



NCOSS Sector Development e-Bulletin

February 2011

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1. Sector News and Resources

- **By the People for the People? Community Participation in Law Reform**

The Law and Justice Foundation have published a report, *By the People for the People? Community Participation in Law Reform*. The Report recommends a number of strategies to enhance the capacity of both the general public and civil society organisations to ensure the most disadvantaged are not excluded from such processes.

Read more: <http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/report/lawreform>

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- **Funding and Awards Update - January 2011**

Looking for funding for your community project? Here's a list of funding programs from federal, state and local government, as well as institutions, philanthropic trusts and businesses.

View online: <http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/>

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- **New client management system from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

In September the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) commenced developing a new data collection for homelessness: [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection](#). Now they are developing a new client management system (CMS) to help agencies collect the data they are required to submit. This new CMS will replace SMART, and this new FREE tool will also help to provide services to the clients.

For more information: phone the AIHW on 1800 627 191 or email homelessness@aihw.gov.au

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- **Moving to Modern Awards NSW Industrial Relations Workshops**

This workshop will cover the key provisions of the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services modern award with particular emphasis on those provisions which impact on the rostering of employees. Attention will also be given to the arrangements for transitioning from wage rates and penalties in the pre modern award to those in the modern award.

View online: [Moving to Modern Awards](#)

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- **National Conference on Volunteering 2011**

Volunteering Australia is pleased to announce preliminary details on the National Conference on Volunteering for 2011.

The conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from November 9th to 11th and will be a highlight of the [International Year of Volunteers Plus 10](#). The call for abstracts will be launched in late March.

View online: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/conference

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- **NCOSS Aboriginal Self Determination Forum**

The NCOSS platform for the 2011 NSW State Election, *Vote 1 Fairness in NSW*, consists of 12 key themes that we believe need to be addressed to ensure fairness in NSW. The first theme is: *The Right to Self-Determination, Autonomy and Representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*.

NCOSS is convening a forum to discuss and debate how the recommendation can be practically implemented.

When: 9.45am-1.30pm, Wednesday, 16 February 2011

Where: Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney

RSVP: by Friday, 11 February 2011 to: Wendy Hall, NCOSS email: wendy@ncoss.org.au,

Phone: 02 9211 2599 (ext 118)

View online: [Forum Flyer](#)

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- **Change, Challenge & Choice - A State Gathering of Aboriginal HACC and Related Workers**

Get in early for your opportunity to network, listen to keynote speakers on best practice and update on the new Aboriginal Policy Framework with ADHC and the Gathering Committee. The Gathering is essential for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in ADHC funded services, in Community Care and related fields to talk about the issues relating to HACC and to raise the profile of Aboriginal services in the community and the HACC sector.

When: 8-10 March 2011

Where: Novotel Wollongong, Northbeach

Cost: \$150 non-govt / \$250.00 govt

View online: [Change, Challenge & Choice Registration and Program](#)

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- **Information sheet on deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for not-for-profit (NFP) organisations**

PILCH Connect has developed a new 'frequently asked questions' information sheet on DGR status for NFPs.

View online: [DGR Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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- **Members of the NFP Sector Reform Council announced**

Minister for Social Inclusion, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, has announced the composition of the Australian Government's NFP Sector Reform Council (the Council).

The Council is made up of eminent figures from the NFP sector. To help drive the Government's plans to reform the sector, the Council will examine the scope of a national one-stop-shop regulator, provide advice on streamlining tendering and contracting processes for Government-funded NFPs, consider harmonisation of federal, state and territory laws on fundraising and support the implementation of the National Compact: *working together*.

Read more: www.dpmmc.gov.au

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- **Next Step to a National NFP Regulator**

A consultation paper on the design of a new national regulator for the NFP sector has been released and Government is seeking the views of stakeholders to determine the precise role, functions, feasibility and design options for a "one-stop shop" regulator.

Submissions close on [February 25, 2011](#). The consultation paper is available on the Treasury website.

View online: www.treasury.gov.au

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- **Do you have a job vacancy? List it on the NCOSS website**

NCOSS Community Jobs assists sector organisations and government agencies to find quality staff. It is the #1 destination for the thousands of people who visit the NCOSS site every week.

Phone 02 9211 2599 ext 115.

Contact email: jobs@ncoss.org.au

View on-line: www.ncoss.org.au/jobs

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2. Management Support Unit (MSU)

- **Resources for Good Governance**

This Management Support Unit new resource provides suggestions, templates and additional information on internet-based resources for developing and maintaining good governance.

Download: [Resources for Good Governance](#)

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- **Improving probity standards for funded organisations - NSW Ombudsman report to Parliament on probity**

This report considers the adequacy of probity checking standards for non-government organisations funded by Government in the health and human services sectors. In particular, the report focuses on the inconsistency of requirements relating to probity checking of prospective employees, board members and others involved in the planning or delivery of funded services to vulnerable people.

Download: [Improving probity standards for funded organisations](#)

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3. Insurance

- **Association Liability Insurance – Information Sheet**

The effectiveness of a NFP organisation is very much dependent on the effectiveness of its voluntary board. A board position carries significant obligations and duties and it is important to attract the right people for the job. Sometimes, however, things can go wrong. A responsible organisation will have in place strategies to protect the organisation and the board for when someone makes a mistake. Association liability insurance is one of these strategies.

View online: [Association Liability Insurance - Who Needs It?](#)

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- **NSW Floods - Free Legal Assistance in making insurance claims**

NSW Attorney General has urged flood victims across NSW to seek free legal help to make insurance claims.

Download: [The NSW Government press release](#)

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- **Legal Aid NSW Booklet and Fact Sheet**

Legal Aid NSW has two publications which may help people to understand their insurance situation and help them through the claims process.

Download: [The booklet *Turning the Tide – Storms, Floods, Insurance and You*](#) – A guide to getting your insurance claim paid

Download: [The fact sheet *Storms, Floods, Insurance and You*](#) – A guide to getting your insurance claim paid

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For further information on insurance issues contact:

Liz Shreeve, NCOSS Community Cover Senior Project Officer (Mon, Tues)

E-mail: insurance@ncoss.org.au

Phone: 92112599 ext: 126

Website: www.ncoss.org.au/insurance

4. Information Communication Technology (ICT)

- **Proposed whole of government ICT services panel**

This paper outlines the Australian Government's current Information and Communication Technology services panel situation and proposes a new model.

View online: [Discussion Paper](#)

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- **Comparing Open Source Content Management Systems: WordPress, Joomla, Drupal and Plone**

This fully revised in December 2010 report from Idealware is comparing four free and open source content management systems -- WordPress, Joomla, Drupal, and Plone.

Download: [Comparing Open Source Content Management Systems \(7,7MB\)](#)

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5. Quality Assurance and Risk Management

- **New project at NCOSS in Quality Assurance and Risk Management**

NCOSS is undertaking research on the various risk management and quality assurance frameworks used by NSW human services agencies and required of funded NGOs. This short term project aims to inform the development of a generic framework that works across agencies and programs. The project will also focus on developing resources and promoting awareness of risk and quality issues within the sector

Further details:

Janette Prichard (Mon- Thurs), Senior Project Officer (Quality Assurance & Risk Management)

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Website: www.ncoss.org.au/sd

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