



# Our Community Matters



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Building Stronger Communities...  
through Stronger Community Organisations

Your free Community sector update - from [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

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Our Community Matters is your free community sector update, brought to you by [Our Community](#) – the premier online destination for Australia's 600,000 community groups and schools. [Click here](#) to receive your free copy.



## Contents

1. [A decision at last! Gillard Government pledges not-for-profit sector reform](#)
2. [Community sector training](#)
3. [Looking back to look forward: understanding seasonality](#)
4. [GFC? What GFC? Giving news at home and abroad](#)
5. [More evidence \(if it was needed\) that joining in is good for you](#)
6. [Tax Office to concentrate on governance and misuse of tax concessions](#)
7. [Diversity confirmed in first snapshot of social enterprise sector](#)
8. [Marketing Guru: Social media do's and don'ts](#)
9. [Community Classifieds](#)
10. [Fundraising practices audited](#)
11. [Top Tip: Get a councillor on board](#)
12. [Community Calendar: What's on in the community sector](#)
13. [Thumbs Up: Churchill Fellowship recipients 2010](#)
14. [Community Sector Briefs](#)
15. [Community Sector Jobs & Board Vacancies](#)
16. [Fast Forward](#)
17. [About Our Community](#)

## 1. A decision at last! Gillard Government pledges not-for-profit sector reform



**Denis Moriarty**  
**Managing Director**

We have a breakthrough!

For a decade now Our Community has been proclaiming that the not-for-profit sector in this country has been undervalued and under-supported, and that governments have shown no real interest in addressing this.

No longer. Prime Minister Julia Gillard has just announced that **things are going to change**.

"A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will drive a major reform agenda for Australia's non-profit sector to deliver smarter regulation, reduce red tape and improve transparency and accountability of the sector," she announced yesterday.

Ms Gillard is specifically undertaking to implement the recommendations of the many government inquiries on the sector that have reported over the past few years.

- There's to be a new **Office for the Non-Profit Sector** within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to drive and coordinate the policy reform agenda, as recommended by the Productivity Commission's report and by the Senate Economics Committee report on disclosure regimes for not-for-profit organisations;
- That's to be supported by a new **Non-Profit Sector Reform Council** made up of representatives from across the sector;
- As recommended by the Commission and the Senate, the government will start scoping out a **national 'one-stop-shop' regulator** for the not-for-profit sector to remove the complex regulatory arrangements currently in place – this, too, is a major step forward;
- As recommended by everybody, they're going to work on **harmonising regulations across the states**; and
- As foreshadowed by the National Compact, they're going to work on **cutting the burden of red tape**.

Julia Gillard is, in fact, going to do pretty much what the community sector has been asking the government to do – **the first Government in 20 years to commit to act**.

This is a big step. It's going to make a big difference to the 600,000 organisations that make up the heart of Australian communities.

If, of course, the Labor Party gets re-elected.

There have been complaints during this election campaign that the policies of the two parties are not clearly differentiated. In this area, at least, there's a clear policy winner, and it's Labor.

But don't take our word for it. You can read about the Labor Party's announcement in more detail here: <http://ursulastephens.com/2010/08/re-elected-gillard-to-strengthen-non-profit-sector/>, while the Liberal Party's community issues website is here: <http://www.liberal.org.au/Issues/Community.aspx>

Congratulations to Julia Gillard for taking this big step, and also to the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens, who has done most of the leg work, and to Minister for Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin MP, who has also worked so hard to get us to this point. Here's cheers to action, reform and policy at last.

[Back to Top](#)

Photo Bank  
Awards 2010

Vote for a photo or enter  
to win a share of \$5000  
in cash prizes.

Go to:  
[www.ourcommunity.com.au/  
photobank](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank)

## 2. Community sector training

Our Community, through our training arm (the [Australian Institute of Community Practice and Governance](#)), provides Australia's best training for community groups.

If your organisation could use a boost in the areas of fundraising, governance, media relations, marketing, web-based communications or management, these are the courses for you.

There's something to suit every need and budget.

### Need more money?

#### **Winning Grants Seminar** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Brisbane, 5 August
- Sydney, 10 August
- Perth, 18 August
- Melbourne, 26 August
- Adelaide, 2 September
- Perth, 4 November
- Brisbane, 10 November
- Melbourne, 12 November
- Sydney, 12 November

#### **Advanced Grant Writing Seminar** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 17 September
- Sydney, 22 October
- Melbourne, 22 October
- Brisbane, 29 October
- Perth, 5 November
- Adelaide, 10 November
- Brisbane, 15 November
- Melbourne, 19 November
- Sydney, 19 November

#### **Intensive Community Fundraising Seminar** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Brisbane, 5 August
- Sydney, 10 August
- Perth, 18 August
- Melbourne, 26 August
- Adelaide, 2 September
- Perth, 4 November
- Brisbane, 10 November
- Sydney, 12 November
- Melbourne, 12 November

### Want to improve your management skills?

#### **Diploma of Management (BSB51107)** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Melbourne, 11-15 October

## Need more attention?

### **Media Secrets for Community Groups** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Melbourne, 3 September
- Perth, 6 September
- Brisbane, 13 September
- Sydney, 24 September

### **Be an Effective Spokesperson** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 7 September
- Brisbane, 14 September
- Sydney, 12 October
- Melbourne, 13 October

### **How to run a Campaign that Sizzles** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 7 September
- Brisbane, 14 September
- Sydney, 12 October
- Melbourne, 13 October

### **Weaving your Web: Online Essentials** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 8 September
- Brisbane, 15 September
- Sydney, 17 September
- Melbourne, 15 October

### **Planning Your New Website** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Melbourne, 15 October

## Want to improve your Board or Management Committee?

### **Secrets of Successful Boards** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Brisbane, 6 August
- Sydney, 12 August
- Perth, 19 August
- Melbourne, 27 August

### **Effective Meetings: Getting the best from the rules and the key players** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 19 August
- Melbourne, 27 August

### **Certificate IV in Governance – for Community Boards** ([Click here for details...](#))

- Perth, 13-16 September
- Sydney, 18-20 October
- Melbourne, 18-21 October
- Brisbane, 19-22 October



**For more information on community sector training, including tailored training delivered in your local area, visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/training](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/training)**

[Back to Top](#)

### 3. Looking back to look forward: understanding seasonality



**By Vanessa Nolan-Woods**  
**Head of Community Markets, Westpac**

It's no secret that not-for-profit and community organisations are often staffed by voluntary Treasurers or Secretaries who may or may not have prior experience managing the financial affairs of a community group.

In fact, many organisations have a policy of rotating financial positions once every two or three years to ensure no one member is overworked and to minimise the risk of fraud.

This, however, presents community groups with a unique problem; the understanding of long-term financial data is often lost in incomplete handovers.

This loss of data and understanding can particularly be an issue when seasonality comes into play. Seasonality is, in short, the pattern with which cash flows in to and out of your organisation within a period of time. For example, your local rugby club may collect membership fees in March every year in readiness for the winter playing season. This would be a time of large incomings and small outgoings for this type of organisation. Inversely, at finals time in August/September, clubs may be receiving only small amounts of income whilst paying for a number of expenses relating to end of season awards and presentation nights.

Similarly, a charity holding fundraising events in summer one year and then winter the next should look at their cash-flow over a longer period of time than one year, because the impact of seasonality for them will occur in two-year cycles versus the one-year cycle of the sports club. You need to consider the right time frame for your type of organisation. Here are some suggestions on how to manage seasonality:

#### **1. Understand the data**

By mapping out the past three years of incoming and outgoing funds you should be able to understand the typical seasonal changes in your organisation's bank balance. This will help you to know when in the future you will likely have to watch for overspending which could leave you short of funds.

#### **2. Forecast for spending in line with your varying income**

It may seem simple, but community organisations can easily land in trouble by succumbing to the temptation to spend based on the income for one month or period. Making sure you have money to spend in your good times and bad is essential. For example, an organisation providing art classes for school students needs to consider that over the Christmas periods when school is on holidays they will not be hosting classes; therefore there will be a gap in their income. There may still, however, be rent, utilities and staffing costs to cover – so knowing in advance that there needs to be money put aside for this time will ensure you don't run into trouble.

#### **3. Have a Plan B**

As a community organisation your mission is to do good – so the temptation is to spend every available cent achieving that mission. Considering this, it remains important to put money away each month to ensure that in times of seasonally low income (or financial crisis, as many organisations found out recently) this money will ensure you can continue to operate at a loss by drawing on this money pool. You may also find that by putting your savings to work in investments you can make money by earning interest, receiving dividends or by selling investment assets which can add further income to your cashflow.

**Vanessa Nolan-Woods is the Head of Social Sector Banking at Westpac. If you are interested in finding out more about Westpac's exclusive benefits for community and not-for-profit organisations on financial solutions, services, education & advice visit [www.westpac.com.au/socialsectorbanking](http://www.westpac.com.au/socialsectorbanking) or drop in to any Westpac branch.**

[Back to Top](#)

## 4. GFC? What GFC? Giving news at home and abroad

Last financial year was GiveNow.com.au's biggest on record. By midnight on June 30, 2010, GiveNow.com.au had raised more than \$3.5 million, up from \$2.7 million raised in 2008/2009.

GiveNow.com.au's figures show:

- Donations of \$1.14 million during June, compared with \$731,503 in June 2009
- An increase in the number of donors – more than 60,000 individual and corporate donors used the service in 2009/2010
- An average donation amount of \$109.

More than 1700 causes are currently listed with this commission-free service.

Sign your group up at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/receivedonations](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/receivedonations)

### In other giving news ...

In Britain, the government is urging citizens to give 1% of their income to good causes to help the community sector cope with savage cuts brought about by the global economic crisis.

*The Guardian* newspaper [reports](#) that many organisations are expected to struggle as government grants and contract income goes under the knife.

"I give away 1% of my income. I get my children to decide which charities I give to because I want to encourage them to start thinking about these things," said Civil Society Minister Nick Hurd.

