

Our Community **MATTERS**

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Resources, News, Innovations and Tips on:

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www.ourcommunity.com.au

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I. Community View: Taking Action



By Rhonda Galbally AO
CEO

Many people who attended this year's Communities in Control conference came up to me over the two days to discuss what they might do when they got back to work.

Some of the conversations I had were about how inspiring the conference is and how hard it is to go back to face the grind of day-to-day work without the others having a sense of what happened.

Another lot of discussions were about how to explain how the content of the conference could now be picked up and used by community organisations (and local and other levels of government).

Some of the conversations were more along the lines of thinking through how to bring some of the important points from Communities in Control back to the grassroots – without actually mounting a conference of your own. (Every year we are asked to provide our speakers at the local level around the country – but arranging this is fairly unlikely as getting the speakers for our own conference takes a year's advance planning.)

So I've tried to think about some very practical ways in which all participants could use the conference back at work and back in their own communities and community groups. Here's what I've come up with:

- Form a local 'speech club' (like a book club, only with less to read!) and download one speech from Communities in Control per week (or month) to form the topic for that session's discussion, talking about how it relates to your community group or community in general. Papers from the conference have already started appearing on our website (see www.ourcommunity.com.au/cicspeeches2008) and more will be added in coming days so keep checking back for updates. In fact, there are speeches at www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic that go all the way back to 2003 so there's enough material to keep you going for quite some time! Your club/discussion group could include colleagues, or you may want to advertise in the local paper and see whether you can attract others from the community.
- Instead of holding a series of smaller discussions, hold one major session where you can discuss the whole content. Get a skilled facilitator on board to make the most of the discussion and distribute the papers beforehand so people can come prepared. Your session could be based on the themes that emerged during Communities in Control 2008 such as:
 1. The environment, action and disadvantage (Tim Flannery)
 2. Accessible and inclusive communities for people with disabilities (Bill Shorten)
 3. Trends and fads that affect communities (Michelle Levine)
 4. Closing the gap with Indigenous Australians (Pat Turner)
 5. Australia's role in promoting human rights around the world (Kate Gilmore)
 6. Local action to improve health & wellbeing in Australia and world-wide (Fran Baum)
 7. Ruthless self-defeating capitalism imploding, versus responsible capitalism thriving (Noel Purcell)
- Alternatively, identify some local experts who can speak on the topics above, taking the themes of the speeches and analysing them in the local context. You may wish to talk to your local paper about providing some regular space over the next few months to run local opinion pieces and encourage discussions.
- Hold a local screening of Communities in Control 2008 using the conference DVD, which should be available within the next month (you can pre-order copies by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic and clicking the 'Order Video/DVD' button). Alternatively, hold a series of screenings – perhaps two speeches per session – with discussion afterwards. Advertise your sessions locally so others can take part. (You could even make it a fundraising event for a local community group!)

- This year's conference (and in particular, NITV CEO Pat Turner's presentation) saw the birth of an idea for a statement to go to the Prime Minister on closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The statement will be developed via a Wiki on the Our Community website. You may wish to hold a local session to develop ideas to contribute to the statement from your own local community or group.
- The Great Debate is a popular feature of Communities in Control, and could be popular in your local community as well. Borrow the title of this year's Great Debate and hold something similar in your own community. Select a skilful adjudicator and knowledgeable and entertaining people from local community groups, schools, businesses and local government to form the teams and debate the topic – "In the Face of the Enormity of Global Threats, Local Action is a Waste of Time." Invite community members, school students, business people, council officers, councillors and local MPs to come along and help you choose the winner.
- Every town and suburb of Australia has a number of community groups that could qualify for the coveted title of Westpac Australian Community Idol – get started now on grooming local groups for next year's awards. Encourage them to look at the criteria (www.ourcommunity.com.au/idol) and past year's winners and get themselves ready to nominate for 2009. It will be a great opportunity to showcase what great work is taking place in your community.

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2. STOP THE PRESSES!! Charity reform back from the grave

In a last-minute plot twist, Parliament has pulled reform of the law of charity out of the dustbin of history and put it back on the nation's agenda.

In almost the last parliamentary action of the Australian Democrats, Senator Lyn Allison caught the speaker's eye and moved

(1) That the Senate—

- (a) notes the report by CHOICE on charities, published online in March 2008, that highlights the wide variability and inconsistency in the way that charities disclose information to the public; and
- (b) acknowledges that the 27 recommendations from the inquiry into the definition of charities and related organisations, which reported in 2001, have not been implemented.

(2) That the following matters be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day of November 2008:

- (a) to investigate the relevance and appropriateness of current disclosure regimes for charities and all other not-for-profit organisations;
- (b) to identify models of regulation and legal forms that would improve governance and management of charities and not-for-profit organisations and cater for emerging social enterprises; and
- (c) to identify other measures that can be taken by government and the not-for-profit sector to assist the sector to improve governance, standards, accountability and transparency in its use of public and government funds.

The motion passed. We're back on the road again.

Background

A little history may help here.

As Our Community has frequently complained over the years, Australian law covering the not-for-profit sector is archaic, partial, illogical, confusing, and frequently counterproductive.

One of the reasons that only 20,000 of Australia's 700,000 community groups have tax deductible status is because the criteria are almost totally opaque, resting as they do on the requirement that exempt organisations be doing something similar to the listing set out in an English law dating from 1601. If your organisation is involved with

...the relief of aged, impotent, and poor people; the maintenance of sick and maimed soldiers and mariners, schools of learning, free schools, and scholars in universities; the repair of bridges, ports, havens, causeways, churches, seabanks, and highways; the education and preferment of orphans; the relief, stock, or maintenance of

houses of correction; the marriage of poor maids; the supportation, aid, and help of young tradesmen, handicraftsmen, and persons decayed; the relief or redemption of prisoners or captives; and the aid or ease of any poor inhabitants concerning payment of fifteens, setting out of soldiers, and other taxes....

- then you're home and hosed. Otherwise, it's complicated.

In September 2000, the then Government announced an Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organisations. The Charities Definition Inquiry reported in late 2001. Its recommendations would have brought the law into the 21st Century. The proposals gained wide support across the community sector, and the government's announcement that they'd introduce the necessary legislation was widely welcomed (although there were some concerns that the government's proposed definition of charity could have had the effect of limiting the policy and advocacy activities of charities).

In any case, the hopes and fears were all wasted, as the Government subsequently decided it was all too hard and dumped the proposed bill altogether.

