



Office for the Community
& Voluntary Sector

Tari mō te Rāngai ā-Hapori, ā-Tūao

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

*Strengthening
the community-government
relationship*

“Good practical information...”

“Inspiring and really useful...”

Good practice in action
seminar series

June update

June 2005

Good practice in action

Enrol for second seminar

On 24 June 2005, the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) will present the second in a series of interactive seminars to promote the sharing of information and good practice between government agencies. The broad purpose of this seminar series is to strengthen government's relationships with community and voluntary organisations.

In other words, we will examine what works and why.

Why are we engaging with NGOs?

The second event in the seminar series will tackle the fundamental policy question, why are we engaging with NGOs? The OCVS will provide a synopsis of its current thinking and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NZ Aid) will present a case study to illustrate its Strategic Policy Framework for Relations Between NZ Aid and New Zealand NGOs in action.

What drives this programme?

Major government outcomes cannot be delivered by one agency alone. In 2001, the Prime Minister and Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector signed the *Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community-Government Relationship*. The *Statement* makes a commitment to government agencies prioritising “working together, breaking down ‘silos’ and establishing co-ordinated, intersectoral policies and programmes.” There is an expectation, therefore, that the *Statement’s* commitments will be reflected at the highest levels of agency planning.

The programme is designed to assist your agency to meet Government’s commitment to the relationship as well as to assist agencies in their own relationships.

The *Statement* is also a partner document to the *Government Policy on Volunteering*.

You can access both documents online at:

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/work-areas/sector-policy/community-and-government/govtstatementintent.pdf>

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/work-areas/communities-hapu-iwi/volunteering/policy.html>

The programme provides a major opportunity for government agencies to promote working together and to learn from each other.

Keynote presentations theme

Why are we engaging with NGOs?

Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Meeting the challenge of a changing relationship

“Government and the community sector depend on each other to achieve shared goals of social participation, social equity and strengthened communities”

(extract from the Statement of Government Intentions)

Behind the work of the OCVS is the Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community-Government Relationship.

The OCVS presentation will:

- address current changes in the relationship between government and the sector and opportunities and challenges for government these changes might throw up
- focus on challenges for the sector as it responds to increased calls from government to collaborate with government.

Friday 24 June 2005 10:00am to 3:30pm

Venue: Ministry of Social Development, Level 3, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street

DON CLARKE – Director (Global), NZAID,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Building the culture of a trusting relationship

The first NZAID framework was launched by the Prime Minister in 2000. The Framework is a 'living' document and builds on a clear rationale for collaboration between international NGOs and Government.

This presentation will address:

- how to place emphasis on the ability of NGOs to work effectively at community level
- supporting community voices to be heard in policy processes
- mobilising community resources alongside those provided by governments.

“NGOs and community organisations, as independent not-for-profit organisations, bring distinctive value to society and fulfil a role within broader civil society that is distinct from both the State and the private sector.”

(extract from the MFAT Strategic Policy Framework)



Keynote presentations theme

Funding for results

Friday 11 November 2005 10:00am to 3:30pm

Venue: Ministry of Social Development,
Level 3, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street

Questioning the fundamentals:

- what's so different about contracting with NGOs?
- how should Treasury's contracting guidelines be used?
- how much accountability can you buy?
- who bears the risk?

Contributions are provisionally signalled from:

- Ministry of Health
- The Treasury
- Ministry of Social Development

Improved relationships

Government is increasingly committed to working with the 'third sector' to achieve mutually beneficial goals. Modern government means new and improved relationships with citizens.

“Today’s third sector confounds simple description. It is a world of acronyms – with few resting on the laurels of a well known brand...But its diversity – ill-disciplined and sprawling to the eyes of some – is fundamental to a liberal society.”

(Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, UK, 2004)



Who should attend?

Senior managers, planners, policy designers and programme delivery staff. The seminars are designed to meet the needs of participants.

Each seminar will include a senior managers' workshop grouping and address the rationale for a relationship in policy development and service planning.

RSVP now

To help us with planning, please let us know who will be attending from your agency by contacting Hugh Lawrence, phone 916 3987, email hugh.lawrence002@msd.govt.nz



Looking ahead to 2006

Three events are planned

Possible topics include:

- building government agency capability – how to address the training of public servants to work with community and voluntary sector organisations
- what volunteers can do for you – applying the Government Policy on Volunteering and understanding how voluntary input is valued in economic terms.*

* Suzanne Snively's recent study *Value Added by Voluntary Agencies: the VAVA Project* is a valuable contribution to the debate on this subject. It can be downloaded from http://www.nzfwo.org.nz/files/file/VAVAO_overview_report.pdf

Seminar summaries available

Full write-ups will be published after each seminar. The summary of the first seminar, Building Strong Relationships – Partnerships That Work, held on 22 April, will be posted on the OCVS website on improving participation of the community and voluntary sector

www.goodpracticeparticipate.govt.nz

Participants at that seminar will be notified directly when the seminar summary is available. If you weren't there and would like to be kept informed, please email

hugh.lawrence002@msd.govt.nz