Mr Hurd said people who were "relatively fortunate" should follow his example and donate 1% of their income to good causes to take the level of personal giving in Britain closer to that in the United States.

### Hey, big spenders

For those even more than "relatively fortunate", the new Giving Pledge initiative is providing a fresh impetus to mobilise their giving potential.

The Giving Pledge aims to encourage the wealthiest individuals and families in America to commit to giving the majority of their wealth to good causes either during their lifetime or after their death.

Forty public pledges are currently being displayed on the website. George and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffett, George Lucas, Pierre and Pam Omidyar, David Rockefeller and Ted Turner are among those who have made the pledge. Buffett says he will donate 99% of his wealth, saying that 1% is enough for his family and that "neither our happiness nor our wellbeing would be enhanced" by keeping more.

You can read his and all other pledgers' statements [here](#). The Giving Pledge campaign is currently focused on the US but it is hoped that the effort will eventually extend worldwide.

### Back home ...

Each year The [Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies](#) at Queensland University of Technology analyses statistics on tax-deductible donations made by Australians in their individual income tax returns to Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs).

This survey doesn't cover the large number of donations that aren't recorded for tax purposes, or the other ways of getting money into the system – giving by corporates, "non-tax contributions" such as raffles, sponsorships, fundraising purchases or volunteering.

Still, the total amount donated and claimed as tax-deductible donations in 2007-08 was \$2.35 billion (compared to \$1.89 billion for the previous income year), an increase of \$461 million (or 24.5%).

The average tax-deductible donation claimed by Australian taxpayers in 2007-2008 was \$523.10 (compared to \$440.01 last year). This average amount is two and a half times that of a decade before.

On average, those individual taxpayers who make tax-deductible donations to DGRs donate approximately 0.43% of their taxable income. Ten years ago it was 0.22%, so again the trend is up (though still a long way below Nick Hurd's suggestion for UK residents of 1%).

Only 34% of male Australian taxpayers claimed tax-deductible donations, compared to 48% of females. On the other hand, men gave 51% of the total money – they give less often, but in larger amounts, which is not because they're more generous **but because they're better paid**; on average, women give approximately 0.54% of their taxable income, compared to 0.35% for men.

Oh, and NSW gave most (almost half) while WA gave in the largest amounts.

The real zinger, though, is the high life. The average tax-deductible donation was \$523.10. Taxpayers who made more than \$1 million gave an average of \$102,500, more than double the year before's figure of \$48,500.

By the way, the deductible gift data for all Australian postcodes and occupations is available through a searchable database on the Centre's website. If you haven't got time for that, just check your organisation's supporters' lists for Mosman addresses and see who among your members is an industrialist (or, for some reason, a coroner) – the most generous professions.

Of course, 2007-2008 (before the global economic downturn started biting) was a good year for giving, perhaps the best year for a while; but it does suggest that if you're having trouble fundraising, the fault may not be that of the economy (if you do need some pointers, Our Community's *Raising Funds* and *EasyGrants* newsletters, fundraising short courses, fundraising books and all the free resources in the Community Funding Centre can help).

Note too that the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies is also holding a series of short talks on not-for-profit issues, and in this wonderful new age of technology we live in they're putting them online as podcasts – see <http://www.bus.qut.edu.au/research/cdns/podcast/>.

The latest of these is an interesting discussion, dating from early June, between Professor Myles McGregor-Lowndes, Head of the Centre, and Canadian Bob Wyatt on what the Canadian voluntary sector does and doesn't do well. It's the first part of a series, and well worth following.

[Back to Top](#)

## 5. More evidence (if it was needed) that joining in is good for you

For years now we at Our Community have been spruiking the benefits of joining in and joining up.

Our ongoing Join In, Join Up! project is designed to get the message out to as many people as possible that joining a participative community organisation can have huge benefits for your health and wellbeing, as study after study has shown.

*"Controlling for your blood chemistry, age, gender, whether or not you jog, and for all other risk factors, your chances of dying over the course of the next year are cut in half by joining one group, and cut to a quarter by joining two groups."*

- Putnam, R., 2001, Social Capital Measurement and Consequences, Canadian Journal of Policy Research, 2(1):41-51

From the United States last month comes further evidence of the link.

A meta-analytic review, which drew on the results of 148 studies involving a total of 308,849 participants, was conducted by researchers from Brigham Young University and the University of North Carolina.

It found that the quality and quantity of individuals' social relationships is linked not only to mental health but also to both morbidity and mortality.

"These findings indicate that the influence of social relationships on the risk of death are comparable with well-established risk factors for mortality such as smoking and alcohol consumption and exceed the influence of other risk factors such as physical inactivity and obesity," the report says.

"Although further research is needed to determine exactly how social relationships can be used to reduce mortality risk, physicians, health professionals, educators, and the media should now acknowledge that social relationships influence the health outcomes of adults and should take social relationships as seriously as other risk factors that affect mortality, the researchers conclude."

You can read the study [here](#).

