



NCOSS Sector Development e-Bulletin

July 2009

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1. Sector News and Resources:

- **Joint Communiqué from ACOSS, COSS & ACSIG**

Following a meeting between ACOSS, representatives of the State and Territory COSS, and ACSIG, a joint communiqué was issued on the development and sustainability of the community and social services sector. When forwarding the communiqué to your members/colleagues don't forget to insert your contact details at the end.

ACOSS also developed an on-line survey of its members to help develop priorities for the work it will undertake on sector development.

Download communiqué: [Sector Development Communiqué July 09](#) (.pdf)
[Sector Development Communiqué July 09](#) (.doc)

Download survey: [Issues member survey 2009](#)

Survey On-line: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=L6sLKe1YYtCZF_2byzPUu1Uw_3d_3d

- **ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey 2009 Report**

The ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey 2009 Report has been released by ACOSS.

The National Report and the NSW-specific report are available on the NCOSS website:

View On-line: <http://www.ncoss.org.au/content/view/2110/111>

- **NGO Scholarship Guidelines 2010**

The NSW Government is again offering five scholarships for people working in NGOs to undertake the Graduate Diploma in Public Administration offered through the University of Sydney. The scholarships are worth about \$25,000.

Read section 1.1 of the Guidelines titled “Agency Process and Key Dates” for important actions to support anyone on your staff who wishes to apply. For example the agency must RSVP for an Information Session by 21 July 2009 and must have all applications entered by 14 August. The Guidelines will also lead you to the application form on the Department of Premier and Cabinet’s website.

Download: [NGO Scholarship Guidelines 2010](#)

- **Third Sector Input to Productivity Commission Inquiry**

This well-written article from the Pro Bono Australia Newsroom offers a good summary of the submissions to the Productivity Commission Inquiry on the contribution of the not for profit sector.

View article: http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/detail.chtml?filename_num=283412

- **Productivity Commission Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens of Business: Social and Economic Infrastructure**

The draft report of the Productivity Commission’s annual review of regulatory burdens on business focuses on social and economic infrastructure. This review has identified seven main areas, including aged care and child care, where regulations can be made less burdensome. The Commission concludes that regulation of this sector is particularly heavy. It notes that this resort to a heavy regulatory presence arises for a range of reasons such as the extent of government funding for service delivery in aged care and also because of information asymmetry with service recipients such as people who are frail and aged and young children who are seen as requiring protection. The report notes that many industries in this sector, including aged care and child care, are subject to current review or reform activity and that it is important that these reforms are implemented in a timely fashion and in a way that minimizes the regulatory burden. Written comments on this report are invited and should reach the Commission by 31 July 2009. The report and its recommendations can be found at:

View report : <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/regulatoryburdens/social-economic-infrastructure/draft>

Date for comments : 31 July 2009

2. Management Support Unit (MSU):

- **Conscious Governance Article**

Steven Bowman's article, "What Corporates can learn from Non-Profit Strategy Setting", turns conventional wisdom on its head. Usually, NGOs are urged to examine what can be learned from the business sector. This article describes what business can learn from the non-profit sector.

View article: <http://www.conscious-governance.com/nonprofit-strategy.html>

Recommended site: <http://www.conscious-governance.com/index.html>

- **Management Support Unit resources to support your organisation**

Are you in need of contemporary, informed facts about Governance and Management? Perhaps for your own organisation, or for a smaller agency that you support? NCOSS Management Support Unit has developed two new resources tailored for the human services sector. They are available free on-line. There's also an update of an old fave.

The Governance and Partnerships information sheet explores some of the issues that need to be addressed for the effective governance of formal partnership arrangements between non-profit organisations.

Download: [Governance and Partnerships](#)

The Quality Improvement Standards information sheet offers core standards and a process for the development of systematic assessment and improvement of performance.

Download: [Quality Improvement Standards](#)

Selecting A Consultant is a 6 – page information sheet which updates an already popular MSU resource. It introduces the key issues of expectations, selecting and engaging a consultant, evaluation and risk management.

Download: [Selecting a Consultant](#)

- **Fair Work Act 2009 introduces a new national workplace relations system**

Employers in the federal system should be familiar with compliance requirements of the new *Fair Work Act 2009*, introduced 1 July 2009

This introductory article by business.gov.au will lead you to the relevant information from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. There you find the fact sheets and an overview of the national tribunal, Fair Work Australia, and the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman.

View article: <http://www.business.gov.au/Business+Entry+Point/News/Fair+Work+Act+2009.htm>

The article *Is Your Organisation A Constitutional Corporation?*, was distributed as a news alert by EnterpriseCare, a provider of governance specialist services and products. Its aim is to alert organisations to the need to check their status re compliance with the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

View article: <http://www.enterprise care.com.au/article - is your organisation a constitutional corporation?>

- **Third Sector Governance: Charity Commission survey to assess your response to recession**

The Charity Commission is the independent regulator for charitable activity in England and Wales. This is a link to a survey that organisations can use in assessing how they are surviving the recession. It has relevance in Australia.

