



Our Community Matters



Communities in Control 2017: As it happened

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

If there was one underlying message to the thousand-strong throng at this year's two-day Communities in Control conference, it's that community leaders should raise their expectations about what's possible, because there's no rule that says you have to accept the way things are.

Speakers took aim at euthanasia laws, gender bias, marriage inequality, workers' rights, expectations about disability and Aboriginal kids, politics and government at every level, climate change, health issues, the economy, refugee policy and budget cuts.

In every case, activists and thinkers of all persuasions challenged received wisdom, and offered a way to break the mould.

Challenging delegates to consider the question "What makes a healthy community?", the two-day event was crammed with lessons from the clever and insightful, plenty of laughs, and more than a few tears.

Powerful keynotes

There were numerous highlights, but perhaps the most powerful was the emotion-charged plea for action on assisted dying by prominent media creator turned activist Andrew Denton, whose Joan Kirner Social Oration has already spurred many listeners into action.

Activists were thick on the ground and were keen to learn the lessons of the "Power to the People" session. This explored the need for personal stories to anchor your cause, and what it takes to encourage supporters to take the leap from sympathy to action.

Indigenous leader Professor Chris Sarra took the crowd on a wisecracking tour of his extraordinary life. The softly spoken rugby tragic showed how expecting more from the Aboriginal and broader communities had generated powerful results, especially in education.

A fair number of professors delivered unorthodox lessons to the crowd, including yoga teacher ►

and leadership guru Amanda Sinclair, who tested our ability to listen and keep calm — and topped things off with a quick meditation session.

Dr Rebecca Huntley took the stand to urge a turn towards politics, rather than a cynical turning away in response to political shocks such as Trump and Brexit, because, as she put it, “We may need better leadership, but we also need greater patience from the electorate.”

Defying stereotypes, it was an economist who generated the most laughs: Richard Denniss skewered the “econobabble” politicians use to avoid answering questions about high house prices, and about why one of the richest countries in the world is doing so little to help the poorest.

And when Ben Pettingill strode onto the stage unassisted, it was a little while before some of us realised he was 98% blind. Then the barefoot skiing dynamo spent an hour explaining why all our snap judgments about other people are usually the wrong ones.

And most of that happened before drinks on the first day.

Memorable observations

Day two delivered more new ways to see the world, with a focus on understanding the way things really are, not just what we might be led to believe.

For instance, Professor Cordelia Fine has literally written the book on testosterone and gender bias, and demonstrated that many so-called truths about boys and girls are way off the mark.

After a musical interlude with acoustic guitar and fiddle by Christina Green and Hayley Anderson, we were treated to a tour de force of economics, politics and history by Professor Martin Krygier.

Professor Krygier overflowed with observations about why history has repeated itself, and how we’ve somehow found ourselves with divisive figures such as Pauline Hanson back in office.

We caught our breath, swapped business cards and recharged at the free coffee cart.

We then became privy to the results of an incredible 45-year-long New Zealand study that has followed 1000 people from the cradle to the present. ►

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Dr Sandhya Ramrakha had many delegates open-mouthed at the compelling research from Dunedin that's recast views about how the behaviour of young children can predict lives of trouble, ill health and financial ruin – and of good health and financial success.

And then, of course, Andrew Denton took to the stage for his all-in presentation on life and death.

And transformative moments

Time after time at Communities in Control, delegates were offered opportunities to transform their thinking and their actions.

Some were back for more after being inspired at the 2016 event.

Take Jo Dodds, for example.

"I'd never heard of Communities in Control before... but I latched on through Facebook.

"I was interested in making a difference in my community and decided to make the seven-hour drive [from Bega, NSW] to Melbourne."

"After two days of the [2016] conference I was absolutely buzzing with ideas, inspiration and people I'd networked with."

A few months later, "charged up", Jo successfully ran for election to the Bega Valley Shire Council, where she is now serving her first term as an independent councillor.

So what should delegates expect at future Communities in Control conferences?

"Your preconceived ideas will be challenged. You will have your mind opened up to stuff you didn't know ... and then have the opportunity to tease that out with a diverse group of people."

Nicely put, Jo.

For full coverage of Communities in Control 2017, go to page 8. ■

Great Grant: Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarships

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience is administering a new fund to boost education opportunities for emergency management volunteers.

Overview

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) is administering a new \$1 million federal government scholarship fund to boost education opportunities for emergency management volunteers. Volunteers in an emergency management agency can undertake studies in accredited units or courses in emergency and disaster management vocational training and education, and higher education. Successful applicants may be able to receive up to \$12,000 for completing vocational education and training and up to \$25,000 for higher education.

Announcing the scholarships, the Justice Minister, Michael Keenan, said, "I encourage all volunteers, including those involved in firefighting, flood and storm response, road rescue, search and rescue, and patrolling beaches, and recovery, to consider this new development opportunity."

Criteria and eligibility

Successful applicants must:

- volunteer in an emergency management agency
- provide an application endorsed by the agency
- not be remunerated financially or otherwise by that agency for their volunteer role
- demonstrate a genuine commitment to ongoing participation in an emergency management related field
- be Australian citizens or permanent residents, and live in Australia.

Although all eligible volunteer applicants are welcome to apply, applications are particularly encouraged from volunteers who meet one or more of these criteria:

- live and volunteer outside a capital city
- are female
- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Deadline

July 14.

Our tip

A list of relevant vocational and tertiary courses is available for download [here](#).

More information

Visit the Funding Centre (log-in required):
<https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/S04992>.

Facebook

The Funding Centre now has a Facebook page! Want to know what's happening in fundraising?

Like our page,
and stay in the know.



Funding Centre
Where not-for-profits go for money

Australian values I could get behind



BY DENIS MORIARTY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

There's a new push on to elevate Australian values to the status of universal moral laws so we can come down like a ton of bricks on people who don't share them. The great thing about Australian values, of course, is that we proper Australians are never going to get tested on them – that's only for suspicious newcomers – and if we don't know the words we're free to just hum along in a good-citizen-like fashion. These Australian values are all vague enough to allow each and every one of us to assume that all good Australians believe exactly what we do. That's what we Aussies call *diversity*.

The citizenship test makes sure that new arrivals say the right things about Anzac Day, the Aboriginal flag, and the Australian coat of arms. It also, to my mind, has a rather dismissive attitude to community organisations:

Which of these is a responsibility of Australian citizens aged 18 years or over?

- a. To attend local council meetings
- b. To do local community service
- c. To serve on a jury if called to do so

The only one of those that you can be taken to court for neglecting is jury service, and that's the answer you're supposed to give (or else), but that's not the only way one can have a responsibility. Isn't placing a moral responsibility on the individual what values do? Involving yourself in local community service is, to be sure, a minority occupation in this country, but I have no problem with saying it's something people ought to do even if it's not on the test.

If the only responsibility we have is to obey the law, that doesn't really involve values at all; it's a system that would work just as well, or better, for slaves, or robots, or psychopaths. Our values are things we aspire to but in our day-to-day lives often fall short of.

