

## **SCOA Australia ACT Convenor's Report 2017**

It has been a challenging year for SCOA in the ACT.

For some time it had been evident that demographic trends plus the diminishing pool of members able and willing to serve on the Committee and undertake the administrative demands of managing membership, finance, representations and activities were eroding the viability of a stand-alone Branch, linked to SCOA nationally through a federal Branch structure.

The issues involved (and the advantages to be gained) by moving to a unitary national structure, with matters such as finance and membership administration handled centrally, had been canvassed at length in SCOA News and in reports at general meetings throughout 2016.

In consequence, at the SCOA ACT Annual General Meeting held on 6 March 2017, attended by some 90 members, it was resolved unanimously that:

having regard to the understandings reached between the SCOA ACT Branch and SCOA Australia as detailed in the exchange of letters of 9 and 15 August 2016 (published in the November SCOA News):

1. The SCOA ACT Branch be dissolved with effect from 30 April 2017;
2. SCOA ACT Branch members transfer to SCOA Australia as at that date; and
3. All assets of the SCOA ACT Branch be transferred to Federal Council.

These resolutions were confirmed at a subsequent Special General Meeting on 3 April 2017, at which approximately 88 members were in attendance.

The Branch Committee has become the ACT Committee (a local committee of SCOA Australia), its Chairman being appointed by the National Committee as the Local Convenor for the ACT.

All membership and administrative issues and general queries are now dealt with directly by the national SCOA Australia office at Pearce. We closed our separate ACT office at Holder at the end of November 2017. However, enquiries or contact (by post, email or telephone) on ACT issues and activities will still reach the ACT Committee using the contact details set out on page 13 of the current SuperTime.

A program of speakers on relevant issues was arranged for well-attended quarterly members' meetings in 2017, with topics including financial planning, superannuation, Commonwealth home care provisions, elder abuse, housing options, and the work of COTA (the ACT Council on the Ageing). This program of interesting and varied speakers will continue in 2018.



Our active recruitment campaign, coordinated by David Gorell, has undertaken regular recruitment stalls at local shopping centres and at the annual Seniors Week Expo, resulting in a steady trickle of new members. Full details appear in SuperTime and on the SCOA Australia website.

The ACT Committee also continues to monitor and make representations on a range of ACT issues affecting our members, most recently through a detailed submission for the ACT 2018-19 Budget.

Details of ACT activities and representations appear regularly in SuperTime, as well as occasional notices sent directly to members who have provided their email addresses.

The bulk of this work has fallen on a small group of dedicated people. We remain urgently in need of members who can spare a couple of hours a month to assist us in running the Committee and its ACT activities and recruitment. Interested members are invited to contact me directly (on [scoa.act@scoa.asn.au](mailto:scoa.act@scoa.asn.au)). Members are also welcome to attend our Committee meetings, which are held at 10.30 am on the second Tuesday of each month (except January) at the Pearce national office.

Members of the ACT Committee are also actively involved in policy issues nationally. SCOA Australia office-bearers, National Committee and National Executive include members of the ACT Committee as well as other ACT members (such as the national Secretary and Treasurer). We solicit and welcome your input to enable us to continue to represent you effectively.

John Blount  
Chairman/Convenor  
SCOA Australia ACT Committee