



# Our Community **MATTERS**

[ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au)

Edition 9/2002

Welcome to the latest edition of Our Community Matters, our regular community update. It is yet another benefit of membership of [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) - the premier destination for Australia's 700,000 community, education and non-profit groups. [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au) provides community groups with the latest funding, scholarship and fundraising news as well as practical advice and the opportunity to list for free online donations and free online volunteers. We also provide discounted services and products, including the great banking services deal with the **National Australia Bank** which provides transaction accounts specifically tailored for community groups.

A summary of our services is listed at the end of this newsletter. If you have trouble reading this newsletter or have any comments please let us know at [brianw@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:brianw@ourcommunity.com.au).

**\*\*\*ALREADY many hundreds of community groups and schools have ordered their copy of *How To: Find Money Fast - 50 Great Ideas to Raise up to \$5000*. If you haven't ordered your copy [click here](#) or email [service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au) or call (03) 9320 6800 and ask for an order form.**

## In this Issue

### Contents

1. [Welcome from Dr Rhonda Galbally, CEO of \[ourcommunity.com.au\]\(http://ourcommunity.com.au\).](#)
2. [Time for insurance industry to share spoils of victory with community groups.](#)
3. [High profile US philanthropist and donor activist calls for grantmakers to become more democratic.](#)
4. [Companies acknowledge the benefits of Corporate Social Responsibility but few admit to implementing it, report finds.](#)
5. [We need your help and input to make our newsletters better.](#)
6. [Do your members or supporters have an employee grants scheme that could benefit your group?](#)
7. [Have you entered the Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships?](#)
8. [September 11 - US responds by encouraging people to get back to strengthening local communities.](#)
9. [Federal Government response to Charities Definition Inquiry.](#)
10. [Non-profit groups reassured on Privacy issues and the use of the old-fashioned White Pages.](#)
11. [Community Briefs.](#)
12. [Products and Services.](#)
13. [Fast forward.](#)

## 1. Welcome from Rhonda Galbally, CEO of ourcommunity.com.au

Welcome to Our Community Matters.

In this month's edition we ask the insurance industry when community groups will start to see the benefits of the legislative changes to public liability insurance that the State and Territory Governments have foreshadowed. Despite no evidence (and our own survey proved this) that community groups were a high risk, we have had 12 months of the combined insurance industry calling for legislative changes. Those changes are now coming in and now is the time for the insurers to start talking about significantly reducing premiums for community groups.

Also in this edition we have an extract of an article from renowned United States donor activist and philanthropist Tracy Gary who calls for those in charge of grantmaking programs to seek more on-the-ground community involvement if they want to make a large impact and fund programs that lead to systemic change. The full text will appear in our new Australian Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly due out this month.

We also look at several staff grants schemes such as National Australia Bank, Telstra and BHP and suggest groups ask their own members and supporters whether they have employer grants schemes that could provide funding to the groups. We also have an article on the new definition of charity - that will provide comfort for some groups but still leave the vast majority of organisations without the ability to seek deductibility.

Hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to your thoughts and comments at [rhondag@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:rhondag@ourcommunity.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

RHONDA GALBALLY AO  
Chief Executive Officer

[Back to Top](#)

## 2. Time for insurance industry to share spoils of victory with community groups.

IN the past month we have seen a number of Governments around the country that have signalled legislative action to tackle the issue of public liability insurance premium rises.

As a result we think it is now high time to call on the insurance industry to tell the public now exactly how much their premiums are going to fall in the next year given the massive rises that many groups faced.

While we are still yet to see any evidence produced by the insurance industry that suggests the community sector is a high risk deserving of such massive premium rises of up to 1000 per cent and our own survey of over 1000 groups showed they were not a high risk, the action by the various State Governments means that insurers have no excuse but to significantly reduce premiums.

"The various Governments around the country have taken steps to protect community groups. The number one reason they have taken this action is to provide greater access to insurance for non-profit groups and lower premiums. I think it is time for the insurance industry to uphold their end of the bargain by showing exactly how much lower those prices are going to be," ourcommunity CEO Dr Rhonda Galbally said.

"Community groups have suffered terribly over the past year despite the insurers' own figures supplied to the Federal Government's Trowbridge report showing that the community/welfare sector was a profitable one for them. I think the challenge for insurers now is to be fair and honest in sharing the benefits of these legislative changes. That means providing significant benefits for the main intended recipients - the community groups.

Dr Galbally said there was no way to reverse the damage already done to communities caused by the cancellation of so many events, festivals and services and the closure of various organisations.

