



Edition 3/2003

Welcome to the March edition of ***Our Community Matters***, our regular free community update. It is yet another benefit of membership of www.ourcommunity.com.au - the premier destination for Australia's 700,000 community, education and non-profit groups. ourcommunity.com.au provides community groups with the latest funding, scholarship and fundraising news as well as practical advice and the opportunity to list for free online donations and free online volunteers through the **National Community Giving Centre**.

We also provide discounted services and products, including the **banking services deal** with the National Australia Bank which provides transaction accounts specifically tailored for community groups.

A summary of our services is listed at the end of this newsletter. If you have trouble reading this newsletter or have any comments please let us know at brianw@ourcommunity.com.au.

In this Issue

Contents

- 1. Welcome from Rhonda Galbally, CEO of ourcommunity.com.au.**
- 2. News Flash - Overwhelming Demand results in move to bigger venue for Communities in Control conference.**
- 3. New office supplies deal to assist community and non-profit groups.**
- 4. National Community Giving Centre now gives people more options to help their community groups.**
- 5. New research shows community groups continue to increase the level of technology use.**
- 6. Common database of brokers and insurers offering public liability insurance.**
- 7. Research shows tax deductible donations up but wide variation in State by State breakdowns.**
- 8. New national partnership of religious and ethnic communities formed.**
- 9. Community briefs.**
- 10. Products and Services**
- 11. Fast Forward.**

1. Welcome from Rhonda Galbally AO, CEO of ourcommunity.com.au.

Welcome,

The last month has been one of the busiest I have experienced at Our Community. As you will read the **Communities in Control** conference has exploded and we are now expecting 1000 participants.

The importance of strong local communities and the support for Australia's 700,000 community groups is even more important given the present war in Iraq. At times like this people focus on what really counts in their life and the reality is it is the strong network of families, friends and communities. We do need strong communities and the best way to build them is to build strong community groups.

Despite the preparations of the conference, the last month has also provided the opportunity to meet some great organisations and participate in some important events.

One organisation was SCOPE - the old Spastic Society. The CEO, Vicki Funnell has overseen a major transformation of the image, programs and thereby the reputation of SCOPE. She has adopted the "change not charity" dictum, dropping the Miss Australia quest. The changes are reflected in the new name that connotes strength and achievement and the transformation has been reflected in the production of a wonderful annual report that really does reflect the ability, decision-making and empowering of the consumers of SCOPE's services. To top off all of the changes, Vicki has raised more funds not less by dropping the highly stigmatised name and going with the SCOPE.

Another highlight of the last month was the chance to work with State Trustees on a new staff granting program. Similar to SCOPE, this was a very heartening series of meetings because in line with community integration, State Trustees is changing its approach completely from a charity to a community focus. It is allocating funds for grants to community groups that are making a difference by including older people and people with disabilities in integrated community activities. Staff will hunt up great projects, respond to applications and advise on grants.

I was also honoured to be asked to speak to the Australian Public Sector celebration for International Women's Day. Over 350 women and men came to celebrate this important day. I emphasised the need to keep the activism of feminism alive as well as the celebration as we still have a long way to go. This isn't to belittle the enormous achievements from the second feminist wave that started with women chaining themselves to the Arbitration Commission in the late sixties to highlight the injustice of inequality of pay for work of equal value. Over 30 years later there is still a lot left to achieve for women's equal participation in society, including sufficient childcare places for women to be able to work at all. While childcare is no longer personally relevant to me as my child is 30, this and paid maternity leave are issues that are of enormous concern to me as they must be to all Australians. After all, at the end of our days, children are the collective future of our society.

Building on the theme of women's struggles and picking up the broader issues of diversity was the task before a group of government bureaucrats. This allowed the opportunity to think about the lessons learned and the gains that have been made in a variety of diverse struggles in Australia. During the preparation, I kept coming back to the same core issues. From the disability, indigenous and the cultural rights movements we ought to have learned by now that self-help and community-controlled groups are incredibly important and, further, that they must be allowed and encouraged to advocate for rights - of indigenous people, people with disabilities, people from different cultures and many other groups from diverse backgrounds. Many of these groups are still in positions of gross disadvantage and the only ray of hope that we have seen over the last 20 years has been from the vision and voices of indigenous, cultural and disabled people themselves. They have pioneered, challenged and rejected patronising charity-based models and - most of all - they have advocated for rights.

I concluded the address by making the following suggestions:

1. Ensure that funding is directed to communities, groups and projects that enable the groups themselves to be in control of their own priority setting and decisions. Do not adopt funding arrangements that control groups and tell them what they can do and cannot - this is fundamental to trust - a core tenet of social capital.
2. Examine the impact of the purchaser provider, competitive tendering, privatisation and other policies for their contribution to the weakening of community controlled organisations - the big are

getting bigger, while the small community-controlled groups are unable to compete within the highly competitive boundaries of these funding arrangements.

3. Accept advocacy as a core task for community groups. Advocacy is key to a dynamic and healthy democracy and community groups should be strongly advocating for their issues and for human rights – this is core to democratic political policy development between elections. Governments must allow community groups to bite their hands as they fund the groups; paradoxically this is one of the most practical contributions to the development of social capital that is almost always overlooked because of intolerance about diversity of opinion as well as intolerance of diversity itself.
4. Encourage every public servant to join the board or committee of a community-controlled group – these groups are often local and find it hard to get board members. Public servants would contribute skills and capacity needed by local community boards. This is a valuable volunteering contribution because it is participatory and ongoing and connected and not just a token one-off effort.
5. Connect work and family balance policies with the encouragement of staff participating in community groups as 'shoulder-to-shoulder' ordinary members. This develops a sense of equality and engagement contrasting with a volunteering model which sometimes encourages separation and charity.

The last event that had a major impact on me over the last month was at the small end of the community sector when I spoke to my uncle's Probus Club. I do not usually speak at individual Probus club like events as there are thousands across Australia, but this one was special because it was my mum's older brother. I had been doing a lot of thinking about the reality of community-controlled groups as the engines of social capital and at the Probus club I saw it in action. Here was a group that ran on participation, equality - everyone could make a contribution and democracy- everyone had a voice. These clubs and other similar networks operate all over the country- they are one network that makes up the hundreds of thousands of small, local groups offering people a chance to join up and gain a sense of belonging.

For many people in Probus and other community networks families do not exist – members live alone (along with a third of Australians); members may be retired or they may be unemployed – and the community groups – whether hobby clubs, tree planting groups, choirs, sport groups, adult learning, or self help groups - all offer the most important chance; that is to belong.

RHONDA GALBALLY
Chief Executive Officer

[Back to Top](#)

2. News Flash - Strong Demand results in move to bigger venue for Communities in Control conference.

While there is incredible uncertainty in the world at the moment, the one certainty is the importance of community groups, judging by the massive response to the ***Communities in Control: Giving Voice – and support - to grass roots community and non-profit groups*** conference on April 7-8.

The response has been so strong that we sold out the original venue in just a couple of weeks and have now taken the decision to move the conference to a bigger venue that can accommodate all the people that want to attend. To give you an idea of the strength of interest, we originally planned for about 300-400 attendees but now expect more than 1000 people to attend, including about a third of participants coming from interstate.

Not only has the interest been extremely strong from community groups but also from policymakers at all levels of Government as well as a strong representation from community program managers at many of our larger corporations. It certainly is a strong endorsement of the importance of communities and the theme of involving all tiers of commitment in ensuring local communities remain in control.

The conference will now be held at the bigger venue:

Moonee Valley Racing Club
Members Gate 1
McPherson Street
Moonee Ponds
Melway reference 29 A7

Co-convenors, Rhonda Galbally, CEO of Our Community, and Fr Joe Caddy from Catholic Social Services said the response had been astonishing.

Letters are on the way to everyone who has registered, informing them of the change of venue and also accommodation options closer to the new venue which is about eight kilometres from the centre of Melbourne and easily accessible by car, train, tram and bus. For those who have already booked near the original venue at Darebin, you can email Kate Caldecott for advice on transport options to get to Moonee Valley.

The new venue will not only allow for more people to attend but will also make it easier to accommodate the larger numbers in the eight workshops being held on the Tuesday morning. For those who haven't yet responded and are interested in attending the **Communities in Control: Giving Voice – and support - to grass roots community and non-profit groups** conference, you can download the entire conference program and order form by [clicking here](#).