The whole point of values, surely, is that they ought to stretch you. If all I could expect of everybody else is that they behaved no worse than me, this would be a pretty damn depressing country. If all we could hope of anybody else is that they were no worse than the average Australian, that would be national suicide.

Any values that are specifically Australian values, furthermore, are inherently suspect. If no other civilisation in the world has adopted them, how good can they be? More to the point, if just about every other nation claims them under other names – fraternité rather than mateship, say – how can we claim them as Australian?

About the only way to deal with values is to take them not as a standard we can use to disqualify outsiders but as a measure of how much we all fall short of the good community. There's a place for our better angels to remind us that we have done things we ought not to have done, and that we have not done things we ought to have done, that we daily stumble into occasions of laziness, resentment, complacency, cowardice, and the exploitation of others, and that we can do much better as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

Those would be values I could get behind. ■

Creating change: How to pick your battles and win

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

You don't usually expect an expert panel to agree on anything, but there were strong common threads among influential change-makers during a session on the topic "Creating change from the ground up" at this year's Communities in Control conference.

Creating change is the biggest challenge for any activist, but our five chosen community champions didn't hesitate to pick up the gauntlet in our keenly anticipated panel discussion at the conference in Melbourne last month.

Two significant themes emerged amid the jousting: telling your story well, and knowing who you're trying to convince.

Panellists stressed the need to personalise issues, to tell your story effectively by creating human and community connections through the media, your members and your networks.

GetUp! human rights campaigner Matthew Phillips – heavily involved in refugee advocacy – is in no doubt about the battle for hearts and minds.

He says the government understands that public opinion on refugee issues is influenced by the personal stories that are heard, and this is part of the reason it has actively suppressed those personal accounts.

"I really do believe that the majority of Australians wouldn't tolerate that treatment of

people if they felt a basic human connection with them," Mr Phillips said.

"I think the government has put in place all sorts of crafty ways to avoid us establishing that human connection, but I think that's the challenge ahead of us ... to tell the story of those people in a way that Australians from all parts of our community can relate to."

Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary Luke Hilakari – whose target audience includes police, fire fighters, teachers and other workers – echoed the sentiment.

The political operator, who remains in the thick of heated disputes with the Victorian Government, strongly argued that personal stories can swing public opinion.

"Facts and science convince people of nothing," Mr Hilakari said.

If it did, there would be no continuing debate about climate change or education reform, he said.

"What changes people's minds is about storytelling, and storytelling needs great narrative arcs. You need good guys and you need bad guys, and you need victims, and you need a vision or hope."

He said his fellow Trades Hall campaigners focus on "authenticity", which means "if we want a conversation ... about health care, there won't be me going out there talking about health care, it will be a nurse." ►



Because when it comes down to trusting a nurse versus trusting a politician, the nurse will win, he said.

Australian Marriage Equality co-founder Rodney Croome, who successfully campaigned for the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Tasmania, knows a thing or two about creating change.

He also puts great importance on drawing on the powerful arguments of those personally affected by an issue.

“Wherever I can, I try and make sure that it’s people who have a close intimate personal connection to the issue, who can talk about why it matters.”

“It’s not just an advocate of an organisation, but someone with a personal story,” Mr Croome said.

He also emphasised small media could have a big impact.

Local activists in local media could be “instrumental” getting local politicians across the line, winning business backing and the help of other influential figures.

On the other side of the equation are the people you’re trying to convince.

A young delegate sparked a spirited response from Climate for Change director Katerina Gaita when she asked about methods for converting “deniers” – those who dispute the very existence of climate change.

Ms Gaita said activists shouldn’t waste all their energy battling against those most resistant to the facts.

“The reality is that true deniers only make up about 7% of the population, even though many of those are in positions of power,” she said.

Those people will dig their heels in, rather than allow themselves to be persuaded by good or emotive arguments.

While it’s still important to listen carefully to your opponents, understanding which groups will actually back your cause is critical.

After the innovators, and then the early adopters to your cause, come the crucial “early majority” who show sympathy, and just need a little persuasions to take the leap into action.

“These are the people you really need to convince,” she said.

“The people we need to get on board are the people who are almost there.”

Community Hubs Australia chief Sonja Hood stressed it was important not to assume where people stood on an issue, and to speak out, if change was to occur.

As a big provider of services to refugees and new migrants through its hubs service, her organisation has seen time and time again “the generosity and goodwill” of Australians to strangers.

She says global research conducted 30 years ago, and repeated recently, reinforced that 74 % of us – across all creeds and cultures – are motivated by “unselfish values”.

But strangely, the same research found that 78% of us thought everyone else was selfish, which meant too often people did not stand up for what they believed in, simply to avoid confrontation.

“I say, be one of the first people to stand up and do something, but also let people know they’re wrong in those assumptions.” ■



Communities in Control 2017

As it happened.



Melbourne

Conference opened 29 May 2017



CIC 2017: By the numbers



Showbags stuffed: **1000+**



Speakers and singers on stage: **19**



Streakers: **0**



Free coffees ordered: **2185 (truly)**



Toilet location queries answered: **19**



Mints chewed: **3438**



Mobile batteries drained and recharged: **89**



Hands raised: **Too many to count**



Audience statements
masquerading as questions: **A few**



Eyes welled up: **Quite a few**



Minds blown: **All present**



“ If there’s something that I’ve learnt
From being here before
It’s that I’m ready for when you show
I’m ready. Oh no you don’t. ”

Benny Walker sings about dealing with
anxiety in ‘Oh no you don’t’.



Benny Walker

Musician; awarded best
Aboriginal artist of the year
at the 2016 Age Music
Victoria Awards



“ I wanted to take off my armour. To work not just with my head but with my heart. ”

“ More important than what you do and say might be your way of being... what happens through you, not by you. ”

“ Savour being alive and well this morning. ”



Professor Amanda Sinclair

Author, academic,
leadership guru, and yoga
and meditation teacher



“ We may need better leadership, but we also need a more patient electorate. The extent to which we criticise our politicians is detrimental to our democracy. It discourages the right people from stepping into leadership. ”

“ You can't be a great society if it's easy to buy guns and hard to get healthcare. ”

Dr Rebecca Huntley

Social researcher
and social change
analyst



I've always been amazed at the leadership you can see when you give it a place to be. ”



Are you colluding with a stereotype? 'They've just got bad lives, blah, blah, blah'. Even some Aboriginal workers will collude with that. It's just a negative stereotype that we're tricked into believing is our identity. ”