"The foreshadowed legal changes across Australia will provide insurers with lower operating costs. It is a great victory for the insurance industry but it won't be a great victory for the wider community unless insurers actually begin sharing those spoils and pass on the benefits to the original intended recipients - the groups themselves.

"The insurers called for these changes, claiming they are needed to bring down the cost of premiums. Governments around the country have signalled what they are doing and now the ball is back in the insurers' court to get on with the job of providing significantly lower insurance premiums for community groups."

We have compiled a brief summary of what each State and Territory Government has either done or plans to do in the area of public liability insurance reforms. You can read what is happening around the country by visiting the news section on the Media Centre or by [clicking here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

### 3. High profile US philanthropist and donor activist calls for grantmakers to become more democratic.

ONE of America's highest-profile donor activists and philanthropists has called on grantmakers to involve more representatives of different classes, cultural origins, racial, opinion and lifestyle diversity in decisions about where their money goes.

Texas-based Tracy Gary, who has been involved in the establishment of more than 100 philanthropic and community foundations in the United States, has challenged grantmakers in Australia to demonstrate more democracy than their US counterparts in their decisions about where and how to give money.

Writing in the first edition of Australian Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly, due out this month, Gary said many social change community foundations were able to perform better because they included decision-makers who were from groups that were actually close to the problem they were trying to solve.

"Philanthropy in America, in spite of great efforts to the contrary, continues to be a culture of elitism, with at least major donors and their relatively privileged representatives maintaining control over where monies are allocated," Gary writes.

In a controversial article, Gary who has put more than \$4 million of her own money into setting up foundations and non-profit groups, said philanthropists were missing the mark if they did not involve some of the best thinkers, activists, and creative community representatives in the grantmaking process.

She writes that foundations need to give leadership by considering and advocating "for the root causes of social and environmental injustices, and not just philanthropy that serves charity."

Gary provides a list of questions that foundations and individual philanthropists need to address if they are to make a sustainable difference with their contributions. The donor activist is co-founder of the United States national [Changemakers Fund](#), a foundation that seeks to increase the resources available to grassroots non-profits working for social and economic justice, environmental sustainability, and equality for all by supporting and promoting community-based philanthropy. Gary is currently in the process of raising \$40 million to back Changemakers' grass-roots program.

The first edition of Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly is due out this month. Also featured among the various grantmaking articles are articles canvassing issues such as Passing the Probity Test - Seven Steps to an open and accountable grants program, Government Grants and Charitable Giving in Australia - Studying the Crowding Out effect and a case study of how one national philanthropic foundation managed the process of instituting major structural change. Grantmakers wanting to subscribe to the newsletter, which costs \$280 a year (more for hardcopy), can email [service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au) or call (03) 9320 6800 for a brochure.

[Back to Top](#)

#### 4. Companies acknowledge the benefits of Corporate Social Responsibility but few admit to implementing it, report finds.

COMPANY Chief Executives are failing to recognise the benefits of implementing Corporate Social Responsibility strategies, despite increased pressure to include ethical, social and environmental issues into their decision-making processes, a new survey has found.

The global survey conducted by Ernst & Young, found 94 per cent of companies believe the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy can deliver real business benefits, but only 11 per cent had made significant progress in implementing the strategy in their organisation.

The report, which assessed current levels of corporate commitment worldwide, found that while companies recognised the value of an integrated Corporate Responsibility strategy, most had failed to maximise opportunities.

Corporate Social Responsibility is generally defined as companies operating in a way that promotes business ethics, investment in communities in which they operate and a respect for ethical values, people, communities, human rights, staff rights and the environment.

Companies identified stakeholder awareness and investor and peer pressures as being key drivers for an increased business focus on developing a CSR strategy.

The survey identified a general decrease in the level of trust key stakeholders such as staff and investors hold in relation to corporate behaviour which has led to an increased demand from such stakeholder groups for greater corporate transparency.

"As a result, companies need to be not only implementing corporate social responsibility strategies to ensure they are managing the needs of various internal and external stakeholders, but they also need to balance their actual and perceived CSR performance through appropriate external reporting," the report said.

Research found company CSR programs influence 70 per cent of all consumer purchasing decisions, with many investors and employees also being swayed in their choice of companies. One of the other challenges facing companies implementing a CSR strategy is how to effectively measure its ultimate success via both financial and non-financial indicators.

"Non-financial factors play a key role in determining a company's shareholder value. Monitoring their success is therefore essential in order to accurately understand and manage stakeholder perceptions and overall business performance," said Mr Grant.

"Corporate Social Responsibility is now a determining factor in consumer and client choice which companies cannot afford to ignore. Companies who fail to maximise their adoption of a CSR strategy will be left behind."

