

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Contractual Principles

Mr Eric Sidoti from the Whitlam Institute, Associate Professor Rosemary Leonard and Associate Professor Michael Darcy from the Centre for Social Justice and Social Change together with Jobs Australia Limited has been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to develop and to assess the value of current Government contractual principles in entering into financial relationships with non-government organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs).

'The research aims to develop and to assess the value of prototypical contractual principles that properly reflect the responsibility and obligations of Government in entering into financial relationships with NGOs and CBOs; the nature and role of NGOs and CBOs; the diverse relationships that may exist between Government and NGOs/CBOs', says Mr Sidoti. 'The principal focus of the research will be Commonwealth funded employment services with the understanding that the principles developed are likely to be relevant to many other services. The project's significance lies in exploring an innovative model of change based on NGO initiated micro-reform.'

Organisations with government contracts will be interviewed about the key problematic aspects of current contracts between the Australian government and NGOs/CBOs' in the area of employment service provision. The analysis of the discussion in the focus groups should identify the rationale for the suggested alternatives explaining why they will improve the problems.



The outcomes will provide new knowledge to the establishment of some general principles for new contract forms which aim to provide a proper balance between the responsibility of Governments and the natural role of NGOs/CBOs. A public forum will be held to disseminate the findings and promote sector support for lobbying for the changes.

Project Title: Purchasing, Partnerships & Social Contracts: Giving effect to Government-NGO relationships

Funding has been set at: \$10,000

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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/ors/funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants