

30 April 2009

Mr. Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate

By email

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into Access to Justice

PilchConnect is pleased to **enclose** its submission in relation to the Senate Committee's 'Inquiry into Access to Justice'.

PilchConnect would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Committee to discuss the contents of its submission and access to justice, more generally.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Vas Eliades or Sue Woodward.

Yours faithfully

Vas Eliades
Manager, PilchConnect

Sue Woodward
Senior Policy Officer, PilchConnect

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Access to Justice:**Broadening the debate to include Not for Profit Community Organisations****Submission by:****PilchConnect , a specialist legal service for community organisations.****To:****Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs; Inquiry into Access to Justice****Vas Eliades, Manager, PilchConnect****Sue Woodward, Senior Policy Officer, PilchConnect**Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) Inc
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. PilchConnect welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry on this important issue.
- 1.2. The debate around access to justice, the cost of delivering justice and the availability of funding for Community Legal Centres (**CLCs**) has traditionally been seen in the context of the delivery of legal services to individuals who are marginalised or disadvantaged. We are pleased that this Inquiry is broad enough to enable debate on access to justice issues for these individuals and for the not-for-profit community organisations that support them.
- 1.3. Not-for-profit community organisations (**NFPs**) make a significant contribution to social inclusion, community connectedness and well-being and, importantly, deliver many services which would otherwise have to be provided by government.

This submission will focus on three main points:

Part A – Broadening the debate on access to justice issues to include consideration of small to medium sized NFP community organisations. These organisations play a vital role in supporting marginalised and disadvantaged individuals. By supporting NFP community organisations there is a clear flow on effect that benefits those individuals most in need, and typically furthest from access to justice.

Part B – Ensure funding for specialist CLCs catering specifically to the NFP sector. Government has a vested interest in ensuring NFP community organisations are well governed, accountable and efficient. Access to free or low cost legal advice, information and training tailored to the specific needs of small to medium sized NFPs underpins this goal and should be supported by government as part of its access to justice agenda. This approach should be viewed as preventing the need for legal aid funding – put another way, a preventative legal service akin to a preventative health program.

Part C – Implementing protective cost orders for public interest test cases brought by NFPs, to allow NFPs to pursue litigation in the public interest without compromising their ability to deliver services to their constituents.

2. About PilchConnect

- 2.1. PilchConnect is a specialist service within the Public Interest Law Clearing House (**PILCH**). PILCH is itself an NFP committed to improving access to justice, protecting human rights, and facilitating the provision of pro bono legal services for matters in the public interest. PILCH has also made a broader submission to this inquiry focussing on a range of access to justice issues pertaining to marginalised and disadvantaged individuals.
- 2.2. PilchConnect delivers legal services to small to medium NFP community *organisations* (in contrast to local CLCs that act for individuals). PilchConnect is the only legal service of this kind in Australia.
- 2.3. PilchConnect was established by PILCH in 2008 with its formal launch (with Senator Stephens) on 18 November 2008. Its establishment was in response to increasing demand by NFPs for legal assistance. PilchConnect provides free or low cost assistance to NFPs across Victoria on a wide range of legal and legally-related issues. Its services include:

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- 2.3.1. advice: a pro bono legal referral service (where we match eligible public interest NFPs who have complex legal issues with PILCH member law firms who are willing to provide *pro bono* legal assistance), and a pilot telephone advice service (forthcoming July 2009);
 - 2.3.2. information: primarily via a specialist legal web portal that maps and links information and resources (often existing public information) for NFPs, as well as providing a new range of plain-English legal information resources (e.g. facts sheets and checklists);
 - 2.3.3. training: a monthly seminar program for NFPs on relevant legal issues (eg, incorporation, governance, volunteers, tax status and concessions, fundraising laws, regulatory compliance); and
 - 2.3.4. law reform and policy work: drawing on PILCH's 14 years of experience of brokering pro bono referrals for NFPs, PilchConnect has already undertaken significant work on regulatory reform issues of relevance to the NFP sector (eg, major submission to Senate Economics Committee 2008 'Inquiry into Disclosure regimes for charities and no-for-profit organisations').¹
- 2.4. PilchConnect's mission is to be a comprehensive hub of NFP legal knowledge and expertise, providing high quality, accessible, tailored, free or low cost legal information, training and advice to Victorian NFP community organisations in order to enhance their capacity and efficiency and to support the NFP sector more broadly.

Part A – Broadening the debate on access to justice issues to include consideration of small to medium sized NFP community organisations.

