

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Outcomes of the meeting of the Task Force on 10 August 2009

Item	Outcome
1 Preventing debt default and supporting individuals and households through emergency relief and financial counselling	<p>The Task Force noted the work that has been done through consultation between the Government and the Sector on the issue of emergency relief and financial counselling.</p> <p>The following additional issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The need to engage with non-traditional clientele who are not presently in contact with the welfare sector but potentially in need of financial advice.▪ Engaging with senior bank executives directly regarding the issue of small loan accessibility.▪ Small loan accessibility and the low take-up rate.▪ Improving communication to employers regarding redundancies so that avenues of assistance, information on asset-levels and rights, are readily available to the newly unemployed.
2 Jobs	<p>The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Social enterprises that were funded under the Innovation Fund, which commenced 1 July 2009.▪ Local Employment Coordinators (LECs) and the forums taking place in 20 areas which identified local business champions. <p>For more on LECs, visit http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Documents/LECFactsheet.pdf</p>
3 Sector capacity to meet higher levels of need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Taskforce noted that a national Not-for-Profit standard chart of accounts is being developed.
4 Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A visible growth in homelessness in cities and regional areas was discussed.▪ The Task Force also noted concerns raised regarding training available for disadvantaged unemployed people.