



ABN 37 932 479 648

CEO report to June 2011 COM meeting The Buoyancy Foundation of Victoria and Buoyancy Services Inc

Vision; To create a world of self expression and contribution

Happy 50th Birthday to Glenda on a Harley at Uluru



Completed

Commonwealth signed off on final mental health report and paid funding.

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Continuation

Medicare Local who will receive all government funding for all inner north west health services (including us) was announced this week as being Melbourne division of general practise trading as Progressive Primary Health Ltd.

The transfer of power and money to the company was not sufficiently underway for it to affect 2011 and 2012 and we were also notified this week that the Victorian Department of Health will continue our contract July1 2011-30th June 2012.

Buoyancy Services Mostyn St Property

Sworn valuation of Mostyn St property by Countryside valuers declares a current fair value of \$425,000 up from \$330,000 purchase price December 2008

Buoyancy Foundation has paid in full for three years rental from February 2011 to Buoyancy Services for use of the property as a self care centre.

The Buoyancy Services accounts reflect these changes.

Ria

Ria has won a couple of funding agreements for her own projects, will be overseas for two and one half month this year and will therefore discontinue providing music and attendance at Buoyancy on July 26th.

Ria requests

- variation in website agreement
- feedback back on new www.buoyancy.org.au site
- request for new position

To check out the buoyancy site in progress here is the link for C.O.M members

<http://101.0.64.100/~buoyancy/>

click on 'login' on home page to enter intranet .

temporary username is C.O.M password = deems

Please provide any adjustments that you would like to the site.

Ria requests

a different completion date for buoyancy internet site July 1st instead of June 15th

a new job description starting August 1st working offsite on our Buoyancy conversations and [www.buoyancy](http://www.buoyancy.org.au) sites

Ria would like to be paid 8-16hours a month to look after our sites.

Ideas to draw us forward;

Buoyancy 50th Birthday (2017) Healing and Sustainability Fund?

Buoyancy Planning Audit returns were due 20th June and we had one voluntary respondent.

Adam has kindly been involved in **Safe Injecting rooms media and a site visit** in Sydney

COM Code of Ethics- copies at meeting to be signed

Disability access project/ front veranda at Castlemiane postponed as we negotiate with a new provider

Plumbers quote for fixing the Mostyn St toilet pipe that blocks from time to time is \$6-8,000. Deb to get more quotes.

Buoyancy defending a **civil action claim** that our car scratched another car with most costs covered by RACV. Deb to describe.

Letters of appointment staff- Deb to draft for President

Restructuring occurring around us

As well as the National Health Reform we have the reforms to charities legislation and regulation which includes many million for a centralised charities bureau (ACNC) announced in 2011 Commonwealth budget

The big news from the second meeting of the Not-For-Profit Sector Reform Council held in Canberra on 18 May is that

With regards to the Productivity Commission research report, *Contributions of the Not for Profit Sector*, the Minister advised that the Commonwealth Government has accepted 'in-principle' all but one of the recommendations relating to the Commonwealth. The one recommendation not supported was recommendation 9.5 pertaining to program related social innovation funds. While encouraging greater innovation is critical, the Government believes this should be pursued in other ways.

That means that apart from the big ticket items like the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), a number of other countdowns have begun.

Among other things, the Productivity Commission recommended

Some things that we can all agree are good ideas

- Australian governments funding service provision or making grants should respect the independence of funded organisations and not impose conditions associated with the general operations of the funded organisation, beyond those essential to ensure the delivery of agreed funding outcomes.

- The Australian Government should progressively widen the scope for gift deductibility to include all endorsed charitable institutions and charitable funds.

- State and territory governments should recognise the tax concession status endorsement of not-for-profit organisations at the Commonwealth level.

- To encourage cost-effective giving, the Australian Government should explore options to promote and support planned giving, especially payroll giving.

· The length of service agreements and contracts should reflect the length of the period required to achieve agreed outcomes rather than having arbitrary or standard contract periods.

Some things that would be useful if the states got off their butts (but which the Feds are not offering to take on)

· State and territory governments should review their full range of support for sector development to reduce duplication, improve the effectiveness of such measures, and strengthen strategic focus, including on:

○ developing the sustainable use of intermediaries providing support services to the sector, including in information technology

○ improving knowledge of, and the capacity to meet, the governance requirements for not-for-profit organisations' boards and management

○ building skills in evaluation and risk management, with a priority for those not-for-profit organisations engaged in delivery of government funded services.

· Australian governments should introduce a system of 'Working with Vulnerable People Checks' that provides for checks to be portable between organisations for a designated time period. Further, Australian governments should explore the feasibility of developing a consistent national system allowing portability across states and territories of police checks....

· In order to ensure that not-for-profits can sustain their workforces, and as wages are a major factor in the successful recruitment and retention of staff, Australian governments purchasing community services need to base funding on relevant market wages for equivalent positions. Costings need to take into account the skill sets required to perform the purchased services and be indexed appropriately to market wage growth within that industry sector.

Some new agencies

· The Australian Government should provide funding for the establishment of a Centre for Community Service Effectiveness to promote 'best practice' approaches to evaluation

A major change in the basic structure of the average NFP

· The Australian Government should amend the Corporations Act to establish a separate chapter relating to not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee.

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The Productivity Commission essentially recommended that the standard not-for-profit not be an incorporated institution any more but should shift to being a company, with the rules relaxed and special easy ways to swap over (this would, among other things, take them out from under state regulation, which would make regulation by the Commonwealth easier). This is now apparently government policy.

And the one they didn't accept?

· Australian governments should require all programs (of over \$10 million) delivering community services through not-for-profit organisations to set aside a small proportion of the program budget (for example, one per cent) to a program related social innovation fund. The fund should support trials of new approaches to service delivery, including evaluation of their cost-effectiveness.

FOOTNOTE: As a footnote, the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission has now been subjected to a Regulation Impact Statement that basically reviews all the possible alternatives (including leaving things the way they are) and adds up the pros and cons. It's not good on actual figures –

Given informational gaps, it is impossible to estimate current compliance costs faced by the sector and changes in compliance costs that would arise due to the implementation of options considered in this regulatory impact statement (RIS)

and

Given the lack of data, it is not possible for the Government to accurately estimate the number of charities that would fit into various segments of the sector (for example, small charities). This makes it extremely difficult to estimate the overall implication on compliance costs for the sector as a whole.

– but it does do a good job of weighing the practical advantages and disadvantages for not-for-profits and governments. Its conclusion, unsurprisingly, is that the ACNC is the way to go.

POSTSCRIPT: And as a postscript, a recent review found that just one of the elements of the package – the Standard Chart of Accounts, introduced into Victorian Government Departments in July 2010 – will save the Victorian not-for-profit sector about three million dollars a year (net) over the next decade, the savings coming from “ *time saved by NFP community organisations using the Victorian SCOA when they perform a number of bookkeeping, grant application and financial reporting tasks.*”

A good start, and a good omen.

Buoyancy Reports Accounts and Statistics