



# Our Community Matters



## ? Opinion

# The road to opportunity

***We need a social infrastructure boom, writes Our Community group managing director Denis Moriarty. Here's why.***

Infrastructure is all the stuff we share in common that allows our world to function. Cars are private property, roads are infrastructure. Toilets are private property, sewers are infrastructure. Apart from the hardware, there are the institutions and systems that enable them to work – universities, hospitals, housing – which is social infrastructure. You can't have one without the other.

We're in a heady infrastructure boom at the moment, at least rhetorically. Interest rates are low, election promises are ricocheting across the landscape, and the Very Fast Train is struggling into the ring for another round. We've even got an independent government agency to draw up an infrastructure priority list that places vital national needs above smelly electoral bribes.

This is certainly necessary, but it's hardly sufficient, because the priority list is only for Big Concrete. Social housing, for example, isn't going to make the list.

Social infrastructure has always had trouble getting traction. If you hear the words "pilot project", they're probably talking about social infrastructure. If you hear the words "you can't solve the problem by throwing money at it", they're talking about social infrastructure.

Great big concrete objects have to show that their benefits will amount to more than their costs; that they'll result in overall productivity gains. But social infrastructure can do that too – and more.

Homeless people tend to have a lot of other problems associated with not having a home. They tend to require emergency social services on weekends as well as weekdays, at weekend rates. If you provide them with housing, they'll still need some support to get back on their feet, but they'll use those expensive social services a whole lot less.

Domestic violence destroys lives and builds in costs over a lifetime. Refuge housing is many times cheaper, whichever way you count it.

One of the problems with getting social infrastructure up is that the savings that result from providing it are spread across



many government departments (health, human services, justice, taxation forgone), and across many years. The savings can't be attributed to a single tangible object, or stacked up against a single marginal seat. It's easier to sell simple stories than complex ones.

Another problem with "selling" social housing to the electorate is that the people who primarily benefit (apart from the taxpayers) aren't always good upstanding workers driving socially acceptable family cars. Often they're poor and therefore morally suspect. There are those who agitate against money being spent on "those people", or on anybody who doesn't have enough money already not to need it, or on people who don't have cars. We prefer to pay for a thousand Band Aids, one by one, rather than a single cure, just to remind those people who's in charge.

I'm not against the Very Fast Train. I'm as keen as the next person to be able to pop up to Sydney for lunch and then zoom back to Melbourne in time for an afternoon meeting, working on my tablet the whole way. I only wish we could attach the same cachet to housing homeless people.

Likewise, colonising Mars (as Elon Musk wants to do) would be a wonderful feat of science, but it's rather less challenging intellectually than coming to grips with domestic violence. Indigenous health ought to be seen as our equivalent of the Apollo project. If we beat homelessness, we'll have done something that no hero or sage or ruler in history has ever done before.

We're making progress. The NDIS is coming into being, even if we can't all bring ourselves to commit to the full Gonski. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews is stepping up to put money into housing to reduce domestic violence. In NSW, the Baird government is experimenting with social benefit bonds. Proper evaluation – long-term evaluation – will add to the existing evidence showing these interventions are cost-effective.

But it's time we moved from the footnotes to the chapter headings. We need a national infrastructure priority list where money-saving social infrastructure gets to have it out eyeball to eyeball with productivity-boosting steel and concrete. Every government, state and federal, needs to have a 10-year infrastructure plan that recognises the importance of social infrastructure and allocates the funding it merits.

I want our next prime minister, whoever he is, to aspire to be known as the social infrastructure prime minister. Encouraging "innovation" doesn't mean we shouldn't do any of the things we already know work. I want all our premiers to get the message too. It'll be cheaper, fairer, and more productive.

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# Great Grant

*NIB Foundation's Community Grant program aims to support locally based initiatives that will make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of Australian communities, with a focus on the health of carers and young people.*

## What's on offer

Eligible not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for funding of between \$5000 and \$50,000 to deliver practical programs that focus on the needs of two particular groups: young people and carers. Typically, 10 to 15 grants are awarded each year.

## Overview

The community grant program seeks to provide one-off funding to new or existing projects to approach health and wellbeing problems in a new way or to tackle issues that are not currently satisfactorily addressed.

Preference is given to discrete projects that can be delivered in a community setting within the 12-month funding period and can demonstrate sustained benefits beyond the funding period.

NIB Foundation invites applications from eligible organisations that are working actively with carers or young people:

- 1. Carers** – NIB Foundation seeks to support health and wellbeing programs designed to improve the lives of the more than 2.6 million Australians who provide unpaid, informal care to a family member, friend or loved one. Programs could encourage carers to better look after own physical and mental health, or assist them to improve the care they provide, through improved education, peer support, connections, information or resources.
- 2. Young people** – NIB Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of future generations of Australians by supporting innovative and age-appropriate programs and investing in emerging new approaches to issues facing young people. The foundation believes that targeted support at the right

time can help vulnerable youth to overcome disadvantage and health challenges in order to reach their full potential.

Young people are defined as under 25 years of age. The foundation may support early childhood programs, but its focus is generally on the 12–25 years age-group.

## Priorities

NIB Foundation supports community based programs that improve the health and wellbeing of carers and young people by:

- Supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals to improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Building capacity to cope with health challenges through improved resilience, social connectedness, mentoring and peer support
- Facilitating access to reliable, current and targeted health information and education
- Trialling new and improved ways of tackling entrenched health problems

## Eligibility

NIB Foundation is a Private Ancillary Fund (PAF), which means that to be eligible to apply for a grant your organisation must be:

- Endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 by the ATO; and
- Endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) by the ATO.

## More information

**For more information on eligibility, plus details of how to apply, visit Australia's best grants and fundraising hub: [www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05123](http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05123) (log-in required).**

# Reducing red tape for charities: a tale of two states

*Western Australia and South Australia have both recently introduced new laws affecting not-for-profits, but only one has made a genuine reform effort.*

Western Australia's new **Associations Incorporation Act** comes into effect on July 1. For most organisations that fall under the new Act, not much will change.

The new WA Act makes no attempt to move towards a common Australian legislative template or a common set of rules. In fact, it makes no mention at all of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (the ACNC). The new Act could have eliminated duplication of reporting to the ACNC, but it doesn't. Everything that goes on in WA still has to be reported twice.

South Australia, too, has recently revised the laws governing charities incorporated in the Festival State, passing the Statutes Amendment (Commonwealth Registered Entities) Bill, expected to take effect in 2017.

But South Australia, unlike WA, has seized the opportunity to reduce red tape.

## **Western Australia: what's changing?**

July 1 marks the beginning of an extremely slow bicycle race in WA. Every WA association whose constitution doesn't conform to the new Act has three years to amend it.

If you haven't got a dispute resolution procedure in your rules, you have to get one.

If your organisation's budget is under \$250,000, you don't have to have your accounts done professionally. On the register of members, you can provide your email address rather than your residential address, which is a good thing for anyone who doesn't want the world to know where you live. And an old provision that theoretically might have restricted (though in practice didn't) a not-for-profit organisation from trading with the public has been removed. Also, the categories of groups that can apply for incorporation have been enlarged.

If you're in WA, check your constitution against the new Model rules and see what you need to change (bear in mind that most of the changes are voluntary; only changes actually mentioned in the Act are binding). There's an **online site** to make it easier for you.

## **South Australia: what's changing?**

SA charities that are registered with the ACNC will no longer have to report to the state government as well as the national body. They'll still need to tell the state minister about their fundraising intentions, but they won't need a separate licence for it. The new Bill was passed only a couple of weeks ago and is expected to take effect in 2017. Keep an eye on the Consumer and Business Services website for updates to **fundraising** and **incorporation** procedures.