Senior executives from 147 of the Global 1000 companies from a range of industry sectors throughout Europe, North America and Australasia were interviewed for the Ernst and Young survey.

[Back to Top](#)

#### 5. We need your help and input to make our newsletters better.

Subscribers to the [Easy Grants](#) newsletters are being asked for some input into how we can improve the monthly newsletter and provide improved resources to enable groups to better utilise the unique service, which provides a full listing of Federal and State Government, philanthropic and corporate grants available.

We've already received some fantastic feedback from a number of you, but would greatly appreciate further input on how we can improve the most widely read and comprehensive resource on grants and funding in Australia. If you have feedback on [Easy Grants](#) we would love it if you sent your thoughts to [grants@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:grants@ourcommunity.com.au).

We are doing a similar review with our [Raising Funds](#) newsletter and have been overwhelmed with the response from subscribers who were asked to provide feedback in last month's edition. It was a fantastic response and for those who didn't get the chance to do it we will run the small survey again in this month's edition. We will then review the responses and make any changes in the coming months.

We are also delighted with the number of Easy Grants subscribers who have since decided to take up the [Raising Funds](#) newsletter, an essential resource for all groups looking for good fundraising ideas and strategies on how they can be implemented.

We will continue to improve and update our newsletters and greatly appreciate your feedback. We also look forward to hearing of groups' successes in grants and fundraising so please send any success stories in to us at [brianw@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:brianw@ourcommunity.com.au).

[Back to Top](#)

## 6. Do your members or supporters have an employee grants scheme that could benefit your group?

Community groups are always looking for ways to raise money but one method of finding funding for your projects and initiatives might be lurking within your own membership, supporter or parent database.

Over the past five years, there has been an increasing number of major organisations and - increasingly - medium and small organisations that have established staff grants program or matching funding programs where varying amounts of dollars are provided for organisations that are important to their employees.

For some companies it may be \$200, \$500, \$1500 or just a dollar-for-dollar matching grant, but we mention this because it is worth putting the question to your supporters and asking them if their employers offer a scheme that could provide support for your group.

The first question is do you have any members or parents involved in your group that work for the National Australia Bank? Westpac? Telstra or BHP?

To give you an idea, National Australia Bank selects several organisations a month where their staff members are volunteers and have nominated them for support. They provide them with \$2000 each. Visit [www.national.com.au/Community/0,,1704,00.html](http://www.national.com.au/Community/0,,1704,00.html) for more details.

Telstra through its recently formed Telstra Foundation run a Kids First granting program that provides small grants for groups that support the children of permanent Telstra employees.

The Telstra Foundation recently made its first round of grants in the Kid's First program, providing grants of up to \$1500 to more than 190 groups around the country, the majority of which involve children under the age of 18. When you have a look at the list of the recipients it is across the spectrum, including schools, sporting clubs and a range of groups dealing with younger Australians. Visit [Telstra Foundation](#) for details.

Another program is the Westpac staff program where the bank matches dollar for dollar funding for fundraising efforts suggested by staff. This year the dollar for dollar grants program saw \$637,000 go to 340 different organisations. Visit the staff community involvement page at [www.westpac.com.au](http://www.westpac.com.au) for details.

And in an earlier Our Community Matters edition, we also mentioned the BHP Billiton trial in some Queensland plants where the company was providing a matched giving program up to \$1000 in donations, fundraising or volunteer hours provided by employees to local community groups within the area they work.

The point of all this is that it is worth asking your members, supporters and parents through your own newsletters and communications whether they have an employer -funded giving program. If they do, why not ask if they are prepared to nominate one of your projects for funding. Obviously it is one of those things where not every single employee is going to win funding support for their group, but you significantly increase your chances if you have someone putting your group forward.

Where companies have formal grants programs such as ANZ we will continue to run those details in the [Easy Grants newsletter](#). But if people have suggestions of other major employers who run similar schemes we may run a list of them in an upcoming Raising Funds newsletter and then post on the site. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Brian Walsh at [brianw@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:brianw@ourcommunity.com.au).

[Back to Top](#)

## 7. Have you entered the Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships?

Several new awards have been included in the recently announced Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships.

Nominations are now being called for the awards, that had previously been run by the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership but have now been rolled back into the Department of Family and Community Services.

Announced by the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, the awards publicly recognise the partnerships of business and community groups, working in a spirit of social coalition, to tackle problems of disadvantage and to build stronger local communities.

Now in their fourth year, the Awards honour partnerships that have helped to improve the lives of Australians.