View on-line: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/ccnews29check.asp>

- **Not for Profit Network Awards**

Visit the communitybuilders.nsw website for details and nomination forms for the Not-For-Profit Network Awards. This Program recognises people, projects, partnerships and organisations who exemplify best practice in the nonprofit sectors in Australia and New Zealand. Do you have a nomination for one of the five categories: Organisation of the Year, CEO of the Year, Team Member of the Year, Project of the Year, and Partnership of the Year ? Why wait- you can self-nominate!

More information: <http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/3223.html>

Applications close: 4 August 2009

- **Charity and Not for Profit Resources Centre**

Here is a useful link to Makinson and D'Apice Lawyers Charity and Not for Profit Resources Centre. It provides free access to a range of resources, ideas and contacts that the firm sees as relevant to those managing not-for-profits.

View on-line: http://www.makdap.com.au/charity_home.cfm

3. Insurance:

- **Volunteers and Driving**

Volunteers play a very significant role in a major proportion of community organisations. In many cases volunteers not only donate their time and expertise but also generously use their own vehicles to carry out the organisation's activities. Volunteers and their cars are not only appreciated but really needed. But, as they say, accidents will happen, so who is responsible if there is an accident? Is the volunteer or the volunteer's car covered if the accident is the driver's fault? What things should drivers consider before using their vehicles for volunteering? What things should organisations put in place to protect both the organisation and the volunteer?

Questions like these are dealt with in the fact sheet *Insurance and Driving as part of Volunteering* on the NCOS website

Download: <http://ncoss.org.au/projects/insurance/downloads/resources/driving-volunteering.pdf>

- **NCOSS Insurance line**

NCOSS Community Cover (NCC) is a bulk buying insurance program brokered through AON Risk Services, with special features for not-for-profit and human services organisations. NCOS receives a proportion of the commission for each NCC policy sold and uses that income to fund a referral and information service and also to advocate getting the best insurance for the sector via the program. This service can provide referrals to insurers, factual information about insurance (but not advice), assistance in completing the quote forms and a friendly ear. If you need any help with insurance questions, contact Liz by email or phone 02 9211 2599 ext 126. Liz is in available on Monday and Tuesday.

Email: insurance@ncoss.org.au

Download: http://www.ncoss.org.au/projects/insurance/downloads/resources/comparingquotes_INS.pdf .

4. NCOSS ICT Strategy:

- **Update on Connecting up Australia**

Connecting Up Australia has a strong voice for the nonprofit sector on information and technology issues. There is still plenty of information flowing from the Connecting Up Australia Conference held in May this year.

You can access many of the keynote presentations as audio (mp3) files. These include the presentation by **Cheryl Kernot**, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Centre for Social Impact, University of NSW, on new sectoral relationships, new organisational forms, new forms of finance and new measurement tools to translate social value. Other presenters on-line include: **Mark Pesce**, inventor, writer, educator and futurist; **Tracey Fellows**, Managing Director of Microsoft Australia; **Peter Deitz**, Executive Director of Social Actions; **Alan Noble**, Engineering Director, Google Australia and New Zealand; **Monique Potts**, Digital Media Project Manager and Producer at the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC); and **Jody Mahoney**, Vice President, Business Development, Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

For more information: [Connecting Up Australia](#)

One feature of the Conference was the active use of social media such as Twitter, to share thoughts and ask questions, creation of a Twibe specifically about the Conference, Flickr for conference photos, podcasts of keynote presentations, blog sites, and slides, notes and links from the breakout sessions. It may not offer you the same immediacy as it did for users during the Conference, but if you want to see examples of how to approach your own events, consider a browse of this user-friendly website.

View on-line: [Social Media Info](#)

The Connecting Up website can also lead you to information about ICT capacity building through donations of software and hardware to eligible Australian nonprofits. Perhaps your organisation is eligible to receive such assistance.

For more information: [ICT Resources/ Donated technology](#)

- **Social Media: Be a 21st Century Communicator**

Thesis 29: Elvis [Presley] said it best: "We can't go on together with suspicious minds". Curious? Consider reading of the lead article in the July edition of *Associations Now Magazine*. Written by Katherine L. George, it is a contemporary review of *Cluetrain Manifesto*, the insightful and progressive 1999 book about the internet, by Christopher Locke. Social media updates are presented on various theses by Locke, about the changing face of marketing, public relations and communication.

View on-line: <http://www.asaecenter.org/publicationsresources/AnowMagCurrentIssueTOC.cfm?navItemNumber=14971>

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e-news@ncoss.org.au with the subject heading 'subscribe'.

Change of address: if you do not wish us to contact you at this email address, please advise your preferred email contact address by sending a message to: e-news@ncoss.org.au with the subject heading 'change of address'. Please include both your current address and your preferred address.

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