## **News flash:**

Tasmania has just joined South Australia in cutting red tape for charities. **Details**



# Good jobs for great people

*We are excited to announce the beta launch of [GoodJobs.com.au](http://GoodJobs.com.au) – Our Community’s new online employment platform.*

At GoodJobs.com.au, our mission is to connect purpose-driven people with organisations in the not-for-profit and community sectors. We want to help energetic, idealistic, and passionate people overcome obstacles and achieve their career ambitions and dreams.

GoodJobs.com.au lists opportunities for people whatever their level of experience, capacity for involvement or entry point to the social sector. On GoodJobs.com.au, you will be able to find and post jobs, internships and board positions.

Jobs listed on GoodJobs.com.au will be featured in our *Good Jobs Weekly* newsletter and shared via Our Community’s social media network, placing your job in front of tens of thousands of people – including, quite likely, the right person for the job!

## **Brilliant people**

GoodJobs.com.au users are committed, qualified and talented. They care about the world and are

looking to find fulfilling work in the social sector.

## **Variety of roles**

From interns and graduates to CEO and board positions, place your role in front of a great pool of candidates and let us help fill your vacancy. Whoever it is you’re looking for, we can help you find them.

## **Organisation profiles**

Highlight the excellent work your organisation is doing by creating an organisation profile. Organisation profiles are free and provide you with greater exposure to potential employees.

## **Suppliers**

Be more visible to not-for-profit and community organisations by listing your business in the Suppliers listing. Whether you’re a marketing consultant, an auditor, a lawyer, an IT specialist or a printer, the Suppliers portal is your opportunity to attract business and connect with new organisations.

Visit the site and see for yourself!  
Go to [GoodJobs.com.au](http://GoodJobs.com.au).



# Communities in Control 2016

*As it happened.*

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on their eyes. The person has blue skin and red lips. A map of Australia is overlaid on the left eye, with the map's colors (green, yellow, orange, red) appearing to be part of the person's eye. A thin white circle highlights the map area. The background is a dark, textured blue.

*Melbourne*

Conference  
opened  
30 May 2016



“One thing Aboriginal communities do good is community.”

“Why would you record an album with your grandmothers? In our community, the older you get, the more important you become.”

*Shellie Morris*

Singer, songwriter and  
2014 Northern Territory  
Australian of the Year



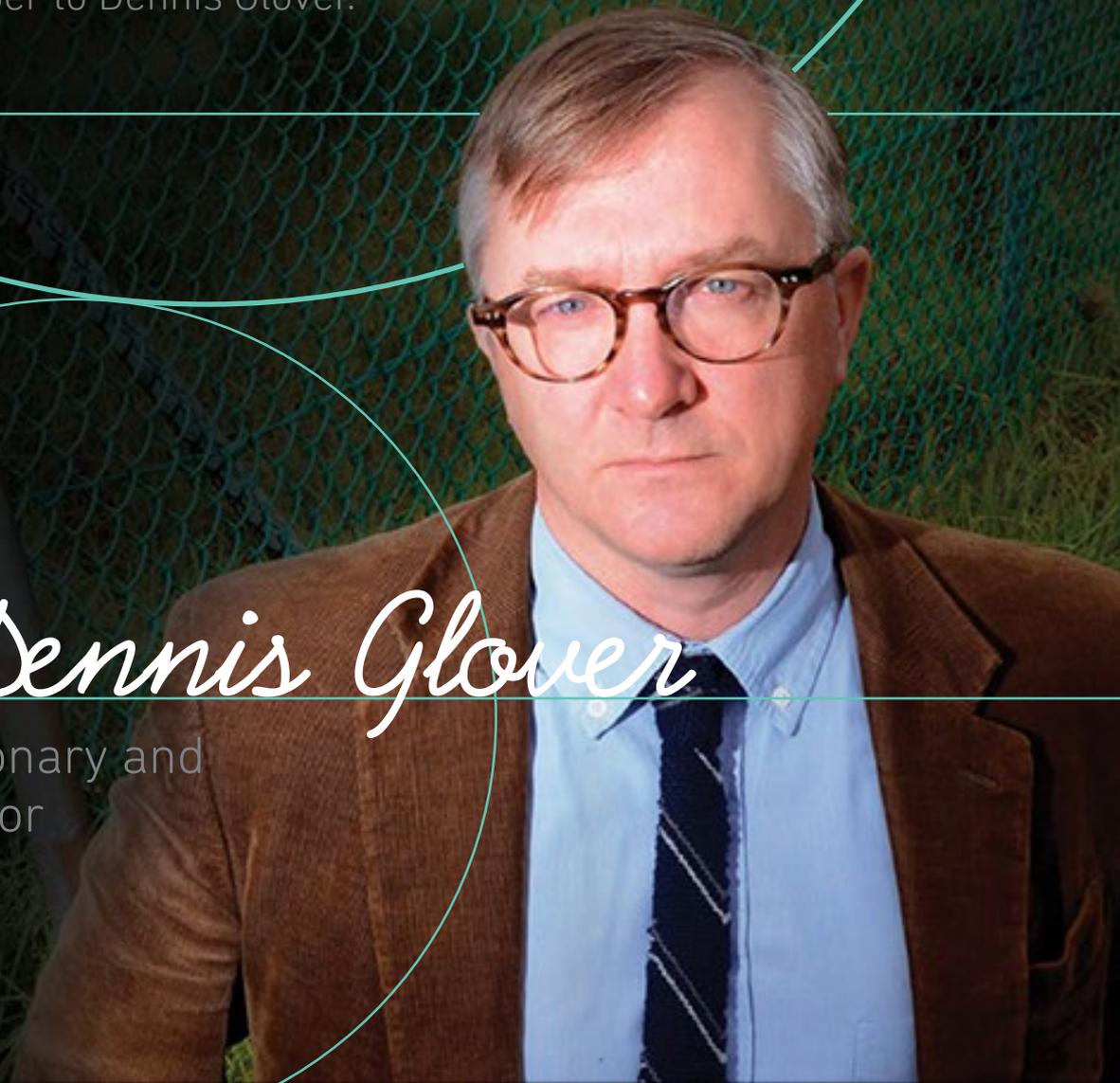


“For our economic reformers, life is one big game of Bingo.”

“I dislike data, algorithms and statistics because they can prevent us from thinking about what’s really going on. Only stories tell us what’s really happening.”

“One of the problems we have in Doveton is that people hear we’re from Doveton and they say, ‘Ah, you’re on our radar,’ and they want to come and run programs for us without knowing anything about Doveton.”

Audience member to Dennis Glover.



*Dr Dennis Glover*

Author, visionary and  
policy advisor



“ The experience of poverty is an experience of exclusion from society. ”

“ Removal of humiliation is the cornerstone of a decent society. So in what ways can we confer dignity upon people? ”

“ If we had more curiosity [as distinct from ‘tolerance’] about each other, then a lot of these problems would be solved. ”

“ ‘Ontological security’ refers to the understanding every human being has about where they sit in the cosmos. If you have an understanding of that that works for you, you’ll be fairly content... But as that story changes, that’s when you being to fall apart. ”

“ Let’s move beyond asking, ‘Am I harming someone else?’ and start asking ‘Am I dignifying someone else?’ You move from a narrative of tolerance (‘I will not hit you’) to one of acceptance. ”

“ I’m a pessimist by nature. I’m trained as a lawyer. I’m a Richmond supporter. ”

“ Seeing a human being as a vessel for dignity is an outcome of society, not of politics. ”

“ The way to achieve world peace in an afternoon would be to declare war on Mars. Even better would be for Mars to declare war on us. ”

On intra-species solidarity.

