

Workshop 3E Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise by Graham Paterson and Ian Leader.

Ian Leader – Westpac

- Changing dynamic between relationships, recognizing strength of diversity role, independence to collaborations, moving to jigsaw model.
- Westpac budded with Salvation Army for welfare work in Christchurch – bank staff provide voluntary help.
- How business adds value to community and vice versa and the role of local authorities, central government and educators in this.

Graham Paterson – Westpac

- Website: Westpac.com.au for many examples of Australian support of social enterprise initiatives through grants and loans.
- Support for micro enterprises – website for lenders and borrowers for small fee. Westpac matches employees donations and loans \$ for \$ - \$2.5 million in last financial year. Also provide on the ground support e.g. identify employees' skills and lend out for business mentoring to Not For Profit's, support organizational mentoring. Develops employee's skills and understanding to bring back into Westpac.
- Westpac has developed a group of 140 social development bankers across Australia.

Discussion:

NZ Community groups are struggling with organizational and governance skill. How soon will Westpac NZ be available to provide mentoring and advice? Business mentoring is easier to facilitate – less time requirements e.g. 39 mentors (business bankers) in Queensland assisting Not For Profit's after floods. Organizational mentoring more time consuming i.e. in depth work with entire organization i.e. governance board, management, staff. Westpac Australia working with New Zealand Westpac to provide this – will start with Westpac customers.

Is focus on social enterprise, SME or whole of community? Right across all areas – not mutually exclusive.

Community and Social Enterprise struggle to find a balance between mission and market – how do community enterprises build up Westpac volunteers skills and knowledge e.g. reciprocity? Staff skills provided by flexible people in response to organizations needs results in two ways learning e.g. Hub being set up in Sydney.

Is there a space for social lending through banks? Sometimes has real practical difficulties i.e. corporate responsibility. Usually high risks with local communities difficult to justify e.g. can banks sell to local church or disable people out of employment. Now building understanding of risks and ways to manage them.

Do you get involved in conversations with government to influence policy? Sometimes e.g. government wanted to get indigenous people into business – government provided interest rate support, bank loans fund access risks, provided support and advice. Our competitors observe what we do – and are efforts are sometimes replicated by others.

How is foundation funded and how much by bank? Copies of funds for social enterprise, social disadvantage etc, in 3 tiers.

- large scale projects with opportunities for national replication.
- Smaller organizations up to \$50 million.
- Capacity building.

Issues and challenges:

- Changing dynamics and roles of business/community/government.
- Recognizing interdependence and mutually of relationships – now more of a “jigsaw model”.
- Community adds value to business and vice versa.