



Leaders, Ideas & Partnerships

The Agora Think Tank's 2nd Conference
14 June 2007, at Zinc in Federation Square

Reflections from the 2007 Agora Conference

The view from Government

Mollie Bobeff, graduate recruit, Victorian Public Service

"I'm part of the graduate recruitment scheme and was one of 30 graduates lucky enough to attend the Agora conference.

"I'm very interested in community development, so I was looking forward to seeing and hearing about how government works in partnership with the private sector and community groups.

"I've been to other seminars where people have talked about partnerships, but the Agora program came across to me as being a much more ambitious program, with a broader focus.

"It seemed that whatever your interest, Agora had something to offer and gave you the space to think. I really liked the group sessions and found the partnership between ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence very interesting. I was also inspired by the work that Bendigo Bank is doing and moved by the experience of young people involved with Whitelion.

"I'm right at the beginning of my career, but I left the conference much more aware of the potential [of cross-sector partnerships] and encouraged and excited to think that this is something I can be a part of in the future.

"This is such a learning year for me. I'm four months into the graduate program and I'm absorbing a lot, but one of the things I'm interested in, in the future, is to consider how governments can extend their role beyond being a governing body or a funder to being a more active partner.

"I'm really looking forward to my next graduate rotation in Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, as I know that the Department of Victorian Communities is very much involved in partnerships."