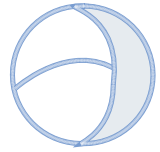


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**Australian and New Zealand
Third Sector Research Limited**



ACN 059 695 859

**T H I R D
S E C T O R
R E V I E W
(Abstracts)**

Volume 9, No.1
2003

THIRD SECTOR REVIEW

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Subscriptions for ANZTSR may be directed to: Anne O'Keefe, ANZTSR, Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights, Arts Faculty, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic 3217. Fax (03) 5227 2018. E-mail: anztsr@deakin.edu.au

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THE SELF-HELP SUPPORT GROUP: A MEANS OF FOSTERING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Ann Dadich, University of Western Sydney, NSW

ABSTRACT

This paper demonstrates the important role of Self-Help Support Groups in fostering social capital. Following a brief discussion of key concepts, findings are presented from a study which explored the experiences of young people in these groups. The young people self-identified as experiencing mental health issues and became involved in groups that met around these issues. The principal finding suggests that the young people spoke highly of the sense of connectedness they had to others who shared their personal issues. This in turn gave rise to other benefits—particularly improved connectedness with people outside the group context, namely family, friends and the wider community. The paper also highlights the potential influence of psychological status in the development of social capital. Psychological status may affect the importance awarded to particular group conditions that are believed to foster a sense of connectedness.

COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS TO RURAL RENEWAL: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COORDINATED ACTION

Jo Barraket, Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne

ABSTRACT

In a policy environment that emphasises community self-reliance as a means of meeting the challenges of rural renewal, community capacity to address social, economic and environmental objectives has become increasingly important. This article considers a particular approach to capacity building—the ‘cooperative solutions’ approach— which is characterised by community ownership, democratic participation, self-help and an explicit commitment to integrated community development. Third sector organisations and interorganisational networks underpin many examples of cooperative solutions. It is argued that the cooperative solutions approach represents one useful coalitional strategy for developing the enabling structures necessary to support capacity building for long-term community sustainability.

FOUNDATION FORMATION: AN AUSTRALIAN MYSTERY?

Diana Leat, Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics and Political Science

ABSTRACT

Understanding factors in foundation formation is of critical policy relevance in Australia today. The current government has called for more philanthropic giving and, in pursuit of this goal, various assumed tax disincentives to foundation formation and giving more generally have been removed. This article discusses possible explanations for the apparent paucity of endowed foundations in Australia in the light of theories of foundation formation in other countries, most notably the US. It is suggested that data on the role of tax regimes in encouraging foundation formation are at the least ambiguous. In order to understand factors encouraging and discouraging foundation formation in Australia we need to explore a richer explanatory framework in which a complex of interacting deeper historical and cultural factors plays an important part.

PUTTING PAID TO PRESCRIBED ROLES: A NEW ERA FOR AUSTRALIAN WOMEN AND PHILANTHROPY

Margaret A. Steinberg and Lara Cain, Queensland University of Technology

ABSTRACT

In redefining our understanding of contemporary Australian women's philanthropy, the impact of major contextual and demographic changes, as well as changes in women's roles, responsibilities and opportunities, need to be considered. There is little current research on the giving patterns and philanthropic drivers for contemporary Australian women. The demographic, social and economic factors, which could be expected to encourage new cohorts of Australian women to give, will be examined within our definition of women in philanthropy and a brief history of women's philanthropy in Australia, in order to inform future in-depth analyses of Australian women donors.

THEORISING STATE/THIRD SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: TOWARD A FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

Ed Carson, University of South Australia and Lorraine Kerr, Deakin University, Melbourne

ABSTRACT

In an era of New Public Management imperatives promoting privatisation, devolution and 'rolling out' of the state, much contemporary social policy is predicated on notions of partnerships between government and third sector organisations, and the constituencies they represent, with attendant assumptions about the relevance of social capital and social networks. How these issues are conceptualised, defined and operationalised, however, remains ambiguous.

This paper argues that, although common across many government/third sector partnerships, such ambiguity is well illustrated through an analysis of employment services in Australia. Employment services are therefore used in this paper as an example to illustrate our arguments. Both Commonwealth-funded Job Network and State-level employment initiatives presume effective partnerships between Commonwealth, State, third sector and private organisations.

Recent research suggests that there is a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders in current models of employment services which leads to an overall lack of integration in service delivery between levels of government and across sectors (Finn 2001; Kerr, Carson and Goddard 2002). This paper outlines a project now under way that explores how such integration could occur. Specifically, the project builds on research to date in relation to modes of governance and network analysis in order to identify options for innovative and inclusive models of partnerships between governments and the third sector.

BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT RELATIONSHIPS IN AUSTRALIA: PROMISCUOUS OR MONOGAMOUS?

Melissa Edwards and Jenny Onyx, University of Technology, Sydney¹

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to build upon the models for intersectoral relationships proposed by Austin (1999) and Lyons (1998). In the Australian context of business and nonprofit relationships this research seeks to uncover empirical evidence of the type and level of integrations between these sectors. Additionally, the dimensions of social capital are explored as an important integrative mechanism to facilitate the benefits of the social outcome beyond that of the economic benefit. Finally, this research builds extant literature regarding the proliferous nature of intersectoral relationships. Evidence suggests that both business and nonprofit organisations are increasingly engaging with multiple partners. We consider some of the implications of this trend.

PAUCITY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN AUSTRALIAN NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Regine Wagner, University of Western Sydney, NSW and Nigel Spence, Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies

ABSTRACT

The research investigated some internal functions of nonprofit human services organisations in response to a decline in resources and increased pressure to perform efficiently. The research builds on four (4) studies of paid staff members (n=170) of a combined one hundred and fifty-seven (n=157) nonprofit organisations in New South Wales. The key outcome was the development of a new analytical category to understand management practices, that is, 'paucity management', a set of strategies used by paid managers and workers to operate effectively and ethically under resource-poor conditions. Five common domains of organisational practices are proposed as the initial core of paucity management.

PROMOTING VISION AND MISSION: MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS AND FRAMEWORKS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Chris Talbot, Adelaide Central Mission, SA and Phil Saj, School of Commerce, Adelaide University, SA

ABSTRACT

Community Welfare Organisations (CWOs) play an important role in Australian society and in so doing command significant resources. These organisations face a unique set of challenges in the delivery of services, and over the last decade management of these organisations has become increasingly complex. Consequently there are significant imperatives to address the issue of organisational performance measurement. This paper examines the application of the OPM system, which was developed by the CSIRO's Division of Mathematical and Information Science, to a large, multi-service CWO. It concludes that the OPM system is well suited to model the specific characteristics of CWOs, primarily because it is based on a value-added approach to stakeholder analysis.