3. NFPs help individuals access the justice system

- 3.1. We submit that the Senate Committee should adopt a broad definition of 'access to justice' that includes access to justice needs at each of individual, collective and organised community levels. We refer the Committee to the comprehensive research undertaken by the NSW Law and Justice Foundation in this regard.² In a background paper for their 'Access to Justice and Legal Needs' research program the NSW Law and Justice Foundation argued that the concept of 'access to justice' should include support for organisations that help people to participate in law reform and advocacy work.³ The concept should include support for NFP organisations that provide people with services which may reduce their need for publicly funded legal assistance services (thus reducing the burden on the legal aid and justice system).

4. About the Australian NFP sector

- 4.1. Implementing a broad definition on 'access to justice' as submitted above, recognises the critical role that the NFP sector has in the social and economic well-being of Australian society. NFPs are the "social glue" which hold communities together and exist mostly for the benefit of their members or the greater community, rather than for personal profit. Many NFPs provide services that are in the public interest - they help people who are disadvantaged or at risk of social exclusion.
- 4.2. NFPs are often uniquely positioned to respond to the changing needs of their communities when facing major challenges. They can (often more quickly than government) respond at a local level to key social issues

¹ For all PilchConnect submissions see <http://www.pilch.org.au/Page.aspx?ID=175> and summary at Appendix A

² See the NSW Law and Justice foundation website at : www.lawfoundation.net.au

³ See Schetzer, L Mullins, J & Buonamano, R Access to justice & legal needs, a project to identify legal needs, pathways and barriers for disadvantaged people in NSW. Background paper. Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, Sydney, 2002, www.lawfoundation.net.au/report/background

including: re-engagement of long term unemployed; pre-school care; land care; health issues (diabetes, mental health and obesity); and domestic violence.

- 4.3. NFPs contribute 4.7% of GDP with total revenue of approximately \$33.5 billion. In comparative terms, NFPs add more to GDP than the mining industry.⁴ In the context of Victoria, the government estimates that there are between 120,000 and 150,000 informal and formal NFPs. Importantly, 87% of all adult Victorians gave a donation in 2005 and over 40% volunteered for a NFP.⁵
- 4.4. There has been a welcome increase in both State and Federal government attention on supporting the NFP sector. In Victoria, there has been the establishment of the Office of the Community Sector within the Department of Planning and Community Development. At the Federal level, the Rudd Government clearly recognised the role that the NFP sector will play in the growing economic crisis:

*“... they’re the ones who are so in touch with what is happening day to day, in communities right around the country. They’re the ones that know when people are looking for emergency relief; when they’re faced with homelessness; when they’re dealing with unemployment; when they’re dealing with issues associated with disability and mental health. These are the groups that are there on the ground”.*⁶

- 4.5. While demand on NFP services increases, funding opportunities contract as donors grapple with shrinking investments in the current global financial crisis. To compound this, the raft of legal and regulatory responsibilities remain burdensome (see heading 5 below). For some NFPs the diversion of precious resources to cope with the legal and regulatory complexity of this sector will mean that they will significantly reduce their services or even cease to operate.

5. Complex regulatory and legal environment for NFPs

- 5.1. In considering the need for NFPs access to legal advice and assistance, it is important to note that the regulatory environment for NFPs is more complex than for business (recognised by the 2008 Senate Inquiry into the NFP sector, academic research and views expressed by the sector itself).⁷ The administrative burden of regulation for small to medium NFPs has a substantially limiting effect on the ability of those organisations to deliver services to their clients (who are often marginalised or disadvantaged individuals).⁸
- 5.2. In particular NFPs have to deal with complex and inconsistent treatment for tax, fundraising and incorporation. For example there are at least 20 legal structures available to NFPs in Australia. There are more than 11 regulators; multiple, inconsistent, legislative definitions of “charity”; and at least eight different approvals required for national fundraising. The sector is subject to 178 state and federal statutes, and reports to 19 government agencies. These barriers to accountability and efficiency are exacerbated by the lack of a specialist national NFP regulator and accounting standard.
- 5.3. The legal issues for NFPs are also diverse – ranging from the types of issues all organisations face (e.g. employment, intellectual property, commercial tenancy, OHS), to NFP-specific issues (e.g. eligibility for

⁴ ABS 2001 - Includes imputation for the value of volunteer contribution

⁵ See Victorian Government’s 2007 discussion paper: *Stronger Community Organisations Project* (at p.7)

⁶ Transcript : ‘Meeting with the representatives of the third sector’, Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, 27 January 2009

⁷ See Nonprofit Regulation Reform Program: *An initial statement by the National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations*, released May 2004: www.nonprofitroundtable.org.au.

