

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Terms of Reference

The Community Response Taskforce (the Task Force) will initially focus on three issues:

- What Government and the community sector, working with financial service providers, can do to provide relief and support to Australians experiencing difficulty with personal and household debt through emergency relief, financial counselling and other forms of support.
- What assistance can be offered to Australians facing redundancy or finding themselves unemployed, including young people, workers being made redundant and others facing the risk of long-term labour market disadvantage.
- Options for regulatory reform in the third sector that could help agencies to focus even more on meeting the needs of vulnerable Australians by cutting red tape, streamlining contracts and compliance procedures and improving collaboration between Governments.

Over time, a number of broader issues may be addressed, including:

- The role of pensions, allowances and participation requirements in maximising social and economic participation.
- Supporting Australians to find work in occupations where there is growing demand.
- Supporting the skills and development of workers in the community sector to ensure that they are able to provide the best possible support to the wider community.
- Working to maximise the contribution made by infrastructure to social inclusion and the reduction of disadvantage.

Task Force Appointment of Members

Task Force members are appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister for the life of the Task Force or for a period as otherwise determined.

Role of Task Force Members

The role of Task Force members is to advise Government on the priority areas identified in the above Terms of Reference, providing firsthand knowledge of the social impacts of the global financial crisis on Australian communities.

Taskforce composition

The Taskforce will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and assisted by the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector. Membership will comprise thirteen community sector leaders and two members of the Australian Social Inclusion Board (ex-officio). Additional guests with particular expert knowledge may be invited to attend meetings as required.

Meetings of the Taskforce

The Taskforce will meet every two months to support Government in responding to the Global Financial Crisis.

Secretariat support for the Taskforce will be provided by the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Papers for all the meetings will be distributed one week in advance of the meetings. Minutes and outcomes will be circulated after each meeting by the Secretariat.