

SACOSS conference 2010: strength and innovation critical

At a time when the demand on social services has never been higher or more complex, and government is outsourcing more of its work to the community sector, strength and innovation are critical. On 5 & 6 August, over 30 national, international and local speakers will explore these ideas at the 2010 SACOSS conference.

Day One will look for the reality behind the trendy concept of 'social innovation'. Day Two will ask how the community sector defines its strength.

Keynote Speaker **Jan Owen AM** (Executive Director of [Social Ventures Australia](#)) will examine the art of strategic disruption to achieve social change.

Keynote Speaker **Colin Ball** (Former Director, [Commonwealth Foundation](#) and currently writing a book titled "It's the Community, Stupid") will ask whether the glass is half-full or half-empty (and whatever the answer is, there is still a great deal to do).

Dr Ron Edwards (Chairman of the [National Compact Sector Advisory Group](#) and a member of the Australian Government's Social Inclusion Board) is one of a panel examining strength that sets the community sector apart.

Gabrielle Kelly (Thinkers in Residence Program and Archangel Australia) is one of a panel asking if social innovation thinktanks and institutions really work?

Real-life grassroots examples of innovation and strength in the community services sector in twelve engaging workshops, including:

- the success of music in engaging and empowering disaffected refugee youth
- how new online tools are holding government accountable
- redesigning family support services in the southern suburbs
- how good old grassroots campaigning has shifted government (we've got more than one example!)

Registrations close midday Friday 30 July.

For the full program, list of speakers and workshops, and to download a registration form, visit

www.sacoss.org.au/events/conference2010

Media inquiries regarding speakers contact SACOSS Communications Officer

Celia Brissenden 0414 014 144 celia@sacoss.org.au