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Where not-for-profits go for help



Communities
in Control 2018
Edition

Our Community Matters



Edition 3, 2018 • June

Communities in Control 2018: As it happened



A thousand community delegates from across the country have laughed, cried, been confronted, and been inspired by the only conference in the land with more powerful communities as its goal.

Australia's progressive leaders, thinkers and doers converged for the two-day event aimed at "activating community leadership to combat inequality".

Delegates were captivated as thirteen great thinkers, achievers, activists and artists took to the stage at Melbourne's Moonee Valley Racing Club on May 28–29, displaying the determination and thirst for change that marks out the conference as unlike any other.

In this issue of *Our Community Matters*, we re-live the highlights of Communities in Control 2018. For extended coverage, visit www.communitiesincontrol.com.au/cic/. ▶



CIC 2018: By the numbers



Fans who wanted Gillian Triggs' autograph after the Joan Kirner Social Justice Oration

12

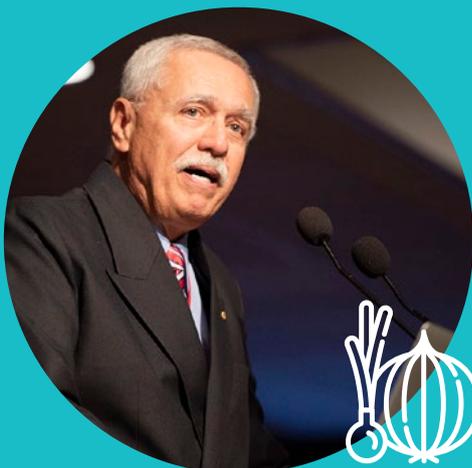


Coffee drinkers with a reusable cup

240

And without

2085



Converts to veganism following Philip Wollen's animal rights address

At least three





Squirms as spoken-word performer Jax Jacki Brown described her arousing encounters with Northcote's topography
Quite a few



Tears shed during Kathy Kelly's heartbreaking story
Many



Length of the queue for selfies with *Not Just Lucky* author Jamila Rizvi
Six metres





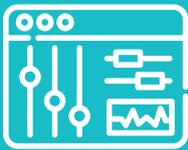
Help desk queries

402



Estimated maximum applause volume in decibels

80





Communities in Control: Inspiration you can act on

Each speaker at Communities in Control 2018 built a compelling case as to what must be done for Australia to become ever more liveable, welcoming and fair-minded.

Our Community managing director Denis Moriarty was unapologetic about the progressive lineup, which reflected the social enterprise and **B Corporation's** agenda of a business with a conscience.

"It's an incredible line-up of some of the most inquisitive, creative, courageous and forward-thinking Australians, a chance for all the community groups we're so closely involved with to tap into new ways of doing things, and a once-a-year opportunity to catch up with old friends," Mr Moriarty said.

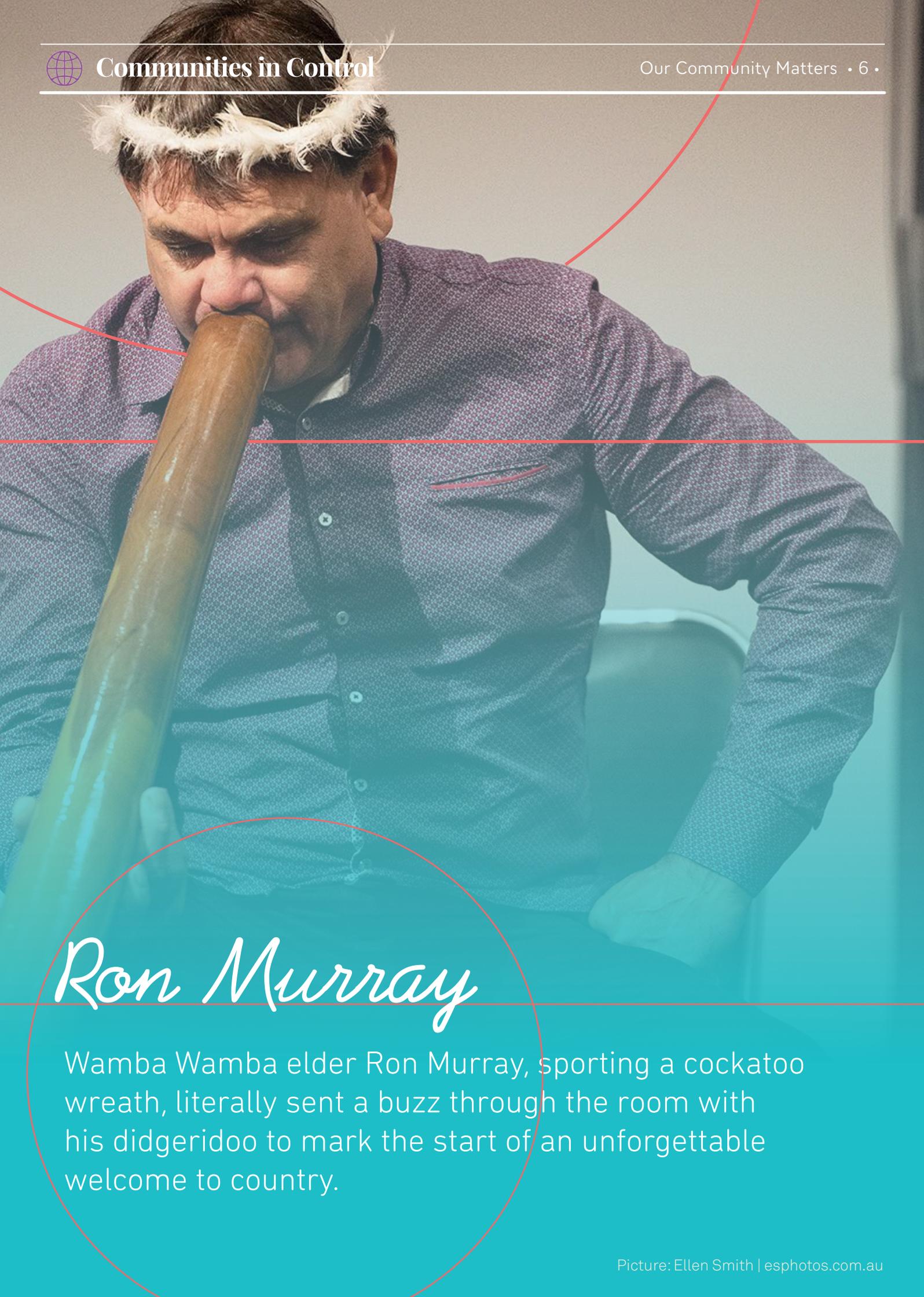
"We know many of our delegates have walked out of this event changed people, more ready to take a stand, to take action and to do it more effectively," Mr Moriarty said.

In these pages we present a visual reminder of some of the conference's most inspiring and memorable moments.

We're posting full transcripts, podcasts, video and audio of most presentations online as soon as they become available: www.communitiesincontrol.com.au/cic/.



As one animated, engaging speaker after another took to the stage, audience members showed their appreciation.



Ron Murray

Wamba Wamba elder Ron Murray, sporting a cockatoo wreath, literally sent a buzz through the room with his didgeridoo to mark the start of an unforgettable welcome to country.



Kutchra Edwards

Kutchra Edwards, performing during Reconciliation Week, stirred hearts with his ballads and reminded everyone of whose land the conference was held on. **Revisit our Facebook Live video stream of Kutchra's performance here.**



Giving voice to value is all about once you know what's right, how do you get it done effectively? And what will the pushback be? ”

Online: Mary's speech in full

Dr Mary Gentile

Leadership education pioneer Dr Mary Gentile described her "crisis of faith" having taught the captains of industry at Harvard Business School, yet repeatedly witnessing graduates from leading US universities later facing up to some of the biggest scandals, financial collapses and ethically questionable behaviours in history.