This left Australian not-for-profits governed at the federal level by the Tax Office and at the state level by a patchwork of light (and largely unenforced) regulation. This wasn't a particularly reliable system; as the consumer advocacy organisation CHOICE complained in a [recent paper](#),

While overseas aid organisations have a voluntary code of conduct to improve disclosure to donors and beneficiaries, some charities don't make their annual reports or financial accounts available to the public. And there is no uniform accounting or reporting standard for charities.

This absence of transparency means that the 90% of us who want to donate have an almost impossible task in comparing charities and ensuring our money has the best effect.

Several of the charities we surveyed would like a single regulator for the sector, to replace the mish-mash of regulations and reporting requirements they have to comply with in different states and territories. The UK has a Charities Commission; Canada and New Zealand also have uniform regulation.

These are the issues that have now been plonked down in front of the Senate's Economics Committee.

What now?

It looks as if the recommendations from the inquiry into the definition of charities are now back in play. Briefly, they were that

- The definition of a charity be set down in legislation and that a charity be:
 - a not-for-profit-entity;
 - that has a dominant purpose or purposes that are:
 - charitable;
 - altruistic; and
 - for the public benefit.
- That deductible gift recipient (DGR) status be given to a subset of charity, to be known as a Benevolent Charity, whose dominant purpose is to benefit, directly and indirectly, those whose disadvantage prevents them from meeting their needs (that is, benevolent charities would not be required, as now, to be direct service providers)
- Charities should be permitted to engage in advocacy on behalf of those they benefit, and that conduct of this kind should not deny them charitable status even if it involves advocating for a change in law or policy
- That the Government seek the agreement of all State and Territory Governments to establish an independent administrative body for charities and related entities, which would be responsible for:
 - determining the status of all charitable and related entities in Australia
 - monitoring the relevance of definitions
 - monitoring the accountability of charities
 - providing advice and support for the charitable and related sector
 - providing information for and about the sector.

The Committee doesn't have to look at these recommendations, but it would be surprising if it ignored them entirely. It'll also be looking at the complaints made by CHOICE, and we imagine it'll also examine the possible implications of the recent court case – that found that any charity that has a business arm for raising funds can get tax exemption from that business (for an update on this, see [page 18](#)).

What do I do?

Considering that we're talking about something that was last looked at in the year Shakespeare wrote Hamlet, things are moving pretty fast. Senator Allison referred the matter to the Committee on June 18, submissions have to be in by Friday, August 29, and it's to report by the end of November. Have a look [here](#) for the details.

This is a chance to get it right. What do you think we need? Write to the Committee and tell them. And send a copy to us.

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3. Communities in Control 2008: "Like the 2020 Summit, but with a point"

Seize the day – that was the key message from Communities in Control 2008, the two-day celebration of the power of community held in Melbourne, on June 15 and 16.

Around 1500 delegates swarmed to Moonee Valley Racecourse for the sixth annual conference to network, reflect, draw breath, look ahead and hear world-class presentations from a stellar list of speakers.

In an event described by The Chaser's Julian Morrow as "Like the 2020 Summit, but with a point," the conference took in a huge number of topics – from promotion of social inclusion for disabled and indigenous and disadvantaged people, to the emerging opportunities and threats posed by climate change, to the role of business in a modern democracy, to human rights and health promotion at home and abroad.

Speakers spoke of the many challenges facing modern communities, and the urgency with which individuals, community groups and governments needed to respond.

They emphasised the importance of facing up to the challenges, and embracing them as opportunities to create a better, more just, more inclusive, more prosperous future.



- Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs **Jenny Macklin** said the companionship and inclusion created by community groups could help to counteract some of the "enormously detrimental" flow-on effects of social isolation, such as poor health and higher levels of mental illness and depression – an effect that took on even more importance at a time when external global forces had the potential to make us feel increasingly powerless.



- Climate change expert **Professor Tim Flannery** said we were at a time in history of momentous change. "We're already facing a global food crisis, a global oil crisis, a climate crisis," he said. "In all of that it is community groups like yours that can help start making a difference, that really shift things." Prof. Flannery said we had very little time to deal with these problems. "Sometimes it all feels as if we're all a bit helpless," he said, but the commitment of individuals and "a strong moral position" really could change the world.



- Business leader **Dr Noel Purcell** said that with public trust in the actions and intent of big business at an all-time low, the future of capitalism was under question. "Broader societal concerns struggle to penetrate the corporate veils, often shunted aside and ignored in favour of short-term profit and shareholder wealth maximisation," he said. "But fortunately – standing at this challenging business and society crossroad – we can also see positive and helpful signposts. A growing number of companies have shifted or are shifting their mindsets and rediscovering the true role of business in society." The concerns of citizens, he said, had been largely frozen out, but were now finding new voice.



- Roy Morgan Research chief executive **Michele Levine** said personalised technology – mobile phones, iPods and the like – could be seen as an expression of a new emphasis on individualism, but the technological revolution could also help people to create new communities and connect to others. “People in society are still people, and people are still looking for ways to engage,” she said. “We can operate within these trends in any way that we choose to.”



- Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services **Bill Shorten** said impairment may be a fact of life, but disability was not. “You can have an impairment but it's the society which disables you,” he said. “The systemic entrenched second-class status of people with disability in Australia is obscene.” Mr Shorten said that while there had been some progress over recent decades, disability remained “at the bottom of the league table” when it came to fairness. “Reform is not a preordained outcome,” he said. “Reform doesn't just happen. I do believe Australians are generous. I do believe they're interested in making the world a better place, but if we are reformers – which I believe we are in this room – then we have to understand that reform must be constantly battled for. We can never take it for granted.”



- Victorian Minister for Community Development **Peter Batchelor** said the involvement of community organisations was an important factor in building stronger communities, but government needed to do more to cut through the red tape that hampers their work, simplifying regulations, enhancing leadership opportunities and improving employment benefits for the sector.



- CEO of National Indigenous TV (NITV) **Pat Turner** said the time for governments to impose solutions to indigenous disadvantage, marginalisation and poverty was over. She said governments had to be fully engaged and ready to negotiate with Aboriginal people, giving them full control and self-determination, and the resources they needed to buy in the expertise they wanted, and develop expertise within their own people. Only then, she said, would we see change.



- Head of the Department of Public Health at Flinders University, **Professor Fran Baum**, said globalisation could be harnessed to support local struggles, just as it posed great threats in terms of health, economics and the environment. She said we could all benefit from the communications, travel and connections offered by globalisation, and that local campaigns could gain strength from global movements. Community initiatives could build grassroots support for global issues, she said.