"Physicians, health professionals, educators, and the media should now acknowledge that social relationships influence the health outcomes of adults and should take social relationships as seriously as other risk factors that affect mortality"

### Mostly happy, Jan

Meanwhile, a report on the level of life satisfaction among Australians has found a "strong positive correlation between self-reported health and life satisfaction".

"In addition, people living with a partner (whether married or de facto), owning a house, and **being a member of a club** [emphasis added] are more likely to be satisfied," according to *Pursuit of Happiness*, the latest AMP/NATSEM Income and Wealth Report.

The report examines how different aspects of people's lives impact on happiness, from family life and relationships to employment and lifestyle. It says that while money is associated with happiness, that alone does not determine happiness.

"Particular types of wealth, such as the family home, superannuation and money in the bank are linked to greater happiness than others. Spending money wisely can also make people happier, highlighting the importance of managing our finances," the report says.

"Some debts like those associated with credit cards and overdue bills can lead to lower levels of happiness but larger debts above \$100,000 like mortgages linked to more valuable assets can positively influence happiness."

In the face of these findings, the report authors advise:

"Get a job that pays well, but not too well. Buy a nice house, but don't spend too much on a big TV, furniture or car. Put extra money into your super and open a savings account. Cut up your credit card and pay your bills on time. When you start to feel pretty pleased with your life, but still not totally satisfied, don't buy an investment property. Focus on reducing your debt, then book yourself a nice holiday!"

You can download the entire report [here](#).

### Even spies are joining in and joining up

It figures – suburban households are involved in not-for-profit activities, so if you want to blend in and avoid detection you'll have to be involved too.

So it's not surprising that one of the people the FBI recently arrested for espionage was on the board of one of America's good causes. What's slightly unusual is that the particular organisation the alleged Russian spy Donald Heathfield picked is itself slightly unusual.

Heathfield was one of the various advisory board members of an organisation called the Lifeboat Foundation, which is dedicated to helping humanity survive existential risks through technologies such as an asteroid shield, a "nanoshield" (a repellent against nano-weapons such as self-replicating ecophages), "Ark I" (a self-sustaining space colony built to ensure that humanity could survive if disasters make Earth uninhabitable), an "antimatter shield", and an "alienshield" (actually a diplomatic and communications protocol "to minimise frictions caused by a first contact situation, be it friendly, unfriendly, or neutral").

Not exactly the choice, one would think, for someone wanting to blend into the background.

Still, it does show that when it comes to finding a group to join that fits your own skills and interests, there really is something for everyone. Have a look for yourself on the Join In, Join Up! directory at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/joinin](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/joinin)



**Join In, Join Up! is an initiative of Our Community and is proudly supported by Telstra.**

[Back to Top](#)

## 6. Tax Office to concentrate on governance and misuse of tax concessions

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) will focus on educating the community on obligations and entitlements to concessions, ensuring that not-for-profit organisations comply with their obligations, and concentrating on those engaging in “deliberate misuse of tax concessions” as part of its 2010-11 compliance program.

The ATO says it will contact a sample of not-for-profit organisations during 2010-11 to review their governance processes, saying governance is “central to supporting community confidence”.

“We will also consult with the sector about tools or products that will help support their governance approach.”

The Tax Office says it will also be looking at and providing information to not-for-profit organisations on GST treatment to supplies “made for nominal consideration”. It will also review clubs that “did not take up the offer to self-correct past errors in the calculation of mutual income, particularly income from Club Keno, and the non-lodgement of income tax returns”.

The ATO has also announced plans to monitor the non-profit sector “to identify whether organisations are modifying their structure or activities” to take advantage of the Word Investments case, through which the High Court ruled that a charity may carry out a commercial business as long as the funds generated are used for charitable purposes.

New info and advice out from the Australian Tax Office include:

- A guide on ‘Mutuality and Taxable Income’ for non-profit clubs, societies and associations that are not exempt from income tax. [Click here](#) to download the guide.
- A ‘Guide to Company Tax Return for Non-profit Organisations 2010’, designed to be read in conjunction with the ‘Mutuality and Taxable Income’ guide above. [Click here](#) to download the guide.

The ATO’s online help for not-for-profit organisations is at <http://www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/> and details of the 2010-11 compliance program is [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

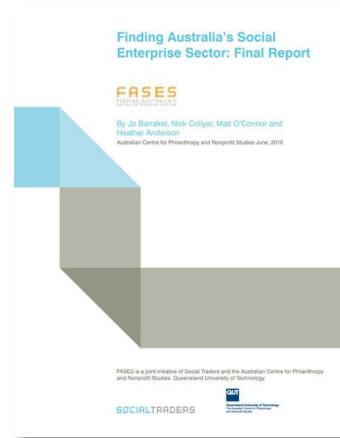
## 7. Diversity confirmed in first snapshot of social enterprise sector

They say there are no two snowflakes that are exactly alike, and it would seem the same could be said of organisations that make up the burgeoning social enterprise sector.

A preliminary snapshot of the sector, produced by Social Traders and Queensland University of Technology, has painted a picture of a highly diverse sector.

“Social enterprises range from commercial operations that are virtually indistinguishable from their ‘for private profit’ industry counterparts through to grassroots community endeavours that draw on various sources of human and financial capital,” the report says.

The Social Traders/QUT *Finding Australia’s Social Enterprise Sector* project aims to



shed light on the scope and activities of what the report authors describe as “an important and largely invisible part of our social economy”.

“Our research finds that, as a sector, social enterprise in Australia is mature, diverse, innovative and sustainable.

“Contrary to popular commentary about social enterprise, it is not a new phenomenon and it is not organised around a narrow set of missions. Rather, social enterprise – like other aspects of civil society – gives expression to a range of human aspirations as diverse as society itself.”

[Click here](#) to find out more and read the report.

[Back to Top](#)

## 8. Marketing Guru: Social media do's and don'ts

There's a lot of buzz these days around the potential of social media to help lift your organisation over the throng – but how do you know if your organisation can really benefit?



A new guide produced by Idealware, an American not-for-profit that works to help community groups “make smart software decisions”, provides a good starting point.

The 70-page guide, released last month after six months of research, is designed to help community groups think through what they can reasonably expect in terms of results and benefits from social media (and for what investment of time and effort).

‘Social media’ is defined as online media that “starts conversations, encourages people to pass it on to others, and finds ways to travel on its own”.

The guide says some community organisations are finding social media to be an effective way to engage current supporters and reach new ones.

**Facebook**, the guide says, can be a useful tool for:

- **Creating increased feedback and discussion** (“hearing what’s important and of interest to your supporters is a valuable thing, and not to be taken lightly”)
- **Driving information to your website – and spreading information** (“Organisations are seeing a substantial amount of website traffic coming directly from Facebook”)
- **Building an email list** (“a number of people reported that they were able to encourage Facebook supporters to join their email list”)
- **Attracting event attendees** (“It can be a particularly useful way to encourage supporters to pass the word about events on to their own friends”)
- **Getting people to take action** (“Facebook users are also more likely to take action *on Facebook* – for instance, asking people to change their photo to a message representing your cause, or to post about your issue on a corporation’s wall”)
- **Attracting donations** (“It makes sense to think of Facebook more as a platform for friends to ask other friends for money than as a place for the organisation itself to solicit donations”)

**Twitter**, the guide says, can be useful for:

- Connecting with like-minded organisations
- Connecting with the media
- Asking questions (to which you actually want to know the answer, as opposed to just conversation starters)
- Engaging people with frequent updates (you can easily post five or more posts a day without raising eyebrows – this can be useful in the lead-up to an event, for example)

- Providing near-real-time updates
- Coordinating a group in real time

The guide also looks at **blogs**, reporting that despite the hype, many groups have found only limited success.

Unless you have experts or advocates on the front line who are also good writers (and have the time to post frequently), a blog is going to become “one more thing for a communications team (or person) to manage”, the guide warns.

Blogs can also be time consuming: “Because blogs are public, it’s obvious when you don’t post. A blog started and then abandoned, or updated only sporadically, is worse than no blog at all.”

Still, the guide says, blogs can be useful in a few key areas:

- **Publicising your expertise** – if you have one or more experts on a topic, asking them to blog can increase their public stature, leading to more partnerships, press or paid work. It can also be a good way to disseminate their knowledge to your audience.
- **Promoting your cause or educating people** – a blog is a useful and straightforward way to spread information; it’s generally less time-consuming to write blog posts than articles or reports.
- **Telling stories about your day-to-day work** – blog entries can become a good way to connect supporters to your cause, and a useful source of stories for your other publications.
- **Engaging people in your decisions, or your work** – though this is a lot easier said than done. “Many more blog readers will lurk than will post comments”.
- **Promoting your website and online information** – because blogs are great for search engine optimisation, blogs help people to more easily find your organisation.

The guide also looks at the benefits that can be derived from photo sharing websites, video sharing websites, additional social media channels such as LinkedIn, MySpace, Second Life and FourSquare, and “custom communities” such as specially constructed online special interest groups.

It includes a workbook comprising a self-assessment guide, and tools to help you identify and measure your goals, define your audience, survey your audience and decide which channels are right for you.

There is also a guide to developing a section to help you social media policy for your organisation. [Click here](#) to download the report (PDF 7.42MB).



**The Marketing Guru is an initiative of the [Marketing, Media and Post Centre](#), the online resource for community groups provided by Our Community and Australia Post. Send your questions to [guru@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:guru@ourcommunity.com.au).**

[Connect with us on Twitter or Facebook and win a \\$50 voucher!](#)

We have two \$50 Google Adwords vouchers to give away to Our Community members who link up with us on Facebook or Twitter **before 5pm on Monday, August 16**.

[Google Adwords](#) allows you to create ads that will appear when people search Google using one of your keywords. There’s no minimum spending requirement and if you choose the cost-per-click option you are only charged if people click your ads.

To go in the draw for one of the \$50 vouchers:

- **Become our friend on Facebook:**  
Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/OurCommunitycomau/294048686571> and click “Like”.
- **Follow us on Twitter:**  
Go to <http://twitter.com/ourcommunityau> and click “Follow”.

Do both and you’ll get two entries to the draw – plus you’ll be able to keep up with all our news, as it happens!

## **Web training opportunities**

Hootville Communications is delivering training on media, online communications and campaigning in conjunction with Our Community across September and October. Visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/scheduledtraining](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/scheduledtraining).

[Back to Top](#)

## **9. Community Classifieds**

### **WANTED: Survey respondents (Melbourne)**

Leader Community Newspapers is seeking Melbourne volunteers to act as a “jury” for the federal election by taking part in a short survey.

Responses will be collated with other participants across Melbourne to help take the pulse of the city's voters. The results will be publicised in Leader publications across the greater Melbourne region.

To take part, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LeaderElectionSurvey> before 5pm on Wednesday, August 11.

### **WANTED: Investment case studies (Australia-wide)**

We are looking for case studies on investment in community organisations for use in a guide soon to be published on the topic.

Case studies are sought in relation to:

- Asset allocation (in which proportion do you choose to allocate funds to each different type of investment - e.g. shares, bonds, cash...?)
- Forming an investment committee (who did you choose, why did you choose them and when/how do they meet?)
- Investment advisors (how did you choose a fund manager?)

If you would be willing to be interviewed in relation to your organisation's investments for possible use in the upcoming guide, email your details to [kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au).

### **WANTED: Choir members (Melbourne, Victoria)**

Creativity Australia is seeking new members to take part in their ‘With One Voice’ social inclusion choir programs.

The organisation utilises creative programs to enhance wellbeing, social inclusion, innovation and productivity for individuals, organisations and communities.

It is current recruiting choir members to take part in one of five choir projects:

- **Melbourne Sings:** Tuesdays 5:15-6:30pm (Sofitel Hotel, 25 Collins St, Melbourne)
- **Geelong Sings:** Mondays 5:15-6:30pm (Waterfront Christian Church, 35 Corio St, Geelong)
- **Dandenong Sings:** Wednesdays 5:15-6:30pm (Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park)
- **Footscray Sings:** Thursdays 5:30-6:45pm (Phoenix Youth Centre, 72 Buckley St, Footscray, then from 26 August “The Church” 10A Hyde Street, Footscray)
- **Royal Children’s Sings:** Mondays 5:15-6:30pm, for RCH staff only (Ella Latham Room RCH)



Healthcare card holders and migrants who are unemployed may attend for free; others pay \$500 plus GST for the 12 month program.

The choirs will all come together for a performance at Melbourne Recital Centre on September 8. [Click here](#) to find out more or register.

### **WANTED: Choir space (Sunshine, Victoria)**

Creativity Australia is seeking a space to hold choir rehearsals and meetings in Sunshine.

If you know of a good, low-cost venue, please contact Lisa Jennings at [lisa@cal.org.au](mailto:lisa@cal.org.au) or call (03) 9682 9689.

[Back to Top](#)

## **10. Fundraising practices audited**

A New South Wales anti-obesity organisation has been ordered to stop fundraising after an investigation found “serious breaches of NSW charity laws”.

NSW Gaming and Racing Minister Kevin Greene said Solutions to Obesity Problems Inc. (STOP) was no longer licensed to fundraise for a charitable purpose in NSW and warned members of the public against making donations.

The move came after an investigation by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) following a complaint about fundraising by STOP during Derby Day at Randwick Racecourse in April this year.

Meanwhile, another NSW-based not-for-profit organisation, the Australian Vaccination Network, has been issued with a notice to show cause as to why its charitable fundraising authority should not be revoked.

The notice was issued by the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing on July 29 following an audit conducted in response to a complaint. The network has been given 28 days to respond before a final decision is made.

Mr Greene warned that any charity failing to comply with governance and accountability requirements risked losing its fundraising authority.

“OLGR is also examining ways to strengthen its fundraising authority application processes and ensure those carrying out or associated with fundraising appeals are fit and proper,” he said.

[Back to Top](#)

## **11. TOP TIP: Get a councillor on board**

Community campaigns benefit greatly from the involvement of local councillors, new British research has found.

A new publication from bassac and Urban Forum provides examples of how councillor involvement assists the success of local community projects. It finds that five key elements are required to enhance councillor involvement:

- Early contact, either in a project or soon after a councillor is elected
- Seeking out councillors rather than waiting for them to notice you
- Putting aside political affiliation – both the councillor and the community group will want what is best for the area
- Establishing a clear role for the councillor to play and their level of involvement
- Building trust and respect between the councillor and the community group.

You can download the guide at <http://www.bassac.org.uk/node/925>



[Back to Top](#)

## 12. Community Calendar: What's on in the community sector

Our Community's online **Community Calendar** features all of the nationally significant events focussed around a major community or advocacy/awareness issue in Australia. Some events taking place in the next month include:



### National Science Week: 14-22 August

Held annually in August, and now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, National Science Week welcomes an audience of over a million and hosts more than 1000 events across the nation. A grassroots program, National Science Week is delivered by universities, schools, museums and science centres across Australia.



