



NCOSS Sector Development e-Bulletin

June 2009

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- **Grants Administration Report by Auditor General -released 6 May**
- **Social Media: A Practical Guide for Organisers – NCCNSW workshop 18 June**
- **Lyons and Kernot article on the Henry Review**

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1. Sector News and Resources:

- **Productivity Commission on the contribution of the not for profit sector**

The Productivity Commission, an independent advisory body, is seeking information on the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector. The focus is to assess measures of the sector's contributions, and identify unnecessary impediments to further improvement in the sector. The issues paper, released 7 April, covers the scope and focus of the research being undertaken, and the conceptual framework for measuring contributions. It then introduces issues that will form the basis for consultations with participants, including enhancing efficiency and effectiveness, and trends in service delivery.

Download: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/not-for-profit/issues>

- **Grants Administration Report by Auditor General released 6 May**

The Auditor-General of New South Wales, Peter Achterstraat, released a review of Grants Administration on Wednesday 6 May 2009.

As a performance audit, it examines whether grants allocated to NGOs are well administered. The audit asks how grants are defined, where grants went and what recipients think of the grant system. It will be followed by a second report that examines specific grant programs.

Over a hundred NGOs (including NCOSS and many others from our sector) and sixty five councils responded to the Audit Office survey in 2008.

The report makes 5 key recommendations in relation to 'grant –making agencies', such as DoCS, NSW Health and DADHC, these include improving transparency and reducing red tape.

The report also identifies three central coordinating actions for the Department of Premier and Cabinet, including

- a review of its Guide to Grants Administration
- encouraging agencies to regularly evaluate programs and publish the results
- encouraging agencies to use of web- technology to make it easier to apply for grants and to streamline the grants process.

Download: <http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/publications/reports/performance/2009/grants/grants-contents.htm>

- **Social Media: A Practical Guide for Organisers – NCC NSW workshop**

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW is offering a workshop in Sydney, on social media and on-line campaigning. It is specifically tailored for NGO's, Unions and people working in a community education role in government.

Date: 18 June 2009

More information: http://nccnsw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2806&Itemid=1

- **Lyons and Kernot article on the Henry Review**

In this article "Henry's Forgotten Sector", Mark Lyons and Cheryl Kernot, from the Centre for Policy Development, discuss the capacity of the Henry Review into taxation to deal with issues in the non-profit/charity sector.

View on-line: <http://cpd.org.au/article/henrys-forgotten-sector>

2. Management Support Unit (MSU):

- **Relationship matters: not for profit community organisations and corporate community investment – October 2008**

The report provides detailed research about the state of relationships between business and the not-for profit sector and is published by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Download: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/communities/relationship_matters/relationship_matters_report.pdf

- **Fraud prevention in NFP organisations**

Fraud can have significant consequences on a not for profit organisation. This can include damage to the organisation's name, loss of revenue or even the ceasing of operations of the organisation. All not for profit organisations, no matter what their size, need to implement policies, procedures and controls that are appropriate to their own organisation.

More information: <http://www.lisabundesen.com/default.htm>

Fraud in NFP – Blog: <http://lisabundesen.blogspot.com/>

- **Workforce Toolkit**

When your team is dwindling at the same time your demands are mounting, pressure is rising and the pace of work accelerating, there comes a point when doing any more with the little you have is no longer possible. Announcing the release of the NT Community Sector Workforce Toolkit a flexible set of tools to help you recruit and retain your most valuable asset - your workforce. This free Toolkit has been designed and distributed by NTCOSS with the valued support of Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training.

You can download a copy of the Toolkit from the NTCOSS website.

For more information: www.ntcross.org.au

Download: <http://www.ntcross.org.au/news/2009/02/nt-community-sector-workforce-strategy-project>

- **Third Sector Magazine**

Third Sector, a magazine specifically for the not for profit sector, contains a range of articles of great value to the sector. It can be accessed at:

View on-line: http://www.thirdsectormagazine.com.au/about/what_is_the_third_sector/

Third Sector also has a new website that can be followed on Twitter.

Follow on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ThirdSectorMag>

3. Insurance:

- **Insurance Renewals**

If you, as an organisation, are going to change your insurer, the insurers want to know so that they can try and provide a competing offer or find out why you are changing. This is good for customers because it ensures that there is competition for community sector business in the marketplace. It also helps insurers develop their products and services to meet the needs of the community sector. We recommend that you don't ignore your insurance renewal. Make sure that your insurance cover is maintained and get an alternative quote for your insurance. If you are thinking of changing insurance providers, let your current insurer know why and see if they can give you what you need and improve their price for you.

But remember, price isn't everything. You need to check the product descriptions, the amounts covered (the limits) and, especially, the exclusions listed.

See our NCOSS Information Sheet "Comparing Insurance Quotes" for help with this:

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

- **Changes at NCOSS Community Cover**

There has been a change of personnel and contact days for *NCOSS Community Cover*. Liz Shreeve has taken over from Hugh Worrall and contact days are now Monday and Tuesday.

For more information, contact Liz:

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email: insurance@ncoss.org.au

4. NCOSS ICT Strategy:

- **TechSoup Global**

TechSoup Global is an online information and resource centre that provides technology related information, resources and support for non profit organisations worldwide. Some of the features available on TechSoup include the access to a range of technology related articles, online community discussion forums, a technology news section, and the TechFinder service provider directory.

More information: <http://techsoup.org/about/index.cfm>

- **DonorTec**

The DonorTec program is provided by Connecting Up Australia in partnership with TechSoup to provide donated technology to non profit organisations in Australia.

More information: <http://www.donortec.com.au/about-donortec>

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For further information about Sector Development at NCOSS, contact Catherine Mahony, Catherine@ncoss.org.au

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