- Amnesty International Executive Deputy Secretary-General **Kate Gilmore** said the lives of community activists should be lived with a consciousness of global community action. She said those of us in Australia should use our rights here to defend the rights of those in other countries who were denied their rights to activism. Ms Gilmore said if we thought of *community* only as a local, geographical construct, we might be part of the problem. We had the resources to build a global communities – a robust, resilient web of interconnected communities, she said.

Community Idol finalists provided a practical expression of how challenges could be turned into opportunities for growth and development in a community, while participants in this year's Great Debate – Meredith Carter, Debbie Kilroy, Jenny McGregor and Stella Young, with able and humorous adjudication by former Victorian premier Joan Kirner – challenged the notion that local community action is meaningless in a global context.

Conference delegates were also given the opportunity to take part in a special skills-building day on Sunday 15, learning how best to work with government to achieve results for their communities from experts Dick Gross, Sandra McKay, Tony Nicholson, Liddy Clark, Gordon Gregory, Kerry Thompson, George Lekakis, Michael Lockwood and Maurice Corcoran.

Participants learned how to best position their groups and themselves if they wanted to be brought "inside the tent" and have a real impact on policy development and implementation.

[If you missed it, or would like to relive the experience ...](#)

Participants in the pre-conference skills day will soon be emailed a web link so they can access papers and presentations from that day, while information from the full June 16 and 17 conference is publicly available at www.ourcommunity.com.au/cicspeeches2008.

In addition, a DVD containing all the highlights of Communities in Control 2008 is being prepared and can be pre-ordered by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic.

Thanks

Our Community and Centacare Catholic Family Services would like to thank everyone who came along to Communities in Control 2008 for your thoughtful and enthusiastic participation.

Thanks too for the great feedback post-conference. Here's one sample of what we've received:

I wanted to extend a huge thank you to the whole Our Community team for putting together such an amazing Communities in Control conference. Pat Turner, Sandra McKay, Bill Shorten were all incredibly inspiring. My highlight had to be Tim Flannery – for the first time I was actually able to conceptualise climate change as a problem we can manage rather than inevitable end of life as we know it. That sounds dramatic but it was an incredible shift in my thinking. Thank you and see you next year! Special thanks and admiration to Rhonda Galbally and Fr Joe! And the workshop on Sunday!!! BRILLIANT.

We'd also like to thank all of our great sponsors whose support allows us to keep conference fees incredibly low and thus provide access to the conference for such a broad cross-section of the community.

Thanks too to all the speakers who contributed so generously to this year's conference, including Wurundjeri Elder Joy Murphy Wandin for her Welcome to Country and great message of solidarity and strength, and to all those who provided entertainment, including The Chaser's Julian Morrow, singer Renée Geyer, performers the BiPolar Bears, and laughter yoga instructor Greg Govinda.

Diary Note

Dates for the 2009 Communities in Control conference have been set for June 15 and 16, with a practical skills-building day on June 14.

Mark the date in your diary now so you don't miss out!

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4. Our Community Idol: Small town gets cracking through local cinema

A cinema staffed by volunteers in a town of 300 people 140 kilometres north of Adelaide has been named Australia's 2008 Westpac Community Idol.

Blyth Regional Cinema was built from scratch in 2004-2005 in an old Masonic Lodge hall in an attempt to alleviate youth boredom and binge drinking.

It has become a destination for movie-goers throughout the Clare Valley and Wakefield Plains, and has sold 170,000 tickets over the past three years.

The cinema was one of three finalists invited to convince the audience at Our Community's Communities in Control conference that their group deserved a trophy, \$3000 from Westpac and a collection of Our Community publications.



Ian Roberts
(Blyth Regional Cinema)

Cinema chair Ian Roberts told the conference Blyth had lost almost all its services over the past 30 years, but the cinema had made the gloom and pessimism of the 1990s a thing of the past.

There is now a waiting list of people keen to fill volunteer roles in ticketing, candy bar and projection.

Mr Roberts said he was always pleased to see young people who had gained some work experience volunteering at the cinema move on to part-time jobs in nearby Clare.

Mr Roberts and his wife provided start-up funds and the building for the cinema, a total contribution of about \$180,000.

He said there was plenty of money in some regional communities, but philanthropy had died out over the past 40 years.

"I guess we are making a statement and proving that philanthropy in a small community can have large mental and social benefits," Mr Roberts said.

The two other Community Idol finalists – RSPCA ACT and inner-Sydney's Consumer Activity Network (Mental Health) Inc – gave Blyth Regional Cinema some tough competition for audience votes.

CAN (Mental Health) is run by people with experience living with a mental illness, for people living with a mental illness.

It provides:

- advocacy for the rights of mental health consumers;
- participation in conferences, recovery projects, fundraising and promotional activities;
- the first-ever national telephone peer support telephone line for people with mental illnesses;
- a Hospital to Home support service for people leaving one of two psychiatric inpatient units;
- and a recovery program with activities such as a Movie Club and a Women's Coffee Club.

CAN (Mental Health) development manager Desley Casey presented these five services to the 1500 delegates at the Communities In Control conference as the five legs of a starfish.

"Just like the starfish, as people with the lived experience of mental illnesses we may appear as being lessened by having a leg cut off, however we are enhanced by the lessons we experience and learn in life and continue to contribute," Ms Casey said.



Desley Casey
(CAN Mental Health)



Michael Linke
(RSPCA ACT)



Community Idol host Julian Morrow gets acquainted with one of the RSPCA ACT team

The third Community Idol Finalist, RSPCA ACT, provides shelter for animals belonging to people who have experienced domestic violence, and who are unable to take the animals with them when they seek shelter themselves.

CEO Michael Linke told Communities in Control that more than 50% of domestic abuse victims stayed in the home because they were afraid of what would happen to an animal if they left.

RSPCA ACT also takes care of animals when, for example, an owner has a mental health episode and needs time to become well again before they can continue to care for their pet.

Mr Linke said many people delayed seeking mental health support because they were afraid their pet would be removed.

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5. Unveiling an Australia-first website and support service: 'Our Consumer Place'

When people experience mental health problems, they may have to reclaim aspects of their lives they have lost – their confidence, power over their own circumstances, the freedom to live by their own decisions, taking responsibility for their own part in the community and the workplace.



Our Consumer Place is an exciting and unique initiative that is designed to help mental health consumers to achieve those goals.

This consumer-developed and consumer-run resource provides online and offline information and advice to individuals and groups who are involved with 'consumer-developed initiatives' – i.e. consumer-driven activities or organisations.