Luck is a substitute for women's lack of confidence and our desire to be liked. It is one of the many ways we twist and turn ourselves inside out to please other people. To seem less powerful, less threatening, less likely to take up space that would otherwise be occupied by a man. ”

Jamila Rizvi

Author and political
commentator



Philip Wollen

Philanthropist and
animal rights advocate

“Veganism is the Swiss army knife of the future. It will solve the political, environmental, social and economic challenges we face.”

[Online: Philip's speech in full](#)



Annabel Crable

Writer, TV personality and political journalist

“ This is the way change happens. One guy takes parental leaves, and he comes back and he’s still alive, and then the next year there’s more. ”

“ I’ve stopped being angry when women executives are asked how they juggle their responsibilities – I get angry when men aren’t asked. ”



Hugh Mackay

Social researcher

Online: Hugh's speech in full



We ourselves can transform street by street, community by community ... because when it comes to character and values of our society, who else is it up to, apart from us? Everyone knows how to act like a neighbour when there's a crisis, [but] wouldn't it be a tragedy if we overlooked our neighbours except when there's a tragedy. ”



Nicholas Gruen

Economist



Imagine if you could not go to a war except with a strong vote from a citizens' assembly. We would feel a lot calmer, less 'spun' to. ”

[Online: Nicholas's speech in full](#)



Kathy Kelly

Reformer who lost two sons in tragic circumstances



We can change the world with kindness. Smiling more, paying it forward. Just try it – there are so many ways.”

[Online: Kathy's speech in full](#)



I know love, I know how to give it and receive it, and I deserve it. Queer, political, radical, proud. Love is revolution. ”

Online: Jax's performance in full

Jax Jacki Brown

Disability and
LGBTQI activist



“ If those people who have carried the heaviest weight, and borne the greatest burden can present what Galarrwuy Yunupingu called a “gift to the nation”, the Uluru Statement ... if indigenous people can present that to Australia at this time, it’s an extraordinary gift, and one that should not be overlooked. ”

[Online: Stan’s speech in full](#)

Stan Grant

TV journalist Stan Grant has seen the best and worst of humanity in his time covering history-shaking events across Europe, Asia and Australia. He told the audience that “the question of indigenous rights fits into a global struggle for justice, recognition, and liberalism”.



Sukhjot Kaur Khalsa

Slam poet

“ My people, the Sikhs, came here in 1860 with camels and carts and courageous hearts. And look at the maxi taxi: we're still driving and steering this country in offices and hospitals and even on stage. So when people tell me and my family to go home to where we came from, I reply with a smile, tongue-in-cheek: 'Mate, we've been right at home for the past 150 years. ”



Paul Higgins

Futurist

Online: Paul's speech in full

“If anyone tells you they can say what will happen, I will only guarantee one thing – it will be wrong.”

“I want you to think about one thing: How do I think about the strategic landscape that I'm working in, to better understand it and build better organisations?”



Gillian Triggs

Former Australian Human Rights Commission president

“ If this conference is about communities in control, I say take that control, take that leadership that’s so lacking at the federal level, to insist that fundamental human rights are recognised ... ultimately through a charter of human rights. ”

Online: Gillian’s speech in full



What makes a good community leader?

Local communities are the laboratories of innovation and agility. They deliver targeted social and economic outcomes and they've laboriously and painfully accumulated a vast stock of knowledge about what works and what doesn't.

Activating that community leadership to combat inequality was the theme of Communities in Control 2018.

So what makes a good community leader? We threw the question to delegates. Listen to what they had to say.



Vox pop: Why did you decide to come along to Communities in Control 2018?

One attendee last year described Communities in Control as “a head-exploding experience, in the nicest possible way”. We checked in with delegates this year to see why they’d come – and whether they’d made it through intact.



Pam Soper

Queensland Wildlife



I’m at my third CIC, and it is tremendous knowing there are other people to share with. I’ve been a volunteer my whole life and it’s just so inspiring to come here and get new ideas. It is just fantastic coming here. ”



Michael Garang

Education scholarship delegate



I’m here to learn and to meet others. Mostly I’m interested in leadership programs, because that’s what I’m involved with in my own community. This is all part of my plan to see more of my own generation in some organisations, like the police, which have so few Sudanese – to show them which paths to take, to have a better pathway to leadership. ”

Michael’s attendance was supported by The Huddle, a not-for-profit youth-focused initiative of the North Melbourne Football Club.



Sophie DeGreen

Chapman University, California



We're here for a class program at our university, and we're making documentaries about Sikh cultures in Australia. We came across Sukhjit and thought she was super-cool, and a great subject. We're funded by a project called SikhLens. ”



Phil *Big Issue* vendor



It's quick and easy, and it's fast. ”
[Phil on the 32 sales of *The Big Issue* he'd made before the lunch break on day one.]

“It's also getting the word out about *The Big Issue* helping people help themselves. It's not hands out, it's hands up. That's what the magazine is all about. ”



Fran Stead

Cowra Neighbourhood Centre, NSW



Last year was the first time we came, and it truly inspired us. We were able to plan and took so much away from it. It was affordable. It was definitely worth it. We really looked forward to it for the next twelve months, and couldn't wait to come back. ”



David Moutou

City of Parramatta Council, NSW



I've been to a few past *Communities in Control*, but the theme of addressing inequality is one of our strategic focuses. I came to hear what the latest thinking was and to surround myself with good people. The challenge for me is always about belonging, especially in a big urban city like Parramatta. What are the small steps we can take ... and how do we know we're having a positive impact? ”



Irene Montefiore

Lower Great Southern District Health Advisory Council, Albany, WA



It's my first time, and I'm finding it terrific. I didn't know what to expect. I'm involved in compassionate communities ... and I just think it's so important that consumers and community members have a close involvement in what happens and the way we develop our communities. ”



Barbara Hingston

Health and community services consultant



I really think it's an opportunity to hear 'from the ground' about the issues that impact on healthy communities. The world is a complex place and this is a good way of finding about what are the things that are concerning people, what are the things people are hopeful about, where is change happening in communities, and how is that change for good being harnessed? ”



Fatmata Parkinson

The Multicultural Network, NSW



I like all of the sessions because there's a lot to learn and they are all inspirational. I would like to take everything and implement everything, which is not possible, but it is great to see what other people are doing and to be inspired by that. Every year there is something new. And the theme this year, equality, is one of my passions. ”



Alex Nevill

Student, Bendigo Senior Secondary College



I've always been interested in sociology, but this has just made me so much more interested in becoming a researcher. Not to just hear the stats, but to develop them. There's so many new things coming up in our generation ... There's a whole lot that's untapped. ”



Save the dates

The countdown has begun to next year's event.

Communities in Control 2019

*May 20–21, 2019
Melbourne*

We'd love to see you there.



Our Community Matters



Edition 3, 2018 • June

ASIC levy stems from a state–federal mess



Charity sector law in Australia is a spaghetti-like tangle.

BY DENIS MORIARTY, GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR, OUR COMMUNITY

The Australian government apparently wants Australians to pay close scrutiny to the ways in which the nation's charity sector law is a confusing and counterproductive mishmash of pointless complication. If the government ever thinks you're in danger of forgetting, in fact, they send somebody round to kick you hard in the head to regain your attention. Just now, to come to cases, they're imposing a \$320 per year levy on charities that are also companies, on the grounds that those ones are registered with ASIC as well as with the ACNC.

This makes no sense at all. ASIC doesn't have any actual responsibilities for regulating companies that are charities – they've passed that job to the ACNC, along with any associated costs. The levy is simple extortion.

If the government actually liked not-for-profits, rather than seeing them as annoying grit in the gears of the juggernaut, it would simply exempt the charities caught up in this.

Headlines like "Australian charities pay the price with new ASIC levy", though, are way too broad. ►

Only about 12% of NFPs are charities, and only about 12% of those are companies. Most charities are state-regulated incorporated associations, or even unincorporated associations, and they won't have to pay. Neither will trusts, or cooperatives, or statutory authorities.