### National Glaucoma Week: 15-21 August

National Glaucoma Week seeks to raise awareness of the 'silent' eye condition – glaucoma. It is a major cause of sight loss in Australia. About 3% of Australians over age 40 have glaucoma (approx. 300,000) but, because there are generally no warning signs, only about half of them have been diagnosed. The week will encourage all Australians, once they reach the age of 40, to undertake a comprehensive eye check every two years and not to take their sight for granted.



### 40 Hour Famine: 20-22 August

The 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia's biggest youth fundraising events. It's a chance to do something real: go without food or something else that really matters to you for 40 hours and raise money for kids living in poverty overseas. It's a great way for young Australians to get a taste of what life's like for children who have to go without – every single day.



### Hearing Awareness Week: 22-28 August

Hearing Awareness Week is an annual event held in the last week of August. It provides an opportunity to raise community awareness of hearing impairment and ways to protect your hearing. This week is a key event for Deafness Forum which is the national coordinating body.



### Keep Australia Beautiful Week: 24-31 August

Keep Australia Beautiful Week is designed to help focus and remind the public of what they can do in their daily lives to help improve and preserve their local environment. The aim of the campaign is to demonstrate the easy ways you can help the environment and also save money by making a few simple changes around the home and in your daily lives.

More events, plus the full listing for each event, can be found at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar).

[Back to Top](#)

## 13. THUMBS UP: Churchill Fellowship recipients 2010

Congratulations to Kon Karapanagiotidis (*pictured right*), founder and CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne, who has been awarded a 2010 Churchill Fellowship.

Mr Karapanagiotidis is one of 101 fellows selected by the Churchill Trust this year. The fellowship will enable him to undertake a seven-week study tour of Europe and North America to learn world best practice for advocating for and supporting asylum seekers.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre aims to protect and uphold the human rights, wellbeing and dignity of asylum seekers by providing aid, empowerment, justice and community programs.



In June, the Centre was named the winner of the inaugural Our Community-Westpac Kookaburra Award for Community Groups, in recognition of its work in standing up for a difficult cause.

Other recipients of Churchill Fellowships this year include:

- Claire Braund, who will study the impact of the introduction of boardroom gender quotas;
- Steven Caldwell, who will study programs that support young Australians to develop positive values in online communities;
- Bibiana Chan, who will explore mental health peer-led recovery programs;
- Louise Majkut, who will study respite models which promote social inclusion for people with an intellectual disability;
- Leslie Bulluss, who will research culturally appropriate Indigenous community policing models;
- Susan Fisher, who will study methods for stimulating private sector support for the arts in a challenging economic environment;
- Maxine Ashton, who will investigate international approaches that effectively help people with mental illness to quit tobacco;
- Sarah Barton, who will research the content for a landmark documentary about the history of the disability rights movement;
- Johann Kirby, who will research how to develop plain language community legal education programs;
- Christopher Povey, who will investigate programs for sustaining the tenancies of high-risk tenants; and
- Clancy Wright, who will study methods for initiating cultural change regarding alcohol consumption.

The full list makes for fascinating reading – it's online at <http://churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/2010/>

[Back to Top](#)

## 14. Community Sector Briefs



### Coalition pledges funding boost for Meals on Wheels

The Federal Coalition will make 2012 the 'Year of Meals on Wheels' if it wins the election on August 21.

The Coalition has pledged \$2 million to the Australian Meals on Wheels Association, with Shadow Minister for Ageing Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells saying the organisation deserved more recognition.

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said around 13 million meals were delivered by 80,000 dedicated volunteers annually.

"This is not just about the meal. It is about companionship and social interaction," she said. "For many clients, the daily visit of a Meals on Wheels volunteer is warmly welcomed and helps the frail and aged, the disabled, carers and others to maintain their independence."

"It also helps build social capital which is so vital in our communities."

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said the \$2 million in funding would assist with promotion in 2012 and increase diversity and choice in its services as well as to “recognise the marvellous work of its volunteers and assist in attracting more volunteers”.

## Creative Innovation 2010

Around 350 leaders have already registered to attend Creative Innovation 2010, which will be held in Melbourne next month.

World-renowned thinker Edward de Bono, Australian of the Year Patrick McGorry and US Government consultant Edward Luttwak are among a number of high-profile figures speaking at the event.

Organised by local group Creative Universe, Creative Innovation will showcase techniques and strategies to unlock creativity and help groups and individuals make the most of the opportunities presented by innovation and knowledge-based economies.

The event will be held at the Melbourne Recital Centre from September 8-10. For more information, including prices and booking details, visit: [www.ci2010.com.au](http://www.ci2010.com.au).

**Organisers are offering a 10% discount to Creative Innovation for Our Community members. To access the discount, use the following promotional log-in details during the registration process: Username: ci2010; Password: imagine.**

## Social inclusion consultations postponed

Social inclusion consultations previously scheduled to take place in Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin in July and August have been postponed due to the government entering caretaker mode.

The Australian Social Inclusion Board consultations on cycles of disadvantage in Perth, Melbourne and Hobart will take place as scheduled on September 2, 3 and 6.

The consultations are being led by Australian Social Inclusion Board chair Patricia Faulkner.