It's anchored by a powerful new website – www.ourconsumerplace.com.au, which is also available through the Our Community website by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au and clicking on the 'Our Consumer Place' tab.

This Australian-first project is funded by the Department of Human Services (Government of Victoria), auspiced by Our Community and run by consumers. [Click here](#) to meet the Our Consumer Place team – Merinda Epstein, Jon Kroschel and Cath Roper.

Key features of the site include:

- **Starter Kit:** Help sheets for people getting started in the mental health consumer movement and working to establish a 'Consumer Developed Initiative' (CDI) – i.e. consumer-driven activities;
- **Next Steps:** Dozens of free, tailored help sheets for CDIs wishing to become more formalised and build their capacity, covering the areas of membership; financial management; governance; planning; people management; marketing; networking; and more;
- **Clearinghouse:** Annotated links to useful websites, consumer/survivor stories, consumer support sites, resource centres, journal articles, books, newsletters, reports, audio/radio programs, etc.;
- **Training/Events:** Training opportunities for members of Our Consumer Place – training will be provided by Our Community and tailored to the needs of Consumer Developed Initiatives and organisations;
- **Directories:** Listing of Consumer Developed Initiatives in Victoria, as well as mental health partner and peak organisations. Listings include the name of the organisation or CDI, its location, and contact details;
- **Message Board/Chat:** Moderated chat groups which can be viewed and contributed to by all members of Our Consumer Place.

Log on to www.ourconsumerplace.com.au.



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6. A picture paints a thousand words ... and could win you a share of \$5000!

Australia's community sector is large and diverse, reflecting the extraordinary complexity and depth of Australia's society. Community groups do a lot with a little and this sector generally doesn't have much money to spend on showing itself off to the Australian public.

As a result, Australians don't have a clear idea of all the things community groups add to our society in every field of activity.

We want to make it easier for them.

We're building up a gallery of photos that show the full extent of Australia's communities and the people who work with them – a free Community Photo Bank that can be drawn on by advocates, fundraisers, volunteers, newspapers, and writers.

The Community Photo Bank is located in the Media, Marketing and Post section of the Our Community website – the free resource supported by Australia Post which provides community groups with the resources and tools they need to spread their messages more effectively.

The Photo Bank is open to anybody who needs to illustrate some aspect of the life of the community.

Community groups will be able to plug these photos freely into their own projects, making it simpler to show how we work together and care for each other.

We want you all to contribute to documenting Australian community life in all its infinite variety and to encourage you to participate, Australia Post is throwing in \$5000 in prizes.

Photo content

The photos we're looking for are about Australia's myriad communities and the work that community groups do within them.

Show us the people you work with, their problems, their triumphs, their ceremonies, and your projects.

Show people – show them with respect, and affection, and clarity. Show them memorably and boldly, creating photos that will be picked out whenever people think about your community.

Find your place in an online national gallery of the community sector. Share your vision.

The gallery will be linked with The Australian National Library's 'Picture Australia' and is online at www.ourcommunity.com.au/mmp.



The prizes

There are two prizes – one for the most popular photo, and another for the photo that best exemplifies the work of Australian community.

Prize winners in each category will receive \$2500 – \$1000 for the photographer, and the remaining \$1500 for the community group that nominates them.

(And for everybody else who puts their photos in the Community Photo Bank, you get the opportunity to open up an iconic image of your community and your organisation.)

So get snapping!

The competition is open until October 22, but photos will remain on the Photo Bank indefinitely. More details are at www.ourcommunity.com.au/mmp (or [click here](#) to go straight there).

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7. Petrol prices up again – time for action

Normally, something that happens every second day doesn't make the banner headlines; but there are exceptions, and the rise in fuel costs is one of them.

It's news that stays news. Clear away the political posturing and the petty squabbling and you're left with a message scrawled on the wall in immense letters of fire: **we are going to have to change our lives** – as householders, as citizens, and as members of community groups.

Rising fuel costs are going to affect community groups in a range of ways at all levels.

Most immediately, your costs are going to go up. Now is the time to do an energy audit of your office and see where you can make gains. Work out where the economics of solar energy start making sense for you. If you have a staff vehicle, look at trading up to a newer more fuel-efficient model. Insulate your building and reduce heating or cooling costs.

As your costs go up, your income may begin creeping down. It's not even so much that people have less money in their hand, it's that they feel poorer, and that affects how generous they are.

There are no quick fixes here, unfortunately; you'll just have to try harder, or smarter, or more lovably, to make that all-important connection with your prospective donors.

It's going to make volunteering tougher, too. If you pay travel costs it'll cost you, and if you don't it'll cut into your volunteer list. You may have to do some more organisation (which is a cost in itself) to set up car pooling schemes for your volunteers (and for your board – how far do they have to come for meetings?) You'll have to assess how far your base facilities are from public transport.

At another level yet, your organisation is going to have to look at how these pressures are going to affect your causes or your clients. Country organisations are looking at having their towns get even more remote. Last year they were \$30 worth from the big city, now they're \$45, soon they'll be \$60 – that's equivalent to moving twice as far away. That's special relativity – ask Einstein.

People are going to be asking nosy questions about your carbon footprint, too. If you want to maintain your squeaky clean image you're going to have to be a good citizen.

In the first instance, this involves knowing how well or how badly you're doing – so you'll have to extend that energy audit across your whole area of operations. Again, this may offer you a chance to make savings. Alternatively, though, you may have to enquire about carbon offsets.

And at the head of the list comes doing something to make it better. Is there anything your group can do, without forgetting its own goals and objectives, to help Australia navigate its way through this crisis? Australians all have to work together, and we can't allow our selfish short-term interests to scupper our long-term planning, and unselfishness and cooperation are exactly the things that community groups lead the way on. Are you going to be in the lead here?

As a first step, have a look at Tim Flannery's speech from Communities in Control 2008. It's online at www.ourcommunity.com.au/cicspeeches2008.

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8. Crisis Averted: NFP staff won't lose benefits, says government

The family tax and child care benefits of staff at not-for-profit organisations will remain intact after the Federal Government last week rushed a bill through parliament to amend potentially costly legislation.

Changes that were to take effect from July 1 could have cost staff at not-for-profit organisations up to \$100 a fortnight.

Introduced with the 2006 Budget, the measures were intended to prevent high-earners from exploiting salary packaging and fringe benefits tax. From next month, gross reportable fringe benefits were to be used in calculating Family Assistance payments, rather than net reportable fringe benefits.

But the change would also have applied to low-paid workers, including those in the not-for-profit sector who rely on Fringe Benefit Tax-free measures to supplement their wages.

Treasurer Wayne Swan and Minister for Families and Community Affairs Jenny Macklin said the Government only recently became aware of the potential impacts of the changes.

Ms Macklin said the legislation amendment passed last week would affect up to 85,000 Centrelink customers.

The measure retains the original use of net reportable fringe benefits in calculations, and Ms Macklin said it ensured NFP staff would not lose family tax or child care benefits next month, "if their circumstances have not otherwise changed."

The Opposition supported the move, with Shadow Minister for Families and Community Services Tony Abbott telling the House of Representatives the amendment would remove an "unintended consequence" of the 2006 legislation.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration conducted an inquiry into the amendment bill.

Chair of Uniting Care Australia Peter Bicknell told the committee's public hearing on June 20 that he was also chair of one of the organisation's agencies, UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide.

"Of the 872 staff we employ, 820 have a gross pay of less than \$50,000, so we are really talking about people who are at the lower income levels," Mr Bicknell said. "Of those, 390 salary sacrifice."

He said salary sacrificing was important to making up a total remuneration package.

"For example, if we have a worker who has a spouse with no income and two children and earns \$35,000 a year, salary sacrifice, as it has been operating till now, would typically add \$110 per fortnight to their salary package.

"If the proposed changes had gone ahead, that person would have lost \$59 per fortnight, and \$59 per fortnight on that sort of income is a very significant cost."

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9. Marketing Guru

This is the first in a series of special feature articles for Our Community Matters on marketing, media and mail – brought to you by Australia Post.

Send your questions to guru@ourcommunity.com.au.

Question: If I get the media along to an event, how can I maximise the chance they will tell MY story and not pursue their own agenda?



The Guru says ...

The first thing to remember is that the media can, do and will pursue agendas which may not mesh with your own. It is part of their job in fairly reporting the news that they seek out the real stories behind the PR 'spin' – even yours!

They're also keen to find fresh angles where possible, so keep that in mind when framing the themes of your event – try to find that new or different or interesting angle for them.

Once you've got the media along to your event, try not to act too suspicious or defensive – most journalists are keen to do the right thing and if they think yours is a good, honest, well-meaning group, they're more than likely to want to help you out in their coverage, even if what results doesn't come out **exactly** as you would like it to.

Some things you can do to increase the chances the media will tell your story are:

- **Work on your relationships:** Get to know your local journalists or those working within your interest area. Having journalists onside will allow you better access to them and increase the chances they will listen to your stories. This is the cornerstone of working positively with the media.
- **Help them help you:** Supply journalists and photographers attending your event with an informative, colourful and user-friendly media pack which includes a media release about your event, background information on your group and its work, and, most importantly, contact details for your organisation in case journalists have any follow-up questions. Make sure things happen on time and in the way you've told them they will.
- **Set up media opportunities:** The media are always on the lookout for stories to fill airtime or newspaper space. Supplying them with good story and photo opportunities (and not just ones about your group or that

push your particular barrow) helps them do their job, strengthens the relationship, and will leave the media more inclined to listen to your stories in the future.

- **Make sure it's newsworthy:** Wasting a journalist's time is unwise – they may start sniffing around for something more newsworthy. Work with the media to ensure the “news” you send them is worth them coming out to cover. Be upfront about what's on offer.
- **Say thanks:** Most of the feedback journalists receive is negative. A call or note thanking them for a good story involving your group – even if it didn't have **exactly** the slant you would have liked – is likely to be remembered; and generate favourable publicity into the future.

Question: When I put out a “To the Householder” mail out, what is the single most important “look” to get people to respond?



The Guru says ...

How many of us have received letters addressed “to the householder”? And how many of us have deposited those letters in the bin without opening them?

The key to a successful mail-out is not so much in the presentation as it is in the personalisation. Personalised, targeted mail-outs have been shown to garner a far greater response rate.

Some of the ways you can personalise your mail-out are:

- Using Mail Merge to ensure the recipients' names are on the envelope, as well as included as part of a personalised greeting at the start of the letter.
- Handwriting the name and address of each recipient on their envelope, and using stamps rather than “Postage Paid” envelopes. Obviously this option is only viable if your mail-out is relatively small, or if you have a large number of volunteers willing to help out!
- Ensure the contents of the letter are as relevant as possible to recipients. Segment your database so you can create a more personalised message for each group.
- Bring your message home by telling them how it impacts on what they do, or make them feel valued by thanking them personally.
- Finally, make it clear the response you wish to receive from recipients. If you wish them to donate, ask them directly and provide forms to make it as easy as possible for them to do so. If you wish them to complete a survey, or sign up for a newsletter, make it easy for them to do so. Including a reply paid envelope if you are seeking responses is another way of increasing the number of replies you get.

The Marketing Guru is an initiative of the [Marketing, Media and Post Centre](#), the online resource for community organisations provided by Our Community and Australia Post.

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WIN \$1000 CASH !!

Your community group could win \$1000 just by visiting the online Media, Marketing & Post Centre and telling us about your marketing and mail experiences.

It couldn't be easier!

Each quarter six survey participants will receive a cash prize of \$1000 for their community group – go in the draw now by going visiting the site at www.ourcommunity.com.au/mmp

10. Finding a great tagline

While we're on the subject of marketing, a US competition that's currently in progress has provided a timely reminder of the benefits that can be achieved when you develop a great tagline for your organisation.

The 2008 Getting Attention Nonprofit Tagline Awards are designed to provide fodder for a new report being developed by not-for-profit marketing and communications expert [Nancy Schwartz](#), and to help organisations do a better job of branding themselves.

"Many organisations expect their names to broadcast what it is they do," Nancy says.

"Trouble is, it just doesn't happen that way very often. One reason why is that many non-profit names sound alike.

"Another is that audiences frequently confuse the work of organisations focused on the same issues – think Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International."

Nancy says your tagline should explain, in just a few words, what your organisation does, and – importantly – why it's valuable.

