



# CONGRESS 2009

## Protecting Social Equity When The Going Gets Tough

Thursday 6 August and Friday 7 August  
RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne

**VCOSS Congress 2009 explores the challenges and opportunities for promoting social equity during the economic downturn.**

- What are the impacts for community and social agencies?
- What are the new areas of need?
- What prospects might emerge from these challenging times?

This two day conference addresses contemporary policy and practice challenges posed from outside, inside and across the sector. VCOSS Congress 2009 combines thoughtful and intelligent analysis from local and international presenters with practical workshops and cross-sector networking opportunities. VCOSS members, government and not-for-profit policy-makers, community sector leaders, academics, and philanthropic organisations will come together to chart new directions for promoting social equity in our changing environment.



*With thanks to our principal sponsor:*



# Thursday 6 August Congress Day One

**8.30am**      **Registration**

**9.15am**      **Welcome to Country**

**9.45am**      **Welcome**  
Marilyn Webster, VCOSS President

**10.00am**    **Opening Address**  
The Hon. John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria



**Marilyn Webster**



**The Hon. John Brumby MP**

**10.45am**    **Morning Break**

**11.15am**    **Plenary: Keeping the 'Big Picture' in Perspective**  
*At a time of intense anxiety over our economic security, these inspirational speakers will remind us of the ongoing issues facing communities. By keeping social justice issues such as gender equity, indigenous employment, regional development and planning in focus, we can build practices and policies that better serve us in the future. After all, effective responses to the downturn must look to the bigger picture.*

**Anne Somerville, Health and Wellbeing Director, G2 I**  
**Mark Yettica-Paulson, Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations**  
**Sara Charlesworth, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University**

**12.45pm**    **Lunch**

**1.45pm**      **Workshop Session A**

**1. Six steps to a corporate partnership**

*This session is designed to assist organisations build their capacity to market themselves, communicate and reframe their mission to potential corporate partners.*

**2. Going green on a budget**

*We will outline the environmental, social and economic benefits to not-for-profit organisations from reducing their environmental impact. We will also showcase low and no-cost actions and resources that can support organisations to undertake environmental initiatives.*

**3. How to win friends and influence people: Advocacy for social change in Victoria**

*This session will summarise the key stages of the policy development cycle and discuss how community organisations, big and small, can engage in effective and strategic advocacy to influence government decision-making in favour of social equity.*

**4. Close the gap: Mainstream organisations taking action**

*Closing the gap between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians requires action across a wide range of areas. This session will explore these areas by placing a particular emphasis on the role of mainstream services in improving the wellbeing of Indigenous Victorians.*

**3.15pm**    **Afternoon Break**

**3.45pm**    **Plenary: Leading Through the Downturn**

*Three industry leaders will talk about the challenges that the economic downturn has presented for their organisations and sectors, and reflect on the strategies they have employed to lead through the downturn. Times of change and instability invariably bring valuable short and long term lessons which our speakers will share with the Victorian community sector.*

**Pauline Vamos, CEO, Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia**

**Mary Barry, CEO, Victoria State Emergency Service**

**Julia Unwin, CEO, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK**

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**5.15pm**      **Close**

# Friday 7 August Congress Day Two

9.00am

## Welcome

Cath Smith, VCOSS CEO



Cath Smith

9.30am

## Workshop Session B

### 1. Getting to know philanthropy: Face to face with potential donors

Ever wanted to know which philanthropic organisation to approach for funding and how? Come and find out! Representatives from several philanthropic organisations will present their programs and be available to answer your questions.

### 2. IT sustainability for the community sector

This workshop will showcase some current IT projects in the sector, both to build awareness of the issues and to underline the importance of taking technology seriously - in particular, with regard to the connections with sustainability, efficiency and communications.

### 3. Stating the obvious: The value of early intervention

Having timely and universally available early intervention supports is critical for wellbeing and ensuring that all Victorians can reach their full potential. This session will explore both the economic and social value of early intervention in the context of family support, youth and mental health services.

### 4. As easy as ABC? Privatisation and the public good

From childcare to transport and energy, a range of public services in Victoria are now in private hands, all with differing market structures and levels of regulation. This workshop will investigate how infrastructure, regulation and the market work to provide guaranteed services, where the limits of privatisation fall and who wears the risk of market failure.

11.00am

## Morning Break

11.30am

## Workshop Session C

### 1. How to get stuff for free

Participants will discover how to access a range of useful free resources to maximise their organisations' potential. The session includes real life case studies of skilled volunteers working in the sector, a practical example of a shared resource library, and a live demonstration of free online tools for communicating and collaborating.

