

## **Workshop 4C Social Procurement: Benefits for Councils and Communities by Dr Ingrid Burkett.**

Several main ways council can use social procurement:

- Have policy on social procurement just as with equal opportunities.
- Supplier focus (Brisbane Council) very useful, provides pathways also counters monopolistic suppliers.
- Focus on social benefit suppliers, work out what it is and what you want to deliver. Important to document how and what's working to demonstrate results.
- Book called "My Year of Living Ethically" recommended to read.

Challenges:

- Need to engage procurement specialists.

Action and next steps:

- Research looking at practical tools for implementation impact. Important to get legal guidance for local context.
- Need to change NGO culture around social procurement, a lot of them aren't practicing what they advocate.
- Make it simple; link it with triple bottom line.
- Lots of social enterprise may not have capacity to complete, so need to build capacity. Allow them to take on small contracts, support them with equipment and etc. The next step would be to introduce them to tendering.
- Value of intrepeneurs, champions within Council.
- Do audit of efficiencies and inefficiency within Council to work out which works best for what.
- Victorian "expert system" to advise organizations on social procurement.

- Social impact is not cost – neutral. Make the point its worth the extra spend.
- Look at value for money holistically.
- Important to break down silos in Council and in other relevant sectors.