And while I don't want to see everybody suffer just to make things tidy, this inequality of impact does mean that once again Australian organisations doing identical good things for identical good reasons will be treated entirely differently just because of a legal formality that means nothing to them at any other point in their existence.

It's all rather like section 44 of the Constitution, when you come to think of it – the one that's been randomly bouncing MPs out of their seats on the basis of their parents' citizenship. Someone took a decision 20 or 50 or 100 years ago, everybody got on with their lives, and then out of a clear blue sky a legal quibble hits you like a thunderbolt.

You'd think that the Parliament would be a bit more sympathetic to the sector's complaints, all things considered, given their own problems with the hangover of inappropriate English laws. You might even hope that somebody up there in Canberra would want to fix the underlying problem, which is that the whole not-for-profit sector is staked out directly over the yawning rifts in the Australian federal system.

Companies are national, charities are national, associations are state-by-state, and how hard can it possibly be to agree that what Australia needs is one single authority covering not-for-profits, one single regulator, and one single legal form? Let's finally struggle out of this viscous bog. Have the states hand over their powers to the Commonwealth, as they've done in other areas. Sort out tax on the basis of what you do, not what you are.

Here at Our Community we're often asked whether prospective not-for-profit community groups should start up as companies or as incorporated associations. For small groups, the decision has now become much simpler: stay as far away from the feds as possible. Is that really what the government wants? ■

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Great Grant: The Ignitor Fund

The Ignitor Fund, a program of the English Family Foundation (EFF), seeks to support changemakers who are tackling the most pressing issues within their local communities in innovative ways, and who need to scale up.

Who's eligible?

The Ignitor Fund is looking to partner with organisations that have already developed their proof of concept and are now seeking funds to scale to the next stage of their development.

The fund will consider applications where it is clear that the objective is to make a transformational, tangible and measurable difference to the quality of life and welfare of the individuals and communities involved. The focus is on assisting organisations to progress towards impact investment.

Organisations may be working in any community sector, and the funding can be used for operational costs or specific projects. Applicants must:

- have Item 1 DGR (deductible gift recipient) status and TCC (tax concession charity) status and annual revenue of less than \$5 million
- show some element of social experimentation, innovation or risk, as well as evidence of comprehensive business planning and a high level of community engagement
- be on the path towards impact investment and have measurable indicators in place, or be developing them
- be led by an individual or group of individuals who have a clear vision for change and seek



support for the practical implementation of this vision.

Timing and available funding

This grant program is considered throughout the year at the discretion of the English Family Foundation board. One-off and multi-year applications are considered. Generally, requests for grants up to \$50,000 will be considered (up to \$100,000 in special cases).

How to apply

Applications for support may be made at any time via an EOI (expression of interest) form. Once you have submitted your EOI, the foundation will telephone you within 21 working days to discuss it and, where relevant, arrange a meeting or site visit.

You may then be invited to provide more detailed information at the request of the foundation, or you may be advised that your application will not proceed any further.

For more information, visit the Funding Centre (log-in required): www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G07724. ■



Shelterbelts help to improve biodiversity and protect crops and livestock from damaging weather. Photo: istock

Tree planting is now less taxing

BY KERRY BURGESS, EDITOR, OUR COMMUNITY MATTERS

Tax law is fiendishly complicated, so one small country Victorian not-for-profit organisation went straight to the top to help its members to understand it.

Lisette Mill is the only paid employee of the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network, which covers the lush dairy country and stunning coastlines around Warnambool in south-western Victoria.

As the network's facilitator, her job involves encouraging farmers to become more resilient to the effects of climate change. "We live in an area with a very temperate climate," she says, "so often people don't understand the need for wind breaks and the like. It's a hard sell, even though it's been well proven by 40 years of research."

Back in the 2000s, a lot of money from the sale of Telstra was granted to Landcare groups, but since that dried up, it's been more difficult for farmers to find the funds to plant shelterbelts – lines of trees and shrubs that help to reduce soil

erosion, control salinity, improve biodiversity, and protect crops and livestock from damaging weather.

"Against that backdrop," Lisette told Our Community, "our network looked at what we could do to encourage farmers to plant more shade and shelterbelts."

"One afternoon, it was boiling hot and I was driving past a property where the Black Angus cattle were standing in the dam in a paddock without any trees, trying to cool down.

"I'd heard about Landcare tax incentives, so I went online and started looking on the ATO website and what I found was almost nothing. What was there was really confusing. If I was a busy farmer, I would have given up. I tried for ►



Lisette Mill from the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network says small NFPs shouldn't hold back in reaching out to large organisations for help. Photo: supplied

40 minutes and it was way too hard. I thought, I wonder if the ATO knows it's really hard. So I rang them, and I basically said, 'What's on your website is bonkers. Help! It shouldn't be this hard! Why is it this hard!'

"I said, 'Can you write a fact sheet that explains this. Put it in farmer-speak and come back to us and make it so it's easy to understand. Take it out of taxation-speak and into something we can understand in five minutes.'"

The ATO swung into action, and within a fortnight had produced a new fact sheet for farmers called "Establishing shelterbelts on land used in a primary production business".

"From that time it has been one of the most successful and business-changing pieces of information we have ever used," says Lisette.

"The reason it's business-changing is that this has been written by the ATO, so it's the law as they apply it; it's not something written by Landcare trying to interpret taxation law.

"Full credit to the ATO – they are properly amazing. How this document came to life reflects a change the ATO has been having, driven by the tax commissioner, Chris Jordan, to make the ATO more responsive and interested and producing the tools organisations and people need to pay the right amount of tax."

The fact sheet has been downloaded tens of thousands of times, and while its impact is difficult to quantify, Lisette describes it as "revolutionary".

"This new sheet is about giving farmers different angles on things they commonly think about doing, so they can think more broadly about the problem, not just 'What can I claim?'"

"It's like a great ATO lightning rod for building climate resilience in agriculture."

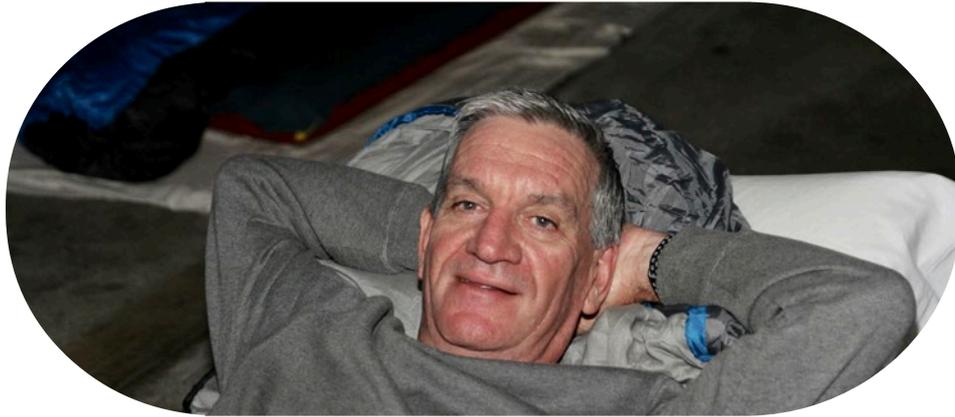
Lisette advises other not-for-profits not to hold back when it comes to reaching out for help. "As a not-for-profit you think you can't hunt down large organisations like the ATO, but you can. Anything that government can produce to make your job easier is worth partnering on and producing."

"It's been the most rewarding thing I've ever done in this job."

More information

[ATO help sheet: Establishing shelterbelts on land used in a primary production business](#)

[Our Community help sheet: Tax law and legal structures](#) ■



Fomer NSW police commissioner Andrew Scipioni sleeps rough for the night to support Georges River Life Care.

Charity sleep-out shoots for the stars

BY ALEX MCMILLAN, OUR COMMUNITY

South Sydney Christian charity Georges River Life Care raises money each year for its domestic violence support services, but in 2018 it ramped up its efforts with GiveNow's latest peer-to-peer fundraising tool, CrowdRaisers.