⁸ Media Release: ‘Senator Stephens welcomes senate report on charity regulation’ Senator The Hon. Ursula Stephens MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, 4 December 2008. Senator Stephens noted that the Inquiry had “laid bare the complexities of regulation with which non-profit organisations currently have to contend” and she welcomed “the Committee’s work in identifying areas where we can work with the sector to reduce unnecessary red tape and strengthen sector organisations.”

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concessional taxation status, fundraising requirements and issues arising in relation to volunteers) and client-related issues (e.g. defending a subpoena for records of a client who had received assistance from the NFP to escape domestic violence).

- 5.4. Many NFPs are small, locally based, rely heavily on volunteers, and have limited resources. They are therefore often in a position where they are unable to access or pay for legal assistance when legal problems arise.⁹ Those that have contacted PilchConnect have commented that the lack of clear information about legal liability and other legal and regulatory issues acts as an impediment to people (especially volunteers) becoming involved in their organisations.

6. Assistance for NFPs – ‘Helping the Helpers’

- 6.1. The need for legal services to help NFPs is confirmed by the long-standing, hands-on experience of organisations such as Volunteering Australia, ACOSS, and their state and territory counterparts. These peak bodies receive hundreds of calls each year from NFPs about legal (or legally-related) issues. They report finding it difficult to deal with legal queries (they do not employ lawyers) and their efforts are frustrated by the lack of low cost resources tailored to meet the needs of NFPs.¹⁰
- 6.2. To compound the problems caused by the complex regulatory environment, there is a dearth of lawyers with expertise on the legal issues faced by NFPs. In part this is because it is not an area of profitable legal practice. There are very few lawyers in private practice who specialise in charity law. In fact there only a few tax experts who can assist with the complex tax laws relating to DGR status and other non profit tax status, or who regularly advise on less common legal structures such as associations, co-operatives and indigenous corporations. Further, is not an expertise available from generalist CLCs.
- 6.3. Failure to ‘help the helpers’ access legal advice, information, training and dispute resolution will result in many small to medium NFPs having to close their doors, and responsibility for the supportive services they deliver to the disadvantaged or marginalised (often the furthest from access to justice), being carried by society at large or government.

Recommendation 1:

That the access to justice debate should be broadened to include consideration of how best to support small to medium NFP community organisations access to legal advice, information, training and dispute resolution.

Recommendation 2:

That the Committee support moves for regulatory reform for the NFP sector to reduce the regulatory burden on CLCs and other NFP organisations in line with the recommendations made by the 2008 Senate Economics Committee Report on Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

⁹ See Victorian Government’s 2007 discussion paper: Stronger Community Organisations Project

¹⁰ PILCH report: *Establishment of not-for-profit legal service*, p30 ([www.pilch.org.au/Assets/Files/NFP%20Research%20Report%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.pilch.org.au/Assets/Files/NFP%20Research%20Report%20(final).pdf)).

Part B – Ensure funding for a specialist legal service catering specifically to NFP organisations

7. Access to free and low cost legal services

- 7.1. At present there is no government legal assistance directly for NFPs. CLCs typically act for individuals. While there are some other bodies which provide organisational support to NFPs, legal information and advice is not the core part of the work they do.
- 7.2. PilchConnect is currently the only (pilot) specialist legal service which aims to provide legal information and advice to NFPs in Australia. The PilchConnect service has already provided significant benefits to the NFP sector and assisted in Government policy and law reform.¹¹

Case study 1.

Following the collapse of a number of commercial childcare centres, and the subsequent appointment of a Court Appointed Receiver to manage these businesses, the NFP childcare sector expressed an interest in taking over a number of the 'unviable' centres across Victoria. A peak body for NFP childcare centres sought the assistance of PilchConnect to ensure that all potential community childcare purchasers were aware of the possible legal issues that might arise in purchasing one of the centres.

PilchConnect identified this matter as being in the public interest and was able to strategically use its pro bono resources to organise a seminar for 40 NFP childcare operators with a very practical overview of the legal issues to consider before making a decision to bid on an insolvent childcare centre.