“ We now live in an age where concepts like human rights become tradeable, because people no longer have inalienable human dignity, but have become chattels... But if there’s one thing that can get in the way of that narrative, it’s the experience of actually having to interact with human beings. And what our community allows us to do is to make sure other people get in your face at some point. ”



*Waleed Aly*

Polymath, delivering the Joan Kirner Social Justice Oration 2016



“Build a habit of being comfortable [with] being uncomfortable. It’s a muscle and you’ve got to build that muscle. Your comfort zone expands.”

*Holly Ransom*

26-year-old  
economic and social  
challenges leader





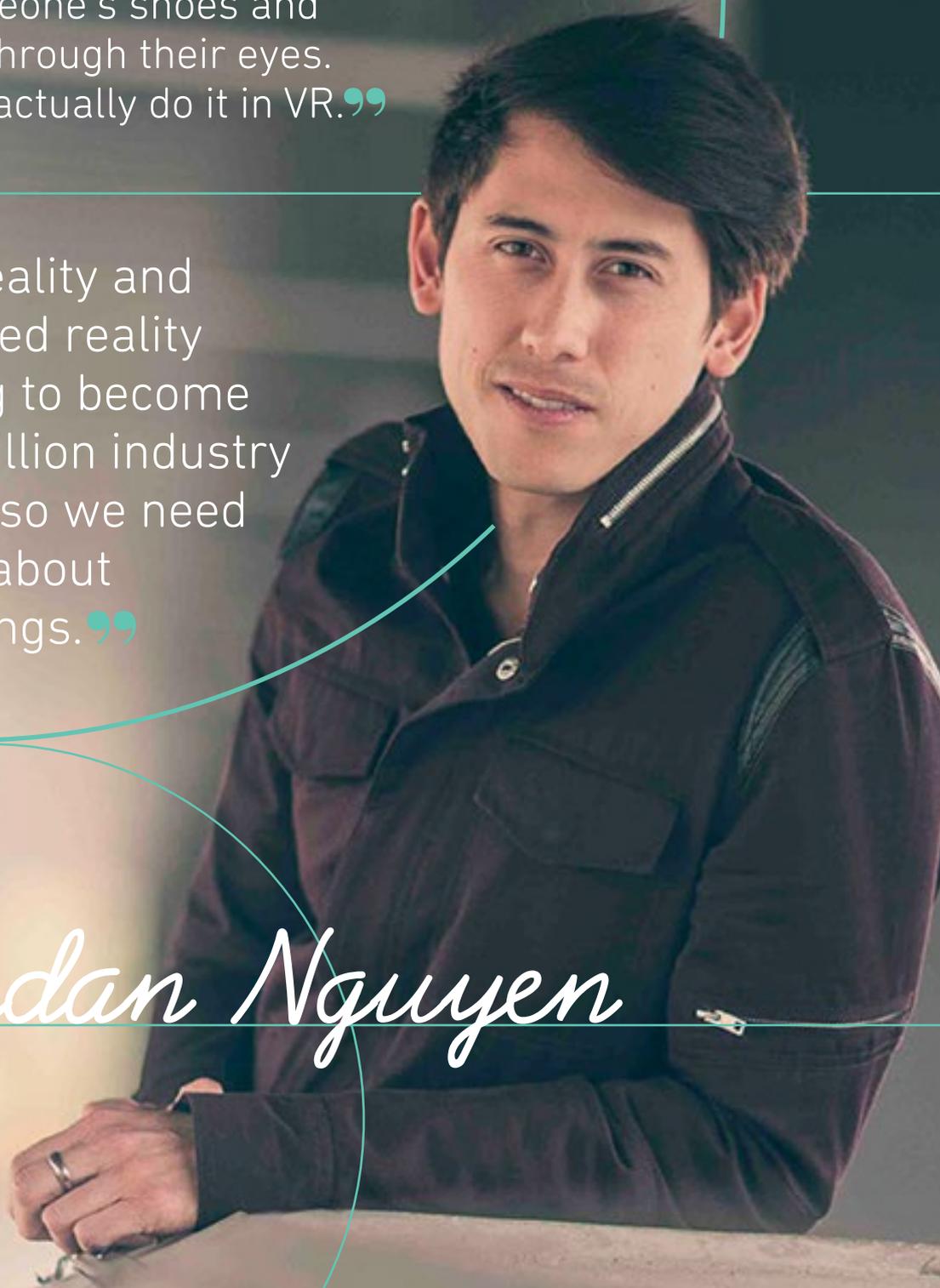
“The interesting thing about robots is that they’re not afraid to fail.”

“Virtual reality is important for communities. Try putting yourself into someone’s shoes and looking through their eyes. You can actually do it in VR.”

“Virtual reality and augmented reality are going to become a \$150 billion industry by 2020, so we need to know about these things.”

*Dr Jordan Nguyen*

Futurist and  
biomedical  
engineer





“ People sharpen people like iron sharpens iron.”

Quoting from Proverbs 27:17

“ Who can act? Individuals, businesses, communities and governments can act to make the 'circle of flourishing' work.”

“ I'm here to ask for your collaborative engagement to build our collective prosperity': this should be the message of community groups to business. Community groups, you have a role to play here which is almost unprecedented in helping to catalyse a culture of flourishing.”

*Professor Ian Harper*

Access  
Economics  
director



Doesn't it just make you want to rise up and say, 'Enough already!'?

On seeing photos of the British royal family assembled on the palace balcony.



*Peter FitzSimons*

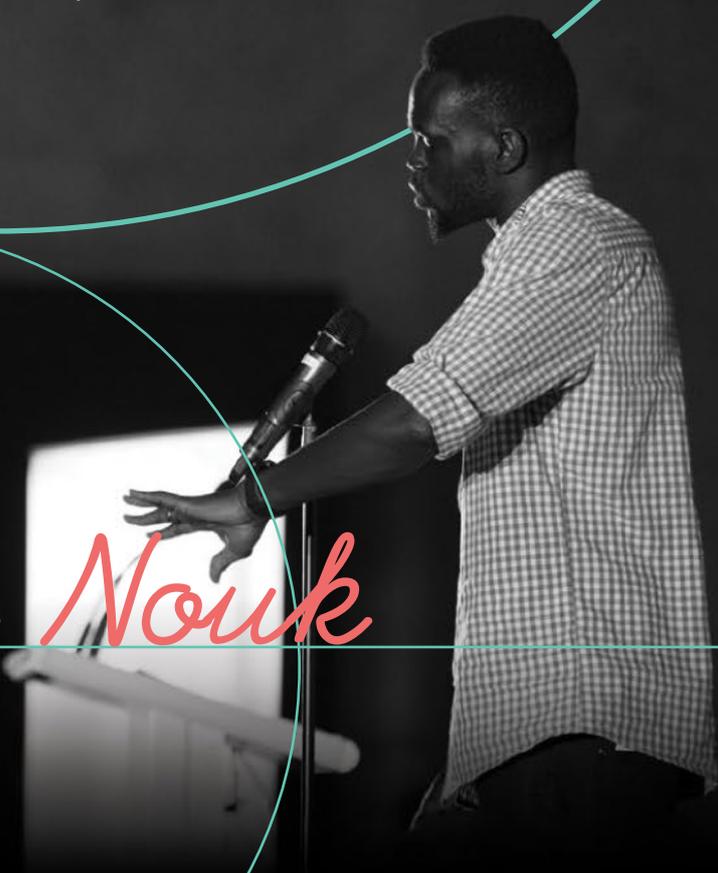
Chair, Australian  
Republican Movement



“Fate is a cruel business.”

“If you ask me to name an indigenous language, I would have no clue. I'm sorry. That's my shame... And may that soon change so the next time someone asks you and I about indigenous language we could at least say a few words of greeting, the same way we do with other languages.”

“Thank you, Australia [for accepting Abe's family of refugees]. You used to be kind and I know you still can.”



*Abraham Nouk*

Spoken-word poet



“In light of the experience of Nova Peris, is it any wonder that many Aboriginal women simply refuse to engage in public office? ... Sharing has an important role to play in stopping the normalisation of that kind of abuse. The important thing is to take the lead of the person who has suffered the abuse.”

On racist abuse posted on the Facebook page of outgoing Labor Senator Nova Peris.

“It is time; we are ready; yet we are continually waiting for the rest of the country to catch up.”



*Celeste Liddle*

Indigenous feminist,  
writer and union  
organiser



“Magda is one of my favourite entertainers, and I’m hoping this session is going to end up in pash-rash.”

Our Community group managing director Denis Moriarty goes public with his crush on Magda Szubanski.

“Community is all the c-words: courage, caring, compassion, creativity, connection.”

“If you see a need and you decide to do something, that is all you have to do, and just do it. And then it just builds.”

On starting a women’s refuge.

*Magda Szubanski*

Author, entertainer and former women’s refuge worker



“Tell me, General, why is it that for over a century you have had less than 10 per cent of your workforce as women?”

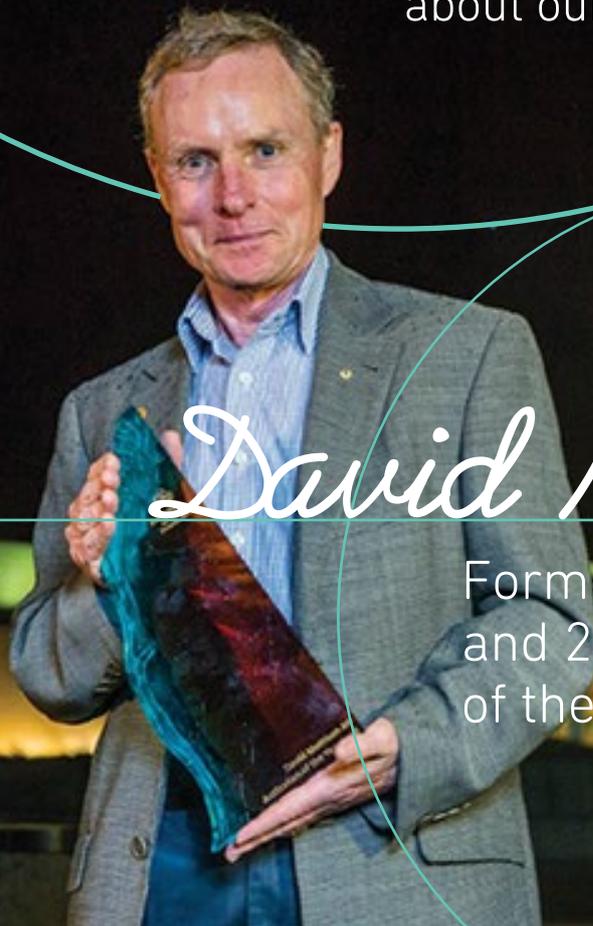
“Well Liz, that’s just the way it is.”

David Morrison recalls his first meeting as Chief of Army with Australia’s then sex discrimination commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, a meeting that he says changed his life.

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

David Morrison quotes Robert F. Kennedy, concluding, “You are ripples of hope. We all need to be ripples of hope.”

“Culture is the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves.”



*David Morrison AO*

Former army chief  
and 2016 Australian  
of the Year



## More on Communities in Control 2016

We'll be loading transcripts and videos from the whole conference as they become available – keep watching **the website**. In the meantime, you don't have to rely on our word that the whole event was inspiring, thought-provoking, engaging, and just bloody brilliant.

Read what other people have had to say about CIC 2016:

Sam Ferrante at **Crowd Ink**

Amanda Fisher at **Tales to Connect**

Andy Mulvany at **Connecting Up**

The **Twitterverse**

*Secure your ticket now for  
Communities in Control 2017 – at a 2016 price!*

Next year's event will take place in  
Melbourne on 29–30 May.

To register at this year's prices,  
go to **[www.communitiesincontrol.com.au](http://www.communitiesincontrol.com.au)**  
before June 30, 2016.





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**From:** Peter Fitzsimons, chair, Australian Republican Movement  
**To:** Communities in Control 2016 delegates  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 8, 2016 at 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Conference follow-up

Dear all,

Now, where was I?

I remember! I was giving you all the good oil on how our nation becoming a republic was the greatest community exercise any of us could ever be involved in, and you were all enthusiastically agreeing to HELP.

Great. Afterwards, many of you asked me for my contact details, and I promised to do a send-out. Here it is: [pfitzsimons@smh.com.au](mailto:pfitzsimons@smh.com.au)

I travel all over Australia, all the time, and would LOVE to come to your community, free of charge, to speak to large gatherings of republicans – most particularly when I am already in the area.

To get this over the line, we need community leaders just like you to get with us. A great start, thus, will be if you personally join, and then get your networks to do the same.

Here is the membership link. Remember, you promised to JOIN us!  
[republic.org.au/membership](http://republic.org.au/membership)

I dinkum hope to see you soon.

Onwards, and upwards to the republic,  
Peter FitzSimons AM



# How to harness the power of Instagram for your community group

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## *Would your community group like to engage with every single person in Sydney?*

The number of Australians with Instagram accounts is roughly equal to the population of the Harbour City. If you're not on Instagram, you're falling behind.

And if you want to reach people aged 18–24 and you're not on Instagram, you're missing a massive opportunity – the vast majority of them are using the platform regularly.

Here are five ways your group can benefit from using Instagram.

**1. Raise funds.** Unlike Facebook, Instagram doesn't have a 'donate' button. But you can use it to promote your website – which of course features a big banner ad for your upcoming

raffle, fête, trivia night or auction on the home page (doesn't it?).

**2. Build your brand.** If you're a footy club, post shots of this week's best-on-ground celebrating his win. If you're a community garden, show off your biggest pumpkin (and the people who made it into soup). And if you're a wildlife rescue group, the possibilities are endless – who doesn't want to see rescued wombat orphans and recovering bandaged koalas? Make people want to get involved.

**3. Build your network.** Posting with hashtags and searching hashtags can be a great way to find and support like-minded community groups, and have other groups support you. This can also lead to interesting partnerships.

**4. Spread your message.** Campaigning against coal seam gas mining? Post photos and



videos of talks, meetings, protests etc being run by your organisation. Advocating for better wheelchair access in your suburb? Post shots of areas that need work, hashtag them, and invite users to share their own.

**5. Thank your supporters.** One of the most powerful ways to do this is to post photos of your organisation's beneficiaries. Don't just tell

your supporters that they've made a difference – show them.

Some final words of advice: be strategic (understand how social media can help your group to achieve its mission), know why you're posting, use hashtags, use the @ function to name the people in the post, post well and post often. Snap!