The annual **Sleeping Rough** event sees fundraisers come together for the night to sleep in the car park of local establishment Club Rivers. Money raised goes towards providing victims of domestic violence with a range of services including a legal advice clinic, counselling services and emergency provisions.

This year, Georges River Life Care manager Glenn Power decided to aim big. "I thought, 'Let's just go for it. Let's aim for \$20,000.' This was double what we had raised in previous years."

Peer-to-peer creates new possibilities

Georges River directed existing donors from the church and local community to its regular GiveNow cause page, which is commission-free. The organisation used GiveNow's new CrowdRaisers feature solely for peer-to-peer fundraising, which attracts a fee of 3.8% for each donation.

The fee covers the development of the new CrowdRaisers feature, which allows individuals to fundraise on behalf of organisations by creating their own profile page on the GiveNow site. This sits alongside an organisation's regular cause. Individuals can then ask their friends and family to donate to their fundraising effort, whether they're participating in a fun run, or requesting charitable donations in lieu of birthday gifts, or, as in the case of Mr Power's organisation, participating in a sleep-out.

"The sleep-out event is really designed for peer-to-peer fundraising," Mr Power said. "We'd used GiveNow in our peer-to-peer fundraising before the CrowdRaisers feature came through, but it was a bit clunky. It's so much smoother and simpler now – a great improvement.

"Every dollar back to us is awesome, but when we think of 3.8% in the scheme of things, when ►



Sleeping Rough organisers and supporters, from left: Mark Coure MP, Venus Kazantzis (St George Family Support Services), Kevin Greene (Georges River Council mayor), Andrew Scipione (event patron), Glenn Power (Georges River Life Care).

GiveNow is doing all the work to run the service and produce receipts, it's worth it."

Success built on community support

Mr Power knew that if the church was going to double the previous year's fundraising target, it would need a range of new strategies to get it over the line.

The most successful strategy was opening up the age range of the supporter base. "Normally we only invited adults to participate, but this year we opened it up to whole families, which really expanded our base."

Another successful strategy was setting a minimum fundraising requirement. "We asked people to raise at least \$200 to participate in the sleep-out." The target for younger fundraisers was lower.

Several high-school-aged children used GiveNow's CrowdRaisers and not only met the church's minimum fundraising requirement but in some cases exceeded it.

"I think when a young person does something for social benefit, people take notice, because that kind of responsibility normally lies with older people," Mr Power said. "So when younger people take a stand, adults respond really well. They rise to the challenge and ask themselves, 'Well,

they're putting themselves out there. Why aren't I doing something too?'"

He won strong support from local personalities and businesses, including event host Club Rivers, Mayor Kevin Greene and NSW MLA Mark Coure. But it was the backing of the ex-Police Commissioner for NSW and church member Andrew Scipioni that got the attention of **a local newspaper**, which reported Mr Scipioni saying, "This is my church, but on a bigger picture, this is a great initiative... In my time as commissioner, I've seen some horrific numbers in domestic violence and in particular, sexual violence and the impact it has on children."

Georges River Life Care exceeded its target by 25%, raising \$25,000, and Mr Power hopes to keep the event growing next year. "We want to continue to grow it beyond the church and be something the whole community can participate in."

More information

Find out more about GiveNow's CrowdRaiser feature: <https://www.givenow.com.au/sub/organisation>

List your organisation on GiveNow and use CrowdRaisers: www.givenow.com.au/sign-up/organisation ■

Your two-minute NFP news digest

Gymnastics just got safer

“This is a significant cultural shift within our organisation where the safety of children is paramount.” – Kitty Chiller, CEO, Gymnastics Australia

The CEO of Gymnastics Australia announces that her organisation will become the first national sporting body to implement “child safe” steps on a national scale in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Around 220,000 young gymnasts (91% of them aged under 12) will be better protected thanks to the training-based initiative by Gymnastics Australia and child protection organisation Bravehearts. [Full story](#)

Whistleblowing changes coming soon

“The importance of protecting corporate whistleblowers has been recognised for many years. However, legislative protections under the Corporations Act since 2004 have been sparingly used and are increasingly perceived as inadequate, having regard to recent advances in the public sector, other parts of the private sector and overseas.” – Senator Mathias Cormann, federal Minister for Finance

A large proportion of the not-for-profit sector is likely to be affected by a proposed new whistleblowing law currently before the Senate. The Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017 would require community organisations structured as companies limited by guarantee to have a whistleblower policy by January 1, 2019. To track the Bill, click [here](#). To help your organisation prepare, download Our Community’s free guide *Whistleblowing at Your Not-for-profit*: www.ourcommunity.com.au/marketplace/marketplace_article.jsp?articleId=7222

Complaints: can you handle this?

“Ensuring people in need – particularly those in vulnerable circumstances – have a safe and confidential avenue to raise complaints is critical to good governance of the sector.”

– Sue-Anne Wallace, former chair, Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct Committee

Eleven leading national peak bodies working in the charity sector – across the arts, emergency relief, fundraising, community organisations, volunteering, philanthropy and governance – have launched a policy aimed at improving the way charities handle complaints. Also available are a series of templates to be used and adapted by charity boards.

[Read the policy and download the tools](#) ►

You can take the volunteer out of the country ...

An ageing population and reduced government funding are seeing rural Australia's volunteer numbers start to dwindle. New research published in the *Journal of Rural Studies* recommends governments move away from city-centric funding and models.

Read a summary in *The Conversation* or **download the research**

Charity income continues to grow: ACNC

Charities' income increased by \$11 billion between 2014 and 2016, according to new research from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC). Over the same period, there was a decrease in the number of organisations with charitable status and an increase in charities' spending on programming.

Read the report

More money, but fewer donations

The number of charitable donors in Australia has decreased by 5% since 2011, according to new Roy Morgan research. The most dramatic drop was seen in Western Australia, which has gone from having the largest proportion of donors three years ago, to the lowest, reflecting changes in the mining industry.

Read the report ■

Switch to solar

A new program called The Big Solar Switch aims to make solar energy installations easier and more affordable for not-for-profits across Australia.

Under the program, not-for-profits have access to group buying power, including negotiated rates, extended warranties, expert advice, and free project management help.

The Big Solar Switch is a joint initiative of Community Buying Group and Moreland Energy Foundation.

For more information and to register your interest, go to <https://solarswitch.org/>.





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Struggling to streamline your operations?
Caught in a governance sinkhole?

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the day for your community group.**

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**Our Community's acclaimed
"How-To" guides**

Offer only available via
ourcommunity.com.au/eofysale

Free shipping provided throughout Australia
Sale ends 11:59 pm AEST, 30 June 2018



Our Community data scientists follow a rainbow

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY



Members of The Channel at the Gaytimes Festival last year.

Our Community is doing its bit to “grow the pot of gold under the rainbow”, crunching data to help improve the flow of funds to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) groups.

The data skills of Our Community’s Innovation Lab team will help the Channel giving circle in its quest to do better for LGBTQI+ groups.

The joint project is part of Our Community’s push to help the Australian not-for-profit sector transition successfully into the data era. To kick off that process, Our Community sought expressions of interest from not-for-profit organisations willing to let us test our skills on a real-life data project. Sixteen organisations

applied for a chance to work with our team of highly skilled data scientists, which includes astrophysicist Paola Oliva-Altamirano and PhD candidate and Melbourne Datathon founder Joost van der Linden.

Why are LGBTQI+ groups missing out?

Among the excellent projects put forward by a range of not-for-profits across the country, The Channel’s was chosen as the one with the best fit for the Innovation Lab’s skills and its desire to work on a project that could have wider applications across the not-for-profit sector.

The Channel is a giving circle that raises funds from a community of members paying from \$25 a month. Funds are pooled to provide grants, and ►

recipients are selected by member votes.

The Channel's executive director, Georgia Mathews, is enthusiastic about the possibilities of the partnership, which she hopes will generate more public backing for the group's important work.

"This partnership will provide us with a compelling evidence base for our story," she said.

Ms Mathews said funders often avoided LGBTQI+ causes, believing them to be "too political". She said as a result the LGBTQI+ community had been "largely excluded from the benefits of Australian philanthropy".

But minimal reporting on donor trends and a lack of research in Australia meant "we just don't have the figures to back up this observation".

In the United States, just 24 cents out of every \$100 directly benefits LGBTQI+ groups, less than any other marginalised group. That's despite higher rates of youth suicide, poor mental health, harassment, violence, workplace discrimination and homelessness in the LGBTQI+ community than outside it.

In Australia, no big funder's name is connected to the LGBTQI+ sector, and the majority of not-for-profits working with this population group are volunteer-run and operating on extremely tight budgets.

Ms Matthews said the project would help The Channel to understand more about who applies for and gets LGBTQI+ funding, and it would use that knowledge to lobby for more philanthropic resources and move towards "closing the gap".

"We need these insights to truly understand the nature of the task at hand."

She said The Channel would also use changes in the data over time to help measure its own effectiveness.

Our Community executive director Kathy Richardson, who will help oversee the project, said the partnership would create significant benefits for Our Community.

"The project will help Our Community learn more about how to work with a not-for-profit



The Channel's Georgia Mathews.

organisation on a data project, in preparation for the opening of OC House — a social sector co-working space that includes a strong focus on data science.

"Thanks to the many not-for-profits that expressed an interest in working with us, we see a lot of potential to use data science to propel Australia's social sector forward, and it's exciting to see a wealth of opportunities reflected in the project ideas we received."

She said the project reflected Our Community's overriding vision to build stronger communities through stronger community organisations, and was well harmonised with Our Community's data goals, which are to:

- Foster a supportive and transparent community sector
- Improve decision making, based on evidence
- Identify systemic barriers that hamper progress
- Identify opportunities to automate
- Increase collaboration and learning
- Share what works.

Big data a big challenge for small groups

Like many not-for-profits, The Channel's leaders understand the value of big data, but lack the resources to make the most of it. ►

“Building or accessing big data sets is one thing; knowing how to interrogate and use them is another,” Ms Mathews said.

“This is a particular capability that most small not-for-profits just can’t prioritise in-house, and The Channel is no different.”

She said the only alternative was to outsource the work, but that was difficult for a sector that was already extremely stretched for resources.

“If you can get by on citing anecdotal evidence and drawing your own softer conclusions about the nature of your given field, you’re unlikely to allocate thousands from your already stretched budget on a big data project.”

Until now, The Channel had put a wider data analysis into its “nice to have column”, but Ms Mathews said the need to understand your data was becoming less an option and more a necessity.

“It’s only a matter of time before this is part of every strategy, campaign and resource for social change.”

Ms Mathews called out the elephant in the room for many organisations.

“In addition, big data is scary! Just understanding it is a challenge.”

More information

[About the data project](#) | [About Our Community's Innovation Lab](#)

For info about The Channel’s plans to grow LGBTQI+ philanthropy, email [**info@the-channel.org**](mailto:info@the-channel.org).

Visit them at [**the-channel.org**](http://the-channel.org). ■

Trams on track for new public purpose

What could your community group do with a retired Melbourne tram?

Melbourne has 134 old rattlers available for free to not-for-profits, and if you’re based in Victoria, the government will even pay the relocation costs for successful applicants.

VicTrack, the government agency coordinating the tram give-away, has called for expressions of interest, and the process closes on July 6.

You could renovate it for your headquarters, or raffle it to raise some cash. Or paint it grey, stick a trunk and tusks on it, and park it in the room before your next committee meeting.

For more information, go to [**www.victrack.com.au/trams**](http://www.victrack.com.au/trams).



Cyber attack exposes Family Planning clients, highlights threats to not-for-profits

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY



A cyber attack on Family Planning NSW that exposed the personal information of up to 8000 clients – including those seeking help about abortion and contraception – has highlighted the dangers for not-for-profits that have failed to take measures to protect valuable information.

Family Planning NSW chief executive Professor Ann Brassil made a full apology to clients and the general public in a blitz of national media coverage, just months after tough new data breach laws came into effect in February.

The organisation said it had been one of several targeted in the Anzac Day attack, in which cyber-criminals threatened to release personal information unless the organisation paid a bitcoin ransom.

While Family Planning NSW managed to secure its site by 10 am the following day, and assured clients, it accepted that many clients would be worried about the safety of their data.

“We became aware of the issue on April 25 and had the site secured by 10 am on April 26, 2018. Clients can rest assured all web databases are now secure and there have been no further threats from the cyber criminals. More sensitive medical records held by our organisation and its clinical staff were never under threat,” Prof Brassil said.

“We know that some of the clients that we’ve contacted will be concerned about what it means for them.”

She said compromised data included information about clients who had contacted the Family Planning NSW website over the past two-and-a-half years, seeking appointments or leaving feedback, but she said there was no indication that the information had been used by the attackers.

Data breach scheme takes effect

The breach came just two months after tough new laws came into force that require organisations to report data breaches or face hefty fines. ►

Family Planning NSW hosts more than 28,000 client visits each year across five clinics in NSW that provide advice and services related to reproductive and sexual health issues.

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) confirmed it was notified by Family Planning NSW about the Anzac Day data breach.

It said the Notifiable Data Breaches (NDB) scheme, which commenced on 22 February 2018, requires organisations to notify affected individuals and the OAIC where there is a likely risk of serious harm to any of the individuals whose personal information is involved in the data breach.

Health orgs, charities in breach top five

The first quarterly OAIC report on data breaches revealed a big spike in reported breaches, with 63 notifications in the first six weeks of mandatory notifications, compared to 114 for all of 2016–2017.

Among the top five sectors affected were health service providers (24%) and charities (6%). Legal, accounting and management services (16%), finance (13%) and private education (10%) made up the top five sectors in reports.

The OAIC said 51% of data breaches were the result of “human error”, while 44% were caused by malicious or criminal attacks. Just 3% were the result of system faults.

And, in an implied warning for smaller organisations – including not-for-profits – 90% of the breaches involved the personal information of fewer than 1000 individuals.

The OAIC’s acting Australian Information Commissioner, Angelene Falk, said at the release of the quarterly report that notification gave affected individuals the chance to reduce the impact of breaches, by changing passwords for example.

“Over time, the quarterly reports of the eligible data breach notifications received by the OAIC will support improved understanding of the

trends in eligible data breaches and promote a proactive approach to addressing security risks.”

Ms Falk said the high rate of human error “highlights the importance of implementing robust privacy governance alongside a high standard of security.”

“The risk of a data breach can be greatly reduced by implementing practices such as privacy impact assessments, information security risk assessments, and training for any staff responsible for handling personal information.”

Our Community’s director of technology architecture, Lars Jensen, said the Family Planning NSW incident also highlighted the need for organisations to consider for how long they held data.

“It’s important not to keep data longer than you need,” Mr Jensen said.

“It appears the hacked website was likely just an appointment booking system, in which case there was probably no need to keep two-and-a-half years’ worth of data in there.

“The breach might still have happened even if there was only three months’ worth of data there, but several thousand more people would be sleeping easier.”

Do overseas privacy controls affect you?

In further privacy compliance news, the European Union has also introduced new requirements for organisations.

The rules came into effect on May 25, 2018, and could affect any Australian organisations that have connections to Europe.

Our Community legal partner Moores notes that this includes organisations with offices in the EU, organisations offering goods and services in the EU – including online – and organisations that track the activity of EU individuals.

[Read more about the EU guidelines](#) ■



Chuck Berger (left), Dani Newman and Greg Taylor all won prizes for their contributions to the Innovation Lab's annual Grants in Australia survey.

Winners sum up mood in biggest-ever grants survey

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

This year's Grants in Australia study is set to generate the most detailed insights into the state of grants since 2006, when Our Community first started keeping tabs on grants trends.

More than 2000 grantseekers this year responded to our **Innovation Lab** survey, the only one of its kind in Australia. That's two-thirds more respondents than last year and we're grateful to all the not-for-profit groups who are helping create a better system with their views.

