



The board of Australian Childrens Contact Services Association (ACCSA) would like to pay tribute to Mike Cross. We share this tribute knowing it reflects the views of past board members, affiliate members and sector colleagues and that Mike will be fondly remembered.

Mike was an active member of the ACCSA Board (starting in 2001/2002). He held the position of Manager Family Services at Relationships Australia, Tasmania where he was responsible for the Children's Contact Service, Parenting Orders Program and Family Dispute Resolution. In 2008 Mike became the ACCSA project officer with oversight of the webpage, administrative support for the Board, co-production of the ACCSA National Training and Network Forums

Mike made significant contributions to the CCS networks and was always passionate about sharing practice wisdom. Mike spent years assisting individuals who contacted ACCSA via the website. He assisted both funded and non-funded service providers with their enquiries as well as providing information, support and advocacy for individuals who contacted ACCSA with concerns about the service they received.

Mike organized and led on-line practice sessions on behalf of ACCSA that ensured practitioners had the support and opportunity to learn from each other.

Across the years Mike played an active role supporting the following ACCSA milestones:

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| 2007 | A Guideline for Family Law Courts and Children's Contact Services. This guideline aims to inform the referral process between the Family Law Court and CCSs.

New qualifications covering the areas of family relationships and career development are added to the Community Services Training Package. A Certificate IV and Diploma of Children's Contact Service work are included as new qualifications. |
| 2006-23 | ACCSA facilitates The ACCSA National CCS Training and Networking Forum for CCS practitioners and coordinators on a yearly then bi-yearly basis. |
| 2008 | The Australian Children's Contact Services Association launches a series of new resources including an upgraded website – www.accsa.org.au |

- 2009 & onwards ACCSA develops further resources including the ACCSA CCS Operational Manual, the ACCSA Code of Ethics and is commissioned by the Attorney-General's Department to draft The Children's Contact Services Guiding Principles for Good Practice.
- 2010 ACCSA commences active lobbying of Australian Government for the regulation/accreditation of all CCSs, including privately operated services.
- 2014 ACCSA's CCS Guiding Principles for Good Practice released by government and attached to all CCS funding agreements.
- 2015 ACCSA and AGD collaborate on ACCSA website "CCS Online Directory". Attracts over 65,000 hits in just over 12 months.
- 2016 ACCSA's submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence calling for a compulsory national CCS accreditation system is endorsed by the Commission.
- 2019 ACCSA's submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Review into the Family Law System assists in the result of Recommendation 53 – this recommendation calls for the Family Law Act (1975) to be amended to make it an offence to provide a CCS service without being accredited.
- 2020 ACCSA changes Rules of Association to eliminate membership and make it possible for all funded, full fee paying and private CCS to become affiliated services. ACCSA conducts national online forums for affiliates amidst the Covid-19 epidemic.
- 2021 ACCSA Continues to lobby for accreditation and contributes to the consultation process.

The current board of ACCSA would like to acknowledge with great appreciation the contribution Mike made over many years to ensure the advancement of Children's Contact Services across the country.