

# POLICY 2014

## COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR



*"Many New Zealanders answer the call to make a difference every day. And we are all the richer for it."*



## VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

National values the contribution of volunteers and the voluntary sector to the wellbeing of our communities. The work they do makes New Zealand a better place.

New Zealanders like to muck-in and help out. Around a third of adults contribute at least 10 hours a month to their communities. That amounts to millions of hours given freely each year.

They are the backbone of our sports and social groups and the arts and cultural sector, to name just a few areas where they contribute. Charities could not survive without the efforts of volunteers.

National is supporting our volunteer workforce, and the voluntary and charity sector, to get on with the job.

## POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Foster Social Enterprise in New Zealand by working with the sector to establish a blueprint for new initiatives.
- Empowered communities to identify and respond to their own unique needs through the Community-led Development pilots.
- Launched a new, more user-friendly, on-line grant application system.
- Rolling out new financial reporting standards.
- Cleared the charity registration backlog.
- Significantly sped up the charity registration process.

## NATIONAL IS...



### INSPIRING CONFIDENCE IN THE CHARITABLE SECTOR

- ✓ Established the Charities Registration Board – an independent body which makes decisions on registrations.
- ✓ Introduced a new set of financial reporting requirements, which will provide greater consistency. These come into effect next year.
- ✓ Continued to support the Kia Tūtahi Relationship Accord, which sets expectations over how government and communities should work together to achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes.



### DEVELOPING AND UPDATING ONLINE RESOURCES

- ✓ Developed and launched NZ Navigator, an on-line assessment tool that helps community organisations build their capability. This project was done in collaboration with ANGOA, Platform Trust, Social Development Partners and the Bishop's Action Foundation and Rabid Technologies.
- ✓ Revamped the CommunityNet Aotearoa website – a hub of practical online resources for community groups.
- ✓ Simplified the booklets and guides published for charity and community groups to ensure they are reader-friendly.

### COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR – KEY FACTS

- There are approximately 27,000 registered charities as at February 2014
- The non-profit sector is estimated to contribute 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- Proportionately, New Zealand has the seventh largest non-profit sector workforce in the world.



### ENCOURAGING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- ✓ Released the Government Position Statement on Social Enterprise, which promotes commercial strategies to further the social and environmental aims of charities and community groups.
- ✓ Invested \$1.27 million over two years in the Akina Foundation, a not-for profit organisation dedicated to growing social enterprise, to deliver an accelerator pilot and incubator for social enterprise



### SUPPORTING GRASS ROOTS INITIATIVES

- ✓ Adopted a new approach towards community based projects by establishing the Community-led Development pilot. The pilot is looking at how we can better support communities to collaborate and develop and action a vision for their area. The four-year-long pilot is running in four different communities and supported by five Community Advisors. To date, \$2.5 million has been committed to these pilot programmes. The groups are being evaluated at regular intervals to learn from the pilot in real-time.

## OUR RESULTS SO FAR

- Cleared the charity registration backlog.
- Significantly sped up the charity registration process. We have almost halved the average time for processing applications, going from 70 in 2011 to 40 days in 2013.
- Successfully transferred the Charities Commission's functions into the Department of Internal Affairs. This has improved resource sharing of community expertise across Government.
- Increased funding to Volunteering New Zealand by \$100,000 to further develop the volunteering sector.
- Administered around \$20 million in Crown grants to community organisations each year.
  - The Community Organisation Grants Scheme provides \$12.5 million in grants through 37 local committees - 4,528 grants approved in 2013/14.
  - The Community Development Scheme has \$2.56 million to provide salaries for local community development project workers - 32 projects are funded each year.
  - The Community Internship Programme has \$231,000 to enable community groups to employ skilled professionals as interns - seven projects have been funded in 2013/ 2014.
  - The Youth Worker Training Scheme has \$200,000 a year to fund non-formal training opportunities for youth workers.
  - Digital literacy has \$3.723 million in funding for High Tech Youth Academy and 20/20 Communications Trust.
  - The Support for Volunteering Fund has \$502,000 a year to promote and support volunteering in New Zealand.
- Supported the Canterbury rebuild through the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal Trust.
  - Raised \$100 million through the Prime Minister's Earthquake Appeal for new sport, youth, education, spiritual and faith, heritage and cultural projects.
  - Supported the new Youth and Community Centre for Aranui, Pines Beach Kairaki Community Hall, Music Centre of Christchurch and Hagley Oval pavilion.
  - Contributed to restoration of the Isaac Theatre Royal, Provincial Council Buildings, Riccarton House, and Arts Centre clocktower and Great Hall.
  - \$6.5 million for water attractions at the new Christchurch City Council Recreation and Sports Centre in the eastern suburbs.
  - Funding for 58 sports clubs and projects.
- Amended the Gambling Regulations 2004 so a greater proportion of money from non-casino pokies machines can be distributed to community groups. The minimum rate of return has increased from 37 per cent to 40 per cent this year, and will rise to 42 per cent by 2018. This will lead to an extra \$10.8 million a year going back into the community by 2018.
- Administered over \$160 million in Lottery funds to community organisations each year.
  - Regional Lottery Community Committee distributed \$55,524,978 to 2,437 applicants.
  - Lottery Community Facilities Fund Committee distributed \$16,361,780 to 128 applicants.
  - Lottery World War One Commemorations, Environment and Heritage Committee distributed \$31,409,534 to 279 applicants.
  - Lottery Community Sector Research Committee distributed \$546,494 to nine applicants.
  - Lottery Health Research Committee distributed to \$3,889,117 to 263 applicants.
  - Lottery Individuals with Disabilities Committee distributed \$5,911,980 to 1,037 applicants.
  - Lottery Marae Heritage and Facilities Committee distributed \$8,806,140 to 52 applicants.
  - Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund distributed \$449,214 to 99 applicants.
  - Lottery Outdoor Safety Committee distributed \$9,958,323 to 17 applicants.
  - Lottery Significant Projects Fund Committee distributed \$28,374,786 to 12 applicants.

## WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

### SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Continue to support and encourage Social Enterprise in New Zealand. We will review the accelerator pilot and an incubator initiative being developed by the Ākina Foundation with a view to establishing a blueprint for start-up enterprises.
- Continue to work alongside the Community-led Development pilots. The four year trial is due to be completed by 30 June 2015. The results of this pilot will help us better empower communities to identify and address their own needs and priorities.
- Introduce a new on-line grant application system, which will be more informative and user-friendly.
- Roll out new financial reporting standards.
- Work with Statistics NZ to update its official measure of the not-for-profit sector. The update will give a more accurate picture of the size, structure and economic contribution of non-profit institutions, including how many there are, how many people they employ, and the level of volunteer input.

## DON'T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

### Labour and the Greens would:

- ✘ Have no clear plan to support this vital sector.
- ✘ Burden communities with bureaucratic paperwork.
- ✘ Tell communities what's good for them, what they want and what they need, rather than encouraging local solutions to local issues.
- ✘ Drain resources from the frontline services by adding to the workload of the back office.