## Top 10 social media channels in Australia: April 2016



All figures represent the number of unique Australian visitors (UAVs) to that website in April unless otherwise noted.

Statistics compiled by [SocialMediaNews.com.au](http://SocialMediaNews.com.au) for **April 2016**. Statistics courtesy of [Vivid Social Research Division](http://VividSocialResearch.com.au).

# Show, don't tell: videos we love

Innovation is not just about coming up with big ideas – you need to communicate them clearly too. You need to get people onside, convince them that you have the answer. At Communities in Control 2016, three founders and CEOs shared videos they created to captivate their audience and encourage them to act. And you don't need a five-figure budget to get started.

Check out these inspiring and informative videos and then start scripting your own:



## **Pink Hope: YouTube channel**

Pink Hope spends precisely zero on its health-promotion and awareness videos about ovarian and breast cancers.

**[Watch the video](#)**



## **1 Million Women: You're the Voice**

1 Million Women spent only \$13,000 on its widely shared anthem 'You're the Voice', a call to action on climate change.

**[Watch the video](#)**



## **Beyond Blue**

Peter's experience of using a safety plan to help him get through tough times and suicidal thoughts.

**[Watch the video](#)**

Video of the whole Communities in Control conference session featuring Pink Hope, 1 Million Women and Beyond Blue will be online soon. Keep watching **[the website](#)**.



# From grant to good: Down Syndrome Victoria

*In the previous issue of Our Community Matters, we featured Sunsuper Dreams for a Better World, a grants program with a difference. In this issue, Kerry Hands from Down Syndrome Victoria explains how a Sunsuper grant is helping more people with Down syndrome into meaningful jobs that match their skills and interests.*

Employment for people who have Down syndrome is becoming more of a reality. Over the past 12 months, Down Syndrome Victoria (DSV) has been working on ways to increase workplace participation for people who have Down syndrome. The impetus for this project came about through the Sunsuper Dreams for a Better World campaign. Our dream was to “Create a work placement program for people who have Down syndrome, to find employment in the field of their dreams”. DSV’s dream was third overall at the end of the campaign, meaning we received a total of \$25,000 in community grants.

With these funds we have been able to:

- Develop a resource for employers: **Down Syndrome – An Employer’s Guide**
- Develop a poster showing the types of work already being done by people who have Down syndrome which we can use at expos and other events
- Create You Tube videos:
  - > **Employing someone with Down syndrome: It’s good for business**
  - > **I want a job that’s meaningful**
- Contribute to the Disability Employment National Framework **consultations**
- Develop a database of people who are looking for work
- Support several individuals into work places
- Provide in-service training to organisations on employing people who have Down syndrome ▶



- Develop relationships with **disability employment services** that can provide on-the-job support and training to people with disabilities and employers

Our ongoing work will be:

- To increase capacity within individuals and their families to strive for greater participation in the workforce
- To increase capacity within educational settings to recognise the contribution that people with Down Syndrome can make to organisations and to develop more flexible work experience arrangements based on the

interests and employment goals of individual students

- To improve access for people who have Down syndrome to tertiary education and training, including TAFE, university, apprenticeships and job-specific training
- To develop resources to promote these aims.

At Down Syndrome Victoria we are passionate about promoting the abilities of people who have Down syndrome and their capacity to be valued, contributing members of the community.

Visit [www.downsyndromevictoria.org.au](http://www.downsyndromevictoria.org.au)



## News

# “Buy social” to drive enterprise growth

***New research published this week says social procurement represents the biggest opportunity for social enterprise growth in Australia.***

But it requires greater uptake and understanding from corporate, government and consumer buyers, according to *Finding Australia's Social Enterprise Sector 2016: Analysis*, published by Social Traders and the Centre for Social Impact (CSI) at Swinburne University of Technology.

The procurement market in Australia includes over \$150 billion per year in government purchases of goods and services, and a further \$500 billion per year in private sector purchases.

The director of CSI Swinburne, Professor Jo Barraket, said, “Without question, social procurement was identified by research participants as the greatest opportunity for Australian social enterprises to grow their impacts.”

Researchers also found that a lack of cohesive government policy was a major constraint to growth, with more than 80% of study participants believing that supportive state and federal government policy would encourage new growth opportunities for social enterprise.

Other priority areas included the need for more accessible forms of appropriate finance, with 39% of respondents indicating they had been unable to access the finance they needed to help them achieve their goals. Existing social enterprises cited access to learning and development opportunities as a concern, too, along with developing better ways to measure impact to satisfy stakeholders.

Read a summary of the research [here](#), and find out more about buying from social enterprises [here](#).



# Memo to board members: how to succeed in the new financial year



BY BRONWYN BAIRD, FOUNDER, B CUBED

*With the end of the financial year fast approaching, now is a great time for boards to review the year that was and plan for the next. The founder of B Cubed Management Consultants, Bronwyn Baird, offers these tips for success in FY 2016–17.*

## **Mission, vision – and budget**

Your organisation's mission should be at the forefront of your mind in everything you do, and that includes budgeting. When preparing your budget for the next 12 months, compare the year just passed and the year ahead with your mission and strategy in mind. Analyse your "budget" versus "actual" figures for the closing year. Look at what areas did well and what areas need improvement. Did you meet your budget in all areas? How well did you go with forecasting 12 months in advance? Some organisations like to set the 12-month budget in May/June and then review it every quarter to take into account changing external conditions (political, economic, etc.) and internal environments (staffing, resourcing, etc.). Your long-term mission and vision, though, should help you to stay the course despite any tweaks you need to make.

## **Seeing cashflow clearly**

What is your cash position? A rolling 12-month budget allows you to see a 12-month cashflow forecast at all times. This provides you with the information required to plan not only for the lean times, but also for times of plenty – how will you

invest those excess funds? If your organisation's main income stream consists of grants, then you are probably already adept at managing the cashflow rollercoaster. Having a forecast makes this less stressful.

## **Need an auditor?**

Many medium and large not-for-profits will already have engaged an auditor to review the current year's figures. For a refresher on your audit obligations under the ACNC Act, [click here](#).

## **Board reporting: please explain**

How useful is the current financial reporting package provided to your board? If you're not happy, say something. All board members should provide feedback on what they find most useful each month, and whether they require additional information. This is especially critical at this time of the financial year. If necessary, make the time to sit down with the CEO or CFO to go through the figures, or request time with an independent accountant for some coaching. Depending on the board's financial literacy, you and other board members might even benefit from a professional development course in this area.

*Bronwyn Baird is the founder of **B Cubed**, a certified B Corp offering management accounting and CFO services to not-for-profits and small to medium businesses. Bronwyn is also a director of the not-for-profit organisation Hepburn Wind, and the chair of its Finance and Risk Committee.*

# Awards shine a light on community sector excellence

***It's time to recognise the outstanding contribution of those working in the community sector, with nominations for the 2016 HESTA Community Sector Awards now open.***

The awards, presented by HESTA in partnership with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), acknowledge excellence in service provision, advocacy and leadership in the sector.

Those working in the community sector dedicate their careers to making a positive difference to the wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Australia.

Their work not only improves the lives of individuals but helps build a fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia – where all individuals and communities can participate in and benefit from social and economic life.

## **Award categories**

There are three award categories – Unsung Hero, Organisation, and Social Impact.

The Unsung Hero Award is for an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to social justice in Australia by enhancing the wellbeing of individuals or communities experiencing disadvantage.

The Organisation Award is for an organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to social justice in Australia, through the development and provision of a high-quality and innovative program, project or specific service.