The seminar addressed specific issues, including insolvency law, due diligence and potential legal issues that should be considered before a NFP childcare centre decides to take over an insolvent business. Feedback from attendees was that the seminar provided them with very clear, logical and practical information about the possible issues and risks that might arise throughout this process.

- 7.3. The model on which PilchConnect is based is a preventative one - we 'help the helpers'. By providing or facilitating legal assistance to NFPs, we are able to assist NFPs to set up and run effective, well-governed and financially viable community organisations. In turn, these NFPs provide crucial support and assistance to marginalised and disadvantaged people in the local communities in which they work. Their clients will, in turn, receive better support and the burden on the social and judicial system is reduced as a result.
- 7.4. PilchConnect also provides NFPs with legal assistance in relation to their advocacy and law reform work. This supports NFPs to deal with systemic issues affecting their constituents, and in access to justice, advocacy and public policy work (see also paragraph 3.1).
- 7.5. One way in which the Federal Government can increase access to justice is by providing significant support to a specialist legal service which helps community organisations with their legal and regulatory compliance, and law reform issues.
- 7.6. Recurrent funding for a national, specialist NFP legal service, particularly in light of the current Federal Government's intention to undertake reform of the sector, would provide the necessary support to NFPs to meet their legal obligations.

¹¹ See Appendix A for full list of PilchConnect submissions throughout 2007/08 and Appendix B for list of some of the NFP organisations PilchConnect has helped in the past.

- 7.7. As a base for development for a national service, PilchConnect has successfully leveraged start-up funding from philanthropic, corporate, private sector and Victorian statutory bodies to establish a Victorian pilot. In 2007/8 funding received by PilchConnect of around \$400,000 delivered pro bono services with an estimated commercial value of over \$3 million for NFPs. However there is no recurrent funding for this service beyond early 2010.
- 7.8. Given that many of the legal issues that NFPs face are federal legal issues, Pilchconnect believes that part funding from the Commonwealth Attorney General's department (possibly administered via its CLC funding program) is appropriate and will assist in leveraging matching funding from State governments.
- 7.9. Ongoing funding of PilchConnect represents an excellent return on investment for Government, and a part contribution from the Federal Government would ensure that PilchConnect can expand its catchment nationally and continue to provide practical and tangible assistance to those organisations at the coal face of social service delivery in Australia.

Recommendation 3:

Recurrent funding for specialist NFP community legal centres such as PilchConnect that support small to medium NFPs should be a priority for the Federal Government.

Part C – Reducing financial risk for NFPs bringing public interest test cases.

8. Public Interest Litigation

- 8.1. Despite the positive role many NFPs play in preventing social exclusion and family breakdown (and thus the need for legal aid funding at the 'crisis' point) there is no funding for the running of public interest test cases. Apart from the cost of litigation, it is the risk of an adverse costs order which can deter NFPs from pursuing meritorious public interest matters and enforcing the legal rights of their clients or constituents. As a result, important legal issues affecting the community may not be brought to public awareness or to resolution.
- 8.2. The cost of litigation is a critical issue for the NFP sector, especially given that data shows that the majority of NFPs are small and have limited resources. There is a need to ensure that these financial resources are not diverted from core service delivery - in particular, if resources are spent on legal advice or litigation the public are less likely to donate.¹²
- 8.3. Law Aid, a charitable trust run by the Law Institute of Victoria and the Victorian Bar may provide disbursement relief in litigation brought in the public interest but only in matters where there is compensation likely to be paid. However in many test cases the outcome is uncertain and there is generally no compensation payable.

9. Protective Cost Orders for NFP test cases brought in the public interest.

¹² There has been considerable debate and concern expressed in the media about the percentage of donations that go towards an organisations administrative costs e.g. the Red Cross post Bali bombings and for any aid organisations regarding the use of tsunami donations.

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- 9.1. PilchConnect recommends a regime which reduces potential financial risk for NFP organisations that bring bona fide proceedings in the public interest.
- 9.2. PilchConnect supports any recommendation not to pursue costs or disbursements where an NFP litigant is determined to be a “public interest litigant “. Current costs regimes act as a disincentive to public interest litigation and reduce the likelihood that a NFP organisation will pursue important test cases. In this regard PilchConnect supports the recommendations made in the PILCH submission to this Inquiry ¹³and to the National Pro Bono Resource Centre¹⁴
- 9.3. Clearly PilchConnect realises that there should be eligibility criteria attached to the making of such an order having regard to the legal significance of the proceedings, the likely cost of the proceedings to each party, the resources of the parties and the ability to pay and adverse costs order, and a definition of public interest litigant which should include both individuals and NFPs.
- 9.4. NFPs which seek to bring matters that raise an issue that is in the public good, or where they are seeking redress in matters of public interest for those who are marginalised or disadvantaged, should be able to avail themselves of a protective costs order.

