Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Not-for-profits UWA Research Group (www.research.uwa.edu.au/not-for-profits-uwa). The group was formed by scholars with a deep interest in the NFP and charitable sectors with the objective of fostering interdisciplinary research, collaboration and engagement with industry.

NFPs UWA is interested in issues ranging from the nature and function of the sector, its business structures and operations, to the performance, governance, reporting and regulation of NFPs.

We are also cognisant of the increasingly blurred boundaries between the government and business sectors and so our focus extends to increasing our understanding of these important relationships. Our key strengths lie in the broad spectrum of sector experience and research inquiry of our researchers.

As convenors of Not-for-profits UWA, we hope you enjoy the news items and consider participating in the upcoming events: Professor David Gilchrist, Dr Ian Murray and Dr Fiona McGaughey.

For further information or to join the group, please contact one of the conveners. Everyone is welcome!

Group News

Former ACNC Commissioner and CEO of Royal Flying Doctors Join UWA as Adjuncts.

Susan Pascoe AM, founding commissioner of the ACNC has joined UWA as an adjunct professor in the School of Accounting and Finance and the NFPs UWA Research Group. Susan has had a long and extensive career in the Not-for-profit sector in various roles in regulation and as CEO of various significant organisations.
She has published in the areas of regulation and administration of NFPs and charities.

Dr Martin Laverty, CEO of Royal Flying Doctors, has studied the Not-for-profit and charitable sector for some time and, as the CEO of one of Australia’s most significant regional, rural and remote charities, the RFDS, he brings an important perspective to our group. Martin is also a member of the ACNC Advisory Board.

Research News

Cracking the Collaboration Code

Professor David Gilchrist is a chartered accountant and economic historian. He has recently completed a project with John Butcher (ANU) and John Phillimore (John Curtin Institute for Public Policy) investigating collaboration between government and NFPs. A summary of key findings from the project can be found at: http://www.powertopersuade.org.au/blog/cracking-the-collaboration-code/21/8/2018

Gatekeepers to GONGOS: Non-governmental Organisations Engaging with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

Despite growing awareness of the importance of the role of NGOs in monitoring international human rights law, there has been little analysis of their heterogeneous nature and of the relationships between NGOs engaging with the UN. Fiona McGaughey has therefore undertaken a socio-legal analysis based on interviews with key stakeholders across the UN, Governments and NGOs. Her research analyses and maps the NGO role, presenting a taxonomy with six categories of NGOs engaging with UN human rights bodies - international facilitative, gatekeeper, imperialist, domestic self-sufficient, domestic dependent and Governmental Non-governmental Organisations (GONGOs). A preferred NGO model of engagement according to those in the UN receiving NGO reports is presented. Fiona McGaughey’s research concludes that NGOs play a pragmatic role in addressing limitations of the UN human rights system, and a normative role in contributing to global democratisation and governance. The research can be found at: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0924051918771232#

Charity Law and Accumulation: Maintaining an Intergenerational Balance

The accumulation of assets by charities raises profound ethical, economic and social considerations. How should the public benefits produced by charities and affected by accumulation be shared between different generations? It is, after all, inherent in the notion of accumulation, that the delivery of some benefits will be deferred. Which generation(s) should decide that allocation of benefits? Might the decision-making discretion afforded to charity controllers over accumulation and the allocation of benefits increase agency costs and so reduce the level of public benefit achieved? Ian Murray has recently completed research examining the role played by legal
constraints on accumulation in answering these questions (publication forthcoming, but see the following in relation to tax aspects: [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/SydLawRw/2015/25.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/SydLawRw/2015/25.html)).

**Centre for Social Impact Report into Homelessness in WA**

A report commissioned by the Department of Communities and authored by the UWA Centre for Social Impact has provided new insights into the state of homelessness in WA and will help inform the State Government’s 10-Year strategy on homelessness. Key focus areas of the report include the importance of looking at the State-wide impact of homelessness and specific needs of different regions, a greater focus on key regions suffering the highest rates of homelessness such as the Kimberley and Pilbara, taking a multi-faceted approach with government, community and agencies working together and looking at the extent of homelessness, particularly in Indigenous communities. Lead researcher Professor Paul Flatau said one key issue was that there are more services available in major cities, even though 50 per cent of areas impacted were in regional communities. The report can be found at: [http://www.csi.edu.au/news/state-wide-strategy-homelessness/](http://www.csi.edu.au/news/state-wide-strategy-homelessness/)

**Upcoming Events**

**The Inaugural Not-for-profits UWA Research Group Summit**

**Regulation and the Contemporary Not-for-profit: A Summit**  
(Featuring CLAANZ Annual Keynote Lecture by the Hon Robert French AC)

The conveners of Not-for-profits UWA Research Group ([www.research.uwa.edu.au/not-for-profits-uwa](http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/not-for-profits-uwa)) invite you to participate in our 2018 summit on the topic of regulating the contemporary NFP sector. The aim of Not-for-profits UWA is to foster interdisciplinary research, collaboration and engagement between researchers, the NFP sector, business and government.

**Date: 26 November 2018**

**Time:** 8.30 (registration) for 9am – 4.30pm

**Place:** University of Western Australia (Perth, Western Australia)

**Description:** In this inaugural Not-for-profits UWA symposium, industry and UWA academics will convene to consider the regulatory framework impacting Australian Not-for-profits and charities. Examining regulation is timely with the recent Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act, electoral funding laws and significant market changes such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The summit also extends to broader matters such as regulatory theory and practice, the role of Not-for-profits in our democracy, organisational management and
historical and comparative perspectives. The role of NFPs and the wider civil society sector in international law and international relations will also feature.

The summit will involve presentations and workshops, including the inaugural Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand annual keynote lecture to be delivered by the Hon Robert French AC.

**Registration:** General / Student

**Further Information:** The programme is attached and updates will be posted closer to the date on the CLAANZ website and the Not-for-profits UWA website. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Ian Murray (ian.murray@uwa.edu.au), David Gilchrist (david.gilchrist@uwa.edu.au) or Fiona McGaughey (fiona.mcgaughey@uwa.edu.au).