The board is hoping to hear from people with experience and expertise on cycles of disadvantage topic, including providers of social welfare services, academics and researchers, as well as people who have experienced cycles of disadvantage themselves.

For more information and to register your interest in attending an event, go to  
<http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Partnerships/Board/Pages/BreakCycleReqSubs.aspx>

## Scholarships for not-for-profits

More than \$850,000 worth of scholarships for not-for-profit organisations is now available from major universities and private education providers across Australia.

Courses on offer through the Australian Scholarships Foundation include:

- 10 x AICD Company Directors Course, Not-for-profit Board and Foundations of Directorship
- 10 x Masters Programs from the University of Melbourne, including Commerce, Accounting, Marketing & Management
- 20 x UTS Executive Short Courses – one- and two-day 2 day short courses including Positive Psychology, Social Media Marketing and MYOB
- 20 x Project Management One-day Workshop in Sydney – 20 August
- 2 x Masters Programs from UNSW
- 4 x Grad Diploma in HRM, Commerce and Sustainable Enterprise at Griffith University, QLD
- 1-on-1 Mentoring Program with a KPMG Partner

Visit [www.scholarships.org.au](http://www.scholarships.org.au) to find out more and sign up for the “Scholarships Alert” newsletter.

## Risk management “neglect” still rife in the sector

Many not-for-profit organisations continue to neglect their risk management responsibilities, a new study has found.

PPB's *Not-for-Profit Risk Survey 2010* found that 41% of respondents said they either didn't have, or didn't know if their group had, a risk management policy, while only 34% said their group maintained a risk register or database.

This is despite 88% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement that good risk management could improve an organisation's performance.

A full account of the survey findings, including its recommendations for an effective risk management framework, is provided in the latest edition of Our Community's *Board Builder* newsletter.

Issued quarterly, the *Board Builder* offers ongoing advice and solutions to a range of common issues faced by the members of community sector boards and committees of management.

For more information visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder).



[Back to Top](#)

## 15. Community Sector Jobs & Board Vacancies

The Community Jobs Centre is the place to find or advertise a community sector job in every state of Australia. It's free to browse the listings, or to be sent the weekly "Good Moves" jobs listing bulletin, while advertising a job costs only \$30. Visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs)

### JOB VACANCY LISTINGS (Paid Positions)

The following is a list of the most recent job vacancies listed at Our Community. To place an ad, visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs). This services costs \$30.

#### New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
Child Sexual Assault Counsellor	Bankstown Women's Health Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>
Fundraising & Sponsorship Manager for Special Olympic Team	Special Olympics Australia	<a href="#">Details</a>
Community Transport Services Coordinator	Bankstown Canterbury Community Transport	<a href="#">Details</a>
NSW Manager	Australia Council for the Arts	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Business Support Director - locum position	Jesuit Social Services	<a href="#">Details</a>
Austswim PWD Qualified Aquatic Education Teacher	Dandenong Oasis YMCA	<a href="#">Details</a>
Fundraising & Sponsorship Manager for Special Olympic Team	Special Olympics Australia	<a href="#">Details</a>
Membership and Marketing Officer	Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>

<a href="#">Community Development Coordinator</a>	Hawthorn Aquatic & Leisure Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Chief Executive Officer</a>	Martin Luther Homes / Dakin Mayers	<a href="#">Details</a>

## BOARD/COMMITTEE VACANCY LISTINGS (*Volunteer Positions*)

The following is a list of the most recent Board/Committee vacancies listed at Our Community. To view other board or Committee vacancies [please click here](#) (This matching service is free)

### New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">Advisory Committee</a>	Empower Projects Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Stars with Heart	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Bridges Inc.	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Ryde Family Support Service	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Director with fundraising expertise; Director with health/disability expertise</a>	Independent Community Living Australia	<a href="#">Details</a>

### Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">Treasurer</a>	Speld Qld Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>

### South Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">Treasurer, General Board Member</a>	Modbury Hospital Foundation	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Secretary, General Board Member</a>	Timpir - Australians supporting health, education and development in South Sudan	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Secretary, General Board Member, 2 positions available</a>	Edmund Rice Camps SA Incorporated	<a href="#">Details</a>

### Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Asburton Support Services	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Wingate Avenue Community Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Loddon Mallee Housing Services Ltd	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member, Creation of new role for Sponsorship &amp; Marketing</a>	Victorian Water Polo Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Secretary, General Board Member</a>	Outer East Employment Service	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Treasurer, General Board Member</a>	South Kingsville Community Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Secretary</a>	Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Treasurer, General Board Member</a>	Williamstown Literary Festival	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Fernlea House INC	<a href="#">Details</a>

[Back to Top](#)

## 16. Fast Forward

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send it on to your friends and fellow community groups in your area. People can sign up to receive their own copy at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup).

If you would like to reproduce anything in this newsletter in your own newsletters or websites, you are free to do so. Please just add a small credit line, "courtesy of [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)" and a direct link to the [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) site if on a webpage.

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[Back to Top](#)

## 17. About Our Community

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools for Australia's 600,000 community groups and schools, and practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government.

Read more about us at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus)

[Back to Top](#)

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