



**NCOSS**

NCOSS Conference Paper

## **Advocacy!** 12 March 2003

**Funding of the SACS Award Increase**  
Sally Mc Manus, Australian Services Union

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## **Speakers' biographies**

### **9:00 am Welcome**

#### **Chris Dodds, NCOSS President**

Childcare Worker Jenny's Place Women's Refuge 1978-1984; Community Development Officer Newcastle Neighbourhood Centre 1984-1993; Independent Chair University of Newcastle General Staff Reclassification Committee 1988-2000; Multicultural Development Officer Newcastle Migrant Resource Centre 1994-1997; Consultant Key Insights Ltd 1998-2001; Part-Time Teacher (Welfare) TAFE Newcastle Campus 1999-2001; Part-Time Teacher (Welfare) University of Newcastle 1999-2001; Senior Research Associate (part-time) Centre of Full Employment and Equity (University of Newcastle) 2001; Member of ACOSS Board 1993-2001; Member of Telstra Consumer Consultative Council 1998-2003; Member NSW Drug and Alcohol Training Taskforce 2000-2001; Conjoint Fellow of Dept of Social Work University of Newcastle 1999-2003; Member of NCOSS Board 1988-2003 (currently President).

### **9:10 am Welcome to land**

#### **Allen Madden, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council**

Allen was born and bred in Redfern and is married with 10 children. Allen is currently Cultural Education Officer for the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. In the past, he has worked for the Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Children's Service and Redfern Aboriginal Dance Theatre. Allen is a member of the Sydney Harbour Catchment Board, the SBS Board and is a Life Member of the Redfern All Blacks Rugby League side.

### **9:15 am Keynote speaker**

#### **Professor Julian Disney, Director, Social Justice Project, UNSW**

Julian Disney is Director of the Social Justice Project at the University of New South Wales. He is a former President of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and also a former World President of the International Council on Social Welfare which represents tens of thousands of social welfare organisations in more than eighty countries. He has been Coordinator of the Sydney Welfare Rights Centre, Director of the Centre for International and Public Law at ANU, a Law Reform Commissioner and chair or member of government advisory committees on economic planning, social security, education, employment and training, public administration, superannuation, housing and other matters.

In his various capacities, Julian has engaged in extensive advocacy and policy advice at local, state, national and international levels over the last 30 years.

## **10:30 am Concurrent Workshops - Case Studies:**

### **1. Funding of the SACS Award increases**

#### ***Alan Kirkland, NCOSS***

Alan Kirkland has been involved in social movement since high school, where he helped to organise campaigns in defence of public education. His subsequent employment has involved social policy work in government and non-government agencies, with a particular focus on community services, employment, education, youth affairs and social security.

Alan is currently Director of the Council of Social Service of NSW. He is also a member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, the Sustainability Advisory Council and the Youth Justice Advisory Committee and the Community Services Ministerial Advisory Council.

#### ***Sally McManus, Australian Services Union***

Sally was an Organiser with the ASU for seven years before becoming Assistant Secretary of the ASU in 2002. She worked on the campaign for a better SACS award and for the funding to pay for it between 1998 - 2002.

Sally has also lead campaigns in the information technology and other private sector industries the ASU covers such as call centres. Sally has been an activist in anti-racism and various environmental campaigns over the last decade.

### **2. Preserving the Disability Information and Advocacy Program**

#### ***Phillip French, People with Disabilities***

#### ***Dougie Herd, Physical Disability Council***

Biographies not available.

### **3. Refugees and Asylum seekers**

#### ***Margaret Piper, Refugee Council of Australia***

Margaret Piper has worked with the Refugee Council of Australia since July 1991, initially as Acting Executive Director and then as Executive Director since January 1992. She is a member of a number of national consultative bodies and has regularly been the non-government adviser to the Australian Government delegation to the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

Her work with the Refugee Council, and before that with Austcare, has taken her to many parts of the world. Most recently she has visited Papua New Guinea, she has also spent time in recent years in Iran, Kosovo, FYROM, Serbia and Bosnia and in the past has visited a number of refugee trouble spots around the world. She has written extensively about many aspects of the refugee experience and is the author of a text on refugee children.

