

# COMMUNITY RESPONSE TASKFORCE

## Outcomes of the meeting of the Task Force on 3 March, 2009

Item	Outcome
<p>1 Preventing debt default and supporting individuals and households through emergency relief and financial counselling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Task Force reported they are continuing to see growing numbers of clients that are not their traditional client base.</li> <li>▪ Some need early intervention, through information and advice, to avert more serious financial difficulties, whilst others require a broader range of services and supports.</li> <li>▪ The Task Force discussed the need for collaboration between financial institutions and community-based organisations, to match information and services to client needs.</li> <li>▪ The Task Force discussed the need to develop more consistent models for emergency relief.</li> <li>▪ The Task Force discussed the need for better integrated emergency relief, financial counselling and additional services and supports for families under financial stress.</li> <li>▪ As well as increasing numbers of trained emergency relief workers, the Task Force discussed the need to improve IT information systems to collect real-time data about levels of demand, demographics and client needs.</li> </ul>
<p>2 Jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Task Force emphasised the importance of businesses, community groups and local governments working together to stimulate local employment opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Opportunities for job creation were discussed, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Building social procurement provisions into the implementation of social housing and primary school capital programs;</li> <li>➤ Taking proactive measures to prevent redundancy through wage or training subsidies; and</li> <li>➤ Developing social enterprise/labour market programs that combine work experience and training (especially for longer-term unemployed), noting that risks of these enterprises need to be carefully managed (eg. risks relating to work cover premiums).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>3 Sector capacity to meet higher levels of need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Task Force indicated that the community sector's capacity to meet demand for their services is being impacted by the decreased value of their investments. There is also a risk of decreased capacity for fundraising.</li> <li>▪ Members also discussed regulatory and administrative reforms to build sector capacity. Key issues raised were:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Multiple reporting requirements;</li> <li>➤ Contractual provisions that create uncertainty and risk for agencies – for example the ability to terminate a funding agreement for any reason with 30 days notice; and</li> <li>➤ Short term funding cycles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>4 Next meeting</p>	<p>23 April 2009 – Melbourne</p>