



# NCOSS Sector Development e-Bulletin

June 2011

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## 1. Sector News and Resources

- **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission announced**

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) was announced on 10 May and the Implementation Taskforce will commence on the 1 July 2011, anticipating commencement of operation by 1 July 2012.

**View online:** Making it easier for charities to help those who need it [Media release 077](#)

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- **Productivity Commissioner speaks out on the slow progress towards 'harmonisation'**

Productivity Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald comments on the Government's progress towards harmonisation of fundraising laws in Australia.

**Read more:** [Lack of NFP 'Harmonisation' Intolerable- Fitzgerald](#)

**Download:** [Contribution of Not-For-Profit Research Report, Feb 2010](#)

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- **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Significant Dates for 2011**

A Calendar of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Significant Dates for 2011

**Download:** [Calendar](#)

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- **Work Cover New Legislation 2012**

NSW is working towards national work health and safety laws to take effect from January 2012.

**View Online:** [What's new for NSW](#)

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- **Report of the NSW Community Sector Tobacco Survey**

This report details the outcomes of a survey undertaken by NCOSS and the Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) as part of CCNSW's Tackling Tobacco Program. The purpose of the survey was

to investigate the NSW social and community services sector's attitude, policy and practice regarding tobacco and to assess organisations' receptiveness to doing more about smoking.

**View online:** [Report of the NSW Community Sector Tobacco Survey](#)

**View online:** [NSW Community Sector Tobacco Survey - Summary report for participants](#)

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- **ACOSS 2011 National Conference Papers**

The ACOSS 2011 National Conference assembled a diverse line-up of speakers to discuss inequality and social action in contemporary Australia and the conference papers are now available

**View online:** [Conference papers](#)

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- **Can governments and community organisations really collaborate?**

Peter Shergold, previously of the Centre for Social Impact at the University of NSW, highlights the increasing co-dependency of Australian Governments and the Third Sector.

**View online:** [Can governments and community organisations really collaborate?](#)

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- **Legal Landscape - snapshot from Makinson & d'Apice**

A snapshot of the findings of a survey commissioned in early 2011 by law firm Makinson & d'Apice, suggests that business management and governance are improving in the Not for Profit (NFP) sector.

**Download:** [NFP legal Landscape](#)

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- **Community Sector Wages Group- membership announced**

Senator Jacinta Collins will chair the Federal Community Sector Wages Group created to 'assess the potential implications of pay increases that may be awarded by Fair Work Australia' in the equal remuneration case. Membership of the group was announced on 26 April 2011.

**Read more:** [Announcement of Members of New Equal Pay Group](#)

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- **Discussion paper on not-for-profit tax concessions - due 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

The Government has released a consultation paper, seeking views on possible approaches to better targeting of NFP tax concessions. It has also announced that Robert Fitzgerald is the new chair of the advisory board assisting the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

**Read more:** [Next stage for not-for-profit reforms announced](#)

[All eyes on Shorten as Not-for-profits begin new journey](#)

**About submissions:** [Consultation paper- Better targeting of not-for-profit concessions](#)

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- **Workforce development challenges: CSHISC Environmental Scan 2011**

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) has released its annual Environment Scan. The report provides the latest statistics on the number of employees in the industry, as well as a comprehensive overview of issues and trends.

**Download:** [CSHISC Environmental Scan 2011](#)

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- **ACOSS / NCOSS Workshop: Charity advocacy laws and NFP regulation, 15 June 2011**

This workshop for ACOSS and NCOSS members will discuss current initiatives in the not-for-profit law and regulation area and include presentations from the Australian Tax Office (ATO), Tessa Boyd-Caine (ACOSS) and Esther Abram from Changemakers Australia.

**Read more:** [New directions in charity advocacy laws and NFP regulation](#)

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- **NCOSS support for ASU Day of Action 8<sup>th</sup> June**

The Australian Services Union (ASU) has called for a National Day of Action on the 8<sup>th</sup> June as part of their campaign to encourage Governments to commit to funding the outcome of the Equal Remuneration Case. NCOSS has endorsed the Day of Action as part of our commitment to proper and fair funding for the community sector. The NCOSS office will be closed on the day to allow staff to participate.

**Read more:** [NCOSS support for ASU Day of Action 8<sup>th</sup> June](#)

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## 2. Management Support Unit (MSU)

- **Annual and Financial Reporting - new publication from ICA**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has released the third edition of *Enhancing not-for-profit annual and financial reporting. Best practice reporting – March 2011*. The full document is available free online.

**Read more/ download:** [Enhancing not-for-profit annual and financial reporting](#)

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- **Grantseekers Manual from Philanthropy Australia**

Philanthropy Australia, with funding from Community Services, has produced *The Grantseeker Manual* for small and medium sized Non Government Organisations (NGOS).

**Download:** [The Grantseeker Manual](#)

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- **Good Governance Toolkit from FECCA**

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) *FECCA Good Governance Toolkit - Building and Sustaining Your Not-for-Profit Organisation* includes chapters on Starting Out, Good Governance, Incorporation, Common Problems and Financing.

**Download:** [FECCA Good Governance Toolkit](#)

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## 3. Insurance

- **Flood and the Insurance Industry**

An article by Allan Manning, *Insurance on flood and other water perils what you need to know*, considers the wording of building insurance policies with regard to flood and other water perils. As always, the most critical piece of advice is to read the insurance policy carefully at the time of purchase.

**View online:** [Insurance on flood and other water perils](#)

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- **Telemetric car insurance coming to you soon**

Smart box technology is likely to be used by insurers as a way to assess risk when the European Union's ban on gender-based insurance underwriting comes into effect in December 2012. It is highly probable that the Australian insurance industry will adopt this new telemetric technology.

**View online:** [Car insurance 'smartbox' that could lower young drivers' premiums](#)

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## 4. Information Communication Technology (ICT)

- **The Australian Government's study into the Accessibility of the Portable Document Format (PDF) for people with a disability**

People with disabilities face challenges in dealing with the online world. In order to participate in the online world they employ many adaptive strategies and use a range of tools commonly known as assistive technologies.

**Download:** [PDF Accessibility Study](#)

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- **IPPA Policy Paper addresses public sector reform through social media and Web 2**

The Institute of Public Administration Australia released a policy paper in April that addresses the need for public sector systemic and institutional "reform and renewal" by adopting the Government 2.0 Task Force Report.

**View online:** [the Future Course of Modern Government: an IPPA Policy Paper](#)

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- **Board portals- want to know more?**

There is a growing need for prompt and secure communication between Board members, especially when they only physically meet once a quarter. Board portals are the software and support systems that create the framework for the 'e-Board'. Wikipedia provides a simple introduction to the topic. Consider also a web search of local commercial sites that specialise in work for NFPs.

**View Online:** [Board Portal](#)

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## 5. Quality Assurance and Risk Management

- **MHCC - resources towards quality improvement**

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) offers resources to support member organisations through the quality improvement process. The fact sheet *Overview of Accreditation/ Certification Organisations* is an excellent summary of available alternatives.

**View online:** [MHCC Sector Development Quality & Outcomes](#)

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- **Risk Management: security issues in cloud computing**

Risk management is critical whenever an organisation or agency is considering outsourcing their computer network and data storage to an external cloud service. *Cloud Computing Security Considerations*, by the Australian Government's Department of Defence, provides an overview of the issues and a comprehensive checklist of cloud security risk management considerations.

**Download:** [Cloud Computing Security Considerations](#)

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