Speakers at the conference which is being co-convened by Our Community and Catholic Social Services, include:

- **EMERITUS PROFESSOR LEN SYME**, School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Syme will discuss the topic: *"Returning Results: is it better to invest in strengthening communities or persuading individuals to give up smoking?"*
- **PROFESSOR LISA BERKMAN**, Professor of Public Policy and Epidemiology and Chair of the Department of Health and Social Behavior at Harvard School of Public Health. Professor Berkman will speak on: *"The elixir of life: Why strong communities hold the secret to living longer and better."*
- **The Hon. AMANDA VANSTONE**, Federal Minister for Family and Community Services
- **The Hon John Thwaites**, Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Victorian Communities.
- **PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY, AC**, the 2003 Australian of the Year and CEO, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.
- **SIR GUSTAV NOSSAL AC, CBE**, one of Australia's most eminent community leaders, a former Australian of the Year, and world-renowned authority on immunisation and health.
- **The Hon. BRONWYN PIKE**, Victorian Minister for Health
- **STEPHEN MAYNE**, Founder crikey.com.au

Len Syme and Lisa Berkman are appearing as the inaugural Pratt Foundation Fellows, thanks to the generous support of the Pratt Foundation.

In the letters that have gone out, attendees have been asked to select from one of the following workshops to be held on the Tuesday morning at 10.30am. While we will endeavour at some stage to provide some summaries of the various workshops, we encourage people to network among themselves and arrange to swap notes from those attending workshops that interest them most.

Just to remind you, the workshops are:

10.30 - 1.00pm: WORKSHOPS - CORE TOOLS AND IDENTIFYING THE TOP ISSUES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL.

1. Funds and how to find them, including grants for communities in control

Facilitator Dr Wayne Clarke, CEO, Fundraising Institute of Australia
Di Clark, Development Manager, Brotherhood of St Laurence
Kate Caldecott, Director Marketing, Our Community.

2. How to create vital dynamic boards, school councils, and productive board / staff relationships for communities in control

Facilitator Sue Christophers, General Manager, Adult Community Further Education
Norma Marshall, Director, Crown Land Management, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Vic
Pam Russell, Educational Consultant, Process and Change Management.

3. Social Justice and Community Control

Facilitator Cath Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Social Service
Sam Biondo, Community Development Officer, Fitzroy Legal Service
Christa Momot, Executive Officer, Reichstein Foundation.

4. Research, evaluation and measuring the impacts of communities in control

Facilitator Terry Jackson, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Centre for Health Program Evaluation

Yoland Wadsworth, Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology
Marilyn Webster, Manager, Social Policy and Research Unit, Good Shepherd.

5. Diverse Communities in Control

Facilitator Hass Dellal OAM, Australian Multicultural Foundation

Kenny Bedford, Wongai Torres Strait Islander Association;

Marion Lau, Chairperson, Ethnic Communities Council of Australia

Margherita Coppolino, Diversity Consultant.

6. Advocating for communities to gain control and communities in control advocating for the rights of community members

Facilitator Margaret Bell AM, President, Chain Reaction Foundation

Keran Howe, Chair, Disability Advisory Council of Victoria

Darren Godwell, Lumbu Indigenous Community Foundation

Father Peter Norden, Policy Director, Jesuit Social Services.

7. Communities in Control in Practice

Facilitator Kaye Owen, Director, Office of Rural Communities

Colleen Pearce, Director Uniting Care

Liz Chapman, Chair, Benalla Community Foundation

Petra Hilsen, Director, East Melbourne Childcare Cooperative.

8. Communication, marketing and media for Communities in Control

Facilitator Aileen Berry, Publisher, News Limited

David Meltzer, President, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

Wendy McCleod, Head of Regional Services, ABC Radio.

Brian Walsh, Director of Media and Communications, Our Community

People are being asked to list their preferences and hopefully we will be able to accommodate as many people as possible in their preferred workshop. While we will endeavour at some stage to provide some summaries of the various workshops, we encourage people to network among themselves and arrange to swap notes from those attending workshops that interest them most.

For more information on the conference or a brochure please call (03) 9320 6800 or email service@ourcommunity.com.au or visit www.ourcommunity.com.au to download a brochure.

[Back to Top](#)

3. New office supplies deal to assist community and non-profit groups.

Community groups trying to cut their expenses can benefit from the latest alliance between Our Community and Corporate Express, Australia's leading supplier of office supplies and equipment.

The alliance will enable all 700,000 community groups across Australia access to discounted stationery and office supplies across Corporate Express' huge product range.

Under the terms of the partnership, community groups will have access to special corporate rates that would not normally be available to smaller groups.

"This is exactly the kind of offer that every major corporation should be providing for Australia's community groups" said Rhonda Galbally, CEO, of Our Community.

"In this way every community group regardless of size can "win" rather than the lucky few who gain sponsorships or receive grants. Grant Harrod and his team at Corporate Express should be congratulated on the foresight of this initiative.

Mr Harrod, CEO of Corporate Express, said: "At Corporate Express we firmly believe we have an obligation to contribute to the well being of Australian society but not only is this a great community

initiative for us it makes great business sense. This sector spends \$56 billion annually and if we can increase our market share in this sector it will lead to benefits all round."

Community groups across Australia, big or small, in metropolitan, regional or rural areas, will have the ability to order on the Internet, by fax or phone and, in most cases, be able to receive their orders next day.

Corporate Express and ourcommunity.com.au will also be developing a series of monthly specials that will be highlighted on the ourcommunity website and newsletters.

Ms Galbally also advised that ourcommunity would also be developing a series of Help Sheets with tips on better purchasing behaviour and ways to reduce wastage.

All community organisations, ranging from bigger organisations such as schools, neighbourhood houses, sporting associations, museums, community hospitals, support networks to the smallest groups can benefit from the Corporate Express offer that covers everything from stationery, office equipment, catering and washroom supplies, business furniture, personal computers, notebooks and IT requirements, and promotional marketing equipment. (For an extended list visit the **Community Marketplace**.)

To access this special offer all groups need to do is open an account with Corporate Express. This can be done by downloading and filling in the account form from the ourcommunity.com.au site at the **Community Marketplace**. Once the account form has been processed (ensure you put "REF- ORC" on the top of the faxed account form to ensure special pricing), you will be provided with a login and password enabling you to order your supplies online.

If groups have any problems they can call Corporate Express on (03) 9279 6555 OR email Nicole at **Nicole.evans@ce.com.au** or email Patrick Moriarty at **patrickm@ourcommunity.com.au**.

Back to Top

4. National Community Giving Centre now gives people more options to help their community groups

We have now introduced some major changes to the **National Community Giving Centre (proudly supported by the National Australia Bank)** to provide more options for members of the general public wanting to support their community and non-profit organisations.

On the volunteering side, Our Community will now directly link with the Go Volunteer site run by Volunteering Australia to ensure the widest possible pool of volunteers for community organisations to draw support from. We believe the combined resources of Our Community and Volunteering Australia offers greater opportunities for community groups to source volunteers for their activities. **Click here** to see the link.

We thank Sha Cordingly and the staff at Volunteering Australia for their enthusiastic support and look forward to a partnership that will be of great benefit to all of the community organisations seeking volunteers for special projects and ongoing activities.

As well as the online donations service which has so far seen over \$200,000 collected for community organisations around Australia, ranging in size from major organisations to minor one-person operations, we have now added some further innovations to the National Community Giving Centre to widen the definition of giving. There are more features to come over the next 6-8 weeks but the new features include:

- **Giving Computers.** A central listing of all those organisations around the country that take in unwanted or superseded computers and refurbish them for community organisations. **CLICK HERE TO VIEW.**
- **Giving Blood.** A resource detailing all the information for donating blood to the Red Cross Blood Banks across Australia. **CLICK HERE TO VIEW.**
- **Giving to Family and Friends.** Some tips for individuals and workplaces on keeping a strong family/work/community balance in any giving strategies. **CLICK HERE TO VIEW.**

- **Tips on Giving Wisely.** Some tips to help members of the public to decide on how and where to donate money and to evaluate the groups they would like to support. It is part of the commitment to increase the level of donor knowledge, awareness and commitment. [**CLICK HERE TO VIEW.**](#)
- **Giving in an Emergency.** We will add emergency appeals as necessity demands. [**CLICK HERE TO VIEW.**](#)

As a way of finding out more about the giving habits of Australians and the reasons why they support particular groups and what influences their giving decisions we have also set up an online giving survey - similar in style to the successful survey we ran last year on the public liability insurance survey where over 1000 community groups took part.

As well as asking donors why they give, the survey is also asking people for information on their

- donation habits
- what prompts people to give
- what influences people to give
- what types of groups do people prefer to support
- what methods do people use to give
- Total and Average amounts etc

To view or to take part in the Giving Survey visit the National Community Giving Centre or [**CLICK HERE.**](#) The results will be published in a future edition of Our Community Matters and then we will have a base to measure the changes year on year.

