

Helping community groups to help themselves...

Community organisations provide the most important means for Australians to promote their own health and well-being, while at the same time helping to build communities.

Sixty-five per cent of all Australians are involved with community organisations. This high rate of involvement is based on the desire for human connectedness and support, helping others to help themselves, lifelong learning creating Australia's culture, protecting environments, building a spiritual dimension, providing services, extending prowess and, most importantly, having fun ... as well as contributing to communities.

Community organisations represent all facets of our day-to-day lives.

How does *Our Community* help community organisations?

As a first port of call for community organisations, *Our Community* has created a comprehensive online resource hub, <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au>, that offers practical resources through five channels.

1. The grants and fundraising window

Helping grant and scholarship seekers succeed and find money.

All community organisations need funds. *Our community* provides three low-cost newsletters (\$35 per newsletter per year) to help your club find that money:

The *Easy Grants Newsletter* provides a monthly summary of all grants available throughout Australia — philanthropic, corporate, state, and federal government. Plus year-round access to the grants database. See <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/view/sample.jsp> for a recent sample of a Victorian Easy Grants newsletter.

The *Raising Funds Newsletter* provides a monthly resource on the latest tools, techniques and ideas for fund-raising from here and overseas. A sample of the newsletter can be found at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/view/fundraisingsample.jsp>.

The *Scholarship Alert Newsletter* provides a monthly summary of all scholarships and awards available for community organisations including schools, individuals and their families. Click <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/view/scholarshipp/sample.jsp> for a recent sample.

To subscribe to these newsletters visit

<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/subscribe.jsp>.

2. The giving window

Helping community and non-profit organisations raise funds from individual donations and attract volunteers.

How many times has a community organisation started a fund-raising appeal for its latest project? How much easier would it be to point potential donors to an online donations service where 100 per cent of the money goes straight to your project?

Our Community provides that facility with a completely free online donation service: no monthly fees; no commissions; and separate listings for each appeal you launch.

People can send cheques, put money in tins, buy sausages and raffle tickets, but you can also find support for your appeal with a brand new online audience.

Community organisations can also take advantage of our free online volunteer service which features no fees, and no limit to the number of positions.

As well as serving the main aim of filling volunteer positions, it also offers the opportunity to market to a new audience. As well as volunteers, new students and other community supporters are attracted, who were inspired by the work you are doing.

3. The advice and learning window

Helping non-profit and community organisations run efficiently and effectively.

Our Community provides resources in areas such as modern governance, fiduciary responsibilities, business and organisational methods and practices, marketing and lobbying. Resources offered include:

- More than 100 free help sheets on each of the key advice and learning areas;
- *How to*: guide books. For example, *How to: win philanthropic grants*; and
- training courses for community groups.

4. The purchasing channel: helping non-profit and community organisations get access to good value products and services

All non-profit, service and community organisations need banking services, insurance, office supplies, and equipment. *Our Community* negotiates good value, tailored services and products for the ag-

gregated non-profit and community sector.

5. The technology channel: helping to bridge the digital divide

All non-profit, service and community organisations and their staff and families must join in the digital age. *Our Community* provides practical support such as advice on technology and software specific to the sector.

Why do it?

The reason we provide these services is to build a stronger community by building stronger community organisations. If we can help community groups to source funding and other vital ingredients for success, then they can spend less time worrying about the fight to survive and more time worrying about their core mission of providing the community with much-needed services and support.

Our Community is headed by Dr Rhonda Galbally and chaired by Ms Carol Schwartz.

The Board of Directors:

Chairperson — Ms Carol Schwartz general manager, Property, Sussan Corporation;

Dr Michael Dodson chair of the Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies;

Dr Rhonda Galbally, AO, chief executive officer, *Our Community*; founder and chief executive officer of the VicHealth (Health promotion Foundation); founder and chief executive officer, Australian Commission for the Future; chief executive officer, Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund;

Dr Simon Longstaff executive director, St James Ethics Centre, Sydney;

Mr Denis Moriarty chief operating officer, *Our Community*;

Ms Cathy Sonnemann co-founder wishlist.com.au; director, Giving Channel, *Our Community*;

Research and Development Council

In order to ensure that *Our Community* remains credible and is thinking ahead, envisioning sector trends, issues and creating programs products to meet these needs, a Research and Development Council has been established to provide advice and feedback.

For more information about *Our Community* visit the website at: <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au>. ■