The Social Impact Award is for an individual, organisation or network that has made an outstanding contribution to social justice in Australia through policy development, advocacy, leadership, or representation.

Long-standing awards supporter ME bank generously provides a prize pool of \$30,000, which is shared among the winners across the three award categories.

The 2016 HESTA Community Sector Awards will be held in conjunction with the ACOSS National Conference. Finalists receive complimentary conference registration and will be flown to Sydney to attend the Awards dinner on Thursday 17 November 2016.

## **Get involved**

To make a nomination, sign up for email alerts, or find out more about the awards, visit [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au).

To register for the ACOSS national conference, visit [acoss.org.au](http://acoss.org.au).





# Sometimes we all need damn good advice



BY VANESSA NOLAN-WOODS,  
GENERAL MANAGER, EDUCATION AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR BANKING  
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA

I've been thinking this week about how busy the lives of most of us have become. Between family, work and friends, there just don't seem to be enough hours in the day. In some ways day-to-day life has never been so convenient, what with ready-to-eat meals, online shopping, home delivery and more. And yet the demands on our time just seem to keep growing and growing.

If you're anything like me, you tend to spend a large amount of time at the computer, where the answer to just about any question can be found at the touch of a computer key, thanks to Google. Yet this electronic convenience brings its own challenges. How do we ensure that the information we're getting is accurate? Then there's the sheer volume of material that faces us, and the time and energy required to sort through it. Sometimes all we really want is to find everything we're looking for – accurate, authoritative information – in the one spot.

## Making life a little easier

Well, if you're on the board of a community organisation – or even the treasurer – you might find that the recently updated *Damn Good Advice* guides are just what you need.

*Damn Good Advice for Board Members* and *Damn Good Advice for Treasurers* form part of CommunitySmart, a national financial literacy program run by the Institute of Community Directors Australia in partnership with the

Commonwealth Bank's Not for Profit Sector Banking division. Based on research identifying questions often asked by board members and treasurers, the guides have been designed to help make your busy role just that little bit easier, and to keep your community organisation operating even more efficiently. And they're free.

## Damn Good Advice for Treasurers

If you're a treasurer, you've got a big role to fill. You're responsible for ensuring your organisation's financial rules and procedures are followed, and you have to account for every dollar coming in and going out. *Damn Good Advice for Treasurers* is packed with tips – on what you need to do, for example, if you're about to take on the job for the first time:

- Go over procedures such as bank reconciliation systems and invoicing so that you can oversee operations.
- Ask what the annual planning and budgeting timetable is.
- Get details of all the group's bank accounts, and all signatories for these accounts. Make sure the details are up-to-date with the bank where required.

## Welcome to the boardroom

Designed for novices and seasoned board members alike, *Damn Good Advice for Board*





Members has the answers to 25 questions every board member needs to ask. And it's a handy reminder of your responsibilities. For example, it's your duty to:

- Ask or check whether the accounts presented at each board meeting have been verified by someone other than your treasurer. This will give you confidence that what is being presented is an accurate reflection of the organisation's true financial position.
- Check the latest balance sheet, also known as the statement of financial position. You need to know what funds your organisation has and what it owes – its assets and liabilities.
- Understand the importance of the statement of cash flow. If your organisation is not in control of its cash flow, minor problems can quickly become major ones. You don't want to

find you have to lay off staff or wind up your organisation. Even profitable organisations can and do go under as a result of cash flow problems.

### All in all, it's damn good advice

It's been good to see the positive feedback the *Damn Good Advice* guides have received since they were launched. If you haven't already done so, I'd highly recommend you **download the guides here**. They're a great source of information and tips, all designed to help you help your organisation in the continued successful delivery of its mission.

I hope you enjoy the guides and find them useful. I look forward to sharing more thoughts and insights in the next issue of *Our Community Matters*. Until next time.

Not-for-Profit  
Sector Banking

## Treasurers' Awards 2016.

Recognising and rewarding  
Not-for-Profit Treasurers



# Blogs we love



## **Wild Woman Fundraising: Seven ingredients for the perfect non-profit e-newsletter**

“I’ve seen so many bad nonprofit newsletters. And some really good ones! What sets the good ones apart? For example, Pesticide Action Network. Their newsletter is ALWAYS interesting, and ALWAYS full of useful advice, even when the topic may seem dry or hopeless (like bee colony collapse).”

**[Read more](#)**



## **Joan Garry: Seven steps to a great event speech**

“Point three: Tell a story about what the organization DOES. Avoid the mission statement. The only thing worse is the “thank you” list! The next thing that will sink you is the “kitchen sink” approach to program work. Tell me one story that is emblematic. It should be real, weighty, and have an outcome you are proud of.”

**[Read more](#)**



## **Nonprofit with Balls: So, you don't think you directly benefit from nonprofits**

“Just because you can't hold or see something does not mean you do not benefit from it. All of us benefit more from nonprofits' work than we'll ever know. If you feel safe walking down the street, it's probably because there are nonprofits working on neighborhood safety and providing services to those who need help.”

**[Read more](#)**

# Your two-minute NFP news digest

## Changing the world through impact

*“[Helena is] a non-profit organization that brings together a mixture of under-25 millennials that are accomplished, and over-25 year olds to collaborate on finding new approaches to issues and problems facing society and also to help the under-25 millennial generation have a greater voice and impact in business, civic life, social things...so that when strategy and plans are set, it’s not...the interests and needs of millennial generation are taken into consideration.”* A nameless PR rep

We don’t know what she’s saying either. But don’t miss [this article](#) about it. It’s a hoot.

## How to say “sorry”

*“Speaker, as part of this process, I learnt that two women were convicted for offensive behaviour in the 1970s for holding hands – on a tram. So let me finish by saying this: If you are a member of the LGBTI community, and there’s someone in your life that you love – a partner or a friend – then do me a favour: next time you’re on a tram in Melbourne, hold their hand. Do it with pride and defiance. Because you have that freedom.”*

Daniel Andrews

The Victorian Premier concludes his apology in parliament to people convicted under unjust laws against homosexual acts.

[Full speech](#)

## Superpowers for people with disabilities

*“...the eyes have a very direct connection through the optic nerve to the brain... Riley’s cerebral palsy means his main reliable control is in the movement of his eyes. So the question is, how do I harness the electrical power of Riley’s eyes?”* Dr Jordan Nguyen

Speaking on the ABC science program *Catalyst*, the biomedical engineer outlines how he might make 13-year-old Riley Saban’s dream of driving a car come true. [Watch the episode](#)

## Click to donate

*“The aim in this is to be able to roll this out globally. It’s still very much in a testing phase at the moment but we do hope to be able to bring this to you all very soon.”* John Carr

The Facebook Europe partner manager tells a London conference on fundraising technology that Facebook aims to make a “donate” button available to all users later this year to make charitable donations easier. Facebook has 1.6 billion users. [Full story](#)



## How to manage a crisis

*“My grandmother used to say people are like tea bags – you never know how strong they are until you put them in some hot water. This session is all about thinking how strong your organisation will be when the water gets really hot.”* Paul Ronalds

The CEO of Save the Children shares his experiences of dealing with an international kidnapping, the loss of \$30 million in funding, and a government relations and media management crisis stemming from Nauru detention facilities. Ronalds was speaking to delegates assembled for the Board Builder conference in late April. (His address will be reproduced in full in the July issue of *Board Builder*, the member newsletter of the Institute of Community Directors Australia; to join, [click here](#).)