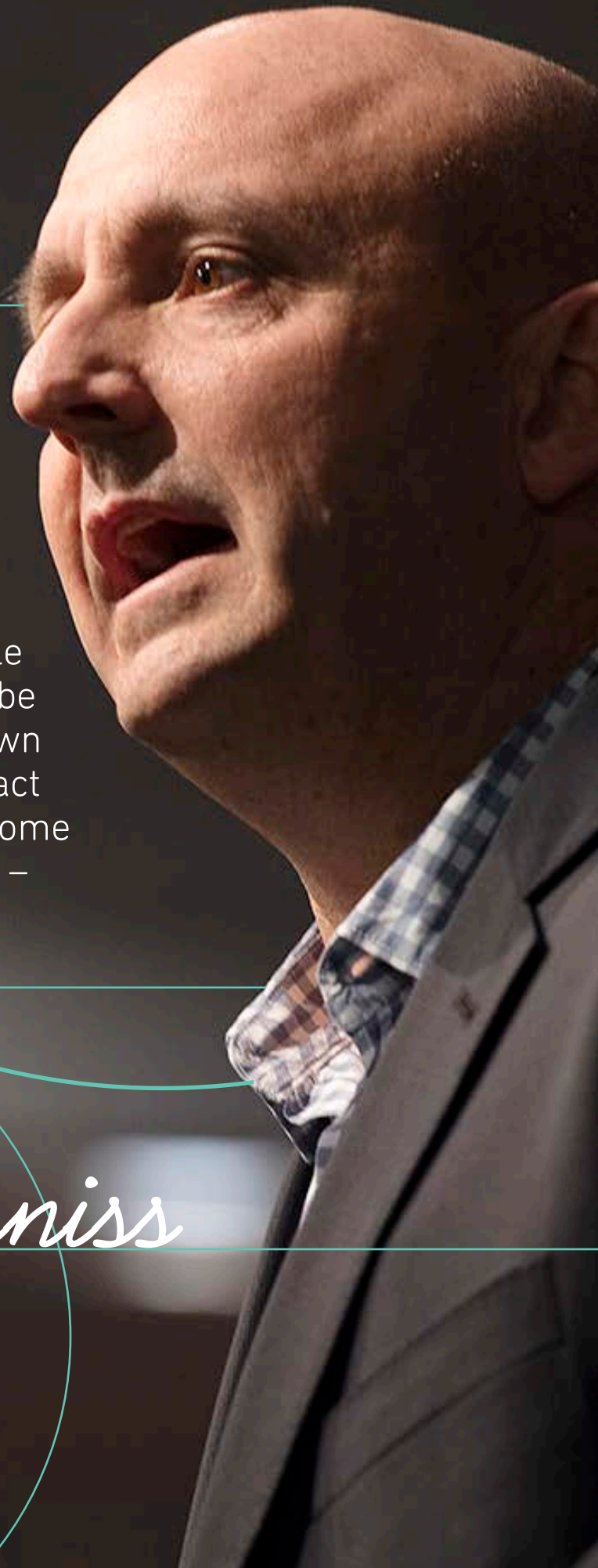
Professor Chris Sarra

Indigenous Advisory Council;
Stronger Smarter Institute;
Australian Rugby
League Commission



“Pain and the threat of pain. There are only two things politicians respond to. Everything else is just pretending to listen.”

“We hear, ‘The share market doesn’t like taxes.’ Where exactly does the share market make itself known? Does it write its thoughts and feelings down? No. It’s a market where people buy and sell shares. It might be that a bunch of people that own a lot of shares object to the fact that they might have to pay some tax. But that’s not the market – that’s a group of people.”



Richard Denniss

Australian Institute
chief economist



'True vision' doesn't come from the outside. It comes from within, from the self. ”



'True vision' has the power to create a healthier community. ”

Ben Pettingill

Disability activist



A two-dimensional model of gender is too simple. The majority of people have an idiosyncratic mix of characteristics. When we say 'boys will be boys', which boys are we referring to? ”

Professor Cordelia Fine

Gender bias expert



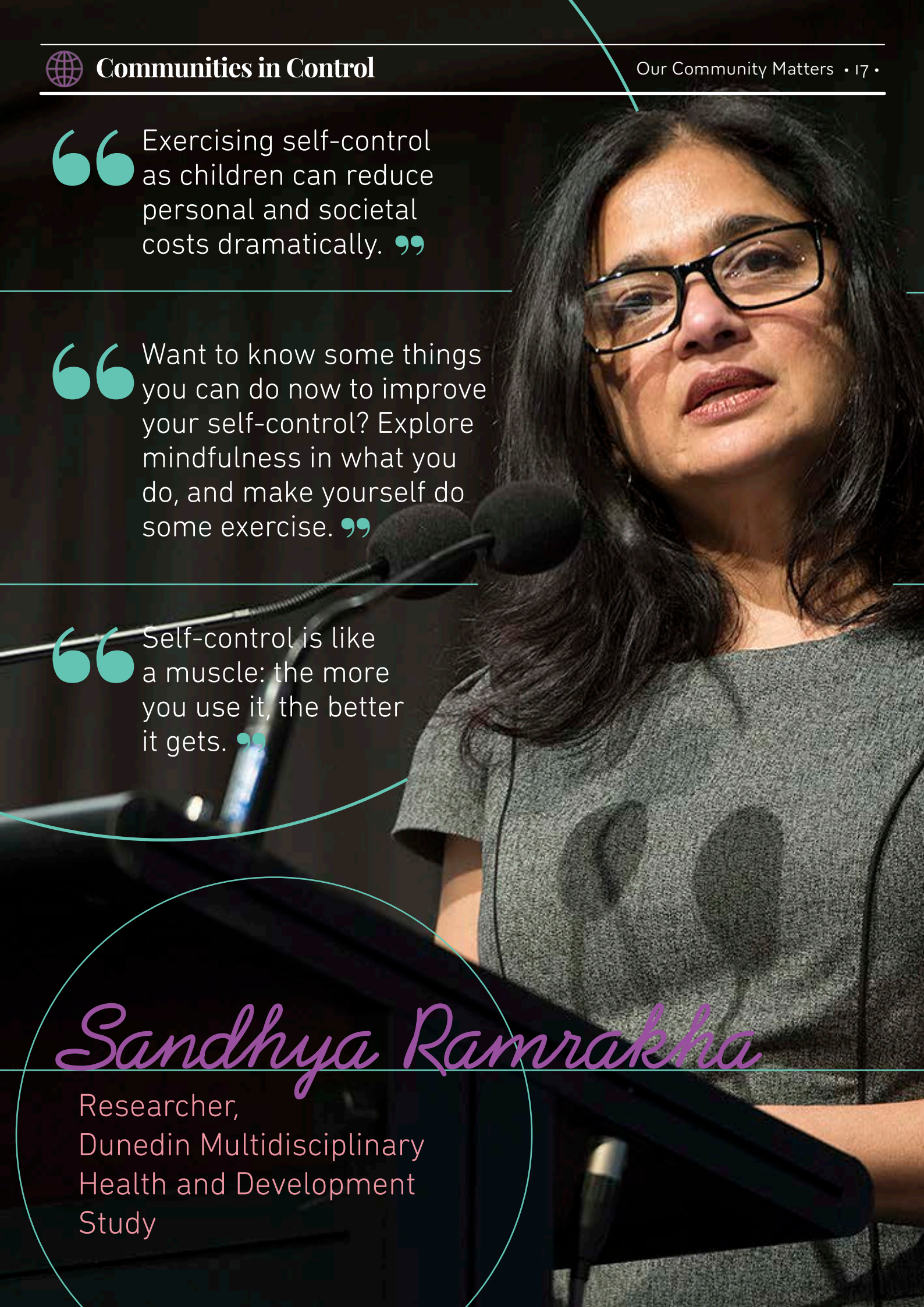
“ Exercising self-control as children can reduce personal and societal costs dramatically. ”