Significantly, the study has been redesigned with guidance from the Innovation Lab's data scientists, who have revised assessment methods to better capture and distill lessons about:

- Where grants money is coming from
- Who is winning the money
- What kinds of funding are available
- Which grantseekers are most successful and why
- Where grantseekers are wasting their time
- Trends in grant applications.

This year, for the first time, we asked survey respondents to nominate both compliments and criticisms about grantmakers, and they didn't hold back, partly prompted by our promise to reward the best comment with a 64GB Apple iPad Pro (RRP \$979). ▶

This year, the prize goes to **Kimberley Community Legal Services** CEO Chuck Berger, based in the remote north-west of Western Australia, who aimed this pithy salvo at funders:

Just as everybody wants to save the world but nobody wants to help do the washing up, grantmakers are too focused on innovation and pilot projects.

Something doesn't have to be innovative to be worthy, and few pilots ever get scaled up.

It would be nice if your \$10,000 seed funding led to a cure for cancer through a TED-worthy, crowdsourced, citizen-science capacity-building pilot, but in the real world, money for a plain old mental health counsellor, teacher or community lawyer is a better bet.

Mr Berger's reward comes on top of his February "early bird" survey prize, a \$300 not-for-profit kit comprising a one-year Funding Centre subscription with grants database access, a year's membership of the Institute of Community Directors Australia, and a \$150 book bundle.

March's early bird winner was the volunteer grants coordinator at **St Joachim's Catholic Primary School Parents and Friends' Association**, Dani Newman, based in Brisbane's south-east.

She summed up sentiment from many other not-for-profits with this compliment:

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. You are supporting the people and places that make a difference. Philanthropy is literally "the love of humanity" and we are proud to work alongside you to perpetuate this notion by bringing it to life in our communities.

But she also penned this stinging criticism:

Periodically review your grant offerings from the perspective of a tired, over-worked community volunteer, writing and coordinating documentation late into the night, and ask: "How can we make things easier?"

Queensland pastor Greg Taylor from not-for-profit **Twin Cities Life** – which has strong links to the Townsville City Church – employed his obvious gift of the gab to nab the April early bird prize. He offered this bouquet to grantmakers:

Grantmakers are more than just dollars and cents, they are community builders. Their tools are generosity, the foundation is charity. What we see is the result of people willing to invest themselves into making communities great. Without the seen and unseen working together, our "home" will not stand in tough times.

But he also lobbed this brickbat at those holding the purse strings:

The rejection process is always difficult when one has put their heart into a project (and its grant submission). Like a date gone badly, the reasons are often not communicated. A little more feedback would be appreciated to help us do better the next time we put our heart out there. At the moment, our volunteers feel like we keep getting, "It's not you ... it's me" – which just doesn't help.

Finally, we couldn't allow our best "last gasp" entries to go unrewarded (we've all been there, right?), and so we've given a consolation Funding Centre subscription (worth \$85) to West Footscray Neighbourhood House CEO Sharee Grinter, who lodged her entry late on the final day.

She complimented grantmakers for helping create "positive social impact from the ground up".

But she also criticised cynical funders for

Using the grants process as a thinly veiled opportunity to outsource the execution of the grantmaker's own strategic goals and priorities through the much cheaper means of utilising the skills, reach and capacities of committed, passionate but woefully under-resourced community organisations and their (often part-time/part-volunteer) workers.

Phew!

We expect to release further findings as our analysis allows, with the full report expected to be available later this year.

More information

[More about the survey, including access to past findings](#) ■

2018 Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards now open

BY JULIENNE PRICE, HEAD OF SOCIAL IMPACT SECTOR BANKING, COMMONWEALTH BANK

I'm excited to announce that this year's annual CommBank Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards, held in association with our sector partner, Our Community, were officially launched at the Communities in Control conference in Melbourne last month.

Now in their fourth year, the awards provide a great opportunity to recognise and thank community treasurers for the hard work they do. Community and not-for-profit treasurers make a huge contribution to the success of the not-for-profit sector, helping to keep community groups viable and sustainable. It's work that involves long hours, is carried out behind the scenes, and often goes unrewarded and unrecognised.

The awards continue to grow in popularity and help highlight the importance of good financial management and governance of community and not-for-profit organisations.

This year there's an opportunity to win one of four \$5,000 donations for your not-for-profit or community group when you take part in the awards.

How to get involved

Taking part in the awards program is easier than ever.

- You can nominate a not-for-profit or community treasurer you know and tell us in 100 words or less why you think they should be one of this year's winners; or

- If you're a community or not-for-profit treasurer, then let us know in 100 words or less why you think you should be one of our 2018 winners.

All not-for-profit and community treasurers nominated or taking part in the awards will receive a certificate of appreciation.

To enter, go to www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards2018, or

[Enter here](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards2018)

Entries close at 11 am (AEST) on Friday, July 27. Winners and nominated treasurers will be announced during Not-for-Profit Finance Week, which runs from September 17 to 21. Further details and terms and conditions can be found on the Our Community website: www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards2018.

The Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards is just one of a range of CommBank programs designed to support the important work being carried out across Australia by not-for-profit organisations and community groups. For further details, see the [CommBank website](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au).

To everyone taking part in this year's awards, good luck – I look forward to meeting the winners in September.

Until next time. ■



Our Community's Innovation Lab team (L-R): Kathy Richardson, Joost van der Linden, Paola Oliva-Altamirano and Sarah Baker.

Women's business: the role of gender in the awarding of grants

BY THE OUR COMMUNITY INNOVATION LAB TEAM

Our Community's latest data science project combined two of our passions: grants and gender equity. We set out to find out whether an applicant's gender affected the result of their application for funds.

What we found

- Overall, women submit more grant applications than men. Where a grant is very big (\$1 million or more), more men than women apply, but women are more likely than men to be successful.
- The awarding of grants does not appear to be affected by an applicant's gender, with the exception of grants awarded by the group of grantmakers designated by SmartyGrants as

'State/territory government entities', which favour women.

Whichever way you look at it, grants are women's business. At least 52% of the people who apply for grants are women, and at least 35% are men, **SmartyGrants** data reveals. And the people assessing the grants are most likely to be women as well (research we undertook in 2015 found that women outnumbered men as assessors by more than three to one).

We recently ran our annual Grants in Australia survey, a survey of grantseekers. For the first time we asked respondents to state their gender, and we found that our sample was heavily skewed towards women (close to 75% of respondents). Either more women than men ►



are applying for grants, or women are way more inclined to answer surveys.

So what?

More than \$4 billion is distributed in grants to charities across Australia each year, according to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission – that’s big bikkies in anyone’s language. There’s a lot at stake if applications are subject to conscious or unconscious bias.

With that in mind, we set to find out whether an applicant’s gender was influencing the result; that is, we wanted to know, are female applicants more or less likely to get a grant?

To find out, we dipped into the SmartyGrants database. SmartyGrants is Our Community’s cloud-based grants management tool. It’s used by around 260 government, philanthropic, corporate and community organisations to administer more than a billion dollars in funding per year. Well over 150,000 forms (mostly grant applications) are submitted through the platform each year.

Our project involved deducing the gender of applicants from their honorific or their name, then comparing each group (women, men, unknown) to the outcome of their applications – whether “successful” or “unsuccessful”.

We looked at 405,188 applications submitted between 2013 and 2016.

The good news

The good news is that we did not find a bias in the overall results – that is, the gender of an applicant does not seem to affect the outcome of a grant application.

In general, the number of grants awarded to women and men was determined by the number of applications placed by women and men. Roughly 42% of applications were approved, regardless of the applicant’s gender.

Men congregate around the big bucks

While women are over-represented as grant applicants, that trend is reversed where a grant is very big. Our study found that applications for more than a million dollars were more likely to be submitted by men (49% of applications, compared to 36% by women).