## Jobs. Growth. Housing?

*“Housing costs are the single biggest expense in household budgets, and affordability keeps getting worse – we’re in a housing crisis. Developing a national plan to end the housing crisis is the most important issue for all parties in this election.”*

Adrian Pisarski

The executive officer of National Shelter explains why his organisation has formed an alliance with several others to make housing a key election issue. The alliance is urging voters to petition on the issue via [change.org/votehome](https://change.org/votehome).

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## Country women have their say

*“When the Victorian CWA comes out in support of gay marriage, it is game over.”*

Peter FitzSimons

The chair of the Australian Republican Movement, speaking at Communities in Control 2016, registers the likely effect of the Victorian CWA’s recent vote on marriage equality. [Background story](#)

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## For cancer screening, press 4

*“Telstra and the government have not talked to doctors, they have not talked to patients, they haven’t done any consultation with the people who are going to be most directly affected by the system.”* Dr Juanita Fernando

A researcher from the Alfred Hospital’s Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Health Care tells the ABC she is worried a tender process that saw Telstra Health awarded a federal government contract to build and operate a national cancer screening register was rushed. [Full story](#)

## Nifty tools: how to present a budget

We reckon one of the niftiest things about the recent Victorian state budget was the map-based representation of allocations to each local council area. Check it out here: <https://www.budget.vic.gov.au/explore-map>.

In fact, Victoria's is not the only state or territory government to have gone to town (so to speak) with infographics to explain its 2016–17 budget. Check out the work done by graphic designers for [Western Australia](#) and the [Northern Territory](#).

[Tasmania](#), meanwhile, is still doing things the old-fashioned way, with words.

And the federal government apparently turned to producers at the ABC Kids channel for [this video](#) to explain its numbers.



## Street by street

How well do you know your neighbours? Do you live in a place where neighbourhood connections form naturally, or does it take work? Street by Street is a national project aiming to “turn streets into communities” and foster an Australia-wide network of neighbour groups. Resources available from the Street by Street website include templates for Christmas party invitations, and for recording items and talents available for sharing and lending between neighbours. [Learn more.](#)

## Charities and elections: what you need to know

The ACNC has published new guidance for charities considering campaigning in the lead up to the federal election on Saturday July 2.

If you're a charity and you've been thinking about making it your purpose to “promote or oppose a political party or a candidate for political office”, think again. The ACNC says “not okay”.

For more information, see the ACNC's website: [Charities, elections and advocacy – what you need to know.](#)

## Connecting Up

If you haven't connected with Connecting Up lately, check out its range of new and recycled hardware and software available to not-for-profits at excellent prices. Now's the time to buy if you want to take advantage of tax breaks this financial year. [Details here.](#)

## New software solution for NFPs

GoodSystems is a new cloud-based accounting, fundraising, HR and project management package designed specifically for not-for-profits. GoodSystems launched in late 2015 and is available now on a monthly subscription basis. For more information, visit [www.goodsystems.com.au](http://www.goodsystems.com.au).

## Prize announcement

Graeme Sherlock from Queensland is the winner of the quiz in the previous issue of *Our Community Matters*. Graeme answered, correctly, that Waleed Aly would be delivering the Joan Kirner Social Justice Oration at the 2016 Communities in Control conference. Graeme wins a prize pack of 18 [Our Community how-to books](#), valued at almost \$650. Congrats, Graeme.

# Annual Information Statements: is yours overdue?

*If your organisation is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), you may be required to submit a 2015 Annual Information Statement.*

If your charity is registered with the ACNC and uses a calendar year reporting period of 1 January to 31 December, your 2015 Annual Information Statement is due by 30 June 2016.

You can check when your charity's Annual Information Statement is due on your charity's register listing at [acnc.gov.au/findacharity](http://acnc.gov.au/findacharity).

To prepare before you submit:

- Read the Annual Information Statement guide
- Use the Annual Information Statement worksheet.

These are available at [acnc.gov.au/reporting](http://acnc.gov.au/reporting).

## How to submit

1. Go to the Charity Portal at [charity.acnc.gov.au](http://charity.acnc.gov.au).
2. Log in with your username (your ABN) and your password. Your password can be reset at the login page.
3. Click on "submit Annual Information Statement" in the top left-hand corner of the Charity Portal homepage and start.

## Need help?

Guidance and support are available online at [acnc.gov.au/reporting](http://acnc.gov.au/reporting).

For more advice, contact the ACNC on 13 22 62 weekdays between 9am and 6pm AEST, or at [advice@acnc.gov.au](mailto:advice@acnc.gov.au).

*This information is brought to you by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.*



Australian  
Charities and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission



JUNE

### Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

More than 14,000 Australians are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year. This June, join the bowel movement and help raise awareness of the disease.

[Details](#)



JUNE 4

### National Whale Day

If whales could stand in the federal election, what would their policies be? On National Whale Day, make sure our politicians hear the call for whale-friendly policies.

[Details](#)



JUNE 7

### Beginning of Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Every day during this month, Muslims around the world spend the daylight hours in a complete fast.

[Details](#)



JUNE 15

### Global Wind Day

Wind farms operate in more than 75 countries, generating energy from a clean and renewable source. On Global Wind Day, discover wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.

[Details](#)

JUNE 24

### Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day raises funds for a 24-hour bereavement support service, community education to reduce incidents of SIDS and fatal sleeping accidents, and research into SIDS and stillbirth.

[Details](#)

JUNE 19–25

### Refugee Week

The Refugee Council of Australia uses Refugee Week to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

[Details](#)

JUNE 20–26

### World Continence Week

Improve your bottom line during World Continence Week: reach out to people who are, or are at risk of becoming, incontinent.

[Details](#)

JULY

### National Desexing Month

Unplanned litters contribute to the overpopulation of cats and dogs. Discounted prices on desexing are available during National Desexing Month.

[Details](#)



JULY

### Dry July

Dry July aims to raise awareness of individual drinking habits and the value of a healthy lifestyle. It also raises money for adults living with cancer.

[Details](#)



JULY 3–10

### NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week celebrates indigenous cultures and contributions to society.

[Details](#)



JULY 7

### Eid al-Fitr

At the end of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr is a time of charitable giving, peace-making and spiritual renewal.

[Details](#)



JULY 25–31

### National Pain Week

National Pain Week aims to help de-stigmatise chronic pain; create healing relationships; and reduce the isolation and suffering of people in pain.

[Details](#)



# Upskill

## Diploma of Business (Governance)

Upgrade your qualifications and expand your network by studying for a Diploma of Business (Governance). Australia’s only diploma-level governance qualification is designed specifically for existing and prospective not-for-profit board or committee members and the CEOs and senior staff who work alongside them. Check out the course start dates below and then [enrol here](#).

|           |             |          |              |           |            |
|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Sydney    | 14 June     | Perth    | 12 September | Darwin    | 24 October |
| Perth     | 20 June     | Canberra | 3 October    | Sydney    | 31 October |
| Melbourne | 5 September | Brisbane | 17 October   | Melbourne | 7 November |

## Good governance, great results

A healthy committee of management or board is integral to the success of any community organisation. This full-day course will help you to understand your legal and practical responsibilities as a committee/board member, and how you can create a more harmonious, more productive and more effective working group. [Enrol here](#).

|           |         |          |         |        |         |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Melbourne | 9 June  | Brisbane | 30 June | Hobart | 14 July |
| Sydney    | 9 June  | Adelaide | 7 July  | Darwin | 21 July |
| Perth     | 23 June |          |         |        |         |