More than 1000 taglines were submitted for Nancy's competition, with 56 submitted for public voting. Examples included:

- Hear it, See it Feel it (Syracuse Opera)
- Join for the swords, stay for the friends (Historic Entertainment)
- Stay Close ... Go Far (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania)
- We Stop Polluters (Potomac Riverkeeper)
- Seeing through problems to possibilities (Pan American Health and Education Foundation)
- Improving Life, One Breath at a Time (American Lung Association)
- Starve Fear. Feed Hope (National Eating Disorders Organisation)
- Rise Above Your Expectations (Sisters Acquiring Financial Empowerment)
- Be the Change (Mercy Corps)
- From Harm to Home (International Rescue Committee)
- Whatever it takes to save a child (U.S. Fund for UNICEF)
- All Building Starts With a Foundation (Building Future Builders)
- The greatest casualty is being forgotten (Wounded Warrior Project)
- Where volunteering begins (VolunteerMatch)
- The Art of Active Aging (EngAGE)
- Watch, Listen, Learn (WUSF Public Broadcasting)
- Because facts matter (Oregon Center for Public Policy)
- Caring Pays (Ontario Service Safety Alliance)
- It's a Moving Experience! (Museum of Transportation)

The winners are expected to be announced in July.

"Many organisations expect their names to broadcast what it is they do. Trouble is, it just doesn't happen that way very often."

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11. Engagement more crucial than fundraising on the web – report

Not-for-profits are using the internet as a tool to engage people before they ask for donations, according to a new study from the UK's Institute of Fundraising.

The study – *Passion, Persistence and Partnership: the Secrets of Earning More Online* – looked at what role the internet played in organisations' fundraising and at the changing trends in online income generation.

The study found that 77% of groups included the ability to donate online on their websites, but only 41% of smaller organisations had that same functionality. Not surprisingly, more larger groups than small felt that income from the internet had grown strongly in the previous 12 months (67% to 34%).

However, both large and small groups experienced the same constraints on internet use, including lack of skilled staff, inadequate budgets and the lack of systems and marketing integrations.

Five trends in online income generation

The report identifies five major trends in online income generation:

- 1. Groups are telling their stories online:** Blogs and blogging are playing a big part in groups' online work by allowing the people that make the organisation – staff, volunteers or beneficiaries – to tell their stories to a wider audience.
- 2. Engagement first, fundraising second:** Groups are using the internet to firstly engage with people through blogs, forums, emails and other interactive features. Once they have engaged people and attracted them to the website, they may then seek donations.
- 3. Social networking forcing charities to make friends:** Web 2.0 applications like Facebook and MySpace are forcing organisations to move out from their websites and towards places where people socialise online. This has the potential to be both a positive and a negative for groups.
- 4. Integration and internal communication are vital:** Different parts of groups must work together to ensure the internet works as an integrated whole. If an organisation puts its uses of the internet in silos it will dilute the strength of its web presence.
- 5. Multiple income-generating partners are the key:** A multi-partnership model, where a group can offer a number of ways to give and generate revenue, is becoming more popular. Often it means “hijacking” a web user's existing habits for the group's purposes – for example, raising money online through search engines, auction sites or affinity partnerships. These not only raise money but open up the group to new audiences.

Both the full report and an executive summary are available from the nfpSynergy website, via this link: www.nfpsynergy.net/freereports. Free registration is required before you can download the report.

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12. When I say “JUMP!” you can ask “What percentage higher?”

When you're sinking under an overload of more, tougher, and more complicated work it may be some consolation to know that you're not alone.

The [Australian Community Sector Survey Report \(2008\)](#), a production of the Australian Council of Social Service, is out and it documents an environment where we're being asked to take on new challenges.

The Report (ACSS) presents the findings of the only annual Australian survey which covers the not-for-profit community services and welfare sector, based on information from 725 agencies.

Its key findings are that in 2006-7 the sector was delivering services to 6.3% more people than in the previous year, and even so was falling further behind – the number of people turned away went up by 24%.

Fifty per cent of survey respondents agreed that their organisation was targeting services more tightly than in the past, against 26% who said the reverse. Ninety per cent reported that their waiting lists were the same or had worsened.

Many agencies report that the real problem is the complexity of client. Sixty-four per cent of respondents agreed that their clients in 2006-07 had more complex needs than in 2005-06, and only 11% disagreed.

It isn't all bad news. The number of paid staff went up by 5% – not as fast as the number of people assisted, but probably as much as is feasible in any one year (64% of agencies said that they had experienced difficulty attracting appropriately qualified staff). Average staff turnover in the sector is 19.2%, only marginally higher than the all-Australian-industry average of 18.5%.

In even better news, agencies secured a 7% increase in overall income between 2005-06 and 2006-07, with a 14% increase in Commonwealth Government funding and a 7% increase in State/Territory Government funding. Even given that 82% of respondents reported that Government funding was not adequate to meet the true cost of delivering services, that's a useful addition to the pot.

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13. The Australian social inclusion agenda

We know that poverty, relative deprivation and social exclusion all have a major impact on health and premature death, and we also know that the chances of living in poverty are loaded heavily against some social groups.

Being excluded from the life of society and treated as less than equal leads to worse health and greater risks of premature death. Social exclusion can result from poverty, racism, discrimination, stigmatisation, hostility and unemployment. These processes prevent people from participating in education or training, and gaining access to services and citizenship activities. They are socially and psychologically damaging, materially costly, and harmful to health.

Poverty and social exclusion increase the risks of divorce and separation, disability, illness, addiction and social isolation and vice versa, forming vicious circles that deepen the predicament people face. And at the end of the circle, socially isolated people die at two or three times the rate of people with a network of social relationships.

The new Federal Government appears open to this message, and has taken on the responsibility of addressing the problem.

The Government believes that all Australians need to be able to play a full role in all aspects of Australian life. To be socially included, all Australians must be given the opportunity to:

- secure a job;
- access services;
- connect with family, friends, work, personal interests and local community;
- deal with personal crisis; and
- have their voices heard.

The Australian Government's social inclusion agenda aims to launch a new era of governance to mainstream the task of building social inclusion so that all Australians can share in our nation's prosperity.

Promoting social inclusion requires a new way of governing. Australia must rethink how policy and programs across portfolios and levels of government can work together to combat economic and social disadvantage in Australia.

The main advisory body for the government in this area will be a new Australian Social Inclusion Board, which is comprised of 14 leaders from the not-for-profit and business sectors.

Its members include author of *Dropping Off the Edge*, Professor Tony Vinson, business leader Ahmed Fahour, Brotherhood of St Laurence executive director Tony Nicholson, indigenous educationalist Dr Chris Sarra, childhood wellbeing expert Professor Fiona Stanley – and Eddie McGuire.

The government says the Board will consult widely and provide views and advice on various aspects of social inclusion. Let's hope that we've found a new way for not-for-profits to bring their views into the power structures.