“ Want to know some things you can do now to improve your self-control? Explore mindfulness in what you do, and make yourself do some exercise. ”

“ Self-control is like a muscle: the more you use it, the better it gets. ”

Sandhya Ramrakha

Researcher,
Dunedin Multidisciplinary
Health and Development
Study





“ Many politicians think their job is administration, not value leadership. ”

Martin Krygier

Academic, Boyer lecturer,
world leader in legal
and social theory



There's one group of people you never see marching in the streets, and that's the terminally ill. ”

Andrew Denton

Media creator and
voluntary euthanasia
advocate



Vox pop: What makes healthy communities?

What makes healthy communities? Is it good town planning or multivitamin pills? Free yoga classes or regular public meetings? Footy training? We asked Communities in Control speakers and delegates what they thought contributed to healthy communities. Read what they had to say and [watch the video](#).



People, connections, lots of talking, and diversity of people of course. Ages, cultures, religion, gender, sexuality – you’ve got to have many types of people. ”

Ajaya Haikerwal

CIC youth scholarship winner



A healthy community has to have a very strong civil society. We can’t leave everything to government and the corporate sector. A strong democracy is what makes a healthy community. ”

Wendy Brooks

Not-for-profit sector consultant



When everyone joins in and takes part – gives it a try – that would be a really healthy community. And just try and help someone near you. ”

Ashleigh Butcher

Indi Youth Politics, CIC youth scholarship winner



Diversity is so important... the more we can have all those voices from far apart on the spectrum engaged in constructive conversations, the stronger and healthier we'll be. ”

Jo Dodds

Bega Valley Shire Council



A healthy community is where people can express themselves freely, without fear of bias or prejudice. It's where people feel at home, and happy. ”

Vieshnaeve Pandiyan

Flinders University



Instead of being selfish, or heading towards an individual goal, if we head towards a community goal that's going to make a healthier community. ”

Manuel Solano

South Port Community Housing Group Inc



Diversity – being involved in it creates vibrancy and tolerance. ”

Sue Dymond

iDareU



Letting a community decide what they want for themselves. A healthy community is also obviously resourced, well-connected, and has support within the community itself. ”

Ayesha Umer

City of Port Phillip, Vic



We know that our communities often come together under adversity and challenge, but proactivity and doing things from a place of passion versus purely from a place of remuneration – volunteering, engagement – that aspect's very important for strong communities. ”

John McNeur

Darwin, NT



People being able to participate, to feel included, to make decisions, to feel informed, and to know where they can impart that information to feed into a better community. ”

Sunshine Cross

City of Whittlesea, Vic



I think to be able to share and respect; coming together and learning from other people's stories. ”

Sue Dymond

iDareU



A community that feels there's a lot of discussion around what's important in their area. Support for people who are struggling with home or work or finances and other pressures, and have the confidence to seek help. And the resources that help pick them up. ”

Phil Byers

Emerald Community House



The most powerful part of community work is not the agencies, but it's the farno [families] and the individuals in a neighbourhood connecting and releasing their potential and having lives that are meaningful for them. ”

Laura Black

Methodist Mission Southern, New Zealand



Generosity of spirit. I think we all need to give to our communities. Don't worry about what you're getting back, just throw yourself in. ”

Katerina Gaita

Climate for Change



What they said

We say Communities in Control 2017 was inspiring, thought-provoking, engaging, and just bloody brilliant, but you don't have to take our word for it. Look at what other people have had to say about it:

Janet White

CIC

“You can never compare one conference to another; they each bring their own provocative agenda. One thing that is constant is that the silent majority need to start speaking! Thank you for another special time that challenges my thinking.”

CIC mobile app

29 May 2017

Richard Denniss
@RDNS_TAI



Thanks #WeareCIC for having me along. The community sector creates more jobs than the mining industry.



29 May 2017

Mary Farrow



Always a head exploding experience, in the nicest possible way.

Facebook

29 May 2017

Luciana manrique
@lucianavero



Thank you CIC for a great time that challenged my thinking and fulfilled my heart.



30 May 2017

Lucy Mayes
@LucyVMayes



Really appreciated the thoughtful, spacious, creative, diverse & inspiring programming. #goforthandchangetheworld



30 May 2017

Mimi Laurilla
@mimilaurilla



Pumped and Inspired today listening to keynote speeches at #WeAreCIC.



30 May 2017



Almost as good as being there

They're online now: video, audio and transcripts of all the conference sessions, more pictures, and our video vox pop: "What makes a healthy community?"

Go to www.communitiesincontrol.com.au/cic2017

Communities in Control 2018

*Save the dates: May 28–29, 2018,
sees Communities in Control
once again in Melbourne*

Don't miss it. [Subscribe here](#)
for updates on
next year's event.

Nominations open for Not-for-profit Treasurers' Awards

Every community organisation understands how much they owe to the person who keeps track of the finances. But they don't often tell them so. Our Community and the Commonwealth Bank and their Not-for-Profit Sector Banking team believe Australia's treasurers deserve some recognition.

The Commonwealth Bank Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards are designed to provide that recognition.

This year the awards are split into two parts:

Category A: Nominate and recognise your treasurer

Tell your treasurer you appreciate all that they do for your community organisation by nominating them to receive an official 2017 Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Award Certificate of Appreciation. We'll send you the personalised certificate with your treasurer's name on it.

You can nominate anyone who has served as a treasurer of an Australian not-for-profit organisation any time in the past 12 months.

Category B: Apply as a treasurer and win a \$5000 donation

Treasurers can enter by sharing their wisdom to help others working in the not-for-profit sector overcome similar challenges. This year we are asking treasurers to contribute and share their practical knowledge by creating one of the following resources:

- A financial template
- A financial policy
- A summary and outline of a financial webinar.

There are three \$5000 donations to be won, one for the best submission in each category.

You can enter this section of the awards if you have served as a treasurer of an Australian not-for-profit organisation any time in the past 12 months. Note that you must nominate one organisation to receive the \$5000 donation, though you may cite your experience with more than one.

Key dates

Nominations close: 11am AEST, Friday July 28

Winners announced and certificates distributed: During Not-for-Profit Finance Week, commencing Monday September 18.

Enter now

To view the terms and conditions and enter the awards, [click here](#).