That bias does not flow through to approval rates, however. Our study found that women applying for grants of \$1 million+ were more successful than men: success rates were 32% and 20% respectively.

Sector trends

We also sought to detect whether general trends were borne out across all grantmaking sectors. Our Community uses the CLASSIE taxonomy to divide grantmakers into sectors as follows:

- Local government
- State/territory government
- Federal government
- Statutory authority/quasi-non-governmental organisation (Qango)
- Giving circle
- Philanthropic foundation/trust (excluding company-sponsored foundations)
- Business/corporate grantmaker
- Educational institutional
- Not-for-profit grantmaker (other)
- Unknown/not classified

We analysed each sector separately. The one exception we found to the general trend of gender equity in grant assessment was for those grantmakers classified by SmartyGrants as state/territory government grantmakers, which showed a gender bias in favour of women. Applications submitted by women were funded more often than applications submitted by men (34% versus 26%).

More information

Read an extended version of this article on our website:

https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/general/general_article.jsp?articleid=7419 ■



Dear Agony Uncle

Our Community's thinker-in-residence, Chris Borthwick, answers readers' questions.

I want to incorporate a group where everybody in the shire is a member automatically. Is this OK?

No. You can have a group where everyone in the shire is eligible to be a member, no problem, but you can't make anyone a member automatically. The law in every state says that there has to be a register of members, listed by name and contact details. This is basically because associations not only can give benefits to their members, but also can hit them with responsibilities. It means that members have to consent to membership, which means they have to be asked and signed up individually – in writing, so there's evidence later. ■



Chris Borthwick

Fullbright scholarship opportunity

Not-for-profit leaders are invited to apply for the 2019 Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership.

The Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership is the first Fulbright scholarship for the not-for-profit sector in Australia, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for an emerging NFP leader to undertake a program of research, professional development or both in the United States for a period of three to four months.

Valued at up to A\$30,000, the scholarship will enable the right candidate to delve into issues in the NFP sector. To enhance the scholarship opportunity, awardees will be encouraged to apply to Stanford University Graduate School of Business's week-long residential executive program for NFP leaders.

Applications close on July 15.

For more information, visit www.fulbright.org.au/scholarships/fulbright-professional-scholarship-in-non-profit-leadership.



“We want to put children at the heart of this exercise”: Community Directors Council chair Susan Pascoe launches the newly revised Child Safety Toolkit.

Why you need this child safety toolkit

BY MATTHEW SCHULZ, JOURNALIST, OUR COMMUNITY

When Damien Rider strode to the microphone at the launch of the newly revised Child Safety Toolkit, many in the room hadn't heard of Paddle Against Child Abuse or the Rider Foundation. But Mr Rider's tale of being abused as a child, living on the streets and suffering 34 years of torment before finding salvation through incredible feats of endurance struck a chord.

Tall, strong, handsome and super fit, Mr Rider seemed a world away from enduring notions of victimhood, but that was partly his point – child abuse can affect anyone, and the ramifications last a lifetime.

And while Mr Rider's self-imposed treatment –

“to test myself” by participating in punishing physical sporting events – had worked for him and other survivors, he said preventing abuse before it caused untold damage was preferable.

“That's what's so important about this toolkit. We can stop it beforehand.”

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse produced 409 recommendations, and it's not surprising that sports clubs, schools, not-for-profits and volunteer groups struggle to implement changes they know are necessary.

But a partnership between Our Community, not-for-profit legal experts Moores and child safety advocates Child Wise (a part of Save the Children) has produced an easy-to-follow guide to action. ►



Damien Rider was abused as a child, and child abuse can affect anyone, he told launch attendees.

The guide:

- incorporates recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- compares the rules in different states and territories
- includes a compliance checklist
- provides draft policies for organisations to use.

The partnership comes in the wake of damning evidence to the royal commission about the failure of many organisations, including not-for-profits, to protect the children within their care.

Child Safety Toolkit: How to Create a Child Safe Organisation takes into account laws invoked in the past two years.

The chair of the Community Directors Council, Susan Pascoe, said the royal commission had revealed the huge toll incurred when professional and governance standards were not followed.

“The data that we now have before us tells us that one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused as a child – and this is only sexual abuse; these figures don’t even take into account neglect, physical or emotional abuse. This is not good enough. As a society we must now draw a line in the sand and say stop – enough.”

“We’ve worked hard to make this the most plain-language, user-friendly, practical guide available. We’ve made sure it’s free to download. We want

to put children at the heart of this exercise, to provide support for the Australian not-for-profit sector to be an exemplar of good practice and make sure that no organisation can say they didn’t know how to approach the topic of child protection,” she said.

“This toolkit has one aim and one aim alone. It was designed as a tool to completely eradicate child abuse in our communities, and especially within the not-for-profit sector.”

Ms Pascoe warned that community groups had been in the sights of the royal commission.

“What the commissioners found in their research is that most community groups fail to properly identify perpetrators or know what to do when concerns are raised.

“This toolkit is an important part of the solution for your community group. This toolkit should be your first port of call when hiring someone who is going to be working or volunteering with children. It should be your first port of call if you want a sample policy, procedure and code of conduct when it comes to child safety.

“And it should be a document read and understood at board level.”

More information

Download now: www.communitydirectors.com.au/childsafetytoolkit

Tips for orgs: [How key findings from the royal commission affect you](#) ■



Watch: Our Community staff describe why they love working for a B Corporation.

Our Community honoured in international business-for-good awards

For the third year running, Our Community has been honoured in the annual B Lab list of companies that set the gold standard globally for how business can be a force for good.

“Best for Community” is an award made to B Corp businesses that have scored exceptionally well on B Lab’s assessment of their supplier relations, diversity, involvement in the local community, and practices and policies on community service and charitable giving, including whether a company’s product or service is design to solve a social problem.

Our Community made the list on the grounds of its exceptional practices and products including the commission-free charitable donations service GiveNow, the training courses it offers via the Institute of Community Directors Australia, and the Communities in Control conference, which provides inspiration and thought leadership to the community sector.

The managing director of the Our Community group, Denis Moriarty, said it was gratifying to have external validation of the benefits Our Community was generating.

“It’s a good opportunity for us to pause for a minute and reflect on the outcomes of our work,” he said.

“When we started Our Community back in 1999 the notion that you could have a business that could do good was very unusual. I am incredibly proud to be helping to prove that the model is viable.”

The organisation that conducts the assessments and makes the awards, B Lab, is based in Pennsylvania, USA, but reaches worldwide.

“With the rise of anger at a system that feels rigged, people are hungry for companies like Our Community, who are changing the system by building businesses that seek to create the greatest positive impact,” said B Lab co-founder Jay Coen Gilbert.

The 226 winning companies on the Best For Community list come from 90 industries and 34 countries, and include craft brewers, coffee roasters, tourism operators and law firms. The full list can be found at bthechange.com/bestfortheworld. ■

Social innovation has a new address



Our Community House has a “no slides” rule, but you can expect loads of natural light, greenery and colour.

The Australian not-for-profit sector is abuzz with the news that the game-changing social venture Our Community House is set to open in Melbourne in just six months.

OC House will open at 552 Victoria St, North Melbourne, Victoria, in January 2019.

What is Our Community House?

Our Community House (OC House) is a co-working space for innovative not-for-profit groups who are working to create social change.

OC House has permanent spaces for whole teams (up to 40 staff), as well as smaller groups and sole players, with lockable offices where required, and tonnes of shared facilities. These include small and large meeting and training rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, end-of-trip facilities for cyclists, and a large function space. Car and bike parking spaces are also available.

Casual work stations and meeting spaces

will make OC House a great spot for seasonal, casual, rural and interstate workers to connect.

We’re also reserving space for short-term tenants, making it the perfect venue for organisations wanting to send a satellite team away to incubate new ideas.

Who will we be sharing with?

Our Community will be the anchor tenant at OC House. We’ll be moving our 60 or so staff into the building as soon as it opens.

The building will eventually be occupied by around 400 people, probably by the end of 2019.

