

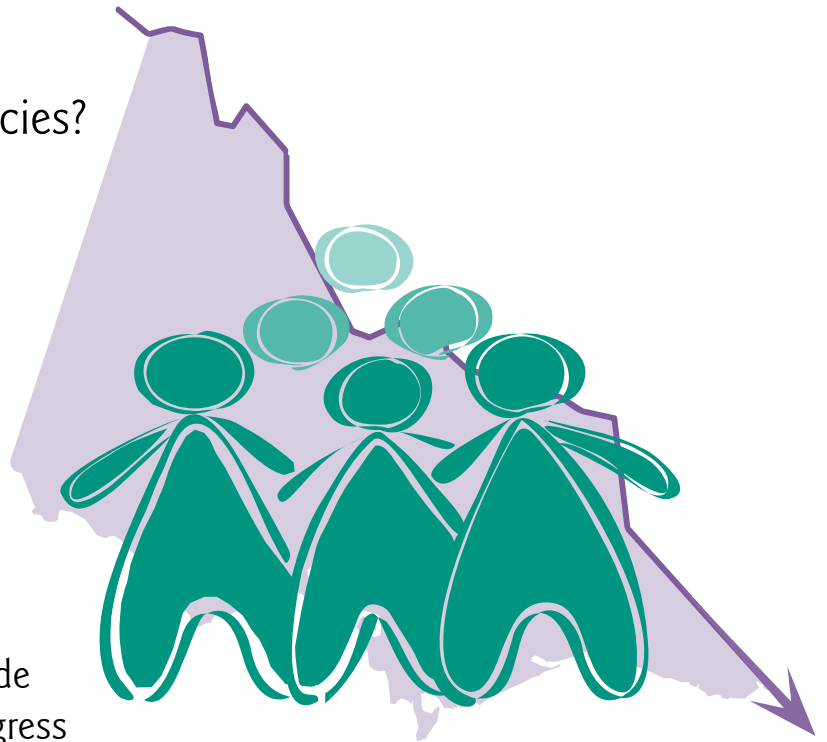
# Protecting Social Equity When The Going Gets Tough

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

**VCOSS Congress 2009 will explore 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?

The aim of this two day conference is to address 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.





**Welcome:** Marilyn Webster, VCOSS President

**Opening Address:**

John Brumby, Premier of Victoria



## Plenary: Keeping the 'Big Picture' in Perspective

Anne Somerville, Health and Wellbeing Director, G21

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

Sara Charlesworth, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University

*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.*

### Concurrent Workshops: 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.*



## Plenary: Leading Through the Downturn

Mary Barry, Chief Executive Officer, Victoria State Emergency Service

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

Julia Unwin, Chief Executive Officer, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK

*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.*

# Friday 7 August Congress Day Two

**Welcome:** Cath Smith, VCOSS CEO



## Concurrent Workshops: 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 in 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.

## Concurrent Workshops: 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.



## Plenary: In Conversation with Clare Martin

Join other Congress attendees, friends and members of VCOSS for a lunch presentation with Clare Martin, ACOSS CEO and former Northern Territory Chief Minister. Clare will facilitate discussion and outline ACOSS' future policy directions on issues affecting low income people and the community sector.

With thanks to our principal sponsor:



# 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 9.45am - 11.15am	1	2	3	4
Workshop Session C: Friday 7 August 11.45am - 1.15pm	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**