



NCOSS

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Community advocacy and the union movement

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This workshop will explore ways in which unions and community organisations can jointly campaign as advocates for social justice. Despite areas where their interests differ, there are many examples of joint campaigning, coalition and alliance-building between unions and community organisations.

These examples occur at a geographic level, industry level and across industries in the pursuit of social justice aims. Some of the issues explored in the workshop include:

- joint campaigning at a regional level in NSW, what works?, what doesn't?;
- what's possible?, and using the South Coast Labor Council as an example;
- in a climate where governments are silencing community organisations in their role as advocates, how can community workers use their own union to advocate for (or with) disadvantaged people?;
- the turning tide for unions towards 'community unionism' and 'social movement unionism' - what does it mean for greater cooperation between local/regional communities, community organisations and trade unions?