



Picture of community sector takes shape

A major milestone for the Study of the New Zealand Non-Profit Sector was marked recently with the launch of *Defining the Non-Profit Sector: New Zealand*, published by Johns Hopkins University.

How to define the non-profit sector in New Zealand has long been a vexed issue, one which has not been comprehensively tackled until now.

The definitions paper provides an historical description of the origins of the sector, looks at the legal context, and illustrates the sector's diversity to help build a better picture for New Zealand.

It was written by a team of Massey University researchers, with guidance from the Committee for the Study of the New Zealand Non-Profit Sector, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) and Johns Hopkins University. It has been published as part of an international comparative study of the non-profit sector.

"The New Zealand Study is a joint initiative between government, the community and voluntary sector and the philanthropic sector," OCVS Director Brenda Ratcliff says.



The Committee for the Study of the NZ Non-Profit Sector, Massey University researchers and Minister Winnie Laban (third from right) celebrate the launch of the definitions paper.

"Like good wine it will take time, but will be worth the effort," she says.

The study will raise the visibility of the non-profit sector – helping to show its value in economic terms through Statistics New Zealand's work pulling together data from a range of sources. Alongside this, Massey University is providing contextual information on the historical, legal and policy environment.

The project concludes in 2008 with a national report that will compare New Zealand statistics with data from other countries.

For a copy of *Defining the Non-Profit Sector: New Zealand*, email ocvs@msd.govt.nz or download it online from www.ocvs.govt.nz/publications/

Funders to share knowledge

A series of regional forums for grantmakers is being planned by Philanthropy New Zealand, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector and the Department of Internal Affairs.

The funders' forums will enable philanthropic, corporate, government and other grantmakers to share information about their regions, learn from each other's experiences and plan for future collaboration.

A pilot forum will be held in Wellington on 30 October 2006, with around 12 additional forums to follow

between March and July 2007.

"Grantmakers have often told us how much they value the opportunity to network with each other, but they find it hard to make it happen," Philanthropy NZ Executive Director Robyn Scott says.

"They've also highlighted a number of areas where they want to share experiences and good practice and expand their knowledge. These regional funders' forums are our collective way of responding to these requests. The forums will stimulate information sharing, dialogue and

co-operation between government, community and private grantmakers and philanthropists for the ultimate benefit of the community," she says.

Local grantmakers will be involved in the planning for each regional forum to ensure seminar content is relevant to potential attendees.

It is hoped the series of forums will provide a foundation for future regional networking and communication between grantmakers, grantseekers and non-government organisations so they can better assist communities to realise their aspirations.

For more information contact: Philanthropy New Zealand at info@philanthropy.org.nz

Celebrating volunteers

Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) and the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) are working together again in preparation for International Volunteer Day on 5 December.

The day blends publicity about the huge contribution volunteers make to society with activities to recognise volunteers.

Some voluntary organisations choose to present certificates or awards to loyal volunteers, while others host morning teas to show their appreciation. The ways of celebrating International Volunteer Day and acknowledging the hard work of volunteers are as varied as the volunteers themselves.

“International Volunteer Day isn’t just about voluntary organisations or volunteer centres saying thanks to their volunteers. Individuals and

communities can also do their own thing to show their appreciation,” VNZ Executive Director Tim Burns says.

For those struggling for new ideas to mark the day and say ‘thank-you’, Volunteering NZ and OCVS have produced a promotional toolkit. The toolkit includes a certificate of appreciation, a draft media release for groups to use, tips for gaining publicity and ideas of ways to acknowledge the hard work of volunteers.

“A real highlight of International Volunteer Day is the attention given to all the local heroes and community stories that make our country great. Many of New Zealand’s wonderful volunteers were recognised last year. Let’s hope even more get profiled this time,” Tim says.



Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes: Canine Friends pet therapy shares the company of well-behaved dogs with people in hospitals and rest homes.

International Volunteer Day was instigated by the United Nations in 1985, and is now celebrated by 125 countries.

The International Volunteer Day toolkit can be accessed on the Events/Links page at www.volunteeringnz.org.nz

E-newsletter online

Between issues of OCVS News, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) distributes an e-newsletter to people on our database.

The e-newsletter allows OCVS to share topical news items. It provides brief updates on OCVS activities, as well as relevant news from the government and community sectors.

If you'd like to receive the e-newsletter to complement your copy of OCVS News, please email us at ocvs@msd.govt.nz

The latest issue of the e-newsletter is at www.ocvs.govt.nz/publications/index.html#news

Funding guide from Office of Auditor-General

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) has produced a good practice guide for public entities funding non-government organisations (NGOs).

Principles to underpin management by public entities of funding to non-government organisations complements existing guidance about NGOs’ funding arrangements for both central and local government sectors.

The new good practice guide was developed in response to demand for clear guidance about the expectations of the OAG, because public entities are accountable for public resources used by NGOs.

OAG Sector Manager Gareth Ellis outlined the key principles at the Office for the Community and

Voluntary Sector’s Good Practice in Action seminar on managing risk and accountability earlier this year. The principles are lawfulness, accountability, openness, value for money, fairness and integrity.

The good practice guide does not take a ‘how-to’ procedural approach, but recognises that different circumstances require different approaches to funding relationships and projects. The good practice guide is not intended to restrict innovation or creativity of approach, but highlights the need for government agencies to record, and be able to explain the rationale for the decisions they make.

The new good practice guide is online at www.goodpracticefunding.govt.nz