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Recent Research Abstracts

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GIVING

O'Donoghue, Philip; McGregor-Lowndes, Myles; Lyons, Mark. (2006). Policy lessons for strengthening nonprofits, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 41 (4) (summer 2006): 511-524.

In recent years, there has been a growth in the amount of charity given, but it has not been uniform in terms of the form of giving and recipient body activities. Research presented indicates that 87% of Australians give money to charity annually of which 90% is for nonprofits. In addition, 67% of businesses also give in some way each year. According to the authors, those who develop or try to influence policy impacting the not-for-profit sector rarely have access to empirical evidence on which to base their judgments. Evidence from the Giving Australia research project seeks to develop such an evidence base and inform policy options for government and the not-for-profit sector. The article begins with consideration of the research findings related to the capacity of those that give or volunteer and then examines the policy implications of these findings. The authors develop three key criteria for strengthening giving and volunteering – policies that nurture trust between givers and the recipients of their generosity, policies that strengthen affiliation, and policies that encourage planned rather than spontaneous giving.

Scaife, Wendy. (2006). Challenges in Indigenous philanthropy: Reporting Australian grant-makers' perspectives. *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 41 (4) (summer 2006): 437-452.

The article examines qualitative research from the Giving Australia project in relation to if and how giving to Indigenous causes differs from other forms of philanthropy. The paper draws on scant literature, particularly reporting on exploratory research findings on Australian grant-making issues, critical funding needs and strategies for increasing giving to Indigenous causes. Indigenous groups are challenged to understand more about how foundations operate. Foundations, in turn, do not always appreciate the need for their inputs to complement traditional culture. The study highlighted the gains that could be made by encouraging an understanding of the key role that even small grants can play, the need to encourage and support new grant-makers, co-contribution, encouraging Indigenous representation in decision-making and dispelling misconceptions about Indigenous philanthropy.

Steinberg, Margaret A; Crow, Rebekah; Cain, Lara; Milford, Kate. (2005). *Australian Journal of Ageing*, (March 2005), 24 (1):41-43.

Taking into account the demographic changes in Australian society and the steady ageing of the population, this study aims to better understand the role of older Australians in donations to charity. The Centre of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at the Queensland University of Technology used the availability of unique, one-off, customised Australian Tax Office data for the year 1999-2000 to examine the relationship between age and charitable giving. It found that the proportionate number of donors and the percent of money donated by Australians were higher amongst older Australians. Older Australians therefore play a significant role in supporting charitable organisations.