

Communique

Guest presentation: Dr Derek Lundberg – ‘Not for profit start-up handbook’

Dr Derek Lundberg (Executive Mind) presented the SETSCoP Not for Profit Start-up Handbook. The handbook is a resource which SETS CCB providers can use with community groups they work with. The handbook brings together knowledge from the SETSCoP Business Guides as well as additional information. SETS CCB practitioners and the groups they work with will be able to jump to different parts of the handbook that are most relevant for any issue areas at hand.

Question and answer areas:

- Concerns around non-capacity and not setting groups up to fail. Is there an organisation that can be turned to in this regard?
 - Formal governance organisations usually focussed on technical aspects rather than soft skills, soft knowledge and awareness of what groups are getting into. It’s important to note given burdens are only getting worse.
- Approached by group who have started work towards sending money overseas. Despite sharing information about the governance needs around this, find that some community groups and leaders may rush into work without the capacity to manage larger projects. Can this group stay as an association?
 - To go national, would usually need to be a company limited by guarantee (governed by ASIC). Moving from an association to a company limited by guarantee happens all the time – an involved process, \$1,500 cost. No differences in terms of governance but many other advantages. Would advise against unincorporated associations.
- Working with a number of small ethno-specific organisations, wanting to make sure initial enthusiasm and willingness can be sustained. Is there a checklist, that covers for instance, having at least 5 people for the committee?
 - Outlined in the handbook: The process, the order which you go through. Where to go next. Groups often receive advice from outside of Australia from people who do not understand the corporate structures of Australia and how they should be set-up. Part of the handbook is to give those pointers. The handbook should also be helpful to understand what is ahead of us – what needs to be considered in the months ahead.

Discussion points:

- Recurrent issues: Housing crisis and rising cost of living and how these impact community leaders.
- SETS work in education and capacity building training regarding the upcoming referendum.
- Finding a balance in delivering employment sessions to young clients, between what clients want to learn and what SETS providers understand to be important in the learning.
- A common experience of community groups and leaders approaching CCB practitioners requesting support but without the solid foundations in terms of governance. An example are groups requesting help to build a website before having established a goal and key understandings about the implications of setting up formal associations.
- The amount of information for setting up organisations/associations/not-for-profits can be overwhelming for both SETS providers and clients. There is a need to find alternative pathways to deliver this content in different ways.
- Supporting grassroots community organisations and community leaders is a long process. Building skills, capacity, and overcoming language barriers is necessary for groups to manage grants and resources.

Next meeting: 31 October 2023



Attendees (18 SETS Staff):

Nicholas Ross (SETSCoP Secretariat)

Maria Rosales (SETSCoP Secretariat)

Derek Lundberg (Executive Mind)

Emilie (Arabic Welfare)

Matt (NCSS)

Elisangela (LCMS)

Eh Su (Wyndham CEC VIC)

Hiba (Whittlesea Community Connections)

Louan (STARTSS NSW)

Ruwanthi (SECL)

Carla (SECL)

Hannia (Welcome Hub WA)

Thom (Multicultural Council Wagga Wagga)

Carmen (Assyrian Resource Centre)

Parisa (MiCare)

Kaya (MiCare)

Julia (GSMS Albany WA)

Kenny (SSI QLD)

Sabha (SSI QLD)

Maria (SECL)

Zoe (SECL)