Money in the bank: resources for treasurers

Attention treasurers: Have you started work on your entry for the 2017 Commonwealth Bank Not-for-profit Treasurers Awards? You could win \$5000 for your organisation by sharing your own finance-related template, policy or webinar – see page 26 for all the details.

To help you get started, here's a recap of just some of the handy finance-related resources already available from Our Community. All of them are absolutely free to download and use.

Financial policies

The Institute of Community Directors Australia's downloadable financial management policies provide the information and support you need to safeguard and grow the finances of your not-for-profit organisation.

Financial literacy tools

Our financial literacy help sheets, financial tutorials and checklists provide the advice a treasurer needs to keep the organisation's books balanced.

Damn Good Advice guides

Damn Good Advice for Treasurers provides practical advice to treasurers of not-for-profit organisations.

Damn Good Advice for Board Members provides similar advice but is aimed at board members.

Damn Good Advice on Cyber-safety and Fraud Prevention provides advice on cyber-safety and fraud prevention.



Innovation, insights and the federal budget



BY VANESSA NOLAN-WOODS,
GENERAL MANAGER OF SOCIAL IMPACT BANKING, COMMONWEALTH BANK

It's been just over a month since the federal government handed down its 2017 budget. No matter how practical and fair any government tries to be, budgets by their very nature will always have winners and losers. It comes down to the basic economic dilemma we all face: limited resources versus unlimited wants and needs.

There was some good news for the not-for-profit sector, with greater clarity on funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and greater emphasis on tackling homelessness. Unfortunately, however, all too often we find that federal, state and territory budgets offer little in the way of relief from constant funding pressures faced by those working in the not-for-profit and social impact spheres.

There was, however, a clear message from the Turnbull government regarding the important role technology and innovation are playing within the global economy, with Treasurer Scott Morrison announcing an allocation of \$1.1 billion for innovation, science and research. But how does this proposed investment translate into opportunities for those in the not-for-profit sector?

A new focus and a new conversation

Over the past 18 months or so, we have seen the increasing impact that technology and innovation are having across our economy, including within the not-for-profit sector. Far from being about the ability to access big budgets, innovation and technology are in fact within everyone's grasp, and can bring enormous rewards. ►



Coffee carts sponsored by Commonwealth Bank kept delegates at Communities in Control 2017 well caffeinated.

In our recent national Social Impact Innovation Forums, 100% of surveyed respondents said a lack of resources was stopping innovation from taking place in their organisation. Yet even the least creative among us can tap into the collective creative spirit and harness practical skills that can be learnt, such as design thinking. Like most skills, creative thinking takes practice, and the more you practise, the better at it you can become. Today we are seeing an increasing number of not-for-profits and community groups proactively embedding a culture of innovative thinking within their organisations – empowering staff and volunteers to rethink, for example, service delivery, market engagement, new revenue streams and internal processes.

Typically, innovation has been seen as a financial sinkhole, or nice to do but not an essential part of daily operations. Today it has become an essential component in ensuring ongoing operational and financial viability. What may appear to be simple changes can bring significant benefits; for example:

- ✓ Increasing donations and reducing opportunities for petty theft through cashless giving
- ✓ Improving engagement and communication with members and stakeholders

- ✓ Increasing visibility of cash flow and cash flow trends through software solutions
- ✓ Identifying new markets or enhanced delivery methods through insights into donor and member behaviour via big data
- ✓ Creating diversified revenue streams using new banking technology.

Looking to the future

We will all continue to be affected to varying degrees by federal, state and territory budgets and by broader economic conditions. The takeaway is that if the government is investing in innovation, then we all need to pay attention and be ready to explore opportunities to enhance our services, create greater social traction and grow in more creative ways. If you're not already having innovation conversations within your organisation or community group, and looking at ways you can work with community partners and financial institutions to leverage their assets and knowhow, then the start of the new financial year is a good time to begin exploring the opportunities an innovation mindset could bring to the continued delivery of your vision and mission.

Until next time.

The Commonwealth Bank is an Our Community partner. ■

Blogs and videos we love

Seen or read something worth sharing? Email editor@ourcommunity.com.au.



Milkwood Permaculture: Three models of community food systems

“People swap recipes, and spare bags and buckets to hold beans and noodles and broccoli. Stories get told, kids get to be in the thick of a packaging-free food system full of new shapes and smells and spare strawberries. Community gets cultivated. It’s the world we all want to live in, really – one of community connections, transparency, and good food everywhere we look.”

[Read more](#)

Temple Sholom Cincinnati: The little table

“A little table would be perfect right there.”

“I’ll bring it up at the next board meeting.”

[Watch the video](#) (Laughter warning, cringe warning)

Kio Stark: Why you should talk to strangers

“For a minute, I felt like my existence as a person had been noticed, and I was worth saving.”

[Watch the Ted Talk](#)



Nonprofit AF: Nine principles of community-centric fundraising

“Principle 9: We believe, and encourage donors to believe, that the work is holistic, not a collection of isolated segments... We are transparent with financial reporting, but whenever possible, report holistically, not segmented out by which donors paid for what. E.g., “Your \$1,000, combined with the funding from grants and other donors, along with support with volunteers and staff, helped us serve 300 kids this year.” Not “Your \$1,000 bought books and equipment for 10 kids, and none of your money went to overhead.” ...

[Read more](#)

Our Community backs more time for charity chief

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

The minister overseeing Australia's independent not-for-profit and charity regulator has committed to a transparent process in seeking a replacement after the shock decision to remove the head of the organisation sparked concern across the sector.

Commissioner Susan Pascoe will end her five-year contract with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in September, leaving any new chief just two months to get across the difficult brief before a major review due in December.

Ms Pascoe has been Commissioner since the ACNC's formation in 2012 and helped ensure its survival through an attempt to abolish it in 2015.

In less than a week, more than 100 community sector organisations and leaders, including Our Community, co-signed a letter from the Community Council for Australia (CCA) to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull calling for reassurance about the organisation's future.

The ACNC is now under a fifth minister, Assistant Treasurer Michael Sukkar, who has been appointed to oversee the ACNC's critical work.

"We believe Commissioner Pascoe should be reappointed, at least for another 12 months to enable the five-year review of the ACNC to be conducted without excluding her extensive knowledge and experience of how the organisation operates and performs," the letter reads.

Our Community managing director Denis Moriarty said the entire sector, and Our Community in particular, will be keeping a close



eye on developments. He supports the call to extend the Commissioner's tenure in the best interests of the review, and to keep one of the few female leaders in government.

"Ms Pascoe oversaw one of the best examples of bringing to berth a complex and new government agency that was beloved by its user base - probably a world first for a regulator," Mr Moriarty said.

"At the very least, any new Commissioner would need a deep understanding of the sector, and the sector should be consulted on the appointment. This should not involve the appointment of a political crony.

Soon after the co-signed letter was distributed, Minister Sukkar assured the CCA that he supported a "transparent process for the selection of the next ACNC Commissioner" as well as confirming he would seek Ms Pascoe's input into the upcoming review, according to the CCA.