### 2. Making WorkCover work for you!

This session is designed to give organisations an overview of the WorkCover scheme. Participants will learn how to access the free services offered by WorkCover agents as well as how they can reduce their WorkCover premiums.

### 3. Resilient responses: Communities in a time of climate change and economic downturn

How are communities supported during times of disruption and change? This workshop will outline what we have learnt about community strength and resilience and reflect on how we can apply this knowledge to the challenges of climate change and the global financial crisis.

### 4. Making space for communities: Opportunities for planning and social equity

Planning policy and practice can provide opportunities for improving social inclusion and social equity for all Victorians. This session will explore how we can make the most of innovations in planning and infrastructure so that new growth areas in outer suburban and regional areas can become thriving communities.

1.00pm

## Lunch

2.00pm

## Plenary: Clare Martin and Joan Kirner in Conversation

Clare Martin, ACOSS CEO and former Northern Territory Chief Minister, and Joan Kirner, Victorian Communities Ambassador and former Victorian Premier will speak candidly about their new roles. They will reflect on the challenges of their positions and discuss future policy directions for the community sector.

4.00pm

## Close

## Keynote Speakers



**Anne Somerville**  
**Health & Wellbeing  
Director,  
G21**

Anne Somerville has many years experience in the community sector working in overseas aid, youth services, women's & community health and family welfare services. Her governance work includes board memberships across health and education bodies and consultancy work with a range of NFP foundations and agencies.

She has also worked with the state government and more recently with a national taskforce under the auspices of the Australian Health Ministers and the COAG health reform agenda. Her current role is with G21 Region Alliance which is an innovative approach to regional development and planning, with a remit to develop, influence and improve the region's strategic approach to growth and the impact for its health & wellbeing. Anne also consults as a futures practitioner and facilitator to assist community organisations in their strategic planning and positioning.



**Mark Yettica-  
Paulson**  
**Office of the Registrar of  
Aboriginal Corporations**

Mark Yettica-Paulson is the founder and director of The Yettica Group, a firm specialising in Indigenous leadership development and facilitating tough conversations when working with Indigenous peoples. Mark has a number of years experience in community leadership and youth leadership development and currently sits on the NAB Community Advisory Council.

Mark is the former Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre and is a founding Trustee of the National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia. Mark is also on the Edmund Rice Business Ethics Committee.



**Sara  
Charlesworth**  
**Centre for Applied Social  
Research,  
RMIT University**

Sara Charlesworth is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Social research, RMIT. She has extensive experience in the areas of equal employment opportunity, work/family balance and workplace reform. Sara was a member of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board from 1988 to 1994 and a member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal from 1994 to 2001. She is currently a member of the Victorian Government's Working Families Council.

Sara's research interests centre on gender equality in employment at both the labour market and organisational levels. She has worked on many government and NGO funded research projects around pay equity, work & family balance, discrimination and industrial relations.



**Pauline Vamos**  
**Chief Executive Officer,  
Association of  
Superannuation Funds of  
Australia**

Pauline is the Chief Executive of the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA), a qualified lawyer and an Associate of the Australian Compliance Institute. She joined ASFA in September 2007, bringing over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry to the role.

Pauline has been a regulator, corporate counsel, head of compliance and a strategic risk and compliance consultant as well as a Trustee Director. She is constantly sought as a speaker on industry issues and for media comment.

Previously, she spent seven years at ASIC in senior positions and was responsible for managing and implementing both the Financial Services Reform Act and the Managed Investment legislation.

## Keynote Speakers



*Mary Barry*

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Victoria State Emergency  
Service**

Mary Barry is the inaugural CEO of Victoria State Emergency Service, a position she took up in January 2006 following the re-establishment of VICSES as a Statutory Authority.

Reporting to the Board, Mary's role is to provide leadership to the organisation (including 90 staff and 5,500 volunteers) as it transitions from a business unit of the Department of Justice to a more independent Statutory Authority.

Prior to VICSES Mary worked in senior management positions in the health and aged care sector and Local Government. Over the past 15 years or so Mary has held positions of leadership in a range of organisations and industries and has been responsible for implementing substantial change in both culture and operational matters within organisations.



*Julia Unwin*

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Joseph Rowntree  
Foundation, UK**

Julia Unwin is the Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. These two leading UK charities work to understand the root causes of social problems, identify ways of overcoming them, and show how social needs can be met in practice. Julia was a member of the Housing Corporation Board for ten years and a Charity Commissioner from 1998-2003.

