

*A more accurate
picture of community
organisations*

Measuring the Value of Community Organisations



Overseas comparisons

An 'Advisory Committee for the Study of the New Zealand Non-Profit Sector' has been set up to oversee the work Statistics New Zealand is doing. Information collected will enable comparison of the sector in New Zealand with the equivalent in other countries. The Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, will also provide input to the international Johns Hopkins University comparative non-profit sector project, which has so far collected non-profit data in nearly 40 countries. In addition to statistical data, the input to Johns Hopkins University will include analysis of definitions, the history, legal and policy environment, and impact of the non-profit sector in New Zealand. This research will take place over the next three years.

For more information

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Helping those who help our communities

Many hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders participate in non-profit organisations or receive services provided by them – often at no cost. Non-profit organisations are active in areas such as health, sport and recreation, social service, education, culture, emergency response and conservation. These activities, and the people who freely give their time to them, have a great impact on New Zealand society as well as on our economy.

People who freely give their time have a great impact on New Zealand society

Better information to make better policy

Until now New Zealand has had no official way to measure the quantity and value of activities undertaken by non-profit organisations. As a result, the impact of these groups, and the contribution of volunteers, are not well understood and may be under-valued. Without consistent, reliable information, government support for non-profit organisations is not as effective as it could be. A more accurate picture is required of the size, structure and revenue of the non-profit sector, including information on membership numbers, employment and volunteer input. The findings will inform the development of government policies to improve the social and economic wellbeing of New Zealanders. The information will also be of value to the organisations concerned, enabling them to enhance planning and promotional activities.

Quantifying the contribution

Statistics New Zealand is putting in place an internationally agreed approach for measuring the value of non-profit organisations in the economy. The project will measure the size of the non-profit sector relative to the rest of the New Zealand economy. Financial information will be segmented by categories including health, culture and recreation, social services and education. A 'satellite account', quantifying the contribution made to New Zealand by non-profit activity, is scheduled for publication in 2007.