Why would we move to this place? What’s different about it?

OC House will be everything you expect from a modern co-working space – no dusty corners, lots of places to collaborate, lots of light, greenery and colour – with a few extras thrown in. ▶



A defining feature of OC House will be its emphasis on an emerging but largely untapped aspect of not-for-profit practice: data science.

Data is reshaping our world. New tools allow us to collect, distil, understand and act on data like never before, hastening the pace of change. Through the OC House Innovation Lab, data science will become the new currency powering social reform in Australia.

Tenants will get access to a team of motivated and skilled social sector data scientists (and a crack team of communicators), who will help identify and activate your change agenda.

To see examples of the kinds of data projects our Innovation Lab team is already working on, see the articles on page 00 and 00.

I don't know what data science is. Can I still move in?

Yep! We didn't know much about it either until about two years ago. One of the purposes of OC House will be to share information about how ordinary not-for-profit organisations can create extraordinary change by applying modern tools to the problems they're tackling.

What if we're looking around for a new office but we're not quite ready to move?

You can dip your toes in the water any time: place an expression of interest filling in the form at www.ourcommunity.com.au/OCHouse.

We'll send you updates as they're available.

How can I find out more?

Sign up for updates at www.ourcommunity.com.au/OCHouse or email edenr@ourcommunity.com.au. ■

What makes OC House different?

“In many ways, OC House will be defined by what it's not,” says Our Community founder and group managing director Denis Moriarty.

“There won't be beanbags and slides. This is not a space for boys with MacBooks and ‘move fast and break things’ agendas.

“We'll be harnessing the hard-won experience of those who have forged a career in the social sector, in partnership with government agencies, to create real change.

“This will be a place where seasoned social-change organisations can concentrate on catalysing sustained change. Plus we will be throwing in some youthful enthusiasm to create the sort of change that builds a more functional, cohesive, inclusive society.

“We're also keen to experiment in new ideas for the physical workspace – it will be a place that responds to the realities of modern life: where women work, men share caring responsibilities, green is good, and everyone seeks meaning in what they do.

“Not-for-profits are used to getting by with second-rate equipment and facilities, but we think that needs to stop. OC House will deliver a stylish, modern working space, incorporating shared and private spaces, places to meet, eat, train and celebrate, and clever, passionate people brought together by a common desire to create a better world.”

Upskill

How to win grants and influence people

Winning grants involves more than simply completing a form and waiting for the money to land. This half-day course will teach you how to develop processes that will make finding and winning grants quicker, easier and more effective. Drastically increase the number of grants you can apply for without pushing yourself (and your group) into an early grave and learn how to make your application compelling and resonate with the grant provider.

This course will be held in Melbourne on August 23.

For more information and to sign up, visit the Institute of Community Directors website: www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/events/sign-up.form?conferenceld=288.

Expand your network – and gain a diploma

Make 2018 the year you 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 now](#).

Brisbane	August 1, October 15
Melbourne	July 16, September 3, November 12
Perth	August 1, October 15
Sydney	June 18, September 3

Australia Council arts governance program: one-day workshop

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? 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](#).

Brisbane	22 June	SOLD OUT
Townsville	18 July	
Adelaide	6 August	
Mt Gambier	8 August	
Melbourne	15 August	SOLD OUT
Albury	23 August	
Broome	22 September	■



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.

Selected current vacancies

Project lead – Given the Chance **Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne**

The project lead will be responsible for the expansion of the Given the Chance employment program across ANZ’s national corporate network and other large organisations..

For more information [click here](#).

Development director **Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne**

We seek an experienced individual to lead the development and implementation of our strategic fundraising program.

For more information [click here](#).

Web services support officer **Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, Sydney**

You will be the main point of contact for community radio stations using our web services, and you will help them get online and make the most of our services.

For more information [click here](#).

Junior secondary teacher **Cire Community School, Yarra Junction, Vic**

The position is a full-time generalist teaching role (focused on literacy and numeracy) in our innovative Years 7–10 program at the Yarra Junction campus.

For more information [click here](#).

Paralegal **Cairns Community Legal Centre**

This new role offers an exciting opportunity to join a not-for-profit, government-funded community organisation providing accessible legal and social justice services to people in the community who are experiencing disadvantage.

For more information [click here](#).

Chief Executive **Association for Children with a Disability, Melbourne**

In this role you will represent ACD to the public, implement strategic and operational plans, manage staff, and more.

For more information [click here](#). ■



Board Matching Service

Bean-counters, it's your time to shine. In this edition of Our Community Matters, the board recruitment spotlight is on treasurers. Do you have a head for figures and a heart for community-building? Step up and get on board a board.

Here's a selection of the vacancies for treasurers currently advertised at www.goodjobs.com.au.

And whether you're an old hand or a treasurer newbie, be sure to enter the annual Commonwealth Bank Not-for-profit Treasurers' Awards and get the recognition you deserve. For details, see [page 42](#).

New South Wales

Treasurer, Crack Theatre Festival, Newcastle

Crack Theatre Festival Inc supports the development of Australian artists by providing opportunities for discussion and networking, skills development and performance through the presentation of a free annual festival in Newcastle.

Queensland

Treasurer and chair, Beyond A Joke Inc (Queensland but also national)

Beyond A Joke Inc provides school-based anti-bullying programs and publications. We are a young registered charity with DGR status in the process of becoming a company limited by guarantee. We are seeking a treasurer and chairperson with grant writing and governance experience.

Treasurer and general board members, Stepping Stone Clubhouse, Brisbane

Stepping Stone Clubhouse Inc is a mental health psycho-social recovery for purpose organisation and is located in Coorparoo in Brisbane. We are looking to appoint a new treasurer and other general committee members who have a range of complementary skills and experience to suit the organisation's strategic direction.

Victoria

Treasurer, PCA Families

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA Families) delivers peer support, therapeutic programs and advocacy informed by strong lived experience and research. Funded through the Victorian Department of Human Services, its services include a carer helpline, peer support, and children and youth programs.

Treasurer, Women's Information Support & Housing in the North, Alpine Shire Council

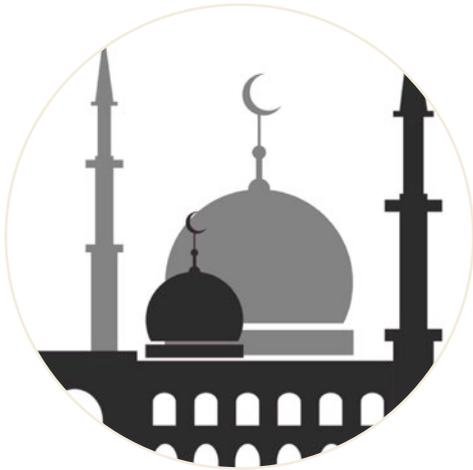
Women's Information Support & Housing in the North (WISHIN) is a social change organisation working towards gender equity for women and children who have experienced homelessness, family violence and related traumas. The board meets monthly in the Melbourne CBD.

Western Australia

Treasurer, West Stirling Neighbourhood House

The organisation will be tendering for the Empowering Communities Program of the Department of Communities in the coming months. We are seeking help from a suitably experienced individual. ■

Here are some of our favourite community events, festivals and awareness-raisers for June and July.



JUNE 15

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan. It's a public holiday in some Muslim countries.



JUNE 20

Red Apple Day

Red Apple Day is a highlight of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.



JULY

National Desexing Month

Do your pet, your community and Australia's native wildlife a favour: get your pet desexed. Prices reduced at participating vets.



JULY 7

International Day of Cooperatives

Celebrates the role of cooperatives in economic, social and cultural development, and social policy reform.



JULY 20

National Pyjama Day

As if you needed an excuse to stay in your PJs all day! Support the Pyjama Foundation's work with kids in foster care.



JULY 29

National Tree Day

Community and environmental groups, schools and sporting clubs can get involved – find or register an event online.

Send details of your group's nationally significant event to service@ourcommunity.com.au and we'll publish it online or in Our Community Matters.

*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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