

## MEDIA ALERT

### SACOSS conference Thursday 5 & Friday 6 August, West Beach

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.

**What** SACOSS Conference “Defining Strength | Delivering Innovation”

**Where** [Adelaide Shores Function Centre, Military Road, West Beach](#)

**Begins** 9.30am Thursday 5 August

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Day One** will look for the reality behind the trendy concept of ‘social innovation’

Thursday 9.30am Keynote Speaker **Jan Owen AM** (Executive Director of [Social Ventures Australia](#)) will examine the art of strategic disruption to achieve social change.

Thursday 11am Q& A Panel: *Do social innovation thinktanks and organisations really work?*  
[Claire Bossley](#) ED, Don Dunstan Foundation  
[Brenton Caffin](#) CEO, Australian Centre Social Innovation  
[Mark Henley](#) Manager, Advocacy and Communications, UnitingCare Wesley  
[Elizabeth Ho](#) ED, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA  
[Gabrielle Kelly](#) Director, Thinkers in Residence Program

**Day Two** will ask how the community sector defines its strength.

Friday 9.30am 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).

Friday 11am Q& A Panel *What is the strength that sets us apart?*  
[Mary Buckskin](#) CEO, SA Aboriginal Health Council  
[Ron Edwards](#) Chairman, National Compact Sector Advisory Group  
[Evelyn O’Loughlin](#) CEO, Volunteering SA & NT  
[Michael O’Neil](#) ED, South Australian Centre for Economic Studies  
[Suzi Quixley](#) Principal Consultant, ESSQ Community Services Consultancy

Friday 3.45

Closing panel: *What five things would strengthen our sector?*

[Lynn Arnold](#) CEO, Anglicare SA

[Colin Ball](#) Keynote Speaker

[Janet Giles](#) Secretary, SA Unions

[Karen Grogan](#) Director, Centre for Participation and Community Engagement, UniSA

[Joslene Mazel](#) Chief Executive, Department for Families & Communities

## On Both Days

**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!)

For the full program, list of speakers and workshops visit

[www.sacoss.org.au/events/conference2010](http://www.sacoss.org.au/events/conference2010)