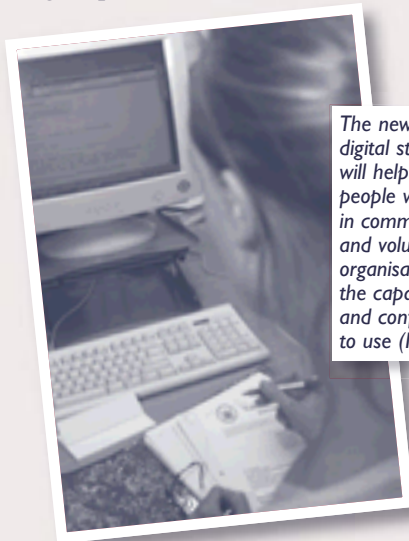




## Digital Strategy To Have Far-Reaching Effects

The new digital strategy announced as part of Budget 2005 will have far-reaching effects for community groups.

The initiative aims to bring better technology to community groups, schools, businesses and cultural groups.



*The new digital strategy will help give people working in community and voluntary organisations the capability and confidence to use (ICT).*

It is also about giving people working in these organisations the capability and confidence to use Information Communications Technology (ICT).

Around \$40 million of contestable funding will be available over four years for communities and partnerships with local government, economic development agencies and private business.

The Community Partnership fund – \$18.4 million of seed funding – will improve people's ICT skills, map community assets, identify gaps in ICT capability and strengthen community projects through the use of ICT.

One way of improving the ICT capability of community groups is through the \$21.3 million Broadband Challenge fund which will make faster and more efficient internet connections available to more groups.

The first call for the Community Partnership Fund and Broadband Challenge proposals will be issued by September 2005.

Also of interest to community groups is the Cultural Portal which will provide a common access point for government cultural agencies, government-funded cultural organisations and private sector and community-based cultural entities. The first stage of this project is to build a web portal to give a common access point to arts, culture and heritage information.

A Digital Strategy Advisory Group was established in July consisting of people from business, the community and government. It will provide advice on contestable funding criteria.

*More information is available at [www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz](http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz)*

## Forums For Funders

Capacity building for community and voluntary sector organisations was the theme of a recent funders forum organised by Philanthropy New Zealand (PNZ).

The Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) new Deputy Chief Executive for Social Development Policy and Knowledge Marcel Lauzière, spoke about his experience in Canada as a researcher and voluntary sector leader. He said limited funding for core operating costs and relatively easy access to project funding had been an issue in Canada. He outlined challenges for government, for the community and voluntary sector and for philanthropists in New Zealand in working together.

Trust Waikato's Chief Executive Officer Ken Gordon said philanthropic funders needed to be aware of their own values and to innovate.

Visiting Canadian Carol Lukas, author of several books on capacity building in the non-government organisation sector, emphasised that capacity building must be developed with communities rather than imposed on them.

Bev Gatenby from Social Services Waikato, an organisation providing capacity building services, said the community and voluntary sector should play a leadership role in its own capacity building.

MSD's Stephen Blyth outlined research findings on community needs for capacity building.

PNZ Chair Jennifer Gill noted that the JR McKenzie Trust is now offering grants to small grant-makers to assist with self evaluation. She said PNZ proposes the establishment of a national network for members interested in measuring the impact of their funding.

*Papers from the forum are available at [www.philanthropy.org.nz](http://www.philanthropy.org.nz)*

# Good Practice In Action Seminars Continue

Why do government agencies engage with non-government organisations? That was the question put to a seminar organised by the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) at the end of June. The seminar was the second in a series of seminars called 'Good Practice in Action'. It was co-presented by OCVS and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID). The two keynote presentations are outlined below.

## The Basis For Engagement

"At their best, the State is very good at standardising and the community and voluntary sector is very good at customising." That was how OCVS Senior Analyst Hugh Lawrence described the complementary roles of government and the sector.

He also described conceptual frameworks which could be used to better understand and manage community-government relations.

## Build Trusting Relationships

Don Clarke, Director of Global Programmes for NZAID, said the relationship between the sector and government is simple. "It's about

human relationships, it's about treating others as you would like to be treated yourself."

Don outlined how NZAID developed a rationale for building trusting relationships with its non-government organisation (NGO) partners. He was supported by Peter Zwart of Caritas Aotearoa and Mike Hartfield of the Council for International Development, who presented their perspectives as organisations that receive NZAID funding.

All three presenters talked about the Strategic Policy Framework as the basis for their working relationship. The Framework can be accessed at [www.nzaid.govt.nz/](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/)



Mike Hartfield from the Council for International Development talked about the "real consultation and respect" that ensure a strong, healthy relationship between NGOs and NZAID.

[library/docs/nzaid-strategic-policy-framework.pdf](#)

A full report of each seminar can be viewed at [www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz) (go to Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector).

## Briefly

The capacity of local Councils of Social Services (COSS) to make an active and useful contribution to local authority planning processes is the subject of a new research project. Local COSS include people in local government and people working locally for central government agencies, as well as people working for not-for-profit and voluntary organisations. NZCOSS says that while many local COSS are well-placed to assist local authorities link up with the social services sector, others are yet to develop the capacity to do so. The research results are due out later this month. For more information contact [nzcooss@nzcooss.org.nz](mailto:nzcooss@nzcooss.org.nz)

A new online service, CorporateCitizens, will put voluntary sector organisations in touch with the appropriate philanthropic business. CorporateCitizens will help those seeking financial support to target their efforts and increase their chances of success. It

will also act as a relationship building tool for businesses and their communities. CorporateCitizens is hosted by the Funding Information Service and operates alongside its existing funding databases, FundView and Breakout. For more information go to [www.allaboutfunding.org.nz](http://www.allaboutfunding.org.nz)

The Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector has grown to eight full-time staff. Kathryn (Kat) Paton joined the Office in May as a policy analyst and her many skills have quickly been put to good use. Kat's training as a lawyer and her experience as a volunteer at home and abroad (Mexico and Egypt), have provided her with an excellent background for working in the Office. Her main area of responsibility is the Office's volunteering work programme. She can be contacted at [Kathryn.Paton002@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Kathryn.Paton002@msd.govt.nz)