State and territory awards will again be presented and winners will be eligible to be judged as a National winner in the small, medium or large business category. In addition this year there are three Special Awards.

- The Long Term Partnership Special Award will honour longevity in a partnership that has been operating for more than five years.
- The Impact on Community by a Business Special Award will honour a business with significant community involvement covering a suite of programmes and projects, with one or more partners.
- The Special Media Award, a new category introduced this year, will recognise a media organisation that has provided consistent, positive reporting of community business partnerships and corporate social responsibility.

National winners and Special Award winners will each receive \$10,000 towards the extension of the community project.

Awards like this are always included in our Scholarship Alert newsletter - a great way to find programs to support staff training or secure dollars for your community groups as well as the extra marketing and publicity opportunities created by winning wider public recognition.

The closing date for nominations for the Community Business Partnership Awards is **27 September 2002**.

Nomination forms and further information are available at [www.partnership.zip.com.au](http://www.partnership.zip.com.au) or Freecall 1800 003 747

[Back to Top](#)

## 8. September 11 - US responds by encouraging people to get back to strengthening local communities.

By now everyone will have experienced the images as America and the world remembers September 11. It has been all over our television screens, radio stations and newspapers over the past week.

The September 11 attacks have had a massive impact on the non-profit sector in the United States and have a number of lessons for Australian groups - both in the way that organisations responded to the emergencies, in the amount of support and the way it was collected and also in the way that some non-profit groups faced significant losses of public confidence after failing to either distribute donations in line with public expectations and spending too much on administration in doing so.

After the massive positive response from the non-profit sector and the incredible support they received in the immediate wake of the disasters, recent US surveys on public confidence in non-profit groups found that people had even less confidence in the sector than they did in July last year. This was mainly on the back of some major organisations that failed to pass on donations quickly enough to victims or moved some of the funds intended for victims to other non-September 11 projects.

The other thing that the non-profit sector found in the wake of September 11 was that people wanted to respond - both financially (more than \$3 billion was raised) and through an increased level of volunteerism. And for many organisations that increased sense of involvement has continued on.

Lost in among a lot of the talk of the attacks, terrorism and possible future confrontations was a suggestion by US President George Bush that people who wanted to honour the victims of September 11 could do so by taking part in a "September of service."

He suggested that images of planes crashing into buildings could be counterbalanced by images of people taking part in volunteer or service projects and that by volunteering they could truly honour the memory of those lost. Maybe it is a sentiment that should be encouraged in Australia. That the one thing that people can do in response to activities such as September 11 is to do the little things that strengthen communities and bring people closer together.

Volunteering time to a local group or financially supporting a community group via a donation or membership can all help to strengthen the connections of local communities and ensures a positive response to a tragic situation.

That desire is certainly shared by the majority of Americans, according to a new survey, who want US companies to concentrate on building and strengthening communities across the country. The 2002 Cone Corporate Citizenship Study found that 70 per cent of Americans wanted companies to make long-term commitments to strengthening the nation's communities - by supporting causes that tackle issues such as education, medical research, poverty, the environment and hunger.

[Back to Top](#)

## 9. Federal Government response to Charities Definition Inquiry

Since our last newsletter, the Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, has released the Federal Government's response to the Report of the Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organisations.

In releasing the report, the Treasurer said that the Inquiry had made a significant contribution in simplifying such a complex legal and administrative issue, but it will be interesting to see how many more community groups are able to gain Deductible Gift Recipient status as a result of the changes. Currently it is estimated that only about 50,000 of Australia's 700,000 non-profit and community organisations are able to attain charity status.

Mr Costello said the Government had decided to adopt a majority of the Inquiry's recommendations in enacting a legislative definition of a charity. The legislative definition of a charity will closely follow the definition that has been determined by over four centuries of common law, but will provide greater clarity and transparency for charities.

He said it will explicitly allow not-for-profit child care available to the public, self-help bodies that have open and non-discriminatory membership and closed or contemplative religious orders that offer prayerful intervention for the public, to be charities. It will provide certainty to those organisations operating in the sector while still providing the flexibility required to ensure the definition can adapt to the changing needs of society.

He said the Board of Taxation will consult widely with the charitable sector on the draft of the legislation, which is expected to begin on 1 July 2004.

Among the announced changes, the Government has decided to establish a new category of deductible gift recipient for charities whose principal activities promote the prevention and control of harmful and abusive behaviour among humans which will apply from July 1, 2003.

Responding to the release, ourcommunity CEO, Dr Rhonda Galbally, said that while it was encouraging to see other groups such as self-help organisations, childcare centres and religious organisations and those organisations dealing in the prevention of harmful behaviour, it was still too restrictive if the overwhelming majority of community groups aren't covered by the legislation.