## WTF? Where’s the funding?

This half-day course will help you develop a practical, workable, integrated, sustainable funding strategy for your organisation. Learn how to expand your funding efforts into areas such as donations, partnerships, alumni/membership and special events and build a more sustainable future for your organisation. This training runs from 9.30am to 1pm, so you have the option of enrolling in “How to win grants and influence people” for the afternoon of the same day. [Register here](#).

|           |         |          |        |        |         |
|-----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
| Sydney    | 10 June | Brisbane | 1 July | Hobart | 15 July |
| Melbourne | 10 June | Adelaide | 8 July | Darwin | 22 July |
| Perth     | 24 June |          |        |        |         |

## How to win grants and influence people

There’s more to winning grants than filling in a form and waiting for the money to roll in. This half-day course will teach you how to develop processes that will make finding and winning grants quicker, easier and more effective for your organisation. It runs from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Bonus: You could also enrol in “WTF? Where's the Funding?” for the morning of the same day. [Register here](#).

|           |         |          |        |        |         |
|-----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
| Sydney    | 10 June | Brisbane | 1 July | Hobart | 15 July |
| Melbourne | 10 June | Adelaide | 8 July | Darwin | 22 July |
| Perth     | 24 June |          |        |        |         |



### Meetings and minutes masterclass

Time: it's the scarce resource that every overworked not-for-profit board member wants more of. Yet most of us are still meeting monthly, often after-hours, for way too long, and relying on minutes that don't tell us what we need to know. It doesn't have to be like this. We owe it to our organisations (and our bursting schedules) to find a better way. Join our expert trainers for an interactive masterclass on running better meetings and taking better minutes. [Enrol here](#).

Perth 15 July

### Meetings and minutes webinar

Just like the masterclass above, but online! [Sign up here](#).

June 30, noon–1pm AEST

### Planned giving requests

For many larger not for profits, planned giving helps ensure sustainability. But this is not an exclusive club. There's no reason why smaller not for profits can't implement planned giving strategies too. Explore planned giving in this half day session with one of Australia's leading specialists, Wendy Brooks. [More details](#).

Melbourne June 24

### Sponsorship

Sponsorship can build profile, increase communication effectiveness and provide financial returns. Many not for profit organisations look for sponsors – but many fail to gain benefit for their sponsors as well as themselves. This is a key to not only attracting sponsors but retaining them. Explore sponsorship in this half-day session with Wendy Brooks. [More details](#).

Melbourne July 1

## Professional development and other opportunities: what's on when

### June 10, online

Deadline for entries for the Australia New Zealand Internet Awards (ANZIAs). The awards have six categories, including the Leonie Dunbar Memorial Award for Community Websites. [Details](#).

### June 16, online

Free webinar: Workplace Health and Safety in Community Transport. Presented by the National Road Safety Partnership Program, featuring the experiences of Coffs Harbour Bellingen Nambucca Community Transport. [Register now](#).

### July 14–15, Cairns

Q Shelter housing and homelessness conference: 'Empowered people, connected communities, sustainable housing'. [More information](#).

### July 29, online

Nominations close for the 2016 Commonwealth Bank Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards. Nominate your treasurer to receive a certificate, or enter as a treasurer and you stand to win \$5000 for your group. For details, [click here](#).

### November 7–10, Mexico City

World Volunteer Conference: 'Volunteering for social change'. [More information](#).

# Wanted: 30 minutes of your time

## CLASSIE testing

Our Community's project to release a classification system for social sector organisations and projects, CLASSIE, is steaming ahead, and we now need your help.

We're seeking not-for-profit organisations to test our classification system (and the technology that delivers it) to make sure it's relevant and easy to use.

Once we've ironed out all the bugs, we'll start releasing the system through SmartyGrants and other Our Community websites and services.

The aim of the project is to help to streamline the process of applying for grants and improve our collective knowledge of what work is being done (and funded) to create positive social change.

If you're interested in being involved, please email [CLASSIE@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:CLASSIE@ourcommunity.com.au) by Friday June 24.

And if you missed our CLASSIE cover story in the previous issue of Our Community Matters, read it [here](#).

## Whistling while they work

**Griffith University's Centre for Governance & Public Policy** is conducting extensive research into public-interest whistleblowing, and researchers need you.

You can contribute by taking part in two surveys:

**1) Survey of Organisational Processes and Procedures**

**2) Workplace Experiences and Relationships Questionnaire (WERQ)**

For more information on how to participate, click [here](#).

## Mobile learning research project seeks input

Are you interested in people's mobile learning experiences and how to improve those experiences?

Do you use a smart phone, tablet or laptop to learn and collaborate with others in your workplace?

If you answered "yes", then PhD candidate Michelle Lac invites you to participate in the mobile learning research being undertaken at Swinburne University.

The research explores how perceptions and interpretations of mobile learning programs are socially defined. In mobile learning programs, learners use smartphones, tablets and laptops to gain knowledge or skills through study, experience or collaboration without being in a fixed location.

Participants will benefit by having access to findings and recommendations relevant to their specific mobile learning program, how theirs compares to others', and how they could improve their program.

Participants will be required to attend an interview (face-to-face or by phone or Skype) of approximately 30 minutes. Michelle is keen to interview users, implementers and funders of mobile learning programs.

For more information, email Michelle Lac at [mlac@swin.edu.au](mailto:mlac@swin.edu.au).



# Board Matching Service

*The board vacancies below are just a small sample of what's currently listed on the Institute of Community Directors Australia website: [www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board](http://www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board).*

## New South Wales

### **General board member, Headstart Acquired Brain Injury Services**

Headstart ABI Services operates in the Hunter Region, providing a wide range of individualised support services. It is in the midst of the transition into the NDIS and dealing with its benefits and challenges.

## Queensland

### **General board member, Nundah Activity Centre**

NAC offers activities for seniors as well as community care programs such as the Community Visitor Scheme, NACTivities, Meals on Wheels and Social Support. Qualifications in business, marketing or fundraising, or experience, skills and connections in community-based care, service development, technology or business promotion are desirable.

## South Australia

### **Chair and general board member, Gallery One**

Gallery One is an independent not-for-profit community art gallery and teaching studio, offering more than 20 art and craft classes a week, plus events and exhibitions.

## Victoria

### **General board members, Hester Hornbrook Academy**

Hester Hornbrook Academy is a new independent school being formed in partnership with Melbourne City Mission. The school requires members for its founding board, and particularly seeks candidates who have expertise and experience in education governance, education law and high-level financial management.

## Western Australia

### **All board roles, Learning and Attentional Disorders Society of WA**

LADS seeks passionate, proactive and purpose-driven individuals to build a harmonious and productive board in 2016. Experience in the health, mental health, education, disability or social services sector will be highly valued. Knowledge of the impact that the NDIS and consumer-directed care will have on operations and strategic objectives is desirable but not essential.

## Advertise a board vacancy

Looking for talented people to contribute to your board or committee? The Institute of Community Directors Australia can promote your vacancy for free to a targeted audience of skilled professionals. Learn more about listing your vacancy: [www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board](http://www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board).

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*Our Community Matters is your free community sector update, brought to you by **Our Community** – Australia’s centre for excellence for the nation’s 600,000 not-for-profits and schools, providing advice, tools, resources and training. It’s published on the first Wednesday of alternate months.*

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### Contact us



51 Stanley St, West Melbourne  
Victoria 3003 Australia



Telephone (03) 9320 6800



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



[service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au)



[twitter.com/OurCommunityAU](https://twitter.com/OurCommunityAU)



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### Editor

[Kerryn Burgess](#)

### Designer

[Evoco Design](#)



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Where not-for-profits go for help