Margaret is a member of the Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council which assists the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. She is also on the Boards of the Refugee Advice and Casework Service and the Asylum Seekers' Centre and is on the Refugee Advisory Committee to the Brisbane City Council. She holds both Bachelors (with honours) and Masters Degrees in Education from the University of Sydney.

#### ***Dianne Hiles, ChilOut***

Dianne Hiles was one of the six people who in August 2001 attended what turned out to be the inaugural meeting of ChilOut a few days after the screening of the Four Corners

programme on Shayan Badrai in August 2001. Since then she has managed to juggle work as an IT consultant and motherhood to participate in ChilOut's growth to a niche organisation of over 2,000 supporters.

Dianne's main areas of involvement are arranging events, co-ordinating the merchandise, managing the financial and legal aspects of the group, composing the weekly ChilOut Calls To Action and speaking on the issue wherever she is asked. A long-standing activist with Amnesty international Australia and a volunteer Financial Counsellor for Wesley Mission's CreditLine, she was recognised in her local community recently when she received the 2003 North Sydney Council Citizen of the Year Award from Peter Garrett on Australia Day.

#### **4. Reconciliation**

##### ***Dr David Cooper, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR)***

David Cooper has been the National Coordinator for Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) for the past three years. He has been involved with ANTaR since the first Sea of Hands in Canberra in 1997 and served both on the committee and as Coordinator of ANTaR ACT.

David completed a PhD at the Australian National University in 2000, focusing on the conditions of coexistence between the Aboriginal and non-Indigenous communities in remote Northern Territory, particularly with respect to Indigenous heritage, legislation and public policy, race relations and cross-cultural communication issues.

David has worked for over ten years on Indigenous heritage issues in the Northern Territory, mainly as a researcher and field officer for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. He has also worked on land claim and native title issues in the Territory.

#### **5. Redevelopment of the Erskineville Estate**

##### ***Jack Carnegie, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre***

Jack Carnegie is a community worker and activist and has worked in the community sector for fifteen years. He is currently co-ordinator of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre where he has been for the past four and a half years. Jack has been involved in a number of local campaigns including:

- resisting bank closures in Redfern & Waterloo
- opposition to inner-city freeways
- saving public housing
- stopping parkland being sold

He became involved in the campaign to save the Erskineville housing estate through his work at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and as a resident of Erskineville.

##### ***Hal Alexander, Erskineville Estate tenant***

1939/46      Apprenticeship/tradesman Electrical Fitter, Leichhardt Bus Workshops. Meet the right people.  
1947/49      Full time Secretary N.S.W. Eureka Youth League.  
1949/54      Tradesman Eveleigh Railway Workshops.  
1954/63      Communist Party Organiser, Sydney with most time spent in the Red Belt building factory organisation, agitating, standing for Parliament (keep your

- remarks to yourself), getting arrested, avoiding getting arrested, addressing a million meetings, preparing to go underground again and generally being a nuisance.
- 1957 A year in China with Deng Xio Ping. Funny Bloke. Liked grog.
- 1963/69 Four years as S.A. Party organiser then construction industry, excluding fifteen days in jail on a hunger strike for contempt. Undeserving of/for both me and him. Dear old Adders. Back to Sinny.
- 1970/79 Email, then maintenance Electrician at R.P.A.H., Camperdown for eight years then Alcan. Repeat above paragraphs as to events. Moved to Erko.
- 1980 On in Erko apart from long term forays into the desert with my Arrernte black mob/family including arrest and stint in Alice jail for offences against the septic tanks. Worth an OA. Yuck. Many other circumnavigations of this great land of Oz, Pacific to Indian, the Bight to the Arafura, and most of the hinterland, rivers and deserts in between shows once again that if it wasn't for some of the bastards around the world would be a better place.
- 1997 Back at the ranch we are saving Post Offices and creating mosaic murals. Just as always. Ho hum.
- 1997-2003 Living in Erko in decrepit old house which finally gave up and after fourteen years on waiting list got unit on the Estate. Been here 6/7 years. Bliss. During this time engaged in local actions with occasional forays among other peasants in other places in Oz. Then disaster. July 1 and they say piss off - there's better things planned and you are occupying valuable land. Consternation. Then came the 'Revolt of the Mushrooms' and the message - 'Bulldoze the Erko Estate - Pigs Arse They Will.' The rest is indeed history.

