

Dunedin Council of Social Services

Annual Community Forum - 25 March 2009

Outcomes and Themes

THEMES:

1. *Working Together*

- a. DCOSS to provide the connection between multiple networks and specialist areas in the Sector to assist in
 - i. Developing combined programmes
 - ii. Sharing Resources
 - iii. Joint funding applications
 - iv. Combining Network

2. *Social Indicators*

- a. Develop process to gather relevant information about what is happening in our communities
- b. Use this information to monitor local trends
- c. Create a base of knowledge and information that is respected and acknowledged

3. *Advocacy*

- a. Provide the information above in ways that helps Community and Voluntary Sector, local government, central government agencies in our area and local business community to make good decisions and enables DCOSS to sit at the Economic Recovery Umbrella group table with a clear mandate and good information.
- b. Link with Local and Central Government and their agencies in a way that they understand the sector and what it does, its values, concepts and importance to the wellbeing of communities at a level that is more than just "crisis services".

4. *Education*

- a. Encourage and support education in the Community and Voluntary Sector that helps organisations to work smarter. Such as:
 - i. Internet use - eg. Blogging, twittering etc
 - ii. Outcomes based planning
 - iii. Social Enterprises - what are they and how can they help

5. *Funding*

- a. Consider other funding options such as social enterprise
- b. Developing good funding strategies and working across organisations where applicable

OUTCOMES

1. *DCOSS to ensure good connection between agencies*
2. *DCOSS to develop Social Indicators and body of knowledge around what is happening in the sector*
3. *DCOSS to develop relationship with Business Sector and gain a seat around the Otago Region Economic Recovery Table*
4. *Organisations to:*
 - a. *provide stories of the effects of the economic recession on their clients and*
 - b. *Provide information on organisational trends such as increased/decrease client numbers, complexity of issues being addressed, change in needs etc.*
5. *Develop mechanisms and processes to achieve the above - issues will always change but having good connections and systems to deal with them effectively is important*
6. *NEXT FORUM IN JUNE TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING IDEAS*

ISSUES

- ↔ **No problem, only change**
- ↔ **Be aware of Big Group dominance**
- ↔ **Go back to community - it is about them**
- ↔ **Funding -**
 - **Concerned that at this time there is greater demand on services, yet less money to provide them - we must think strategically about this issue and**
 - **see it as an opportunity to change funding mix, consider other options rather than government contracts**
- ↔ **Support Unemployed providing volunteer hours (9 day fortnight)**