Case study 2

An organisation was established to support people suffering from a serious and infectious medical condition and their families including advocating on behalf of people with the condition. The organisation approached PILCH for generalist advice on discrimination law, privacy law and occupational health and safety issues with respect to people with the condition, which it could disseminate amongst its staff and to other organisations.

At the same time, the organisation sought assistance for one of its clients in relation to the client's exclusion from a TAFE course as a result of having the condition. PILCH referred the organisation to one of its members to provide organisational advice, and also to advise the individual on the merits of bringing a complaint of discrimination against the TAFE. The firm accepted both matters and advised the individual that a claim against the TAFE had merit and agreed to initiate proceedings.

The matter ultimately settled and the client was allowed to re-enrol in the course and received an apology and financial compensation. Since that time, the organisation has referred another two clients who had experienced similar discrimination.

Recommendation 4:

That Courts be specifically empowered to make protective costs orders for public interest litigants, including those that are NFP organisations, through an amendment to the Courts' relevant empowering legislation.

¹³ PILCH submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee ; Inquiry into Access to Justice, April 2009

¹⁴ National Pro Bono Resource Centre submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee; Inquiry into Access to Justice, April 2009.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The debate on access to justice issues must be broadened to include support for organisations that help people to access justice, and help people to participate in advocacy and law reform. The concept of “access to justice” should also include support for NFP organisations that act in the public interest.
- 10.2. Providing legal advice, information and training to peak organisations and NFPs which support marginalised or disadvantaged people will allow those organisations to direct their resources to supporting their constituents, and allowing the NFPs to carry out their services more efficiently. The knock on effect is that there is less of a burden on the legal aid and justice system.
- 10.3. PilchConnect submits that the model of ‘helping the helpers’ by providing a comprehensive hub for the provision of legal advice, information and training to NFPs is an essential service. It has been demonstrated to prevent litigation and promote alternative dispute resolution.
- 10.4. We further submit that by funding a specialist CLC service to provide advice and training to small to medium NFP community organisations, significant time, money and resources are saved. NFPs are thereby able to provide the crucial support and assistance to the local communities in which they work.

SUMMARY OF PILCHCONNECT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1:

That the access to justice debate should be broadened to include consideration of how best to support small to medium NFP community organisations’ access to legal advice, information, training and dispute resolution.

Recommendation 2:

That the Committee support moves for regulatory reform for the NFP sector to reduce the regulatory burden on CLCs and other NFP organisations in line with the recommendations made by the 2008 Senate Economics Committee Report on Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations

Recommendation 3:

That recurrent funding for specialist not-for-profit community legal centres such as PilchConnect that support small to medium NFPs should be a priority for the Federal Government.

Recommendation 4:

That Courts be specifically empowered to make protective costs orders for public interest litigants, including those that are not-for-profit organisations, through an amendment to the Courts’ relevant empowering legislation.

APPENDIX A

PilchConnect submissions on NFP sector issues during 2007/08

Topic / Inquiry	Jurisdiction	Nature of PilchConnect submission	Date
Australia's Future Tax System (the Henry Inquiry)	Federal	<i>'Removing complexity, adding coherence: a proper framework for concessional tax treatment of charities and not-for-profit entities'</i> - written submission focused on the impact of the current tax system on not-for-profit organisations and recommendations for reform.	October 2008
Department of Justice (DOJ) consultation on <i>Associations Incorporation Amendment Bill 2008</i>	State	Approached on 'Cabinet in confidence' basis. Provided written comments on draft Bill, highlighting significant technical and practical implications related to day-to-day operations of NFPs. Invited to meet with DOJ officers to provide further information on suggested amendments and majority of changes implemented.	October 2008
Commonwealth Parliament Senate (Economics Committee) Inquiry into disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations	Federal	<i>'Time for proper underpinning: a national regulatory approach for the NFP sector'</i> – substantive written submission included case studies and recommended nationally consistent regulation and an independent, national NFP regulator. Endorsed by several other orgs. Invited by the Committee to provide oral evidence on issues raised in report.	August 2008 October 2008
Parliamentary Inquiry into improving access to Victorian public sector information and data	State	Written submission suggesting ways to improve access to data about the Victorian NFP sector, and improve NFP access to commonly used public sector information (like police record checks).	August 2008
Victorian Office of Gaming and Racing review laws relating to the playing of bingo	State	Written submission supporting many of the proposed reforms to gaming laws (bingo), but making a number of recommendations for further improvement, based on feedback from Victorian NFPs.	May 2008
Commonwealth Treasury Department review of Reporting by Unlisted Public Companies	Federal	Convened multi-disciplinary expert roundtable. Written submission responded to a series of review questions in relation to NFPs, noted previous research and highlighted the need for the government to look at the 'bigger picture' of how best to both support the NFP sector while promoting public accountability.	August 2007
2007 Victorian Government - Stronger Community Organisations Project	State	Written submission about regulatory issues and the need for specialist legal support service to assist the NFP sector. Invited to provide oral evidence to review Committee.	July 2007
Victorian State Services Authority (SSA): Not-for-profit regulation review	State	Written submission identifying areas to reduce the regulatory burden on the NFP sector, and on the need for specialist legal support service to assist the sector. Invited to meet with Commissioner Susan Pascoe.	May 2007

