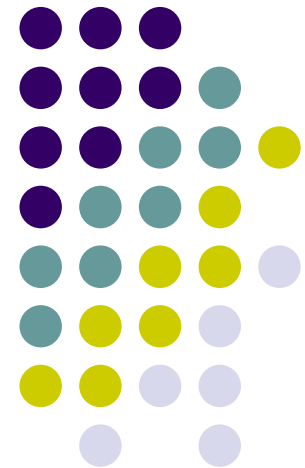


A National Compact for Australia

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens

**Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the
Voluntary Sector**

**Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Prime Minister for
Social Inclusion**





Snapshot of the Sector

ABS Data (2001):

- 700,000 not for profit organisations
 - 180,000 bodies corporate
 - 100,000 incorporated associations
 - 10,000 companies limited by guarantee
 - 3500 cooperatives
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- 7% of the workforce
 - 12% of private employment
 - Turnover of \$50bn pa
 - 5.2 million volunteers (ABS 2006)

The breadth of the sector



- Welfare Services
- Environment
- Arts and Culture
- Sport and Recreation
- Charities
- Philanthropy
- Advocacy Groups
- Community Associations
- Health
- Aged care
- Children's services
- Employment services
- Family services
- Disability Services
- Social Enterprises
- Aid organisations
- Voluntary organisations

A new era in relationship between sector and Government



- Effective relationship between Government and the sector is crucial to build social inclusion
- We want to maximise the opportunities to build social inclusion through the National Reform Agenda which will restructure service delivery at Federal and State levels
- Opportunity to develop shared values of Government and sector:
 - Reduce disadvantage
 - Create opportunities for social and economic participation
 - Build social cohesion
 - Build collaboration and innovation in service delivery
 - Evidence-based outcomes and continual improvement in service delivery

Purpose of compact



- Recognise the social and economic value of the sector, as well as its independence
- Provide a vehicle for consulting on and achieving social inclusion priorities
- Provide an avenue for the views of those from disadvantaged and marginalised groups to improve policy and programs
- Strengthen capacity within the sector to deliver efficient and effective services and promote innovative policy responses to community needs

Possible Compact elements



- A high level of statement of purpose
- A statement of agreed values to underpin the compact
- Statement of roles and responsibilities
- An evaluation and accountability framework
- Identification of industry issues
- Frameworks for dialogue and policy development
- An implementation plan covering governance, communication and dispute resolution
- Consider the contribution and needs of volunteers through management and support

Linked reform agendas



- Review of tax system, report to Treasury due at the end of 2009
- National Reform Agenda through COAG
- Senate Inquiry into the disclosure regimes and regulation of the not-for-profit sector (submissions close end of August 2008)
- Work underway through the Productivity Commission to develop better tools to measure the social and economic impact of the sector

Compact success depends upon



- Better understanding the sector - new research into the size and contribution of the sector
- Champions within government and the sector
- Recognition and willingness by all to reform governance, capacity and accountability
- Recognition and willingness by all to engage in a continuous process of refinement of the Compact



Threshold Questions

- What are the shared values of Government and the sector?
- How can the Compact improve the lives of Australians?
- What forms of community engagement would add most value to a sector reform and capacity building agenda?
- How can the diversity of the not-for-profit sector be reflected in the Compact?
- What can be done in the long, medium and short terms to improve the contribution of the sector to Australian communities?

Next steps towards a Compact



1. Consultations on the Compact:

- ACOSS commissioned to consult and canvass initial views and principles with its members and other organisations
- Consultation with a range of peak bodies, State & Territory Governments and not-for-profit organisations
- Establish external reference group to advise on the consultation process, to reflect diversity of sector
- Call for submissions through social inclusion website www.socialinclusion.gov.au

2. Draft outline developed by mid-2009