Task 1

Handout 12: Peak Organisations

The main coordinating bodies that represent workers from the different types of services are referred to as peak organisations. They relate directly to government and act as powerful lobby groups for change on behalf of their clients and workers. Currently in Australia there are over 500 peak organisations. Some of these include:

- NSWALC (NSW Aboriginal Lands Council)
- ATSIC (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission)
- ACOSS (Australian Council of Social Services)
- ACOTA (Australian Council on the Ageing)
- ECC (Ethnic Communities Council)
- NCOSS (NSW Council of Social Services).
- VCOSS (Victorian Council of Social Services)
- QCROSS (Queensland Council of Social Services)
- SACOSS (South Australian Council of Social Services)

ACOSS is perhaps the best known, with a wide membership of community based services across Australia. It undertakes studies of welfare needs, conducts seminars, informs the media, makes recommendations to relevant government funding bodies and in general has a high profile, with those in government recognising it as a community based leader.