

The Community and Voluntary Sector Portfolio

Hon Rick Barker

Minister for the Community and Voluntary
Sector

(presentation by Tim Barnett, Parliamentary Private
Secretary to the Minister)

Health and Disability Sector NGO-MoH Forum

Wellington, 24 September 2004



Today I will:

- briefly tell the story of the last four years of the Community-Government Relationship Project
- update you on some of the emerging issues and what is being done
- update you on the role of the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector
- Identify, from my viewpoint, emerging issues in the various areas of debate

The 1999 inheritance

- Distrust between sector and Government; competition within sector
- Lack of \$ for capacity-building
- No Government centre of expertise on the sector
- Sector and Labour interest in “compact”

The story started in 2000

– four phases



- Phase 1 - the Community and Voluntary Sector Working Party (2000-2001)
- Phase 2 - the Community-Government Relationship Steering Group (2002-2003)
- Phase 3 - the Community Sector Taskforce, Te Wero and establishment of the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (2003-2004)
- Phase 4 - actions now (2004 and beyond)

The documents.....



Working
Party



Steering
Group

Statement of
Government
Intentions

Government
Policy on
Volunteering

Find these at:

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/publications>

The themes of work so far:

- improving participatory processes
- improving funding and accountability
- strengthening the community and voluntary sector
- better understanding of the community and voluntary sector by government officials
- support for volunteers and organisation promoting volunteering

Two key issues:

- the themes have been addressed across the ‘whole-of-government’
- the themes applied to the ‘whole of the sector’, eg recreation and sport, the arts, social services, environment etc

Phase four: actions – what's happening now?

- Office of Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) established in September 2003
- the Office has led workstreams:
 - improving participatory processes includes a website www.goodpracticeparticipate.govt.nz
 - improving funding and accountability arrangements includes a new website www.goodpracticefunding.govt.nz

continued.....

OCVS continued.....

- developing guidelines in partnership with the sector on risk and liability for volunteers
- research work to improve data on value of the community sector to the economy
- supporting the Community Sector Taskforce and Te Wero in 2003/2004

Departmental planning

- all government departments must plan for and report on their relationships with community and voluntary sector organisations
- the OCVS oversees this work and supports departments in their planning
- the OCVS focus is on sharing good practice across departments

Department of Internal Affairs



- COGS and Lottery Grants online services
- COGS refocused and funding increased to \$12.355 million across 41 local committees
- Local Government Act enables joint work to identify community outcome priorities
- Community Development Scheme funds community development workers

DIA continued.....

- \$450,000 per annum to support volunteering:
 - through 9 regional volunteer centres
 - support for volunteering by Māori, Pacific peoples and ethnic minorities
 - support for Volunteer New Zealand
- Community Internship Programme to support sector capacity building

What else is going on across government?

- MSD leads the Funding for Outcomes Project - modelling joined-up funding arrangements between government & NGOs
- Treasury's contracting guidelines have been reviewed and updated
- The Charities Bill is before the Social Services Select Committee – and we are listening carefully!

Why is a better relationship useful?

- It will help government departments to achieve their outcomes
- It will help Government to meet its goals
- It will contribute to strengthening civil society

“Civil society” - the multitude of non-profit, organised groups, clubs and associations in society that operate independently from the market and the state, often on a voluntary basis

What do we know?

- Good data has been difficult to gather, but key information about New Zealanders includes:
 - 38% belong to sports clubs
 - 31% belong to hobby groups
 - 30% belong to church-based organisations
 - 23% belong to community service organisations
- The Companies Office has on its books – 14,919 charitable trusts and 22,646 incorporated societies. But we know there are many more!!
- John Hopkins initiative to improve sector database

Issues - government

- Charities Bill
- Future use of CEG funds
- Regional capacity-building
- Funding from government and lobbying

Issues - sector

- Capacity-building function
- National entity
- Statistics and impact

Issues - funding

- Reliance on gaming funding
- Cross-government department funding
- Compliance costs
- Funding levels

Issues - volunteering

- Understanding different patterns of volunteering by population group
- Demand for volunteers by organisations in receipt of government contracts
- Growing volunteer centre network
- Volunteering promotion