This initiative firmly places Our Community and the National Community Giving Centre as the place to visit for those seeking to help out, be it in their workplace, as a family unit or in an individual sense.

[**Back to Top**](#)

5. New research shows community groups continue to increase the level of technology use.

THE number of community groups with internet access continues to grow according to a major study by a research team at the Monash University Centre for Community Networking Research.

The research team found that while the number of organisations that used computers remained fairly steady at 97.1 per cent, there was a massive increase in the number of groups that were connected to the Internet. The study showed that some 89.7 per cent of groups now had Internet access compared to just 38 per cent when ACOSS ran the first study on technology use in the community sector in 1996.

The Centre for Community Networking Research interviewed 923 representatives of community organisations that were selected at random from the Yellow Pages and the ourcommunity directory of organisations. The survey aimed to collect some base data about the uptake of communication and information technologies, and to provide information on the how well third sector organisations thought they were using those technologies to meet their needs.

The researchers also found that the proportion of community organisations now publishing a website had risen to 61 per cent although there was a large disparity between city-based groups (73.2 per cent) compared to groups outside capital cities (45.6 per cent).

Other major findings of the study included:

- People were generally satisfied with the value of Internet use. About 76.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that current Internet use was meeting the organisation's needs, rising to 85.6% when considering the situation a year into the future.
- Satisfaction with websites was much lower with only 55.8% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the organisation's Web site was meeting its needs.
- Barriers to take-up of Internet access related more to cost and organisational priorities than the technology or infrastructure required. Some 39.3% of respondents reported cost as a significant barrier in their take-up of Internet access while only 2.3% said either security or the speed of available connections were an issue.
- 50% of those who reported not having access indicated that they thought Internet access was not suited to the nature of their organisation.

- When it came to reasons for not publishing a Web site, 28.7% reported lack of skills as a significant barrier, 24.3% nominated cost while 35.7% reported that web publishing was not suited to their organisation's needs.
- Only 49.1% of the smallest organisations published Web sites as opposed to 77.6% of the largest organisations (those with over \$1m in revenue).
- The only significant differences by sector occur in the area of Web site publishing. When analysed by sector, the data shows that the sectors with the lowest proportion of published sites are in organisations connected with education (54% have sites), religion (56.6%), community/welfare (58.5%) and sport/recreation (60.8%).
- When asked what the organisation accessed the Internet for the replies were: Email (98.3%), Information searches (93.3%), Access to government services (73.8%), Banking (48.7%), Ordering goods and services (47.7%).

[Back to Top](#)

6. Common database of brokers and insurers offering public liability insurance.

After fielding calls from community groups from around the country, we have now added a new section to the Our Community Insurance and Risk Management Centre.

The latest feature is a listing of some of the various insurance companies or brokers in each state and territory that are offering public liability insurance cover for community and non-profit groups.

While the list is not an endorsement or recommendation of the brokers and insurers, it is a listing of those that have been actively providing policies for groups and at least acts as a starting point for groups who are struggling to find insurance cover or who are looking for alternatives.

Unfortunately while the public liability insurance dilemma may have gone quiet (as have some of the major insurers after reporting massive increases in profits over the past year), the issue is far from dead and still requires quite a bit of work from the Federal and State Governments to ensure community groups remain protected after the next financial year.

For people looking for possible public liability insurance brokers in their state or territory click below:

- **Australian Capital Territory. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **New South Wales. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Northern Territory. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Queensland. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **South Australia. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Tasmania. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Victoria. [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Western Australia. [CLICK HERE](#)**

We have now added to the Community Insurance and Risk Management Centre some information on volunteer insurance providers and also stall holders insurance as well.

Just a word of warning for groups seeking insurance. There are some brokers who are offering cover to community groups that is provided by an unauthorised insurer. This means that they are not authorised insurers under Australian law and are therefore not subject to the same level of prudential regulation as authorised insurers.

Current legislation (Insurance (Agents and Brokers) Act 1984) allows insurance brokers or registered foreign insurance agents to offer and provide consumers with access to insurance products sourced from foreign insurers who are not authorised insurers under Australian law. In these instances legislation also requires that the insurance broker or foreign agent provide the consumer with appropriate notification and disclosure regarding the placement of business with such a foreign insurer.

A list of all companies authorised to conduct insurance business in Australia appears on APRA's website at **www.apra.gov.au**. The APRA call centre on 1300 131060 can answer queries about the license status of individual companies.

[Back to Top](#)

7. Research shows tax deductible donations up but wide variation in State by State breakdowns.

THE latest research of donations to tax-deductible charities has shown that giving rose by 11 per cent to \$703 million in the 1999-2000 financial year.

The study by Professor Myles McGregor-Lowndes from the Centre for Philanthropy and Non-Profit Studies at Queensland University of Technology was based on tax claims for gifts to those charities with tax-deductible registration. Only about 18,000 of Australia's 700,000 community organisations currently enjoy DGR status.

The research, released at the Philanthropy Australia conference, showed the average gift claimed was \$210 but with some regional differences in the amounts claimed around Australia as well as a difference in the percentage of taxpayers who claimed deductions. NSW taxpayers were the highest givers with an average donation of \$258.11 while those living in the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of taxpayers making donations with 35.8 per cent.

The State by State Breakdown:

Tax Deductible Donations (State by State breakdown)	% of taxpayers making donations	Average donation in dollars
Australian Capital Territory	39.7	\$245.08
New South Wales	33.2	\$258.11
Northern Territory	27.0	\$141.50
Queensland	30.4	\$166.32
South Australia	34.8	\$170.48
Tasmania	29.6	\$159.59
Victoria	35.8	\$199.77
Western Australia	29.3	\$185.62

[Back to Top](#)

8. New national partnership of religious and ethnic communities formed.

A new national partnership of most of the country's largest and most influential peak religious and ethnic community associations has been formed.

The Chairman of Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, Mr Abd Malak, has announced that the new collaboration, calling itself Australian Partnership of Ethnic and Religious Organisations (APERRO) was set up to promote the values of multiculturalism and community harmony.

"At this time in Australia's history, when we are living in a climate of world conflict caused by religious, racial and nationalistic fervour, many in our society are feeling threatened. This sense of threat is putting social stability in danger. We must do all we can to foster and maintain community harmony because it is one of Australia's greatest assets." Mr Malak said.

"Australian multiculturalism has been a vital force in preserving and enriching the cultural, religious, economic and social life of our country – it is an invaluable resource that we should all be proud of, indeed, it is a value system that we should promote to the rest of the world, particularly in times of conflict."

Thirteen national religious and ethnic organisations have formed a new partnership to promote the Australian values of multiculturalism, community harmony, social justice and the rejection of discrimination. Mr Malak said the partner organisations maintain these four values are intimately enmeshed. Harmonious and productive life in Australia in the 21st Century can only be understood and

progressed through an unambiguous commitment to all of these values by governments and communities together.

Australian Partnership of Ethnic and Religious Organisations (APERRO), comprises the following foundation members:

- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia Inc (FECCA)
- Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC)
- National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)
- Executive Council of Australia Jewry (ECAJ)
- Australian Baha'i Community
- Buddhist Council of NSW
- Sikh Association of Sydney
- Council for a Multicultural Australia (CMA)
- Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF)
- Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES)
- Federation of African Communities Councils (FACC)
- Chinese Australian National Get-Together
- National Council of Migrant Resource Centres and Migrant Service Agencies

The Partnership is being set up with the purpose of promoting community harmony through its various networks, sharing and debating issues of concern between communities, and providing strategic advice to government. The Partnership has issued a joint Statement of Values which can be read at <http://www.fecca.org.au/fmedia.html>.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Community briefs

Changes to the Funding page

In recent weeks we have been making considerable enhancements and expansions to the ourcommunity.com.au site and have a number of other exciting initiatives which will be unveiled over the next couple of weeks.

One thing we are doing in the next week is uploading the list of grant writers or consultants that are available to assist community organisations with putting together an application. Most groups put together their own applications but some organisations lack either the time or the resources to do so and instead seek some professional help - or assistance from willing community leaders that have had a bit of success themselves and prepared to pass that knowledge onto others.

We will not list costs (where applicable) but suggest that if groups are seeking to use any of the grantwriters or consultants listed, they ask for examples of previous clients and seek references from other community groups people have worked with as well as establishing up-front the costs.

We have sent out a proforma to those people who responded to our call last year for grantwriters. Given that this newsletter now goes to about twice as many groups as it did last year, anyone who didn't reply last year can fill in the following details and send it back to Brian Walsh at brianw@ourcommunity.com.au.

We will then attach the details to a link that will now run off the front of the main **[Community Funding Centre](#)** home page.

Testimonials.

We have had a surge in subscriptions for our Raising Funds newsletter from groups who already subscribe to the Easy Grants newsletter and are looking for other strategies to improve their fundraising efforts.

For those who haven't yet received Raising Funds, maybe this letter from one of our subscribers, Rosemary Crossley from DEAL, shows why the \$45 subscription for more than 200 pages each year of good advice, strategies and ideas is such a good investment for groups.

"We read in your Raising Funds newsletters the piece about Microsoft's offer of free software for non-profits, including those groups providing human services for disadvantaged groups or individuals.

"When we went to the site it said: "At Microsoft we believe that if you provide people with the resources they need they can accomplish great things. The Community Assistance Initiative (CAI) program provides software and technical support to registered non-profit organisations throughout Australia ...

"This seemed just too good to be true, but eventually we said "Well, what do we have to lose?" and sent in an application."

"Last month Microsoft came through in a big way, sending us out software with a sticker price of well over ten thousand dollars. Thanks, Microsoft! Thanks, Ourcommunity! I calculate that that should cover our newsletter costs for about 250 years. "

Rosemary Crossley

DEAL

The Microsoft comes on top of the \$10,000 DEAL previously received in a Mercy Foundation grant they found out about after reading it in the Easy Grants newsletter.

If you are interested in what other groups have had to say about their successes with using the **Easy Grants** and **Raising Funds** newsletters. We have now started adding a few of them to a new Testimonials page on the www.ourcommunity.com.au site.

CLICK HERE to read the testimonials from other community organisations.

Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly takes off

As well as wide interest among Federal, State and Local Government grantmakers as well as those from the corporate and philanthropic sectors, we have had a number of major community organisations sign up for our latest publication, **Australian Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly**, citing the reason as a good way of keeping abreast of what the grantmaking community is doing.

The interest from the local government grantmaking community has been very strong, indicating the great importance local councils are now attaching to their community grants programs.

Here is a summary of some of the subjects in our second edition. Others include:

- For Good Measure - Good. Better. Best. How independent evaluation lifts the bar for grantmakers.
- A Social (Ad)Venture - Taking a grantmaking idea from conception to competition.
- The top 25 givers - Confirming the biggest Philanthropic grantmakers in Australia and the United States.
- Point Click and Grant - Putting application forms online.
- Riding to the Rescue - Identifying when a grant is in trouble and tips on what to do next.
- Grants Review strikes good form - "One Government" grantmaking moves a step closer to reality.
- Guarding against the Threat of Fraud - How clear policies and procedures help grantmakers prevent abuse.
- Small or large grants and How to Say No nicely - We ask the grantmakers how it's done.
- Drawing the lines on grassroots grantmaking - Local councils find improved results through improving the process.
- Overcoming the Relationship Hurdle - How to turn a grant payment into a meaningful partnership.

For a fuller rundown of the content, you can **CLICK HERE** or call (03) 9320 6800 or email service@ourcommunity.com.au to subscribe.

And don't forget.....

Taping for the weekly radio spots on community radio have begun again so if you think your group has something that other groups could benefit from and would like to pass the learning onto other groups, please let us know at brianw@ourcommunity.com.au.

The interviews are played weekly on the Community Broadcasting Association's satellite network which can be downloaded for use by any of the Association's 140-odd stations around the country.

We are also now finalising the system where the interviews will be able to be heard online on the www.ourcommunity.com.au site so you will be able to link directly from your own websites or emails directly to your interview on the ourcommunity site.

[Back to Top](#)

10. Products and Services

To all those who have received a copy of OC Matters passed on by one of our members and are unsure of our services, here is some basic information. We provide three main newsletters designed to assist community, education and non-profit groups:

The Easy Grants newsletter and Education Service provides a monthly summary of all grants available in your state/territory - philanthropic, corporate, state, and federal government. Click on <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/1/sample.pdf> for a recent sample of an Easy Grants newsletter - only \$45 a year (community group price) which includes year-round access to search our extensive grants database. To subscribe visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_main.jsp

The Raising Funds newsletter provides a monthly resource on the latest fund-raising tools and techniques from running special events to innovative ideas to find money. A sample of the Raising Funds newsletter - which costs just \$45 per year (community group price) for 12 monthly issues can be found by clicking <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/4/sample.pdf>. To subscribe visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/fundraising_main.jsp.

