



Philanthropy New Zealand

Topūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa

PO Box 1521 - Wellington - New Zealand - Phone: (04) 499 4090 - Fax: (04) 472 5367

Email: info@philanthropy.org.nz - Website: www.philanthropy.org.nz

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NEWS

Changes to National Funders Forum

Philanthropy New Zealand has announced some changes to the national funders forum programme. The forum is to be held in Wellington on 27 November.

Sadly, due to the Northern Rock Foundation's current position, their Executive Director, Fiona Ellis, is unable to make the journey to New Zealand. Fiona had already prepared her paper, so in consultation with her and adding her own expertise, Philanthropy New Zealand Chair and ASB Executive Director Jennifer Gill will present the keynote session. This will be titled - Working in defined boundaries; the joys and the pitfalls.

Muttart Foundation Executive Director, Bob Wyatt, is also unable to attend. Children's Commissioner Cindy Kiro will now move to the morning.

Her topic is titled - Children Are Our Future. Following her presentation we are now able to offer a fuller discussion on this issue.

The concurrent sessions will run as notified, with a government announcement on promoting generosity added to the afternoon programme.

So all in all, another excellent opportunity for grantmakers and philanthropists to hear from experts in their chosen fields and to meet and discuss your work together. The updated programme has been sent as an attachment to this In Touch e-mail. If you require more information or to register please contact Jolly Fernandes at info@philanthropy.org.nz. Registrations close Wednesday 21 November.

Payroll Giving – an overview

Philanthropy New Zealand commissioned Saints Information to prepare this reflective paper to inform our response to the proposed discussion document on payroll giving being prepared by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

Payroll giving enables employees to make regular charitable donations from their pre-tax pay. The employer then forwards these donations either directly to the chosen charity or to an intermediary.

This paper examines payroll giving in three Commonwealth countries: Australia, Canada and UK, giving an overview of how the system operates in each country, how it has been promoted or supported by Government, and the level of donations achieved.

It also looks at what is already happening in New Zealand and the views of stakeholders, particularly fundraisers. Additional advantages and disadvantages to payroll giving as a method of fundraising are also highlighted.

What is apparent is that the situation in New Zealand is not dissimilar to that in Australia pre-

2002 and that this country has the benefit of others' experience in rolling out payroll giving in the future. You can download this paper at www.giving.org.nz/whatshot

2007 Social Report

The Ministry of Social Development's latest social report provides a comprehensive picture of social wellbeing in New Zealand. It shows how social conditions are changing over time, how different regions and communities are faring, and how we compare to other countries.

It shows some regions that have historically lagged behind others in areas like income and employment made the greatest strides in social wellbeing between 2001 and 2006.

The report, published each year, charts New Zealand's progress across a range of indicators of wellbeing, from health to employment and education.

Almost all the regions have seen improvements for life expectancy, school leavers with higher qualifications, educational attainment of adults, employment, median hourly earnings, as well as telephone and internet access in the home. A majority of regions also have a reduced number of low-income families.

The report confirms that, since the mid-1990s, New Zealanders' well-being has improved in areas such as health, education, unemployment and income.

Internationally, "New Zealand is at or above the OECD median for two thirds of comparable indicators, and we are world leaders in the areas of low unemployment and the lack of perceived corruption."

The report shows that "although women are generally healthier and increasingly better educated than men, they lag behind men in employment - both in terms of labour participation and income. However, improvements for men in health and improvements for women in paid work mean these gaps are narrowing."

Median hourly earnings for men were \$18.13 in 2006. Women's earnings were \$2.25 an hour lower at \$15.88.

The report also confirms that on average Maori and Pacific people are continuing to enjoy better education, employment and living standards than they did in the 1990s, although not yet at the same level as the average for European New Zealanders.

The [2007 Social Report](#) monitors 10 "domains", or areas of people's lives. The report is an important source of information for social development which will assist you in your grantmaking decisions.

The tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers

This issues paper on the tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers has been released by IRD.

It explores a number of options for clarifying and simplifying the tax treatment of reimbursements and honoraria paid to volunteers. The paper seeks feedback on suggested ways of dealing with current uncertainties in the tax law relating to these payments to minimise, as much as possible, compliance costs for volunteers and non-profit organisations. Submissions close on 14 December.

For more information see the government's media statement and the issues paper, "The tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers" at: <http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz>

Update from the Charities Commission

Only nine months until tax laws change! Have you applied to register yet?