APPENDIX B

Not-for-profit groups which received *pro bono* legal assistance via PILCH in 2007/08

(Note: many more groups received other assistance such as being referred to free government mediation services)

Aboriginal Housing Victoria	Embrace Education	Polish Community Association
Alpha Autism	Emma House Domestic Violence	Quay Initiatives - Embassy at Pier 9
ALSO Foundation	Environment Victoria	Reclink Australia
ANEX	Ethnic Community Council of Victoria	Reichstein Foundation
Animal Active	FebFast	RMIT Student Union
Animal Liberation Victoria	Federation of Community Legal Centres	Road Trauma Support Team
Animals Australia Inc	Financial Consumer Rights Council	Ross House Association
Antares Foundation	Fitzroy Legal Service	Rushall Resident's Committee
Arts Project Australia	Footscray Community Legal Centre	Save Albert Park
Australian Burma Network	Free Speech Victoria	Save Rondor Committee
Australian Firefighters International Relief and Education	Friends of the Earth Melbourne	Shekinah Homeless Services Inc
Australian Huntington's Disease Assoc.	Friendship Square Childcare Centre	Social Sculpture Forum
Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material	Gippsland Advocates for Mental Health	SPAN Community House Inc
Australian Muslim Social Services	Goulburn Murray Hume Agcare Ltd	Springhurst Byawatha Hills Landcare
Autism Victoria	HomeGround Services	Stolen Generations Victoria
Ballarat Heritagewatch Inc	Housing Resource & Support Service	Sudan Liaison Organisation in Australia
Bendigo Animal Shelter Inc	Indonesian Resources and Information Program	TADVIC
Beyond Disability Inc	Jobwatch Inc	Tarwirri - Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association
Big Mouth	Kimberley Land Council	Tatura Children's Centre Inc
Blue Wedges Inc	Koori Women Mean Business	Tenants Union of Victoria
Cancer Council	Lawyers for Animals	The Haven Foundation
Carers Victoria	Legal Co-ordinating Council Inc	Trust for Nature
Caroline Chisholm Society	FebFast	Unchain St Kilda
Centre for Continuing Education Inc	Lentil As Anything	Via Creativa
CERES Inc	Lord Somers Camp and Power House	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Change Agency Vic	Marine Coastal Community Network	Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
Children's Protection Society	Mary's Meals Australia	Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
Chronic Illness Alliance	Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport & Recreational	Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups
Climate Positive	Cooperative Ltd	Victorian Council of Social Services
Community Child Care Association Inc	Mitchell Community Housing Services Inc	Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Centre
Consumer Action Law Centre	Moreland Community Legal Centre	Walwa Bush Nursing Centre
Council on the Ageing Victoria	Nindi - Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Aboriginal Corporation	WayOut, the Rural Victorian Youth & Sexual Diversity Project
Craigieburn and District Ambulance Committee	North East Housing Service	Westernport Peninsula Protection Council
Cumberland View Residents' Association	North East Neighbourhood Housing	Windana
Darebin Community Legal Centre	North Melbourne Language and Literacy	Wingate Avenue Community Centre
Desert 2 Surf	North Melbourne Legal Service	Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service
Dignity Counselling	OMEPA Australia Ltd	World Expeditions
Donvale Living and Learning Centre	PALS (NSW)	
Eastern Access Community Health	Parenting Research Centre Inc	