The Scholarship Alert newsletter provides a monthly summary of all scholarships, awards and fellowships in your state/territory. Click on <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/newsletter/3/sample.pdf> for a recent sample newsletter. Scholarship Alert costs just \$45 (community group price) for 12 monthly issues plus year-round access to search our extensive scholarships database. To subscribe visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/scholarship_main.jsp.

The Busigrants newsletter is a perfect tool for businesses and social enterprises looking to access the hundreds of millions of dollars in business grants available to emerging and expanding businesses. The monthly Busigrants newsletter contains a summary of Federal and State Government grants funding programs as well as relevant industry awards. Perfect for any enterprise looking for assistance to expand markets or to develop new goods and services. Busigrants costs just \$195 for 12 monthly issues delivered direct to your computer screen. To view a sample of Busigrants lick on <http://www.busigrants.com.au/busigrants/sample.jsp> or to subscribe click on <https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/busigrants/sub.jsp>.

The **Australian Best Practice Grantmaking Quarterly Newsletter** has been developed for grantmakers at all levels - Federal, State and local Government, philanthropic and corporate foundations and providers of scholarships. Highlighting issues and best practice examples across the grantmaking process from selection, administration, evaluations and accountability to marketing and using technology, this innovative and economical resource is essential for every government agency, philanthropic organisation or Private grantmaker. For subscription details and a summary of the first newsletter click on http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/article/view_news.do?articleid=381.

To subscribe to any of these newsletters Click here or e-mail info@ourcommunity.com.au or call us on (03) 9320 6800.

And don't forget our series of low-cost guidebooks, including:

How To: Find Money Fast - 50 Great Ideas to raise up to \$5000. This popular and practical guide gives you 50 ideas to raise money as well as providing handy advice on staging special events and setting up your own fundraising strategy. Great ideas and Great value. For more information on **How To: Find Money Fast - 50 Great Ideas to raise up to \$5000** visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/view_help_sheet.do?articleid=220

You can also purchase **How to win a Philanthropic Grant.**

For more information visit

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/view_help_sheet.do?articleid=56

ourcommunity.com.au also offers a free online donations and a free online volunteer service. For details visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/giving/giving_main.jsp

As mentioned earlier, www.ourcommunity.com.au has formed an alliance with National Australia Bank to introduce the first suite of tailored financial products for community groups. To find out more visit the Community Financial Centre at http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/financial/financial_main.jsp. The Financial Centre contains details of the National's community accounts as well as Help Sheets on reducing fees.

A recent addition to www.ourcommunity.com.au is the National Insurance Centre where we have Help Sheets on reducing risk and the latest news on the insurance issue. You can also register your interest in being part of a pooled insurance scheme to try and reduce the cost of insurance premiums. Visit the Insurance Centre at http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance/insurance_main.jsp.

We have also joined with ACER computers to provide a low-cost, high-quality computer deal for community, education and non-profit groups and their members with personal computers starting from just \$1499. Visit http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/tech/hardware_packages.do for details.

And don't forget our Management Centre where we have over 100 free Help Sheets on various aspects of running a community group.

11. Fast Forward.

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send this newsletter onto your friends and fellow community groups in your area. We would also like your input into this newsletter.

If you have any thoughts or any issues you would like addressed we would appreciate hearing from you. You can send your comments to brianw@ourcommunity.com.au or call (03) 9320 6813.

If you have received a grant or scholarship found on our database or successfully adapted the Raising Funds newsletter, let us know.

We now have button logos for those groups who want to set up links to ourcommunity.com.au from their own websites. You can find them on the media Centre. Just visit

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/article/view_image_list.do and right click your mouse on the image you want and then click on SAVE to your own computer. If you have any problems just contact brianw@ourcommunity.com.au or call (03) 9320 6813.

We also have brochures for any associations who want to mail out to their member groups and let them know about our products and services. Just let us know and we will be happy to supply.

If you would like to reproduce anything in this newsletter in your own group/association newsletters or websites, you are free to do so. Please just add a small credit line, "courtesy of www.ourcommunity.com.au".

[Back to Top](#)