

A national compact

What's in it for government?
What's in it for the sector?

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What we say to dogs

Okay, Ginger! I've had it!
You stay out of the garbage!
Understand, Ginger? Stay out
of the garbage, or else!



What they hear

blah blah GINGER blah
blah blah blah blah
blah blah GINGER blah
blah blah blah blah...



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Why a Compact?

- Government increasingly dependent upon the “not-for-profit/community sector” for the provision of services to citizens
- Deterioration in relations between the sector and government over the last decade



Why a Compact?

- Beazley, then Rudd, Opposition saw a Compact as a vehicle to engage the community sector
- Rudd Government sees a Compact as a vehicle for advancing its ambitious social inclusion agenda



Context of a Compact

- COAG/national Reform Agenda
- Senate Economics Committee
- Productivity Commission Inquiry
- Henry Review of Taxation



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What is a Compact?

- In its simplest form, a Compact is an aspirational statement of shared values and goals
- In its strictest form a Compact is an enforceable agreement regarding “terms of trade” and engagement
- www.socialinclusion.gov.au/A_National_Compact.htm



Where do Compacts exist?

- UK – Minister for the Third Sector, Compact Commissioner
- Canada – an Accord that seems to have run its course



Where do Compacts exist?

- ACT
- New South Wales
- South Australia
- Victoria
- Queensland?



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Elements of a Compact

- **Evidence based**
- **Outcome driven**
- **Accountability**
- **Respect**
- **Communication**
- **Inclusiveness**



Elements of a Compact

- **Value for money**
- **Fairness integrity and transparency**
- **Cooperation**
- **Diversity**
- **Consistency**
- **Probity**
- **Coordination**



Elements of a National Compact

- **Interdependence**
- **Independence**
- **Effectiveness**
- **Efficiency**



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What is the government currently asking?

- the value of developing a compact
- the shared values of the sector and government
- how a compact could improve the lives of Australians
- what a partnership between the government and the sector could look like
- who should be party to a National Compact, including how the diversity of the not-for-profit sector could be reflected in the compact

Government Questions

- the priority areas of government/sector relations that a compact might focus on
- what forms of community engagement would add most value to a sector reform and capacity building agenda
- overseas and state experiences of similar agreements that could help to develop a National Compact.



Quid pro quo - Government gives – government gets

- Greater partnership
- Remove “gag” clauses
- Adequate funding
- Greater unity
- Advocacy based on best evidence
- Best practice efficiency



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Quid pro quo – sector gives – sector gets

- Integrated services
- Better data
- Policy input, sector development, community capacity building
- Professional standards
- Greater coordination
- Better aggregations
- Sustainable, long term funding
- Workforce strategy/career paths



Conclusion

- “We are a people centred government”
- Not about sustaining services and institutions
 - Outcomes for the excluded
 - Change in government processes (joined up government)
- It should not be just about the relationship between government and the sector- it about reforming both

