

ACOSS Conference: Social Inclusion
Climate change, essential (energy) services and equity

Summary. It will be important to emphasise to participants that the day:

- is intended to facilitate the participation (ie its not a series of talking heads but a discussion led by peers with expertise and experience in particular areas) and that outcomes will be fed into a consolidated report that will be sent to participants after the conference.
- is an initial but important opportunity to provide responses about the opportunities that exist for a social inclusion agenda, to discuss them with colleagues and to interact with government. ACOSS will create further opportunities to engage with the agenda, including commenting on the findings coming out of the day. It will be important to identify programs and/or policies that are already working, as well as highlighting new policies and programs that could assist in increasing social inclusion

Objects of Day 2

The first day of the conference features speakers from government, business and the sector talking about social inclusion in general. The second day of the conference offers a series of concurrent workshops in specific areas, including climate change, health, housing, employment and participation, disability, early childhood development, youth transitions, inclusive and diverse communities, and Indigenous communities.

The purpose of these workshops is to engage the community, health and welfare sector with the social inclusion agenda and to provide an initial platform to bring together thoughts, suggestions and experiences to enrich our understandings of social inclusion in Australia.

Each workshop will address the same series of questions over the course of the day:

<i>Sessions 1</i>	<i>Strengths and opportunities in the social inclusion agenda</i>
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>Who is excluded? How and why and where people are excluded?</i>
<i>Session 3</i>	<i>What are the goals, benchmarks and targets, which, if met, would help achieve social inclusion?</i>
<i>Session 4</i>	<i>What broad strategies might be adopted to achieve these targets?</i>
<i>Session 5</i>	<i>Wrapping up - where to from here?</i>

In each session there will be speakers to stimulate the discussion and pose questions to the group for consideration. The suggestions, comments and recommendations from the workshop will be recorded by a rapporteur. These reports will be compiled and made available to participants, the sector more generally and to government.

If you have problems or concerns during the conference contact:

Tony Westmore 0419 256 339

ACOSS Conference – 09 & 10 April 2008, Melbourne
Taking steps for a fair go for all: Social inclusion policies and practices

Day Two: Climate change, essential services, and equity

Thursday 10 April

Program detail confirmed as at 04/04/08

Session chair: tbc

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our society; its effects and our responses could transform the way we live. Electricity and water are essential services undergoing significant change in shifting circumstances: market restructuring, regulatory reform, drought and fuel price uncertainty. We must find ways of responding to these interlinked issues, including affordable and achievable means that are already available. As a society we must also ensure our responses include assistance for those who will be most affected, and who are least able to adjust.

09:00 Strengths and opportunities in the social inclusion agenda

Irina Cattalini, Western Australian Council of Social Service

09:30 Who is excluded? How are they excluded? Why are they excluded?

Julie-Anne Richards, Climate Action Network Australia
an update on the science... climate change and its impacts, responses

10:15 Break

10:45 cont... Who is excluded? How are they excluded? Why are they excluded?

speaker to be advised
essential services... access and denial

Janet Stanley, Brotherhood of St Laurence
climate change: impacts, responses and equity

11:45 What are the goals, benchmarks and targets for federal government intervention?

Alan Pears, RMIT University and Sustainability Solutions
the potential for efficiency to reduce consumption, offset a carbon price, improve comfort

12:15 Lunch

13:00 The Federal Government's Social Inclusion Agenda

The Hon Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

14:00 cont... What are the goals, benchmarks and targets for federal government intervention?

Paul Murfitt, Moreland Energy Foundation
policy and practice directed to reducing consumption... demand side management

Nicole Ikenberg, World Wildlife Fund

an emissions trading system that does the job and does it fairly

15:00 Break

What strategies might be adopted to achieve these targets?

Gavin Dufty, St Vincent de Paul
reasonable consumption, fair pricing

Tony Mohr, Australian Conservation Foundation
responses to climate change: efficiency, equity, immediacy

Michael Raper, National Welfare Rights Network
a safety net for low income consumers

Summing up and ways forward

Tony Westmore, Australian Council of Social Service

17:00 Close