disadvantage on many fronts. Our focus, with our members and other peak bodies and allies in the community, was to engage across around 15 priority social policy and community sector areas, with the most intense focus directed to issues in which VCOSS could add value and was well placed to make a difference. VCOSS policy priorities included children, families and young people; community sector development and sustainability; justice and human rights; disability services;

transport; housing, homelessness and planning; energy and water; education and training; primary and community health; and gambling and revenue strategy. We also tried to take a 'cross-cutting' look at mainstream policy issues relating to Indigenous and multicultural inclusion, gender, regional and rural, disability and environmental issues.

A continuing expectation of VCOSS members is that we engage with the impacts of Federal Government policy on low income Victorians. In November 2005, new industrial relations legislation and major welfare changes were legislated in Federal Parliament. These changes will impact heavily on all low income Victorians in low paid and casual work, and will have especially harsh impacts on those who are least able to negotiate individually for fair employment conditions. Welfare changes will mean income cuts to parents and people with disabilities of up to \$164 per week.

To address these changes, VCOSS worked with key peak groups and consumer networks and with our national ACOSS partners to build public awareness and monitoring

programs to understand the impacts of the changes, and to argue for improvements to these punitive policies. VCOSS argues that rather than cutting benefits and investment in labour market programs, Australia should follow the lead of Ireland and Denmark, where pension payments and job market supports have been increased in recent years. Unemployment, especially long term employment, has been dramatically reduced as a result.

VCOSS advocacy has resulted in some important gains and has played a critical role in building the strength of the community sector. The re-launch the day after state budget day of 'A Fairer Victoria: Next Steps' by Deputy Premier Thwaites on 1 June 2006 reflected significant work by hundreds of community organisations, many of them VCOSS members, in collaborating to implement the 2005 *A Fairer Victoria* strategies, identify gaps, articulate these to government, and lobby for the resources to deliver improved access and programs to disadvantaged people and places across the state.

After much hard work by many people, steps have been made in the last year towards improving access to transport options for low income people in metropolitan and regional Victoria, planning for better supply of affordable housing, introducing a human rights charter into government operations, implementing better energy hardship policies, getting results from the state

disability plan, reforming the child protection system and integrating with other early years programs, improving resources to the primary and community health and mental health sectors, re-organising family violence services, building better welfare supports within primary and secondary schools and recognising the critical role played by community organisations themselves in delivering programs and services to all Victorians - especially those described as the 'hard to reach'. On this last point, the Sector Sustainability Task Group was set up to build greater public awareness of the role and needs of the community sector, and the three-yearly funding indexation negotiation with the Department of Human Services, impacting over \$1 billion of recurrent annual funding to over 2,000 organisations, was again coordinated by VCOSS, as Secretariat to the combined Peaks and Statewide Networks Forum.

Aside from our four major strategic goals, we also kept the 'wheels on the VCOSS wagon'. During the year, we ran our annual Congress, re-launched our sector development and training unit, invested in new computer hardware and software systems for the office, managed the comings and goings of three staff taking maternity leave (including the CEO and her executive assistant), ran a business planning process, re-organised our staffing and re-located our office from Little Collins St to Exhibition Street.

While its hard to look in a crystal ball for a sixty year prediction, in the shorter term, VCOSS has planned to make our voice heard in the lead up to the 2006 State Election with a call to parties launched in April 2006, a series of events in Melbourne and regional centres in the spring, and work with the confidence that whoever is elected, we in the community sector will continue to make a strong case for long term planning that enables economic, social, environmental and cultural development and access to opportunities for all Victorians.

In the meantime, I would like to thank all who have joined VCOSS in working groups, forums, committee work and public campaigns this year, all who have quietly assisted with our research and policy, everyone on the Board, especially David Pugh our President, Dr Linda Hancock and Marilyn Webster our Vice-Presidents, and our Treasurer Eric Passaris. And last but not least, my thanks to Bev Kliger, Acting CEO until my return last September, Carolyn Atkins our Deputy Director, and everyone on the VCOSS staff and volunteer team. Your commitment and competence continues to inspire goodwill and positive results.