"While any change that embraces more groups and allows them greater opportunities to fundraise is a step in the right direction, we are still a long way from an ideal definition that is fair to the majority of small community organisations," Dr Galbally said. "The fact that the Government's own figures say it will mean a difference of just \$5m a year in 2006-07 indicates that it has not gone nearly far enough."

"I congratulate the Treasurer on initiating this process and setting up the Inquiry, but the end result is that we have come up with a definition that is slightly less conservative and still fails to accommodate so many groups across the country. When many of the foundations and grantmakers now insist on granting to people with Deductible Gift Recipient Status it makes it even harder for those worthy organisations that don't fit within the strict guidelines."

To ensure that there is no change to the taxation treatment of public hospitals as a result of these decisions, the Government has also decided that fringe benefits provided to employees whose duties are exclusively performed in, or in connection with, a public hospital will continue to be subject to the \$17,000 capped fringe benefits tax (FBT) exemption, whether or not those hospitals are public benevolent institutions.

Mr Costello also said that charities and other not-for-profit organisations are pivotal members of society. In order for them to be able to continue to contribute fully, they need to be able to participate in a wide range of activities including, at times, commercial activities.

The Inquiry recommends that commercial purposes should not deny charitable status where such purposes further, or are in aid of, the dominant charitable purposes or where they are incidental or ancillary to the dominant charitable purposes. The Government agrees with this recommendation, but is concerned to ensure that the taxation concessions provided to charities are not abused. The Government has therefore decided that from 1 July 2004, charities, public benevolent institutions and health promotion charities will be required to be endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office in order to access all relevant taxation concessions. Depending on the character of the charity, these concessions are the income tax exemption as a charity, refundable imputation credits, deductible gift recipient status, the FBT rebate, the \$30,000 capped FBT exemption and GST concessions.

From July 1, 2004 an organisation endorsed to access these tax concessions will have its status attached to its Australian Business Number and be able to be publicly accessed through the Australian Business Register. This will allow greater scrutiny of the use of taxation concessions by charities and improve public confidence in the provision of taxation support to the charitable sector.

He also announced other changes including:

- The Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 to be amended with effect from 1 July 2003, to allow future additions to the list of organisations specifically named as deductible gift recipients to be prescribed by regulation rather than requiring a legislative amendment. This will allow continued scrutiny by Parliament but will make the process less administratively costly and more timely.
- Entities established in perpetuity by the Parliament to be allowed to be endorsed as deductible gift recipients from 1 July 2003. (They are currently denied endorsement because they cannot meet the requirement that their constituent documents or governing rules require that any surplus assets be transferred to another deductible gift recipient if they are wound up).
- The GST law to be amended to ensure that the current GST concessions for gift deductible entities apply only to deductible gift recipients and not to any larger, non-charitable entity that operates the deductible gift recipient. (This will ensure that non-charitable entities are not able to access the GST charity concessions and gives effect to the original policy intent of the law).

## **SO WHAT IS THE REVISED DEFINITION OF A CHARITY?**

We have provided the revised definition of a charity for your perusal.

### **Elements of the definition of charity**

(1) A charity is an entity (other than an entity excluded by paragraph 9) that is not-for-profit and has a dominant purpose or purposes that are charitable and, subject to paragraph 7, for the public benefit.

(2) In addition:

- (a) where the entity has other purposes, those purposes must further, or be in aid of, the dominant purpose or purposes, or be ancillary or incidental to the dominant purpose or purposes; and
- (b) the entity must have activities that further, or be in aid of, its charitable purpose or purposes; and
- (c) the entity must not have purposes, or engage in activities, that are illegal; and
- (d) the entity must not have a dominant purpose that is:
  - (i) advocating a political party or cause; or
  - (ii) supporting a candidate for political office; or
  - (iii) attempting to change the law or government policy.

### **Charitable purposes**

(3) **Charitable purposes** means the following:

- (a) the advancement of health;
- (b) the advancement of education;
- (c) the advancement of social and community welfare, including without limitation, the care, support and protection of children and young people, including the provision of child care services;
- (d) the advancement of religion;
- (e) the advancement of culture;
- (f) the advancement of the natural environment;
- (g) other purposes beneficial to the community.

(4) **Advancement** is taken to include protection, maintenance, support, research, improvement or enhancement.

(5) In determining whether an entity has the purpose of the advancement of religion, regard is to be had to the principles established by the High Court in *Church of New Faith v Commissioner of Pay-Roll Tax* (1983) 154 CLR 120.

## Public benefit

(6) To be for the public benefit, a purpose must:

- (a) be aimed at achieving a universal or common good; and
- (b) have practical utility; and
- (c) be directed to the benefit of the general community or a sufficient section of the community.

(7) The following entities do not have to have a dominant purpose or purposes that are for the public benefit:

- (a) open and non-discriminatory self-help groups that have open and non-discriminatory membership;
  - (b) closed or contemplative religious orders that regularly undertake prayerful intervention at the request of the public.
- Open and non-discriminatory self-help group

(8) An open and non-discriminatory self-help group is a group of individuals where:

- (a) the group is established for the purpose of assisting individuals affected by a particular disadvantage, discrimination or need that is not being met; and
  - (b) the group is made up of, and controlled by, individuals affected by the particular disadvantage, discrimination or need that is not being met; and
  - (c) any membership criteria relate to the purpose of the group; and
  - (d) membership of the group is open to any individual who satisfies criteria referred to in paragraph (c).
- Entities

(9) The following are excluded from being charities:

- (a) an individual;
- (b) a partnership;
- (c) a political party;
- (d) a superannuation fund;
- (e) the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or a body controlled by the Commonwealth or a State or Territory;
- (f) a foreign government or a body controlled by a foreign government.

(10) For the purposes of paragraph 1, entity includes:

- (a) a body corporate; and
- (b) a corporation sole; and
- (c) any association or body of persons whether incorporated or not; and
- (d) a trust.

## Not-for-profit

(11) An entity is taken to be not-for-profit if and only if:

- (a) it is not carried on for the profit or gain of particular persons; and
- (b) it is prevented, either by its constituent documents or by operation of law, from distributing its assets for the benefit of particular persons either while it is operating or upon winding up.

**[Back to Top](#)**

## 10. Non-profit groups reassured on Privacy issues and the use of the old-fashioned White Pages.

The Federal Government has moved to reassure Australia's non-profit sector over the use of information after a discussion paper released by the Federal Privacy Commissioner set the cat among the pigeons.

The Privacy Commissioner called for discussion on the collection of information from publicly-available databases such as the telephone book and the electoral roll which led to concerns from the Fundraising Institute of that non-profit organisations might be blocked from using the White Pages to fundraise.

The Federal Attorney-General, Daryl Williams, put out a release welcoming the discussion paper but clarifying that charitable organisations were not prevented from using publicly available sources to obtain names and contact details for potential donors.

He also said the Federal Government has no intention of preventing community groups from using information in the White pages and would challenge any suggestion that they do so.

Mr Williams said that organisations that collect information for inclusion in a generally available publication, such as a telephone directory, are obliged to inform the person whose information is collected what that information will be used for. Charities and other organisations that make use of information provided in generally available publications are not under similar obligation, he said.

He also said that it was a reasonable expectation that information in a telephone directory would be used for purposes of making contact with the people listed and that while any information separately held by such organisations would be subject to the normal privacy principles, organisations that handle information in accordance with people's reasonable expectations had nothing to fear from this legislation.

[Back to Top](#)

## 11. Community Briefs

### Watch out for viruses and Hoaxes

We regularly receive email - at least one or two a month - from non-profits forwarding on emails warning of dire consequences to your computer and databases if you don't immediately go in and delete an icon or some sort of information from your computer hard-drive. Invariably these emails are followed about 20 minutes later by another apologetic email warning that the previous email was in fact a hoax.

Some of the emails can be quite damaging where non-profit groups kill off important files or functions on their hard-drive. While this obviously causes mass hilarity for the smart alec geek sitting in a darkened room who started the thing in the first place, it obviously causes enormous pain - and expense - for those who can least afford it.

One of the actions we would suggest, if you do receive an email from someone suggesting you immediately delete something from your computer is check to see if the warning is real or a hoax. Probably the best way to do that is visit the Symantec Security Response website at <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

Symantec Security Response says it uncovers hoaxes - usually in the form of an email - on a regular basis and recommends the best form of action is to delete them as they usually contains bogus warnings usually intent only on frightening or misleading users. The best course of action is to merely delete these hoax emails. Please refer to this page whenever you receive what appears to be a bogus message regarding a new virus, or promotion that sounds too good to be true.

The other more dangerous email is the one containing viruses and they too can be dangerous and debilitating to non-profit organisations who find their systems grind to a halt or have databases destroyed by viruses.

If you don't have any virus detection it is well worth your while consulting an IT specialist or computer-savvy person in your group who can advise you what to do. There are also websites providing free virus protection software that can be downloaded such as at [http://www.grisoft.com/html/us\\_index.htm?session=387c1784afe2a9a6a43b9310a1b6d987](http://www.grisoft.com/html/us_index.htm?session=387c1784afe2a9a6a43b9310a1b6d987).

Failing that, take care opening any attachment that comes to you unannounced or an unusual source. Also If you want to check to see if your attachment might be a virus you can visit an up-to-date listing of all the viruses which can also

be found on the Symantec site at <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html>.

## Copyright Warning.

In recent weeks we have had a number of examples of people, particularly some councils and regional organisations, passing on the Easy Grants, Raising Funds, or Scholarship Alert newsletters to non-subscribers or to groups and people outside their own organisation. We would like to point out to those who were unaware that this is in fact a breach of copyright.

While we encourage people to send on this free **Our Community Matters** and post it on websites or email to their wider membership, you are breaching copyright by sending on or distributing Easy Grants, Raising Funds or Scholarship Alert. While we don't like to, we have had to take action in a number of instances to stop people distributing it illegally.

We have deliberately priced the newsletters at the lowest possible price (easy Grants was originally \$470 but is now just \$45 for community groups) so that any community group can afford to subscribe to it. It is all part of our philosophy of democratising the information and making it accessible to all groups. For those groups and councils or regional organisations who have been distributing the paid-for newsletters, either wittingly or unwittingly, we would ask you to please stop doing so.

## Fundraising Conference

Questacon is hosting a two day workshop on revenue generation for not-for-profit organisations from 30-31 October 2002. Titled **Innovative Revenue Strategies for NGOs - Leveraging your strengths into revenue generation**, the workshop is being led by Mr Stephen Brand, President and Chief Imagination Officer of the New Enterprise Factory Ohio, USA.

Stephen is well known in the USA for teaching winning formulas for successful fund raising thinktanks, that specialise in taking local knowledge and ideas and revolutionising these into major activities generating revenue nationally. He works primarily for non-profit organisations as an educational entrepreneur. He specialises in creative concept development and mission driven business planning, and has a strong success rate of turning concepts into reality through effective project management.

Another speaker is Pattie Hallberg, President of Invent Now Studio at USA's National Inventor's Hall of Fame and oversees their publishing, creative services, curriculum and product development. She is credited with taking took the Camp Invention school holiday program from a local town activity to a comprehensive national program generating over \$US 4 million a year.

Also on the bill is our own Rhonda Galbally talking about fundraising for local groups. The two-day workshop is being held in Canberra on 30-31 October. For more information and prices visit [www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au), email [training@questacon.edu.au](mailto:training@questacon.edu.au) or call (02) 6270 2804.

## Myer Foundation seeking new officer.

The Myer Foundation is undergoing some significant personnel changes (story in Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly out soon) but CEO Charles Lane says the organisation is currently seeking a program officer to provide directors with high quality information to assist decisions on grant-making and program direction.

Duties include assessing grant applications; monitoring social and environmental issues and trends; and evaluating the performance of the overall grants program against set objectives. The successful applicant should be tertiary educated with a demonstrable capacity for research, analysis and report writing and skills should include an ability to interpret all aspects of grant applications including financial and technical content.

An interest in social issues relating to young people will be highly valued and the program officer will work closely with young members of the Myer family in support of their grant-making activities. This is a position for a well-organised, independent worker willing to spend time out of the office and travel interstate. Salary will be in the range \$38,000 - \$45,000, depending on experience and qualifications. For a detailed position description contact [christine@myerfoundation.org.au](mailto:christine@myerfoundation.org.au).

## **Busigrants Newsletter (as featured in Business Review Weekly) for social entrepreneurs**

We have had a fair bit of interest from non-profit groups, particularly those that run business enterprises or socially entrepreneurial or "cluster" projects involving a number of like-minded groups or associations, for information on business grants available.

One newsletter we are now producing is the **Busigrants newsletter**, which many groups have seen featured on the Business Review Weekly website or regularly in the magazine, that provides a monthly summary of Federal and State Government grants available to businesses or commercial enterprises. The newsletter is a national service and is similar in design and content to the Easy Grants newsletter. It features all the necessary details you need to apply for funding from amounts, deadlines, eligibility guidelines and links to application forms. It also features a selection of relevant industry awards.

The **BusiGrants** newsletter is put together by the same expert team that compiles the grants you see in Easy Grants and is a great way to find money for the commercial arm of your non-profit organisation.

For more information on the BusiGrants newsletter you can visit the **www.busigrants.com.au** website or email **service@ourcommunity.com.au** or call (03) 9320 6800 for a brochure and order form. The cost of the newsletter is \$195 for 12 monthly email editions.

### **Last call for Grant writers.**

We have had a number of people nominate either themselves or other people who are available to help community groups with preparation of grants proposals.

If anyone has any other thoughts please send them to Brian Walsh at **brianw@ourcommunity.com.au** and we will start to put together a list which we will put up on the site and add to as names come to hand.

### **And don't forget.**

There are now over 120 different community appeals listed to accept donations on **National Community Giving Centre** on **www.ourcommunity.com.au** site. If you would like to make a donation to a community group, search the Giving Centre, proudly sponsored by the National Australia Bank, for an appeal that interests you.

And if you are a community group that has not yet set up your free online donations facility with ourcommunity, you can contact Kate Caldecott on (03) 9320 6802 or by emailing **katec@ourcommunity.com.au**.

**[Back to Top](#)**

## 12. Products and Services.

To all those who have received a copy of OC Matters passed on by one of our members and are unsure of our services, here is some basic information. We provide three main newsletters designed to assist community, education and non-profit groups:

**The Easy Grants newsletter** provides a monthly summary of all grants available in your state/territory - philanthropic, corporate, state, and federal government. Click on <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/1/sample.pdf> for a recent sample of an Easy Grants newsletter - only \$45 a year (community group price) which includes year-round access to search our extensive grants database. To subscribe visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_main.jsp)

**The Raising Funds newsletter** provides a monthly resource on the latest fund-raising tools and techniques from running special events to innovative ideas to find money. A sample of the Raising Funds newsletter - which costs just \$45 per year (community group price) for 12 monthly issues can be found by clicking <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/4/sample.pdf>. To subscribe visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/fundraising\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/fundraising_main.jsp).

**The Scholarship Alert newsletter** provides a monthly summary of all scholarships, awards and fellowships in your state/territory. Click on <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/3/sample.pdf> for a recent sample newsletter. Scholarship Alert costs just \$45 (community group price) for 12 monthly issues plus year-round access to search our extensive scholarships database. To subscribe visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/scholarship\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/scholarship_main.jsp)

To subscribe to any of these newsletters Click here or e-mail [info@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:info@ourcommunity.com.au) or call us on (03) 9320 6800.

ourcommunity.com.au also offers a free online donations and a free online volunteer service. For details visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/giving/giving\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/giving/giving_main.jsp)

As mentioned earlier, [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) has formed an alliance with National Australia Bank to introduce the first suite of tailored financial products for community groups. To find out more visit the Community Financial Centre at [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial/financial\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial/financial_main.jsp). The Financial Centre contains details of the National's community accounts as well as Help Sheets on reducing fees.

A recent addition to [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) is the National Insurance Centre where we have Help Sheets on reducing risk and the latest news on the insurance issue. You can also register your interest in being part of a pooled insurance scheme to try and reduce the cost of insurance premiums. Visit the Insurance Centre at [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance/insurance\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance/insurance_main.jsp).

We have also joined with ACER computers to provide a low-cost, high-quality computer deal for community, education and non-profit groups and their members with personal computers starting from just \$1299. Visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/tech/hardware\\_packages.do](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/tech/hardware_packages.do) for details.

And don't forget our Management Centre where we have over 100 free Help Sheets on various aspects of running a community group.

You can also purchase our low-cost How-To Guides, including **How to win a Philanthropic Grant**. For more information visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/view\\_help\\_sheet.do?articleid=56](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/view_help_sheet.do?articleid=56)

[Back to Top](#)

### 13. Fast forward.

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send this newsletter onto your friends and fellow community groups in your area. We would also like your input into this newsletter.

If you have any thoughts or any issues you would like addressed we would appreciate hearing from you. You can send your comments to [brianw@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:brianw@ourcommunity.com.au) or call (03) 9320 6813.

If you have received a grant or scholarship found on our database or successfully adapted the Raising Funds newsletter, let us know.

We now have button logos for those groups who want to set up links to ourcommunity.com.au from their own websites. You can find them on the media Centre. Just visit [http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/article/view\\_image\\_list.do](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/article/view_image_list.do) and right click your mouse on the image you want and then click on SAVE to your own computer. If you have any problems just contact [brianw@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:brianw@ourcommunity.com.au) or call (03) 9320 6813.

We also have brochures for any associations who want to mail out to their member groups and let them know about our products and services. Just let us know and we will be happy to supply.

**If you would like to reproduce anything in this newsletter in your own group/association newsletters or websites, you are free to do so. Please just add a small credit line, "courtesy of www.ourcommunity.com.au".**