

## Forum Flash – March 20, 2008

News from Western Sydney Community Forum

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### CENTRE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT – THE NEW FRIEND OF NGOS

Peter Shergold is the new CEO of the Centre for Social Impact at UNSW, previously the most senior public servant in Australia for the past ten years.

“It is the voluntary efforts of hundreds of thousands of individuals and the support and advocacy of not-for-profit organisations that gives Australian democracy its vibrancy.

“To an ever increasing extent community based organisations not only lobby government for change but contract with government to deliver their programs and services. In many ways they are forging new partnerships with the private sector to make concrete the corporate commitments they make on social responsibility.

“The third sector builds the social capital that makes us a nation. NGOs are the cornerstone of community engagement and political participation.”

The Centre for Social Impact has been set up to support ngo impact on public policy and increase the involvement of corporate citizenship in the community.

The Centre for Social Impact can be emailed at [csi@unsw.edu.au](mailto:csi@unsw.edu.au)

## **Social Innovation**

### **“All of us are smarter than any of us”**

“It is amazing what can be achieved if you don't care who gets the credit”

Western Sydney Community Forum would like to promote SIX - Social Innovation Exchange. We recently went to a presentation by Geoff Mulligan of the young Foundation in the UK Social Innovation Exchange [www.socialinnovationexchange.org](http://www.socialinnovationexchange.org)

Social Innovation is about promoting ideas that meet social need and could be replicated elsewhere. It is about small changes with potentially big leverage. Some examples are Men's Sheds and The Big Issue.

- The world is facing big issues: Aging population, climate change, global inequity
- There is a mismatch of economic growth with increasing social exclusion; increasing mental health problems and depression, stress and unhappiness
- Individuals drive change, movement drive social change

How do you grow social innovation?

- Get Governments to invest in incubation – focus on priorities where existing models don't work
- Get Business see that it is in their direct self interest
- Get NGOs rediscover core purpose – ‘experiment and imagine’  
eg WorkVentures [www.workventures.com.au](http://www.workventures.com.au) ; In Control project <http://www.in-control.org.uk>; Google Map;
- Get Universities to mine social knowledge

Every new truth is firstly ridiculed, then violently opposed before acceptance.

### **Social Inclusion Julia Gillard**

Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard have formed a Social Inclusion Cabinet Committee. Social inclusion at all levels is vital for healthy prosperity and full economic participation.

Julia Gillard told us about the Government's commitment to:

- Closing the gap
- Strong vibrant ngo sector (Government to delete clauses in contracts that discourage criticism)
- Reinforce importance of connectedness, trust, respect to community resilience

## THE CSGP SUPPORT NETWORK

Our meeting of the CSGP Support Network was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cabravale Leisure Centre.

Notes from the meeting and notes from Mary Waterford's presentation are available on our website. You can also view a recording of the meeting – look for the link - see our front page [www.wscf.org.au](http://www.wscf.org.au)

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## ONLINE STREAMING FOR MEETINGS

As part of the CSGP Support Network meeting we trialled a system to provide online streaming of the event, supported by a chat facility so that online viewers could participate. I couldn't say it was 100% successful because the broadcast dropped out at crucial moments. We also needed a second laptop onsite so that we could respond better to the viewers online – it was frustrating for them to be able to see the meeting but not be able to contact the presenters.

We are working on making the system work better and hope that by the time we do this again we will have worked out how to fix these issues so that viewers have a good experience and can participate in a more meaningful way.

**Thank you to the online participants who persisted despite the difficulties and thanks for the feedback you have provided to us.**

Thanks to Liliana and Jerome from Information and Cultural Exchange who put in a lot of time to make this happen for us. See [www.ice.org.au](http://www.ice.org.au)

We will keep our [www.ustream.tv](http://www.ustream.tv) site alive so that we can use it again the next time.

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## HOUSING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM

WSCF will be working with Parramatta council, Shelter NSW and WSROC to promote and explore social inclusion and its relationship to housing in Western Sydney.

There will be an initial symposium style event located in Parramatta focusing on the recent census data and comparing it to the last census in 2001, as well as practical suggestions that can influence the provision of socially inclusive housing.

Depending on the interest and demand from community groups several workshops will be planned. More details will be provided when venues and dates are confirmed. Please email [paulf@wscf.org.au](mailto:paulf@wscf.org.au) if you are interested in hosting/participating in a housing and social inclusion forum in your area.

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## TRANSLATION SERVICE

WSCF offers translating services to community organisations in Western Sydney. For more information contact Dana on 9687 6112.

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## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL 2008

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING FOR NOT FOR PROFIT MANAGERS

Facilitator: Matrix on Board

Nepean

29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Mountains Community Resource Network

Corner of Loftus Street & San Jose Avenue, Lawson

This workshop is intended for managers and administrators who have done some financial management training before and understand the basics. You will know the difference between Cash and Accrual accounting, and you will have done basic budgeting. You will also understand how Income and Expenditure Statements are reported to budget.

The training session will cover (not necessarily in this order):

- Review the importance of the Balance Sheet as a guide to what is owed and owned by the entity
- Distinguish cash-flow from income, and examine strategies to manage cash-flow
- Look at cost centre reporting and how to report on difficult-to-attribute costs
- Discuss Financial Ratios as a means of assessing financial health
- Look at Risk Management through financial policies and procedures
- Using forecast reports to review budgets
- Developing better budgets
- Essentials of the Business Plan
- Getting a handle on depreciation

- The basics of FBT and salary sacrifice

Attendees will participate in a practical exercise - (Calculator and Manual will be provided)

MAKE SURE TO FAX YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO 02 9687 8665

[http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/2008\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/2008_Registration_Form.pdf)

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WSCF is a convenient stroll from Parramatta station. Phone 131500 or [www.131500.info](http://www.131500.info) to plan your trip.

The WSCF Training Calendar is now available. Excellent, low-cost training for community organisations.

Check out our website for details.