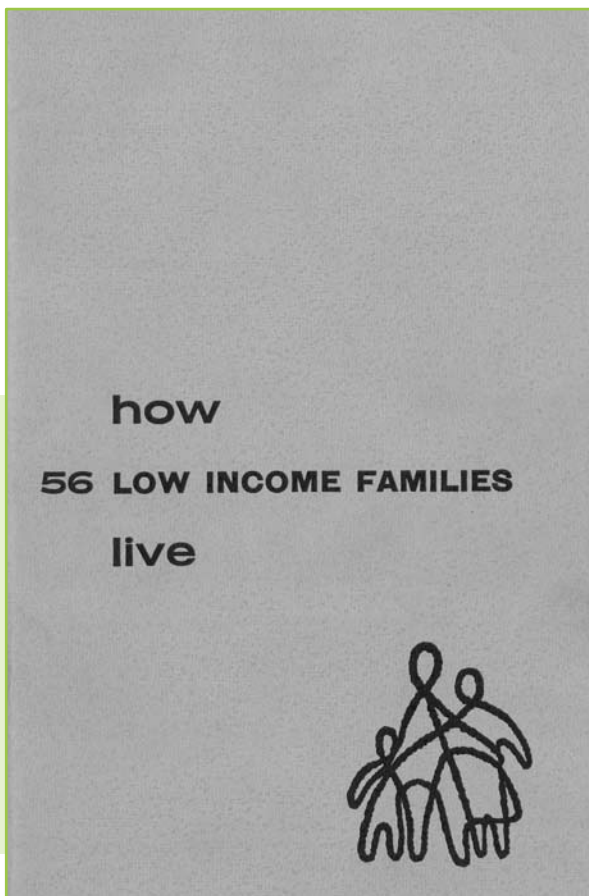


Cath Smith, CEO



Cath Smith and Joan Kirner, *A Fairer Victoria* Forum

Strong research and advocacy for good quality of life outcomes for all



VCOSS undertakes research and works with the community services sector and community members to develop advocacy positions that will address disadvantage. We ensure our voice is heard by effective lobbying and campaigns, by developing submissions, participating in policy development processes and by building influential relationships with decision-makers.

Submissions

July 2005

- Submission to the Committee of Inquiry into Financial Hardship of Energy Consumers
- Presentation to the Panel of Inquiry into Financial Hardship of Energy Consumers

September 2005

- Joint submission to the Essential Services Commission Draft Decision: Publication of Price and Service Information by Energy Retailers
- Response to the Children Bill and White Paper

October 2005

- Submission to the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee

November 2005

- Joint submission to Ministerial Council on Energy on Proposed Framework for Transfer of Distribution and Retail Functions (with ACOSS, ACTCOSS, NCOSS, NTCOSS, QCOSS, SACOSS, TasCOSS and WACOSS)
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Employment and Workplace Relations (Welfare to Work) Bill

December 2005

- Joint submission to Essential Services Commission on End-To-End Project Issues Paper (with Community Law Centre Victoria, the Tenants' Union of Victoria and the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre)
- Submission to the Department of Sustainability and Environment on Discussion Paper for Sustainable Water Strategy
- Submission to Department of Human Services Review of the Health Act 1958 – Draft policy paper

January 2006

- Submission to Ministerial Council on Energy on A National Framework for Energy Distribution and Retail Regulation
- Response to the Education and Training Reform Bill Exposure Draft
- Submission to the Disability Bill Exposure Draft

February 2006

- Transport and liveability: The path to a sustainable Victoria, (jointly submitted by VCOSS, Environment Victoria and the Public Transport Users Association as the Coalition for People's Transport)

April 2006

- Joint submission to National Water Commission on Draft Benchmarking Framework: Performance Reporting Model for Urban Water Utilities (with Community Law Centre Victoria, the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre and St Vincent de Paul)
- Joint submission to Australian Energy Market Commission on Proposed National Energy Amendment (Economic Regulation of Transmission Services) Rules (with Community Law Centre Victoria, the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre and St Vincent de Paul)
- Joint submission to Steering Committee on National Regulatory Reporting Requirements Retail Working Group on National Energy Retail Performance Indicators Discussion Paper (with Community Law Centre Victoria, the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre, Public

Interest Law Clearing House and St Vincent de Paul)

May 2006

- Gaming license renewals post 2012 – submission to the independent panel

June 2006

- Submission to Department of Sustainability and Environment and WaterSmart on draft Sustainable Water Strategy and draft Melbourne Water Supply Demand Strategy

Victorian Government committees

- Accessible Place Working Party (Disability Advisory Council of Victoria)
- Corrections Victoria Stakeholder Forum (Department of Justice)
- Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria Working Group on Taxis
- Essential Services Commission Customer Consultative Committee
- Housing Accessibility Taskforce (Minister for Planning)
- Juvenile Justice Ministerial Roundtable (Minister for Children and Community Services)
- Maintaining Mobility: The transition from driver to non-driver project (Integrated Transport Planning Division, Department of Infrastructure)
- Melbourne 2030 Implementation Reference Group (Minister for Planning)
- Ministerial Advisory Committee for Victorian Communities (Minister for Victorian Communities)
- Ministerial Advisory Council for Vulnerable Children, Young People and Families (Minister for Children and Community Services)
- Ministerial Advisory Council for Vulnerable Children, Young People and Families – Indigenous Issues Working Group (Minister for Children and Community Services)
- Ministerial Employment Advisory Panel (Minister for Employment)
- Responsible Gaming Ministerial Advisory Committee (resigned during year) (Minister for Gaming)
- Working Together Forum (Consumer Affairs Victoria)

Federal Government policy and advisory committees

- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Emergency Relief State Advisory Committee



A Fairer Victoria

In 2005/06 VCOSS worked with the Office of the Deputy Premier and the Department for Victorian Communities to identify the most effective process to engage the community sector around the implementation of the Government's *A Fairer Victoria* framework.

Beginning in December 2005, VCOSS initiated a 12 month project to enable community sector input around key questions including: how can we strengthen whole of sector collaboration processes; how can government processes be re-organised to make it easier to work with government; how can services be more localised and coordinated; where is implementation working well; and where are the roadblocks.

VCOSS engaged both senior community sector and government department representatives around these questions across seven policy priority areas: early years; the Victorian State Disability Plan; Indigenous communities; integrated local transport networks; housing issues; fuel poverty - electricity and gas; and young people. VCOSS also held a seminar in March 2006 focused around implementation of the *A Fairer Victoria* strategies in each of these areas. A report was provided to the Deputy Premier outlining both key steps required to progress implementation and where policy and program gaps exist.

Children, young people and families

In 2005/06 VCOSS advocacy on children, young people and families focused on the review of the *Children and Young Person's Act 1989* and on issues facing Indigenous children, young people and families.

VCOSS participated in the Ministerial Advisory Council for Vulnerable Children, Young People and Families to provide strategic policy advice on key elements relating to the development of the new *Children Youth and Families Act 2005*.

VCOSS successfully advocated for the best interests of children to remain the key principle of this legislation and played a key role ensuring it will provide a framework for better policy and service delivery.

VCOSS prioritised advocacy to support and promote the wellbeing of Indigenous children, young people and families, working with other organisations to ensure that all steps within the review of the *Children and Young Person's Act 1989* had Indigenous issues front and centre. VCOSS also participated on the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's Aboriginal Family Centre Feasibility Study Advisory Group.

In 2005/06 VCOSS continued to advocate for a Victorian Children and Young People's Commissioner.

Community strengthening

VCOSS community strengthening advocacy aims to encourage government processes that involve communities in decision making. We advocate for processes in which communities identify priorities and develop the partnerships and networks they need and for Government to put place the necessary systems, processes and resources to address disadvantage.

In 2005/06 VCOSS participated in the Ministerial Committee for Victorian Communities, co-chaired by the Hon. Joan Kirner, AM.



Disability

After many years of consultation and development, the second half of 2005 saw the introduction of the first draft of legislation to reform the Victorian disability service system. VCOSS continued our history of disability advocacy with the sector by working to ensure this very significant piece of legislation fulfilled the rights of Victorians with disabilities through our submission on the Exposure Draft of the Bill; our correspondence with the Minister for Community Services supporting individuals and service providers in requesting a longer timeframe for responses to the Exposure Draft and for adjournment of debate on the final version in order to ensure adequate consideration; and in our response to the *Disability Act* introduced in early 2006.

Education and training

VCOSS advocacy on education and training focused on the impact of education costs on children and young people, and their families. VCOSS vigorously pursued this issue in the media and was pleased to see grants announced in the 2006/07 budget to better support families with children entering their first years of primary and secondary education.

VCOSS also responded to the Review of the *Education Act 1958* advocating that new legislation be underpinned by the guiding principles of equity, universality and diversity and calling for instruction across the eight Key Learning Areas to be free for all students. VCOSS was pleased to see the new legislation include a specific reference to 'universal access to education and training', and a guarantee of free instruction at a government school or a guaranteed place at a TAFE institute to the end of Year 12 or its equivalent, provided the student is under the age of 20. Providing for education choices for young people in either TAFE or school settings has been a core plank of VCOSS education advocacy for over three years.

Emergency relief

VCOSS is an active member of the Emergency Relief Victoria (ERV) Network, a network of emergency relief providers and advocates. In 2005/06 VCOSS and the ERV Network worked collaboratively to raise awareness of and advocate to address the burden of rising school costs on Victorian families; the impacts of policies such as 'Welfare to Work' on both emergency relief providers and recipients; and the implications of changing Federal Government funding models for the long-term sustainability of Victorian emergency relief providers.

The ERV Network's successful 'No Fees for Free Food!' campaign won a \$550,000 increase in Victorian Government funding for Victoria Relief + FoodBank. This success removes the need for Victoria Relief + FoodBank to charge handling fees to emergency relief agencies for staple foods they distribute free to individuals and families in need.

VCOSS also participated in the Federal Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Emergency Relief State Advisory Committee.

Health and wellbeing

In 2005-06 VCOSS advocacy focused on addressing health inequalities in Victoria. We worked to reform policies and practices impacting on the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups including: children, young people, women, those managing chronic disease and people with mental health issues. VCOSS also worked to improve access to public dental health services.

VCOSS contributed to the second stage of the review of the *Health Act 1958*. VCOSS advocated for health equity to be a clear principle in the Act and for the basis of the act to be a social model of health.

The Provision of Emergency Relief and Contemporary Pressures for Change in Metropolitan Melbourne

Dr. Benno Engels
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning
RMIT University



A joint publication of RMIT University
and Emergency Relief Victoria (ERV)

April 2006

 RMIT University





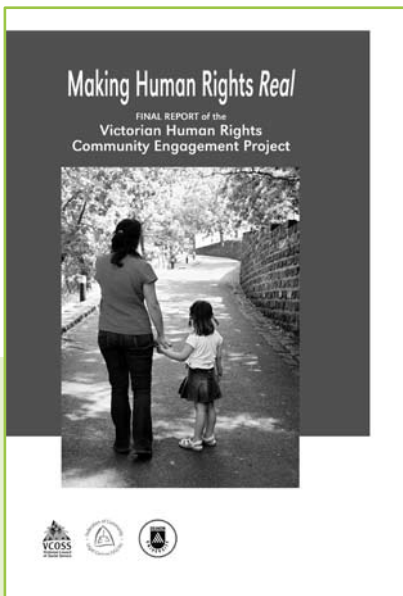
Housing and planning

In 2005/06 VCOSS focused on both the accessibility and affordability of housing. Our accessibility advocacy aimed to achieve reform at local and state government levels to ensure new housing is built to be universally accessible. VCOSS participated in the Minister for Planning's Housing Accessibility Taskforce; pursued this issue in the media; lobbied key decision makers; and participated in the Disability Advisory Council of Victoria Accessible Place Working Party. By June 2006, this issue was still being actively discussed by Government.

Affordability advocacy aimed to increase the amount of relatively cheap housing available in Victoria for both purchase and rental. VCOSS pushed for an increase in spending on public and community housing in the State Budget and was pleased to see the Government commit resources over and above their obligations under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

VCOSS also advocated for a State Housing Plan to integrate broader mechanisms available to Government to increase affordable housing supply. By June 2005, the Government had indicated intent to develop a State Housing Plan and was actively considering using planning legislation to require developers to include affordable housing in new developments.

VCOSS planning advocacy aims to create cities and towns in which opportunities are available to all. In 2005/06 VCOSS participated in the Melbourne 2030 Implementation Reference Group and successfully advocated for public transport investments that will deliver access to opportunities to people living on Melbourne's fringe.



Human rights

In 2005/06 VCOSS played a key role in the achievement of the new legislation enshrining the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities*. VCOSS and the Federation of Community Legal Centres undertook a Human Rights Community Engagement Project which held three train-the-educator sessions, and 15 community consultations with people who experience disadvantage and distributed a survey across Victoria. The input developed from both the community consultations and the survey helped shape the initial draft of the Charter. VCOSS advocacy ensured the new legislation provided a strong framework for enshrining human rights in Victoria.

A VCOSS staff member also participated in the non government organisations' delegation to the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in New York for the review of the Federal Government's report on progress.

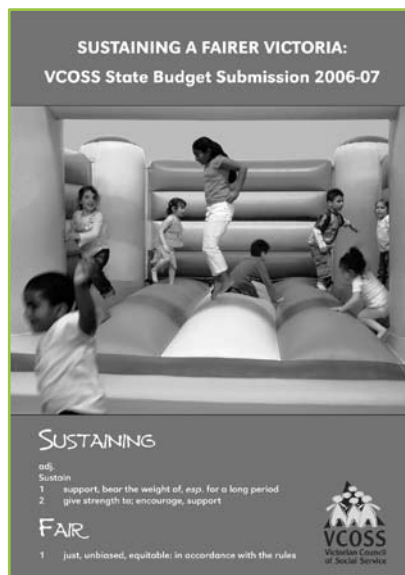
Justice

In 2005/06, VCOSS advocated for reform of imprisonment practices relating to women prisoners, and was pleased to see the Government commit additional resources to improve their response to women offenders. In 2005/06 VCOSS also welcomed the replacement of the outdated 'Turana' juvenile justice facility with a new juvenile justice facility following a long-term VCOSS and community sector campaign.

Victorian state budget

VCOSS's state budget advocacy for outcomes to address disadvantage is a top priority annual activity. In May 2006 VCOSS had some notable state budget successes including: a significant resource increase for the implementation of the new *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*; major investment in public transport in outer suburbs and rural and regional Victoria; an expansion of the utilities relief grants program; significant new investment in community services in suburbs on the urban fringe; resources for human rights education; and additional support for homelessness services.

These wins followed sustained lobbying of Government ministers and media work as well as the publication of *Sustaining a Fairer Victoria: VCOSS State Budget Submission 2006-07*. In this year VCOSS moved the research and consultation that informs our state budget submission back to better coincide with the Government's budget decision making process.



Transport

VCOSS transport advocacy aims to address disadvantage created by problems with transport, particularly the availability, accessibility and affordability of public transport.

2005/06 began with a win in a 2004/05 campaign to abolish the annual cap on use of the Multi Purpose Taxi Program – a program providing subsidised use of transport to people with disabilities who are unable to use public transport services. In August 2005, VCOSS lobbying and media campaign was successful in increasing the annual Multi Purpose Taxi Program cap from \$500 to \$1,000 and in increasing the per trip cap from \$25 to \$30.

VCOSS also successfully campaigned for Government investment to improve the accessibility of public transport. Government committed an additional \$25 million over 10 years following sustained advocacy including community protest to highlight the inaccessibility of trams to people with disabilities.

Expanding public transport options for households hit with big petrol bills was another priority in 2005/6. VCOSS worked closely with other environmental and public transport advocacy groups through the VCOSS- and Environment Victoria-convened Coalition for People's Transport. A major media campaign highlighted VCOSS research into the high transport costs paid by low income outer suburban households compared to people living in the relatively wealthy inner city.

The May 2006 Victorian Government transport strategy *Meeting Our Transport Challenges* included many VCOSS advocacy priorities, including: expanded bus services in middle and outer suburbs and regional Victoria; and resources to improve the integration between community transport, mainstream public transport and taxis, particularly in rural Victoria.



Margaret Stevens, Martin Leckey and Frank Hallbentick at access to trams rally.

Utilities

VCOSS advocacy on utilities is focused on ensuring all Victorians have access to affordable energy and water.

In 2005/06, the Department of Infrastructure held an *Inquiry into Financial Hardship of Energy Consumers*. VCOSS worked collaboratively with other organisations to present our views to the Inquiry and was pleased to see that its recommendations reflected the issues VCOSS had raised and many of the interventions we proposed.

The Government response included policy, regulatory and legislative changes, including a significant expansion of the Utility Relief Grant Scheme, requirements for energy retailers to implement comprehensive hardship policies, energy-specific training for financial counsellors and emergency relief workers, and a legislative ban on disconnecting customers solely due to incapacity to pay.

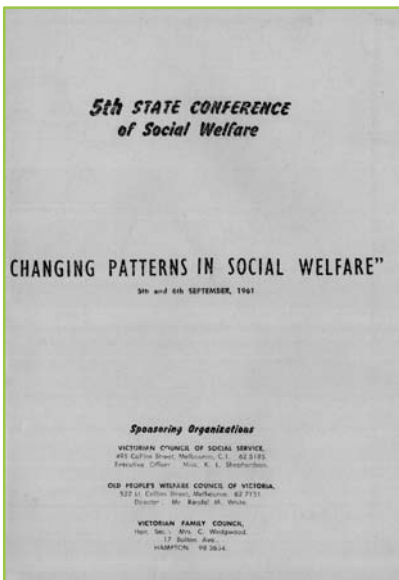
Welfare reform

In 2005/06 VCOSS has been closely involved with ACOSS-led advocacy work around the Federal Government's 'Welfare to Work' changes and played a key role coordinating Victorian community sector activity through the VCOSS-convened Welfare Reform Working Group.