## **1:00-2:00 pm Concurrent Workshops Session 1**

### **1. Re-inserting advocacy into social capital debates**

#### ***Jenny Onyx, University of Technology, Sydney***

Jenny Onyx (PhD) is Associate Professor in the School of Management at University Technology Sydney (UTS), Director of the Centre for Australian Community Organisations and their Management (CACOM) and Editor of Third Sector Review. She has over 30 years teaching and research experience in Universities and the community. She is particularly concerned with issues of social capital, sustainability and the Third Sector, and has published widely in the area, with over 100 publications. Her work on measuring social capital in particular has achieved international attention. She is currently involved in a six- nation comparative research project concerned with Asian Third Sector Governance.

#### ***Faye Williams, Local Community Services Association***

Biography not available.

### **2. Clamping down? Restrictions from funders**

#### ***Rose Melville, University of Wollongong***

Biography not available.

#### ***Megan Mitchell, ACOSS***

Megan Mitchell has held the position of Director, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) since April 2001. ACOSS is the peak council for the community welfare sector and the national voice for people affected by poverty and inequality. ACOSS is a member based organisation with a wide social policy brief from taxation, through social security

and housing, to health and community services. It also provides strategic leadership and support to the sector on key industry issues. The primary focus of ACOSS work is policy analysis and development, research and review activities, and community education and advocacy.

Megan has extensive experience working in social policy, research and management, primarily in the areas of public administration, health, disability and community care.

Megan's previous positions include Director of Strategic Policy and Planning with the NSW Ageing and Disability Department and senior management roles in the Commonwealth Departments of Health, and Family and Community Services. Megan holds Masters Degrees in Psychology (Univ of Sydney) and Social Policy (York Univ), and has worked on various research projects at the Social Policy Research Centre, the London School of Economics and the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies in London. She is currently part way through a Doctorate in social policy.

### **3. Advocacy and faith-based organisations**

***Maha Krayem Abdo, Muslim Women's Association***

***Ann Wansborough, UnitingCare NSW & ACT***

Biographies not available.

### **4. Challenging stereotypes! Effective use of the media**

***Barbara Hocking, SANE Australia***

Since 1995, Barbara Hocking has been Executive Director of SANE Australia – a national charity helping people affected by mental illness through education, applied research and campaigning for improved services and attitudes.

Reducing stigma and discrimination is a special interest for SANE and Barbara has been an invited speaker on the topic at a number of international and National conferences. She represents the community perspective on a range of committees and advisory groups in the health area. Notably Barbara is currently a member of the Community and Expert Advisory Forum to the National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention, the National Media and Mental Health Group and is a member of the Boards of both the Mental Health Council of Australia and SANE Australia.

Previously SANE's Education Officer, Barbara has also worked in Health Promotion and Education in Australia, the United Kingdom and Papua New Guinea.

### **5. Preserving your independence (while maintaining your income)**

***Stevie Clayton, AIDS Council of NSW***

Stevie Clayton OAM is the CEO of ACON (AIDS Council of NSW), a member of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal (Equal Opportunity Division), Chair of the NCOSS Health Policy Advice Group and Co-chair of New Mardi Gras. She has a long history of community activism and political lobbying from within both non-funded and government funded NGOs. Before embarking on community work, Stevie worked predominantly in the Commonwealth and State Public Service.

***Lewis Kaplan, Alzheimer's Association***

Lewis has been Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Australia NSW since April 1999. He is responsible for leading the Association's state-wide operations as well as managing its Advocacy and Communications Program. The organisation has more than doubled in

size in that time. He has also taken a leading role in the development of the national body, Alzheimer's Australia.

Lewis has worked intensively over the past decade as a community advocate for older people. His policy and networking role as Executive Director of the Council on the Ageing (NSW) during the 1990s significantly increased the voice of older consumers as partners with government and service providers. He was previously national co-ordinator for Healthy Cities Australia.

Lewis holds a BA (Hons.) in Social Anthropology and a Master of Health Sciences. His is a Fulbright Scholar. He has developed and run Primary Health Care programs in a variety of developing countries. He has been a visiting lecturer in gerontology, international public health and community development at a number of NSW universities.

## **6. Flirting with politicians**

### ***Eleri Morgan-Thomas, Office of Senator Andrew Bartlett***

Eleri was recently appointed as Chief of Staff for Senator Andrew Bartlett, Leader of the Australian Democrats. Until the end of 2002, she was Deputy President of ACOSS and had previously been Chair of National Shelter and a member of several government advisory committees and boards. Eleri has over 20 years experience in community organisations including in the homelessness and homelessness sectors.

## **2:00-3:00 pm Concurrent Workshops Session 2**

### **1. Participation, citizenship and the practice of advocacy**

#### ***Ros Bragg, NCOSS***

Ros is the Deputy Director, Policy at the Council of Social Service of NSW, where she has worked for the past seven years. Ros has worked primarily on health issues, including consumer/community participation in health decision making, earlier discharge from hospital, chronic illness, health-related transport, and support for Health NGOs. Ros is currently chair of the NSW Chronic Illness Alliance. In 2001 she undertook a Churchill Fellowship to study health consumer organisations in Europe.

#### ***Anna Yeatman, Macquarie University***

Anna is the Professor of Sociology at Macquarie University in Sydney, and she will be leaving this position to take up a Canada Research Chair in Political Science at the University of Alberta in July 2003. She is the author of *Bureaucrats, Technocrats, Femocrats* (1990) and *Postmodern Revisionings of the Political* (1994); and of a forthcoming book with Routledge, *The Politics of Individuality*. She is also the editor or co-editor of a number of collections the three most recent of which are *Activism and the Policy Process* (Allen & Unwin, 1998) and *The New Contractualism* (Macmillan, 1997), and *Justice and Identity* (Allen & Unwin, 1995).

### **2. Advocacy in the age of economic rationalism**

#### ***Dr Evan Jones, University of Sydney***

B. Comm. (Hons), University of Melbourne; M.A., Ph.D., Michigan State University Associate Professor in Political Economy, University of Sydney. Dr Jones has taught at Sydney University since 1973. Since 1975 he has been a member of the 'Political Economy' group, facilitating teaching and research on economics from a non-orthodox perspective.

Dr Jones has written extensively on the politics and ideology of economic policy-making in Australia. He has also contributed opinion pieces to the press. His current research interests centre on the politics of policy-making after World War II, and on bank malpractice towards small business clients.

### **3. Community advocacy and the union movement**

#### ***Kate Lee, Australian Services Union***

Kate Lee works as an organiser in NSW for the Social & Community Services Division of the Australian Services Union. She has worked previously in the community sector for NCOSS and in Western Sydney in migrant services, community health and women's services. Apart from the industrial issues facing community workers, Kate is also interested in how trade unions and community organisations can work together for social justice and quality community services provision.

#### ***Arthur Rorris, South Coast Labor Council***

Arthur Rorris is the Secretary of the South Coast Labour Council. Previously, he has worked as an organiser with the CPSU and as a Migrant Liaison Officer with the Dept. of Employment Education and Training. Prior to that Arthur worked as a project officer for the Migrant Employment Taskforce of NSW after finishing his tertiary studies and part-time teaching and research positions at the University of Wollongong.

### **4. New media – what can they deliver?**

#### ***Lena Nahlous, Information and Cultural Exchange Inc***

Biography not available.

#### ***Heather Goodall, University of Technology, Sydney***

Associate Professor Heather Goodall teaches history, social inquiry and public policy at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is the author of *Invasion to Embassy: Land in Aboriginal Politics in NSW*, (Allen and Unwin and Blackbooks, 1996), which was awarded the NSW Premier's Prize for Australian History, 1997. She is currently working collaboratively with a number of Aboriginal individuals and communities on projects recording and analysing oral histories and life stories.

One project has involved the development of a pilot program in CD-ROM form, *Angledool Stories*, which documents Aboriginal history in north western NSW in image, sound and documents. This pilot is currently being developed as a web site, called 'Stories from Home'. Another project has been the documentation of the Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery, under the direction of the Aboriginal community there, and using appropriate digital technology in a range of ways to support the community's goals. A report of this project can be found at <http://www.transforming.cultures.uts.edu.au/goodall> under 'articles online'.

### **5. Advocacy with or advocacy for consumers**

#### ***Rob Lake, People With Disabilities***

Rob Lake manages the Systemic Advocacy Unit at People with Disabilities NSW (PWD). PWD is a State peak disability rights and advocacy organisation based in Redfern, Sydney. PWD has grown out of disability rights organisations founded in 1981 after the International Year of Disabled Persons and is an organisation whose Board is made up of people with disability.

Prior to working at PWD, Rob worked in the Disability Policy Unit at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, worked for 6 years as transport development worker at Ettinger House in Cabramatta and 4 years at the AIDS Council of NSW.

Rob is a Director of NCOSS, and is their rep on the Board of ACOSS. He also convenes the Care and Support Portfolio for NAPWA, the National Association of People living with HIV and AIDS. He is also a member of the Disability Council of NSW.

***Paula Hanlon, NSW Consumer Advisory Group***

Biography not available.

## **6. Building a campaign plan**

***Carolyn Grenville, Public Interest Advocacy Centre***

Carolyn is training coordinator at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC). She runs training about systems advocacy for community workers, activists and campaigners who want to understand how to work the system. Carolyn is currently conducting advocacy and leadership workshops all around Australia for the National Network of Indigenous Women's Legal Services, as part of the Our Strong Women project, funded by the Office of the Status of Women.

Carolyn has many years of experience working in the community, government and tertiary sectors. Most recently she worked at the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and previously as staff training coordinator for Australian Catholic University.

She also had many years experience as a community worker and advocate in the area of community involvement in the education system. Carolyn worked for the Disadvantaged Schools Program in schools and for a parent organisation.

Carolyn has the degrees of Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Education.

***Chris Dodds, NCOSS***

See P1.

### **3:30 pm Debate: That Advocacy is Dead**

***Chair: Chris Dodds, NCOSS***

See P1.

### **Affirmative:**

***Linda Bartolomei, University of NSW***

Linda, is currently employed as the Senior Research Associate in the Centre for Refugee Research and a lecture in the International Development Masters program at the University of New South Wales. She has a Masters in Social Work and International Social Development and has co-authored several recent publications on contemporary refugee issues. She is a board member and past chair of the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women, whom she has represented at recent International UN meetings including: The Commission on the Status of Women, 2000, Beijing Plus Five and the June 2000 Prepcom for the International Criminal Court. She also has extensive links with refugee groups and advocacy networks in Australia and internationally. She has commenced her PhD examining the impact of the establishment of the International Criminal Court in addressing sexual and gender based violence experienced by refugee women.

***Amanda Tattersall, Labor Council of NSW***

Amanda Tattersall is currently the Special Projects Officer of the Labor Council of NSW. Her work involves working within the community sector on labor movement and social movement campaigns. These campaigns have included refugee rights, workers with disabilities and currently the campaign against the War on Iraq. Amanda previously worked as a policy and research adviser to Dr Meredith Burgmann, and was the President of the National Union of Students in 1999.

**Negative:**

***Michael Raper, Welfare Rights Centre***

Michael has been Director of the Welfare Rights Legal Centre, Sydney since 1990. He was President of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) from 1997 to 2001 and remains an active member of the ACOSS Board as Immediate Past President and as ACOSS economics and tax policy adviser.

He was founding President of the Independent Teachers Federation of Australia (1984 – 1989), was National President of the Mandela Foundation of Australia from 1990 to 1997 and National Convenor of Australians for Democracy in South Africa from 1993 to 1994. Currently he is also Treasurer of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and President of the National Welfare Rights Network in Australia. He was recently awarded the 2002 Human Rights Medal.

***Dr John Casey, Charles Sturt University***

Dr. John Casey teaches politics and government at the Australian Graduate School of Policing at Charles Sturt University in Sydney, Australia. His academic research focuses on the role that NGOs play in the public policy process. He has 20 years' experience as a senior manager in the public sector and NGOs in Australia, USA and Spain. He has been the Director of a Migrant Resource Centre in Sydney, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Adult Literacy in New York City and the Executive Director of the Inter-university Consortium for Public Management in Barcelona. From 1993 to 1999 he was a member of the management board and a spokesperson for SOS Racisme in Barcelona, Spain and currently is on the board of the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) in Sydney.

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