Registration update

It is important to apply as soon as possible to get your place in the registration processing queue. If you haven't already applied, the Charities Commission (CC) suggests that your organisation applies now, rather than waiting until after your AGM, to avoid uncertainty around tax exemptions. Additionally, if you know any other organisations that haven't yet applied, encourage them to send in their application as soon as possible.

Here's a brief registration update:

- Charities registered
1,360
- Applications queued for analysis
2,487

Processing time

- *Individual applications* – 14 weeks for correctly completed registrations, with more complex cases taking longer
- *Group applications* – at least 90 working days

Common application issues

CC will send back applications which have information missing or are incomplete.

For more complex issues, CC will send a letter which may lead to a decline, which also explains the issue, and they also usually talk with the applicant.

Most application issues are resolved but it can take months to do so. Getting your application right the first time can save a lot of time. Here are some common application issues:

- The application form wasn't certified (i.e. signed).
- The number of officers supplied doesn't match the rules of the entity.
- The purposes are clearly charitable but there is no information about actual activities in the rules.
- For charities that fund others, CC needs to check that the funding is going to charitable activities.
- The purposes are so broad that they allow the entity to engage in activities that aren't charitable.
- There are no controls over the prevention of private pecuniary profit (i.e. personal financial gain).
- The winding up clause allows a distribution to non-charitable purposes.

To help you, there are guidance notes on CC's forms and they have developed helpful fact sheets which you can download at

www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets.htm.

If you still have questions email the Contact Centre info@charities.govt.nz or freephone 0508 charities.

Services for Young People Fund

The Ministry of Youth Development is now accepting Expressions of Interest for their Services for Young People Fund for the 2008/09 year and beyond.

Services for Young People provides an opportunity for organisations to make a difference in their community by supporting vulnerable and at risk young people.

Expressions of Interest will be accepted up until 12 noon on 23 November 2007.

For more information about Services for Young People, including guidelines, current services and information on how to submit an Expression of Interest, go to myd.govt.nz/servicesfunding

For additional queries contact Dibs Patel, Ph: 04 9163670, email: dibs.patel005@myd.govt.nz

Beyond the Rhetoric: Foundation Strategy

How do foundations maximise their impact? What is the role of strategy? Is your foundation strategic? Are you?

New research from the Center for Effective Philanthropy suggests a fundamental disconnect between what foundation CEOs and programme officers believe about the importance of strategy and their use of it in their daily work.

Beyond the Rhetoric: Foundation Strategy examines the current state of decision making at large, private, U.S. foundations. "The decision makers we talked with believe that strategy provides significant benefits to private foundations," says Kevin Bolduc, CEP's vice president - assessment tools. "But believing that it's a good thing for foundations generally to have and use strategy is not at all the same thing as actually doing so at your own foundation."

Through in-depth interviews with CEOs and programme officers, the study probes foundation leaders' views and use of strategy in making decisions. Analysis of participants' responses reveals that although most of those interviewed said they used strategy, only a small number used it consistently across their work.

The study describes four categories of decision makers ranging from those who do not use strategy at all to those who are highly strategic, and it outlines the other traits associated with these categories. Download this study from www.effectivephilanthropy.org

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Geo Funders Release a General Operating Support Action Guide

What is general operating support? How are grantmakers providing it? GEO's answers to these questions (and more) were inspired by a spirited conversation that took place in early 2007 on the GEO listserv. Geo has included quotations from this discussion, as well as anecdotal information from participating grantmakers who shared their experiences and insights.

This resource may be useful for your organisation as you weigh the case for general operating support and decide how to proceed. GEO Funders now require registration before downloading their documents – it is still a free service and well worth the effort to register – go to geofunders.org – this guide is on their front page.

Grantcraft Guide - Grant Making with a Racial Equity Lens

A focus on racial equity can increase your effectiveness at every stage of the grant making process. Blending experience and candid advice from grant makers, this guide explores how a racial equity lens can help you scan your field or community, cultivate new leaders, encourage creative approaches, get people talking, and nourish change inside your own foundation.

This guide was developed in partnership with the [Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity](#). Highlights include:

- Three tools for activating a racial equity lens
- Your Race/Your Role
- Questions to ask inside your foundation

Download this guide from www.grantcraft.org

Accelerating our Impact: Philanthropy, Innovation and Social Change

This area of philanthropy will be the focus of the upcoming Sustaining Social Innovation Forums. (In fact the speakers will work with Katharine Pearson, the author of this report). This paper is invaluable to anyone who is thinking about, or is presently, funding in this area.

In today's complex world we face both peril and possibility. With grave social and environmental challenges to our collective future, a growing number of social innovators and their supporters are taking bold action. They are becoming intentional about shifting structures, cultures and institutions.

Such practices are not yet wide-spread. For years many funders have been supporting diverse social innovations and experimenting with approaches to "scaled-up" grantmaking. But our efforts have often been too narrow or short-term and the results uneven. Wisdom and experience now suggest that we need a clear vision, firm commitment, and persistence to remove the barriers to enduring social change. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to an emerging body of knowledge and reflective practice on the role of funders in supporting innovation and social change.

The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation commissioned this paper to contribute to an emerging body of knowledge and reflective practice on the role of funders in supporting innovation and social change.

They want to:

- Encourage funders of all sizes to accelerate their impact;
- Provide practical insights and examples of some of the opportunities and pitfalls of funding for durable social change;
- Refine their own foundation's performance through feedback and engagement with our readers and fellow grantmakers.

You can download a PDF of this report from our website: www.giving.org.nz/research

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Funders Forum: Sharing the LearningRegister Now! info@philanthropy.org.nz**Date:** Tuesday 27 November 2007**Venue:** Telstra Centre, Te Papa, Wellington**Time:** 9.00am – 4.30pm (coffee from 8.30am)

The Philanthropy New Zealand AGM will follow.

We've brought together an inspiring group of presenters to share their expertise, experience and knowledge, including:

Cindy Kiro, Children's Commissioner

Jennifer Gill, Chair PNZ and Exec Dir ASB Trusts

Fay Freeman, Rochana Sheward and Zarleen

Blakely from the SCOPE project.

A wide range of topics will be covered in concurrent workshops, including funding for youth, refugees and migrants; parenting programmes; understanding consumers' attitudes to giving; and assurance options.

Registrations close 21 November. Numbers are limited so register now info@philanthropy.org.nz

Sustaining Social Innovation Forums

The JW McConnell Family Foundation, DuPont of Canada and the PLAN Institute have launched a two year exploration to learn from social change initiatives that lead to profound change.

The PLAN Institute's Vickie Cammack and Al Etmanski, and JW McConnell's Katharine Pearson have been consulting with changemakers in US and Canada. They are very strategic about large scale social change and realise that sustainability is bigger than the viability or sustainability of any one organisation, enterprise or innovation. More information can be found on [PLAN's website](#) and social innovation will be the focus of the following Funders Forums:

Auckland Funders Forum**Date:** Tuesday 13 November, 3.30-5.30pm**Venue:** Barrycourt Conference Centre, Gladstone Rd, Parnell.

RSVP by email to Serena at

StandardsPlus@imaginebetter.co.nz stating which Forum you wish to attend.**Rotorua Regional Funders Forum****Date:** Wednesday 14 November, 1-4pm**Venue:** Rotorua District Council

Vickie and Al will speak from 1-2pm. This will be followed by questions, refreshments and then a

general discussion on where Rotorua regional funders want to go from here, what next, topics for future forums etc. Any enquiries phone Alison Perrin from the Rotorua Energy Trust on 07 347 6239 or Alison@rotoruatrust.org.nz

Canterbury Funders Network**Date:** Tuesday 20 November 2007**Venue:** Latimer Hotel, 30 Latimer Square, Christchurch**Time:** 3.30pm – 6.00pm

RSVP: e-mail Serena at

StandardsPlus@imaginebetter.co.nz stating which Forum you wish to attend.**Non Profit Institutions Satellite Account Roadshow**

The Non Profit Institutions Satellite Account Roadshow is an opportunity to hear about the contribution made by 97,000 non-profit organisations and the more than one million people who volunteer for them.

For details and to RSVP contact Andrew Rae at Statistics New Zealand Andrew.rae@stats.govt.nz

Christchurch**Date:** Thursday 15 November, 10-11.30am**Venue:** La Vida Conference and Community Centre, Riccarton**Hamilton:** (in conjunction with Trust Waikato)**Date:** Thursday 22 November, 9.30-11.30am**Venue:** The Chartwell Room, Cobham Drive**Auckland:** (In conjunction with Volunteering Auckland & NZFVVO)**Date:** Friday 30 November, 9am-1pm

Venue to be confirmed

Wellington: (In conjunction with ANGOA)**Date:** Wednesday 21 November

Other details to be confirmed.

*Noho ora mai
Robyn Scott
Executive Director
Philanthropy NZ*