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14. Community Briefs

Governance Code released

The final version of the Code of Governance for the Australian Community Sector has been released and is now available online at www.ourcommunity.com.au/boards.

The Code is designed to help lead community groups through the morass of politics, finance and marketing, setting out the values central to an organisation's operations, describing the boundaries of acceptable behaviour, and identifying the areas in which procedures are required to police those boundaries.

It provides 50 practical clauses, taking in the areas of:

- board membership,
- collective commitment,
- democratic governance,
- management of the board,
- direction,
- risk management,
- accountability,
- transparency,
- community responsibility,
- environmental responsibility,
- diversity and empowerment,
- ethical fundraising, and
- effectiveness.

The Code was developed in consultation with the Australian community sector by Our Community as an initiative of the Boards, Committees & Governance Centre, which is supported by Hesta.

[Click here](#) to download the PDF.

Community groups enlisted to help prevent social isolation and poor health

Federal Minister for Community Services Jenny Macklin has launched the *Join In, Join Up!* project – the nation-wide initiative designed to help connect people with community groups.

Ms Macklin told the Communities in Control conference the project would operate online and in 5000 pharmacies from cities and suburbs to regional centres and country towns.

She said trained pharmacy staff would have access to a comprehensive national database profiling 55,000 community groups they could join.

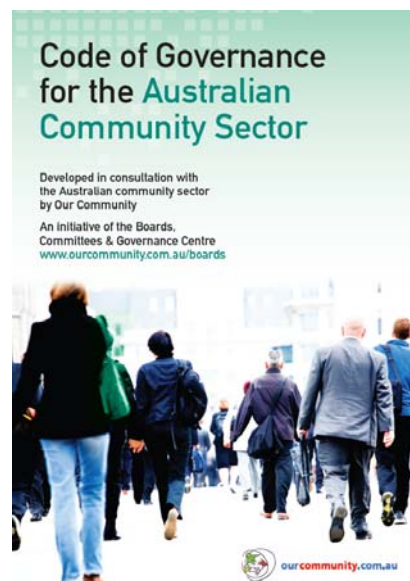
"Using this database and their training to recognise people at risk or in need, staff will be able to provide advice on local community organisations that best suit the needs, interests and life circumstances of their customers," Ms Macklin said.

She said *Join In, Join Up!* had the potential to build pathways between people who were disadvantaged and vulnerable and the groups which could provide support and help.

"We know that pharmacies are an important source of professional advice and assistance and are used by almost everyone. Building on this existing resource, they will now have the capacity to link up the people coming through their doors with relevant community groups."

Ms Macklin said social isolation was enormously detrimental, and could lead to poor health and higher levels of mental illness and depression.

Join In, Join Up! is a joint initiative of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), Telstra and Our Community.



The project's website, which is expected to be active in about a month, will provide details of organisations that are useful points of contact for nine groups of people with particular needs: people with a longer-term illness; people with a disability; carers; new parents; people with a mental health issue; older people; people from a non-English-speaking background; people who are lonely; and people experiencing grief.

Celebrating Community Workers

A new booklet has been released to celebrate Australia's great community sector workers as part of the 2008 Alcoa Foundation Community Worker Award initiative.

The booklet tells the story of the 2008 winner, Maureen Nicholls, a childcare worker from Kalgoorlie, WA, along with 14 others.

It's designed to recognise the enormous contribution to the nation's life made by the men and women working in community groups, and to celebrate their achievements.

The booklet can be downloaded from the Community Leadership Centre at www.ourcommunity.com.au/leadership.

The 2009 awards will open later this year.



Back in Court: Not-for-profits, commercial activities and tax

The tax obligations of not-for-profit organisations with commercial activities looks set to return to the courts, with the High Court granting the Australian Taxation Office special leave to appeal against the November 2007 decision of the full bench of the Federal Court.

In *Commissioner of Taxation v Word Investments Limited*, the court found that charities that employed commercial activities as part of their fundraising would not lose their charitable status, provided that their motivation, intention, objects and practices reflected a charitable purpose.

However, the Australian Taxation Office has said that pending the outcome of the High Court appeal, it will continue to apply the Tax Office view.

For the time being then, even if a controlling entity is exempt from paying income tax, each individual company must qualify for the exemption to avoid paying tax.

Word Investments was a company established to raise funds for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Details of the relevant taxation rulings can be found through these links: rulings [TR 2005/21 Income tax and fringe benefits tax: charities](#) and [TR 2005/22 - Income tax: companies controlled by exempt entities](#).

ABS survey on NFPs due in July

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has confirmed a dedicated survey on not-for-profits in Australia will be released late next month.

The report, *Not-For-Profit Organisations, Australia 2006-07*, has a scheduled release date of July 29.

While this is not the first study of not-for-profits the ABS has undertaken – the bureau previously released the Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account in 1999-2000 – this study will look beyond the sector's finances and contribution to the economy.

A sample of not-for-profits has been surveyed for information about the number of people working for them, as well as the number of volunteers they had helping them out during the 2006-07 financial year.

As well as providing a bevy of new statistics, the financial and economic information gathered will also form the basis of the ABS' next Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, due out early next year.

ATO update on superannuation

The Australian Tax Office is reminding not-for-profit organisations to check that their payroll systems are calculating the superannuation guarantee correctly.

The ATO says changes to Super from July 1, 2008 may affect the way not-for-profits calculate the superannuation guarantee contributions they make for their employees.

More information is available by visiting the ATO website or by clicking [this link](#).



Thumbs Up: Aboriginal groups wins top technology gong

Congratulations to the Newcastle-based Aboriginal organisation, [Arwarbukarl Cultural Resource Association \(ACRA\)](#), which has taken out a top award at the recent Australian Community Information and Communications Technology Awards in Brisbane.



ACRA was a joint winner in the category of 'Best use of Software in nonprofit settings' for their development and distribution of the Miromaa software program. The program aims to provide a user-friendly interface for Aboriginal people to assist in the reclamation, revitalisation and preservation of the traditional Aboriginal languages of Australia.

ACRA manager Daryn McKenny said that technology could empower Aboriginal people but until recently, language recording programs had been aimed at academics.

"My goal with Miromaa has been to create a tool that our community members can easily understand and put into use," he said.

"Our languages hold our culture and the knowledge of this country. They tell who we are and where we are from. Many say that language is our soul.

"Our work is creating a happy marriage of the world's oldest culture and the world's newest culture, technology. We like to call this, Modern Ways for Ancient Words."