She was previously the chair of the Refugee Council from 1995 until 1998, and is now a trustee of York Museums and Gallery Trust, and a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Social Action. She is also a Governor of the Pensions Policy Institute. Julia has researched and written extensively on the role, governance and funding of the voluntary sector.



*Clare Martin*

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Australian Council of  
Social Service and former  
Northern Territory Chief  
Minister**

Clare Martin is the CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and took up the position in November 2008. ACOSS is the peak council of the community services and welfare sector and is the national voice of low income and disadvantaged people.

Prior to her appointment at ACOSS, Clare was the Labor Member for the electorate of Fannie Bay in the Northern Territory Parliament for 13 years. During that time she was Opposition Leader from 1999 to 2001, then Chief Minister in the Territory's first ever Labor Government until 2007.

Before her parliamentary career, Clare was a journalist and broadcaster with the ABC for 17 years, working in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin in both radio and television.



*Joan Kirner*

**Victorian Communities  
Ambassador and former  
Premier of Victoria**

Joan Kirner is perhaps best known as Victoria's first female Premier (1990-1992). Joan was elected to Parliament in 1982, after 17 years as a community activist in her local, state and nationwide Parents and State Schools Networks. She was also a member of the Commonwealth Schools Commission from 1972 to 1978. From 1994 - 96, Joan chaired the Employment Services Regulatory Authority.

In 1994, Joan co-founded EMILY's List Australia, an organisation dedicated to electing more progressive women to Parliament.

In 2007, Joan chaired the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Victorian Communities, which made recommendations to Government on social inclusion policy and programs for Victoria.

Joan is currently Victoria's first Communities Ambassador, supporting the Minister for Community Development.

# Registration Form / Tax Invoice

VCOSS ABN 23 005 014 988

**VCOSS Congress 2009: Thursday 6 August and Friday 7 August**

Please return completed registration forms to:

**VCOSS CONGRESS  
LEVEL 8, 128 EXHIBITION STREET  
MELBOURNE 3000**

## Section A: Personal Details

|   |            |         |
|---|------------|---------|
| Title   | Given Name | Surname |
| Position  |            |         |
| Organisation  |            |         |
| Address   |            |         |
| Email   |            |         |
| Daytime Contact No.   | Mobile     | Fax     |
| Please specify if you have additional needs (including dietary, physical etc) |            |         |

Please indicate if this registration form is part of a split registration (note a maximum of two people per registration is permitted). Both registration forms should accompany payment. Additional forms can be obtained by emailing [congress@vcoss.org.au](mailto:congress@vcoss.org.au) or downloading from the website: <http://www.vcoss.org.au/>.

## Section B: Conference Registration

- Full registration includes attendance at Thursday and Friday Congress plenary sessions, workshops, lunch and morning and afternoon tea.
- Cancellation policy: Cancellations received in writing by VCOSS before 20 July 2009 will be accepted and fee refunded less a \$40 administration fee. Substitute participants are welcome.
- Organisations cannot register staff at the individual rate.
- Subsidised registrations: A limited number of subsidised and free places are available. Please email [jennifer.heaney@vcoss.org.au](mailto:jennifer.heaney@vcoss.org.au) for consideration.
- Registration must be accompanied by correct payment. Registration rates include GST.

| Please circle appropriate category       | VCOSS MEMBER | NON-MEMBER |
|--|--------------|------------|
| <b>INDIVIDUAL or NGO** &lt;\$500,000</b> | 150          | 190        |
| <b>NGO** &gt;\$500,000</b>               | 315          | 370        |
| <b>GOVT/CORP/BUSINESS/UNI</b>            | 490          | 550        |

**\*\*Registration rates for non-government organisations. Rates are determined on income levels:**  
 Category I – annual income up to \$500,000  
 Category II – annual income above \$500,000

**Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### I will be attending the following workshops (PLEASE CIRCLE)

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Workshop Session A: Thursday 6 August 1.45pm - 3.15pm | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Workshop Session B: Friday 7 August 9.30am - 11.00am  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Workshop Session C: Friday 7 August 11.30am - 1.00pm  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

## Section C: Payment Details

This form will constitute a tax invoice for GST purposes upon payment. Please retain a copy for your records. All prices quoted in this brochure are inclusive of GST.

Registrations may be paid by:

- Cheque or Money Order (Cheques should be made payable to VCOSS )
- EFT (BSB: 083 347, ACC:515 318 683. Please quote "CON" and "Last Name of Attendee")
- Credit Card
- Card Type  MasterCard  Visa

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Cardholder's name |             |
| Signature         | Expiry Date |

Credit Card Number

**REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT**