



NCOSS Sector Development e-Bulletin

October 2008

1. Sector News and Resources

- Recent research – NGOs and Advocacy
- Tax concessions for NGOs
- Intellectual property law and NGOs
- How to start a charity?
- 'Share Our Pride' - new web-site

2. Management Support Unit (MSU)

- Senate Enquiry into Disclosure Regimes for charities and other not-for-profit organisations
- NCOSS Shared Services Seminar – Monday 10th November, 1:00 – 4:30pm
- Government forms
- GST tips for NGOs

3. Insurance

- Insurance and risk management

1. Sector News and Resources

- **Agreeing to Disagree**

NGOs, Compacts and Advocacy

This recent paper examines what 'advocacy NGOs' stand to gain from entering into a Compact, as well as what they may lose. It also considers the conditions necessary for a Compact to be effective.

Download: [Agreeing to Disagree](#)

Maintaining dissent in the NGO sector
By Gemma Edgar (Australia Institute)

- **Tax Concessions for NGOs**

Who Is Eligible? How to Apply?

What are the benefits and obligations?

This practical seminar overview of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and other tax exemptions provides a simple summary of tax concessions relevant to the sector and is available on the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) website @: www.pilch.org.au

- **Intellectual Property (IP) Law for NGOs**

IP, Ownership of IP Copyright and NGOs

How can NGOs protect their program names, logos, websites, publications and other materials? How does an organisation know if and when, it has intellectual property rights to be protected?

The seminar materials from a recent (PILCH) seminar on this topic are available @ www.pilch.org.au

- **How to Start a Charity?**

The NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, Office of Charities, provides clear information about how to establish a charity. More information @: http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/charitable_info_start_charity.asp

- **New Web-site about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

Share Our Pride

The *Share Our Pride* website is a great tool for workplaces, schools and individuals who wish to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The website is @ <http://www.shareourpride.org.au/pages/topics/indigenous-australians.php>

2. Management Support Unit (MSU):

- **NCOSS *Shared Services Seminar* – Monday 10th November, 1.00 – 4.30pm**

Citigate Sebel Hotel, Surry Hills

Book soon, numbers are strictly limited

This sector development seminar will provide an opportunity to find out about the latest research and learn from the 'practice' of other NGOs and other sectors. Speakers will include academic researchers as well as NGO professionals with first-hand experience of 'sharing services'.

All registered participants will receive a background paper on shared services prior to the seminar and the seminar will also include a Mini Expo of selected organisations that work with, and support, the sector.

The seminar will provide participants with an insight into:

- The relevance of Shared Services to the sector.
- The case for change – costs and benefits of shared services arrangements and key factors to ensure success
- Experiences of Shared Services in our sector - what works and what does not!

For information and registration go to: [Shared Services Seminar](#)

For further information contact Renée Koonin,
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- **Senate Inquiry into Disclosure Regimes for Charities and other Not for Profit Organisations**

The NCOSS submission to this inquiry addressed the following five key issues:

- The definition of 'charities'
- The complexity of existing regulatory regimes
- Taxation issues
- Transparency and the compliance regimes
- Accountability

The Senate Standing Committee on Economics is expected to report in November 2008.

The full text of the NCOSS submission is @: [Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics](#)

Copies of other submissions and further information @ http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/charities_08/index.htm

Government Forms

Ever been overwhelmed by the search for relevant government forms?

Go to [GovForms](#) which lists all forms required for all Departments at all levels of government to find exactly what you need with ease.

Forms are listed by level of Government, topic and occupation and there is a search engine to help you find what you are looking for.

- **GST tips for non-profit organisations**

Australian Taxation Office- NGO GST guide

This guide is designed to provide NGOs and charities with information to help them meet their GST obligations.

Available @ <http://www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.asp?doc=/content/00161180.htm>

3. Insurance

- **Insurance and Risk Management**

People often ask, “What insurance should I have?” But this question is really the wrong way around. It’s better to ask “what are the risks involved in running our activities, what would be the consequences and likelihood of any of these risks actually happening and how can we minimize the risks that matter?”

Then you can ask, “So which risks do we need to cover with insurance?”

Find out about the “Risk Assessment Cycle” and get advice from a variety of sources that are licensed to give financial and legal advice, like your insurance broker or provider, or solicitor.

Risk Management Links:

NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation- http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/sportsclubs/ryc_risk.asp

ACT Insurance Authority - <http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/actia/Guide.doc>

Community Builders - http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/getting_organised/managing/

Chris Chappell (via Community Builders) - http://www.cichappell.com/risk_assess_by_ccics.doc

Insurance Links:

NCOSS - www.ncoss.org.au/insurance

NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation - http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/sportsclubs/ryc_risk_insur.asp

Our Community - http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance/insurance_main.jsp

For further information contact Hugh Worrall,
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