

Ōtautahi Partnership for Strengthening Community Organisations (OPSCO)

Communiqué to announce the forming of a 'partnership of the willing' - August 2019

The purpose of *Ōtautahi Partnership for Strengthening Community Organisations* is to strengthen the not-for-profit sector/third sector. It formed to ensure that the actions to build capacity and capability across the sector are cohesive and effective. This group-of-the-willing began forming in early 2019 and enjoys participation from the below organisations listed below. It welcomes all organisations that are committed to strengthening community organisations in Ōtautahi. With 'partnership' as its core value the group is working towards a shared vision and action plan for strengthening the NFP sector that is continuous, collective and contextual. OPSCO welcomes all organisations that are committed to strengthening community organisations in Ōtautahi. Make contact with any of the below to be linked in.

Context

A number of recent pieces of research and activity has been undertaken to look at the capacity and capability needs of the not for profit sector Ōtautahi. These include:

- The Third Sector/Not-for-Profit Sector Recovery in Post-earthquake Christchurch researched and written by Dr. Chrys Horn, Sarah Wylie and Jane Mountier
- Rātā Foundation's Social services sector scan, and
- Activities following on from these pieces of work such as the not-for-profit toolbox

These pieces of work highlight the gaps and opportunity and provide a range of recommendations to meet some of this need. Follow-through has not been coherent or coordinated; therefore, it seems timely to use these learnings to build a partnership approach to strengthening the NFP/Third Sector in Ōtautahi.

Activities Timeline

Ongoing Partnership Group meets regularly (currently monthly)

Sept/Oct

Organisation Strengthening Workshop: Pilot

A workshop at which organisations identify their unique strengthening needs and are then enabled to engage with tools to start down their bespoke strengthening pathway. Delivered as a pilot to learn both where organisations are at and understand the state sector's infrastructure for supporting community organisations' development. Date to be advised. Expressions of interest for this workshop will open in late August.

Sept onwards

Governance Bites

A series of free after-five events offering practical development opportunities in bite-sized pieces for 'time poor' and cash-strapped community leaders involved in non-profit boards in Canterbury, served up with pizza.
Thursday October 3rd 5.15pm-7pm 'How do non-profit Boards add value?'.
Thursday November 7th 5.15pm-7pm 'Board & Manager: Getting the balance right'.
Further events in 2020 starting from 30 January

November

Sector-wide Hui – All Invited

An opportunity to report to community organisations on what we have learnt and to workshop what the key activities and areas of focus could be for strengthening the sector in 2020/21. More details to follow.

OPSCO Participants (So Far)

Canterbury Youth Workers Collective	Penny Prescott	penny@cywc.org.nz
Christchurch Community Accounting	Harald Breiding-Buss	harald@commaccounting.co.nz
Christchurch City Council	Sam Callander	sam.callander@ccc.govt.nz
Community Law Canterbury	Susan	susan@canlaw.org.nz
Department of Internal Affairs	Trish Hughes	Patricia.Hughes@dia.govt.nz
Infoxchange	Henrietta Hall	hhall@infoxchange.org.nz
Rata Foundation	Matt Walters	Matt.Walters@ratafoundation.org.nz
SCOPE	John Harrington	john@scopeaotearoa.org.nz
SEWN	Liz	kaituiora@sewn.org.nz
Tindal Foundation	Margot	margot@nfpworks.co.nz
Volunteer Canterbury	Richard Brewster	mgr@volcan.org.nz
Wayne Francis Trust	Jenn Chowanec	jenn@wfct.org.nz