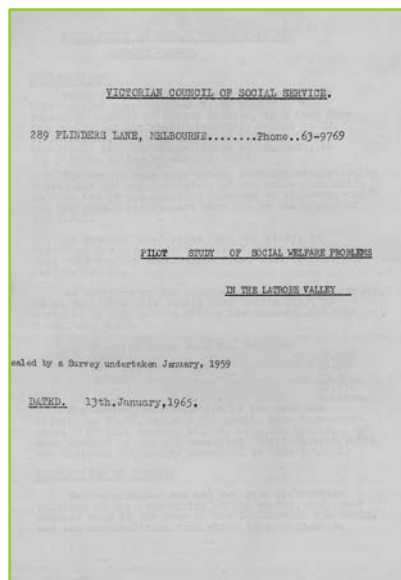
The 'Welfare to Work' changes affect the eligibility of tens of thousands of Victorian parents and people with disabilities for Centrelink pensions. Combined with the Federal 'WorkChoices' legislation, 'Welfare to Work' has been of grave concern to the majority of VCOSS members and the wider Victorian community.

In the lead up to the legislation's passage in December 2005, intensive community sector advocacy efforts focused on stopping the introduction, through Welfare to Work, of payment cuts for sole parents and people with disabilities and a harsh new payment suspension regime. VCOSS led Victorian community sector involvement in ACOSS initiatives targeting local members of Federal Parliament as well as participating in targeted events such as ACOSS' Advocacy Day at Parliament House, Canberra in October 2005. While unable to overturn the legislation, these efforts did result in some modifications of the changes affecting sole parents, and the introduction of Centrelink policy to soften the impacts of the new suspension regime on some groups of vulnerable people.

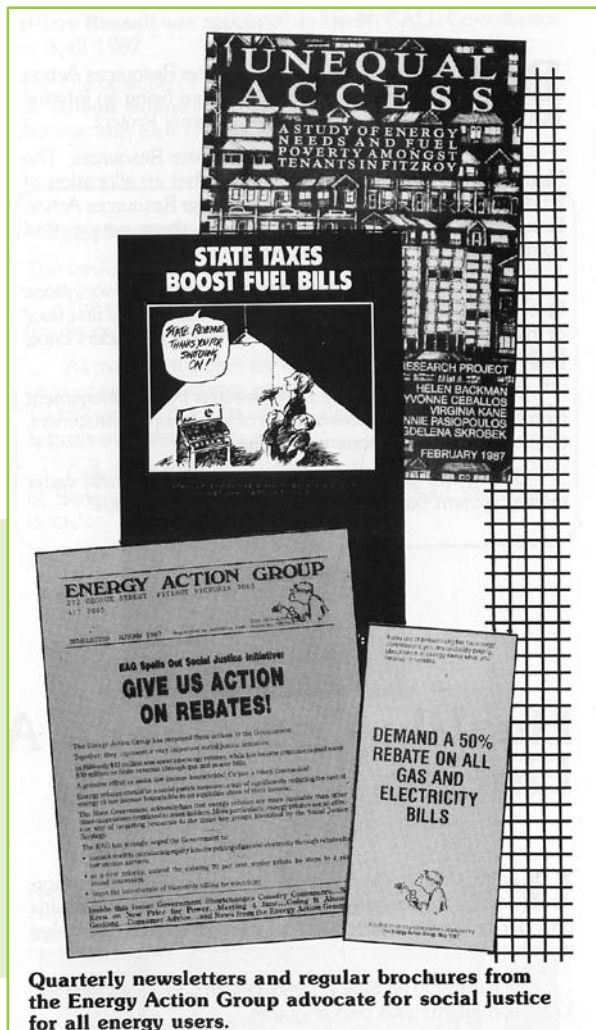
In 2006 VCOSS responded to the immense demand from a range of stakeholders for information about Welfare to Work and its potential impacts, delivering this information through a number of forums, organisational briefings and public meetings. In doing so VCOSS has encouraged Victorian community sector organisations to participate in the ACOSS-coordinated national strategy to monitor the long-term impacts of Welfare to Work on the people they work with. This will strengthen future joint advocacy efforts on the effects of these major Federal policy changes on vulnerable Victorians.



Changing patterns in social welfare, 5th State conference of social welfare, 1967



Pilot study of social welfare problems in the Latrobe Valley, 1965 (from survey undertaken in 1959)



Newsletters and brochures published by the Energy Action Group in 1987