



No. 4, 2005

October 2005

Massey University To Research Sector

Massey University has won a three-year contract to carry out an extensive research project about the community and voluntary sector.

The research will provide valuable information that will contribute to understanding of the New Zealand non-profit sector and to a major international comparative study overseen by the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The tendering process for the contract was overseen by members of the Advisory Committee for the NZ Study of the Non-Profit Sector. Advisory committee member David Robinson says Massey University won the contract with sound methodology and because of the considerable experience of its team members.

The Massey University team is led by Dr Jackie Saunders, Professor Margaret Tennant and Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, supported by several advisors.

The first phase will determine who and what makes up the community and voluntary sector. This will be



The first phase of the research will determine who and what makes up the community and voluntary sector. Pictured is one such group carrying out conservation work with Nga Uruora Kapiti, an organisation dedicated to reforestation along the Kapiti coast hills.

done by developing definitions in collaboration with Statistics NZ. Information will also go out to the sector and government through conferences, meetings, newsletters and online.

The final report is due mid-2008, with several milestone reports along the way.

For more information about the research project contact: Diana Suggate at diana.suggate001@msd.govt.nz or visit www.ocvs.govt.nz

Energising Travel

Travelling around the country to keep in touch with the community and voluntary sector has proved a valuable and energising experience for the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) Director Brenda Ratcliff.



From left: During her visit to Dunedin, OCVS Director Brenda Ratcliff presented a framed copy of the Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community-Government Relationship to Sue Russell (Dunedin Council of Social Services) and the Government Policy on Volunteering to Sam Huggard (Dunedin Community Volunteer Centre).

So far, Brenda has visited Dunedin, Auckland and Christchurch and says she has relished the opportunity to visit groups outside of Wellington. "People often want to talk to me about things they are passionate or concerned about, and it is part of my philosophy to keep up these strong connections."

She says one key issue that keeps coming up is concern from community groups about the registration requirements (under the new Charities Act 2005).

While travelling the country, Brenda has been amazed by volunteers and the energy they give to their work.

"How do they do it? They give in such a tireless way and put their hearts into what they are doing. Some of the work they do is really hard, such as working with marginalised groups. I have a deep admiration for the people who work in this sector and I feel energised by these trips."

Charities Commission Appoints Chief Executive

The newly established Charities Commission has appointed its inaugural chief executive.

Trevor Garrett was most recently the establishment chief executive of the Casino Control Authority and has worked in the Department of Internal Affairs, which included oversight of the Ministry of Recreation and Sport and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.

Trevor comes to the Commission with it having already met some tight timeframes since it was established on 1 July 2005. A board is in place, offices have been set up



in Wellington and it has a new logo. Charities Commission Board Chair Sid Ashton says one of the most urgent work programmes is focusing on the registration of charities.

“We are engaging with the community and voluntary sector

while putting in place the mechanics necessary for registration.”

The register will open from the middle of 2006. Organisations then have nine months to register.

The Commission has spent several months consulting on the draft registration form, which can be viewed on its website. It is also producing resources to support the registration process. One of these, ‘A Guide to the Charities Act’ is now available.

For more information visit www.charities.govt.nz or phone 0508 242 748.

Briefly

Secondments Project

OCVS is leading a project to encourage secondments between the community sector and government. Community and government agencies have met since June to discuss issues and barriers and how to move forward.



Participants at the first meeting included from back row, left to right: Joyce-Anne Raihania (OCVS); Lynn Blake-Palmer (facilitator); Manu Sione (Pacific Trust Christchurch); Kevin Haunui (Funding Information Service); Robyn Scott (Philanthropy NZ); Cathy Kern (Plunket); Carla Sneesby (Dept Internal Affairs); Allan Brown (Fire Fighter, Gisborne). Front row, left to right: Brenda Ratcliff (OCVS); Christine Goodman (State Services Commission); Bonnie Robinson (Salvation Army); and Catherine Love (Victoria University and Tenth Trust).

Keeping It Legal

‘Keeping It Legal / E Ai Ki Te Ture: Legal Responsibilities of Voluntary Organisations in New Zealand’ will be launched on 5 December 2005 – International Volunteers Day. Produced by OCVS and the NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations, it is an easy to use resource providing information and website links about laws applying to voluntary organisations. The aim is to increase understanding and to help with compliance.

Engaging Communities

A growing emphasis on improving the relationship between communities and government was the focus of a conference held in Brisbane recently.

The International Conference on Engaging Communities, organised by the United Nations and the Queensland Government, involved over 2,000 delegates from 44 countries, including nearly 70 New Zealanders from the community/voluntary and government sectors. MP Georgina Beyer presented a keynote address.

Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) Senior Analyst Diana Suggate says one of the main messages from the conference was the importance of citizens being involved in decisions about proposals and plans that impact on them.

“The importance of a strong, dynamic civil society was also emphasised and the conference looked at ways to support broad participation and the need to address barriers to involvement.”

The conference came out with the Brisbane Declaration on Community Engagement. It affirms that effective engagement generates better decisions, and endorses core principles of integrity, inclusion, deliberation and ability to influence.

Diana says OCVS supports the conference’s aims. “We already work this way with government agencies encouraging good practice in all their engagements with community and voluntary organisations.”

For more information go to www.engagingcommunities2005.org and www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au