Read the letter: <http://tinyurl.com/acnc-letter2>

New whistleblowing report sounds a warning for NFPs

The whistleblowing policies and procedures of many Australian not-for-profits are woefully weak, according to a world-first ranking of the business, government and not-for-profit sectors released last month.

Three of the bottom five worst performing fields are in the NFP sector, with “education and training” falling into last position.

Whistling While They Work 2, a study led by Griffith University’s Centre for Governance and Public Policy, grouped jurisdictions and industries into 18 fields. It examined their performance in five key areas in the whistleblowing process – incident tracking, support strategy, risk assessment, dedicated support, and remediation – and ranked them from best to worst.

“Health care and social assistance” was the highest ranked NFP, falling into ninth place, well behind the federal government sector in first place.

Project leader Professor A J Brown said the results show the extent of challenges faced by business in trying to improve their whistleblowing and integrity regimes.

“It’s apparent many private and not-for-profit companies are making concerted efforts to establish workable whistleblowing practices,” he said, “and now we can see more clearly who’s making progress as well as the major tasks ahead for all – including many governments.”

How should not-for-profits respond?

The general manager of external whistleblowing service Your Call, Nathan Luker, said the report represents a significant opportunity for not-for-profit leaders to analyse and improve their whistleblowing processes.

He offered these tips:

- Regardless of your organisation’s size, your people should feel safe to speak up about wrongdoing at work. It is your responsibility to ensure you provide a healthy workplace with an adequate reporting framework. It is crucial that you offer employees support before, during and after they make a disclosure as a whistleblower.
- Actively seek insights into your organisation’s culture, your employees’ attitudes, and your organisation’s ability to respond to wrongdoing. Employee surveys, work-groups and stakeholder consultations can provide valuable information for leaders looking to make long-term culture improvements.
- Establish a robust whistleblowing program that is best-practice, tested and fully functional. Then focus on the broader goal of cultivating a “speak up” culture. Pushing people to speak up, without adequate support processes in place, can lead to disastrous outcomes and negative culture impacts. The tone is set at the top – use your whistleblowing program to demonstrate your organisation’s commitment to integrity, preparedness and value focus.

Free downloadable guide

For more information on establishing and maintaining best-practice whistleblowing policies and procedures in your organisation, download the new free guide from Our Community and Your Call: **Whistleblowing at Your Not-for-profit: A Leader’s Guide**.

Your two-minute NFP news digest

Philanthropist digs deep

“Look, I think the first thing is because I can...” Andrew Forrest

The mining billionaire tells 7.30’s Leigh Sales why he decided to donate \$400 million – the largest donation by a living donor in Australian history – towards cancer research, higher education, anti-slavery measures and other causes. [Watch the interview](#)

To do: change world

“Where does it all go wrong – what stops charities changing the world? In my experience, this is not something that charities often think about. However, it’s a fundamental problem.” Joe Paxton

In a free-ranging report based on personal experience, the UK NFP consultant says sometimes an organisation’s activities are not the ones that will ever enable it to fulfil its mission. *Work in Progress: The golden threads that run through strategies for mission delivery in not for profits* is a free download. [Read the report](#)

Small size, big impact

“Like 81.4% of Australia’s smallest charities, the Diamond Creek Men’s Shed has no paid staff and is entirely reliant on volunteers. It has a small annual membership fee that is affordable even to those on a low income or who are reliant on government support. In 2015, it recorded income of \$19,800 and expenses of \$11,308.” *Australia’s Smallest Charities 2015*

A new report by the Centre for Social Impact and the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW paints a picture of the purpose, activities, size and funding sources of charities with income of less than \$50,000 in 2015 – that’s 37% of all Australian charities. [Read the report](#)

Down down, prices are down to nothing

“If times are tough and you’re in need of food or other goods, you can take what you need.” Ronni Kahn

The OzHarvest CEO launches Australia’s first “rescued” food supermarket, the OzHarvest Market, in Sydney’s Kensington. The supermarket operates on a “take what you need, give if you can” model. [Read more](#)

ACT cuts red tape

“Today the ACT Legislative Assembly passed the Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Bill, which will streamline fundraising and other reporting requirements for ACNC-registered charities in the ACT.” Susan Pascoe

The ACNC commissioner explains that ACNC-registered charities that fundraise in the ACT will no longer require licences to do so from July 1 this year. [Read more](#)



Cyber threat to not-for-profits continues to grow

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

A new law will soon require not-for-profits with more than \$3 million in annual turnover to notify authorities of data breaches.

Our Community insurance partner Aon says the federal law is a sobering reminder of the cyber risks now faced by organisations of all types.

Britain's healthcare system was thrown into chaos last month by a **ransomware attack** known as WannaCry, which affected more than 200,000 victims in at least 150 countries. At least eight Australian businesses were also affected.

Aon's national practice leader for cyber risk, Fergus Brooks, says that without a plan of action,

your organisation's data could be compromised, putting confidential information, stakeholders' contact details, private health files, and mission-critical software at risk of exposure or deletion.

Mr Brooks says not-for-profits shouldn't think they're immune from attacks simply because they're smaller targets. ►



“There’s a misnomer that cyber criminals are going after the top end of town,” Mr Brooks says.

“But they’re much harder targets compared to smaller organisations, which are often more willing to pay the \$10,000 to retrieve data from a ransomware attack.”

He says six-figure costs are quite common for organisations that get hit by hackers.

“Cyber criminals certainly don’t discriminate, or have morals, when it comes to whether or not they’ll target a not-for-profit.”

Mr Brooks (pictured) says key cyber risks for not-for-profits revolve around the sensitive information they hold, such as personal and healthcare information.

Threats to organisations from cyber breaches include:

- business interruption leading to income losses and expenses;
- the cost of restoring data;
- notification and investigation costs;
- the costs of any extortion;
- public relations and communications costs;
- legal costs linked to privacy, defamation, damages and intellectual property claims; and,
- fines and penalties.

During 20 years working in information security, Mr Brooks has seen a dramatic development of cyber crime, with 85% of attacks now linked to ransomware coming from regions including eastern Europe, Taiwan, China and the US, and from home-grown cyber crooks.

Those attacks involve hackers using legitimate-seeming emails or software to bait users into activating computer viruses that scramble data. Victims are issued with demands to pay a ransom to regain control of their computers, and in some cases criminals will sell or threaten to release the data they’ve harvested from hijacked computers and servers.



Fergus Brooks, national practice leader for cyber risk, Aon

But despite all the warnings - and even after security awareness training - “people are still clicking on that link”, as criminals develop increasingly sophisticated methods to entice victims, Mr Brooks says.

Baiting methods include faking emails from senior managers, timing attacks for when people are on leave, and conducting rigorous background research about organisations before attacks.

Recent Aon client seminars have highlighted confusion about how the new laws will work, but Mr Brooks says any “serious” breach - even the release of a single sensitive email - could require organisations to notify authorities.