Grantseekers beware

Our thanks to our friends at [Crikey](#) for this article from their June 25 newsletter:

Sydney University yesterday warned its staff away from a commercial grant writing course after attendees had mutinied on day one. I was one of the 100 participants (some travelling from NZ and interstate) who yesterday attended a course on a Guide to Successful Grant Writing run by The Grant Institute, a "service of the Institute for Communication Improvement" based in Los Angeles.

Although it was expensive (\$997 US) we were promised three full days of instruction from grant writing experts, so it seemed like a reasonable deal.

... It was my first experience of an academic mutiny, and by 10.15am [on day one] people had begun to leave. Many more left once the poorly photocopied course notes arrived at 11am, and by 2.30pm it was all over.

Our Community recommends our members steer clear of expensive grantseeking courses. We provide amazingly low-cost (\$95) and high-impact training on grantseeking for community groups.

But don't take our word for it – here's what some of the participants have said:

- "Excellent seminar and very well presented."
- "I thought it was an excellent, relevant seminar. Brilliant work."
- "...Very engaging (with) really comprehensive and practical advice, particularly helpful were the clues gained from (the facilitator's) experience with funding bodies. Feedback from the various groups attending was particularly valuable. Many thanks!"
- "We found it to be well presented and very valuable to our school and feel very enthusiastic to commence applying for grants for some of our special projects."

Find out more at www.ourcommunity.com.au/winninggrantsworkshop.

Federal funding update

In the Federal Budget wrap in last month's Our Community Matters we noted that the new Caring for our Country program would bring together the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Landcare Program, the Environmental Stewardship Program and the Working on Country Indigenous land and environmental program.

The results of this change have now been revealed: regional groups carrying out natural resource management around the country will lose 25% of their funding. A total of 56 regional bodies are expected to be affected.

Details about the funding cuts came to light when Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert questioned Climate Change Minister Penny Wong in the Senate.

In a further update to last month's Budget wrap, Federal Regional Development Minister Anthony Albanese has announced a reprieve for 86 not-for-profit and local government projects which had secured approval but not formal contracts before the Regional Partnerships program was abolished.

The groups have been given until July 31 to complete contract negotiations, and will have to meet "strict timetables and requirements to begin construction".

Keep your eyes on [EasyGrants](#) for more updates.

Australian Community Snapshot: How families are evolving

The shape of the Australian community has been changing, with new statistics showing the proportion of couples with children has decreased over the past 10 years, while the proportion of couples without children has increased.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data on Family Characteristics and Transitions has revealed that in 2006-2007 45% of "couple families" had children, down from 48% in 1997. And while 35% of all families did not have any children in 1997, that increased to 40% of couples in 2006-2007.

Seventy-two per cent of the country's 8.1 million households were home to families, while 25% were occupied by people living alone, and the remaining 3% were share-houses, down from 5% in 1997.

There were only 14,000 families where grandparents were the main carers for children in 2006-2007, a significant reduction from 23,000 in 2003.

Australia's 5.9 million families:

- 85% couples
- 14% lone parents
- 1% other (such as brothers and sisters living together)
- 78% with dependent children
- 22% with non-dependent children living at home
- 49% of men and 45% of women aged 18-25 still live with their parents
- 13% of men and 15% of women aged 25-34 had never left home

Source: 2006-2007 Family Characteristics Survey, Australian Bureau of Statistics

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 issues in Australia.

Some of the events taking place over the next month include:

- **NAIDOC Week:** July 3-13
- **Diabetes Week:** July 13-19
- **World Youth Day:** July 15-20
- **Fragile X Awareness Day:** July 22
- **Stress Down on 24/7:** July 24
- **Schools Tree Day:** July 25
- **National Tree Day:** July 27
- **National Stepfamily Awareness Day:** July 27
- **Local Government Week:** July 28-August 3

More events, plus the full listing for each event (including organisational contact details and websites), can be found in the online Community Calendar at www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar.



Good Moves :: Jobs Bulletin

www.ourcommunity.com.au

JOB VACANCY LISTINGS (Paid Positions)

New South Wales

| Job Title | Organisation | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Coordinator | Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc | Details |
| Human Resources Manager | Amnesty International Australia | Details |
| Community Worker | Werrington Community Project Inc. | Details |

Tasmania

| Job Title | Organisation | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Community and Youth Development Officer | Circular Head Rural Health Service Inc. | Details |

Victoria

| Job Title | Organisation | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| YMCA Open Doors Manager | YMCA Victoria | Details |
| Volunteer Co-ordinator | Bone Marrow Donor Institute Inc. | Details |
| Patient Program Officer | OvCa Australia Limited | Details |
| Musical Director | Heaven on Earth Gospel Incorporated | Details |

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 | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Treasurer | Nutrition Australia NSW | Details |
| General Board Member | Family Services Illawarra Inc | Details |
| General Board Member | Northern Beaches Interchange | Details |
| General Board Member, Honorary | SOBIS | Details |
| Treasurer | The Families of Leukaemia Foundation | Details |
| General Board Member | Quality Management Services | Details |

Tasmania

| Job Title | Organisation | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Board Member | Speak Out Association of Tasmania | Details |

Victoria

| Job Title | Organisation | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Board Member | Merinda Park Learning and Community Centre | Details |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Newsletter Editor; Readings Co-ordinator | Ballarat Writers | <u>Details</u> |
| General Board Member | Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre | <u>Details</u> |
| Treasurer | Moreland Community Legal Centre Inc | <u>Details</u> |
| General Board Member | Courthouse Youth Arts Centre | <u>Details</u> |
| Treasurer | Western Edge Youth Arts Inc. | <u>Details</u> |
| Treasurer | Slow Food Victoria | <u>Details</u> |

www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs

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.

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" and a direct link to the www.ourcommunity.com.au site if on a webpage.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email service@ourcommunity.com.au and put "Unsubscribe-OCM" in the subject line.

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17. About Our Community

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools for Australia's 700,000 community groups and schools, and practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government.

Our major offerings include:

1. www.ourcommunity.com.au – Australia's most useful website and publishing house, encompassing the nation's largest and most diverse membership base and 12 Knowledge Centres – accelerating the impact of Australia's 700,000 community organisations
2. [Australia's Giving Centre](#) – Helping individuals and businesses give in every way
3. [Australian Institute for Community Practice and Governance](#) – practical and accessible certificated training delivered locally through our training Institute
4. [Institute for Best Practice in Grants Management](#) – the unique suite of grants management services for government
5. [Australian Institute for Corporate Responsibility](#) – cutting edge corporate responsibility resources for large, medium and small business and community organisations

Read more about us at www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus.

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