In the meantime, Mr Brooks says, not-for-profits should develop a plan of action to be implemented if a breach occurs.

Depending on the organisation, this could include having an insurer, legal advisers, public relations experts and information technology experts on hand to assist with a crisis.

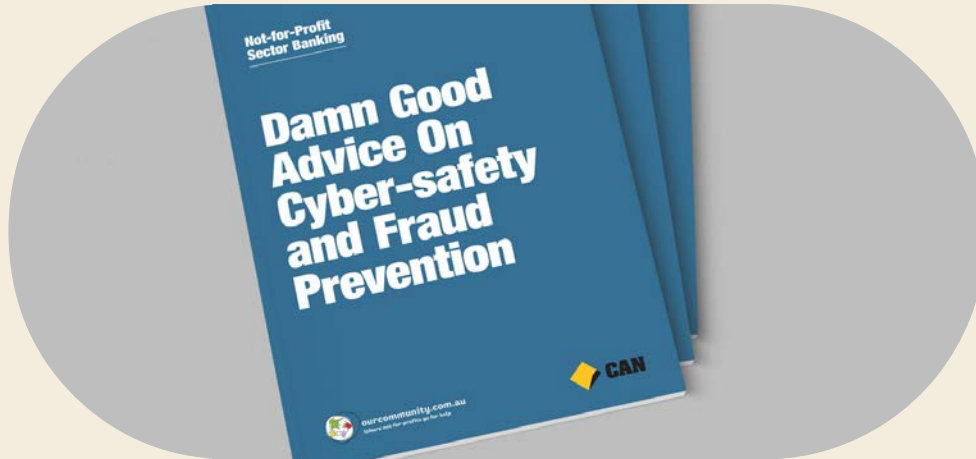
Not-for-profits should develop an “incident response plan” and test it, he says.

“Let’s say you get an email demanding \$5000 or they’ll release some private information. What are you going to do next?”





About the new data breach laws



Parliament passed the much anticipated Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Bill 2016 in February. The new law means it is mandatory to notify the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) and the affected individuals if your organisation has a data breach.

Who do the changes apply to?

The new law applies to public and private organisations that are already subject to the Privacy Act - this includes Australian government agencies (excluding state and local government) and all businesses and not-for-profit organisations with an annual turnover more than \$3 million.

When will the new law come into effect?

The new law will come into effect within a year, but we recommend organisations start preparing now.

What happens if you don't comply?

If your organisation doesn't comply with the new laws, you could face penalties including fines of up to \$360,000 for individuals and \$1.8 million for organisations.

Aon says these financial implications will require many organisations to change

their attitude towards cyber risks, and to elevate conversations about data security to boardroom level.

How can your organisation prepare?

Aon recommends that organisations affected by the new law act immediately: appoint a steering committee to address the changes, run a full risk assessment, and consider your insurance coverage to ensure your organisation is prepared when the law comes into effect.

Aon can assist Our Community members with their insurance needs.

For help from Aon, contact nathan.richmond@aon.com.

More information

- [Defence Department's top four methods to mitigate targeted cyber intrusions](#)
- [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner guidelines for handling data breaches](#)
- [Aon information about cyber risks](#)
- [From Our Community: Damn Good Advice on Cyber-safety and Fraud Prevention](#) ■

Nominations open for 2017 HESTA Community Sector Awards

The HESTA Community Sector Awards recognise outstanding service, advocacy and leadership in improving the lives of people who rely on the sector's services.

Do you know a community sector worker with a story worth celebrating?

Recognise their dedication and professionalism in one of three categories:
Unsung Hero, Outstanding Organisation, or Social Impact.

Winners share a \$30,000 prize pool thanks to sponsor ME bank.

Submit your nomination by August 4 at hestaawards.com.au.

The winner of the 2016 Unsung Hero award, Anne Mitchell, tells her story here:





Good Jobs

At GoodJobs.com.au, our mission is to connect purpose-driven people with organisations in the not-for-profit and community sectors. We want to help energetic, idealistic, and passionate people overcome obstacles and achieve their career ambitions and dreams.

Current vacancies

Children First Foundation

Program Mangers (two part-time roles), Kilmore Vic

You will have the opportunity to make a difference in disadvantaged children's lives by being responsible for their 24/7 holistic care and overall welfare.

Assistant Program Managers (three roles)

You will have the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives by being responsible for their 24/7 holistic care and overall welfare. We are seeking three outstanding people who will share the evening/overnight mid-week roles. Experience as a personal care attendant will be viewed favourably.

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Work and Learning Advisor – Client Engagement Carlton and Fitzroy, Vic

An exciting opportunity exists for a Work and Learning Advisor – Client Engagement to find and prepare people for training and employment opportunities.

Writers Victoria

Director/CEO, Melbourne CBD

Writers Victoria is looking for a new Director/CEO to lead Australia's largest writer centre.

Community and Patient Preference Research

Research Assistant, Sydney

Community and Patient Preference Research (CaPPRe) specialises in choice-based research in a range of industries including healthcare, government infrastructure, the arts, transport and environmental economics.

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Good Suppliers

Be more visible to not-for-profit and community organisations by listing your business in the Suppliers section of GoodJobs.com.au.

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At Saward Dawson, we are genuine in the pursuit of the highest standards in professionalism and ethics. In an environment where clients demand value for money while seeking the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, we strive for excellence.

Find out more about this supplier

Pitney Bowes

Pitney Bowes creates streamlined, automated systems that allow you to communicate with peak efficiency and the highest degree of productivity, precision, flexibility and efficiency

Find out more about this supplier

Nomad Accounting

Management and accounting solutions for not-for-profits, small businesses, charities and social enterprises who need CFO experience without the full-time cost.

Find out more about this supplier

ES Photos

Freelance photographer Ellen Smith worked as a News Corp Australia press photojournalist for 27 years. She's also contributed to projects for the East Timor Eye Program, Eyes for Africa, and other not-for-profits. Contact Ellen for all your organisation's photography needs.

Find out more about this supplier



PR opportunities for Melbourne not-for-profits

RMIT University is seeking expressions of interest from Melbourne-based not-for-profit organisations interested in working with final year public relations students on communication projects.

Working in small groups, students research, prepare and present a proposal for a project identified by the client. Possible campaign projects include event planning, media management (auditing and devising an ongoing traditional or social media strategy), stakeholder management, or auditing and preparing materials such as brochures, websites or annual reports.

Students are available to work with organisations between mid July and mid October. They are supervised by teaching staff and industry professionals as well as working in close collaboration with their client.

For more information or to discuss possible projects, contact associate lecturer Justin Rogers on (03) 9925 1076 or Justin.Rogers2@rmit.edu.au.



Discounts and freebies

Sixteen days: that's the time remaining until the new financial year. On July 1, many IT providers "reset" the quota of discounted products they make available to Australian not-for-profits via Connecting Up. If you're in the market for an upgrade or update – anything from Adobe publishing software to Xirrus wi-fi coverage – check out the opportunities available at www.connectingup.org, and make the most of this year's quota before July 1.



New program paints a picture of better arts governance

A new series of workshops and free webinars for leaders of arts organisations aims to improve governance skills within the creative sector.

The program is tailored for those in leadership roles within small to medium arts organisations, including the CEO, artistic director and board members.

The Australia Council Arts Governance Program is presented by the Council in partnership with the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA), an Our Community enterprise.

Lissa Twomey, the Australia Council's Major Performing Arts and National Engagement Executive Director, encourages executives of small to medium organisations to take advantage of this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the risks unique to arts organisations.

"The Australia Council identified a lack of

nationwide arts-specific upskilling, and, as a result, developed the Arts Governance Program. Strong governance can ensure the right environment for an organisation to thrive and create great art," Ms Twomey said.

"Arts boards need strong structures and processes in place and the Arts Governance Program provides tools to effectively discuss how the creation of art aligns with the vision and the mission of the organisation."

The Australia Council's 2015 report Arts Nation found that a growing number of Australians believe the arts make for a richer and more meaningful life; that they influence how we express ourselves, our creative thinking and new ideas.

For more information on the Arts Governance Program, and to register, go to www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/article.jsp?id=7172.

Upskill

Diploma of Business (Governance)

Upgrade your qualifications and expand your network by studying for a Diploma of Business (Governance). Australia's only diploma-level governance qualification is designed specifically for existing and prospective not-for-profit board or committee members and the CEOs and senior staff who work alongside them. Check out the course start dates below and then [enrol here](#).

Melbourne	July 24, September 18, November 13	Sydney	July 24, October 9
Perth	August 7, October 2	Brisbane	June 12, August 7, October 2

Australia Council arts governance program

The Australia Council arts governance program has been developed specifically for the arts sector. It promises to enhance participants' leadership in arts governance.

Registration for this workshop will give you access to one day of governance training as well as two years of membership of the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA), a specialist not-for-profit governance membership body. It also includes access to a private arts governance online forum.

Attending as a group? Please note: The registration fee for this training is \$350 per group of up to three people.

No sessions in your location? Demand for this program is very strong and many scheduled sessions have sold out. Further dates and locations will be added according to demand. Please let us know if you're interested in attending a workshop in your location by emailing leadershipprogram@australiacouncil.gov.au.

Check out the course dates below and then register for the Australia Council arts governance program [here](#).

Cairns	June 22	Perth	October 12	Darwin	November 14
Hobart	July 20	Alice Springs	November 16		

Webinar: reviewing your board

The not-for-profit sector has traditionally been somewhat laggard in measuring and improving its organisational performance, including board performance. In this webinar, you will learn how to measure and judge the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of your board in a range of areas. June 15. Register [here](#).



Board Matching Service

The board vacancies below are just a small sample of what's currently listed at both the Institute of Community Directors Australia website and Good Jobs.

ACT

Treasurer, Canberra Repertory Society

REP is a not-for-profit community theatre company limited by guarantee, and a Charity registered with the ACNC. REP provides high-quality theatre productions to the Canberra community, and has fostered local talent since 1932. The Council is made up of volunteers

New South Wales

General Board Member, Coffs Harbour Support Services

Coffs Harbour Support Services Ltd provides services and supports to people with disability. For this vacancy, we are interested in hearing from people with a background in community services, housing, lived experience of disability, communication or marketing.

Queensland

Treasurer, The Eating Issues Centre, Brisbane

The Eating Issues Centre seeks a treasurer for the management committee. Carers or people with a lived experience of mental health are encouraged to apply. The management committee handbook can be requested for more information.

South Australia

Treasurer, Mental Illness Fellowship SA

The Mental Illness Fellowship South Australia Inc (MIFSA) is a leading non-government mental health organisation in South Australia. We provide services to approximately 5000 people each year: through individual support, group activities, respite and community education, delivered by a team of 50 volunteers and 160 staff.

Tasmania

General board members, Citizen Advocacy Launceston Region Inc

We focus on people with intellectual disabilities who may be neglected, vulnerable, lonely and in need of someone to speak up and represent their interests. We assist by creating and supporting freely given relationships between suitable community members and the person in need. We seek board members with skills in finance, strategic planning or human resources.

Victoria

Treasurer, No To Violence incorporating Men's Referral Service (NTV/MRS)

(NTV/MRS) works with men to prevent family violence. We are a pro-feminist organisation with a gender diverse workforce tackling the root causes of family violence. We are seeking a female treasurer to join our board.



Western Australia

Treasurer and general board members, Broome Youth and Families Hub Inc

We are looking for a person with great understanding of the inner workings of a not-for-profit as well as high level skills comprehending financial reports. We would also like to see more general board members, so if you are passionate about assisting disadvantaged families and youth, please get in contact. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to join our board.

Advertise a board vacancy

Looking for talented people to contribute to your board or committee? The Institute of Community Directors Australia can promote your vacancy for free to a targeted audience of skilled professionals.

Learn more about listing your vacancy: www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board.

ENJOY 25% OFF

all Our Community books & bundles until 30/06/17





JUNE 1-30

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month has a positive message: saving lives through early detection. Bowel cancer is one of the most treatable types of cancer if found early.

[Details](#)



JUNE 12

(Not the) Queen's Birthday

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926, but in Australia (except in WA and Queensland) her birthday is marked with a public holiday on June 12.



JUNE 14

Healthy Tuckshop Day

Teachers, students and canteen managers – sign the Healthy Tuckshop Pledge to declare a commitment to healthy and delicious tuckshop menu options. Healthy habits start early!

[Details](#)



JUNE 15

Global Wind Day

A day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape energy systems, decarbonise economies and boost jobs and growth.

[Details](#)

JUNE 18-24

Refugee Week

An opportunity to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film and other events, which take place all over Australia.

[Details](#)

JUNE 19-25

World Continence Week

It's not uncommon for people to laugh off incontinence, accepting it as an inevitable part of childbirth or ageing. The theme of this year's awareness week is "Incontinence: no laughing matter".

[Details](#)

JUNE 26

Eid al-Fitr

For Muslims, the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan.

[Details](#)

JUNE 30

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day raises funds for research into the causes of stillbirth and sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI).

[Details](#)



JULY 1-31

Dry July

Dry July asks people to give up alcohol for a month to raise funds for cancer patients and their families and carers.

[Details](#)



JULY 2-9

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements

[Details](#)



JULY 21

National Pyjama Day

Funds raised through this event help the Pyjama Foundation to offer learning skills, educational resources, and stable, positive relationships to kids living in foster care.

[Details](#)



MAY 27-JUNE 3

National Reconciliation Week

This year marks two milestones in Australia's reconciliation journey: 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the High Court's Mabo decision.

[Details](#)

*Our Community Matters is your free community sector update, brought to you by **Our Community** – Australia’s centre for excellence for the nation’s 600,000 not-for-profits and schools, providing advice, tools, resources and training. It’s published on the first Wednesday of alternate months.*

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