



Leaders, Ideas & Partnerships

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

The view from the not-for-profit sector

Sue Woodward, policy officer, Public Interest Law Clearing House

Sue Woodward, who spoke on the 'Nuts and Bolts of a Working Partnership' at an armchair session in the Agora marketplace, wears many different hats. A part-time policy officer with the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH), Sue also sits on two not-for-profit boards. She also has an academic hat and, via her private consultancy, provides grants research and advice to philanthropics.

"I first became involved with the Agora when I attended one of the crime prevention sessions that was held at Victoria Police. I found it interesting and stimulating and I've been watching the Agora with interest ever since. I was particularly interested, this year, in the distillation of the ideas that Agora has generated over the past three years.

"A lot of conferences that I attend have a pure academic focus or a not-for-profit focus or they're a business thing.

"Given my different roles, I'm not just coming from one perspective. The Agora is one conference that crosses off all those things for me.

"I think that what the Agora does well is showcasing what people are doing in terms of partnership models. It's a place where you can hear about pitfalls, risks and ways to overcome challenges in cross-sector partnerships.

"People are looking for answers – it's really hard doing this stuff and people want to know how to do it.

"It's also a place to meet potential partners. The Agora network gives you access to people that it can be hard to cold call.

"At PILCH, we are trying to set up a new legal service for other not-for-profits, to help with information, advice and training on issues such as fundraising, tax deductibility, legal structures and so on.

"We've got potential partners interested. Now we're working out the nuts and bolts of how we work together. We're asking ourselves 'what do we need to plan **now** so it's a strong and stable relationship in the future?'

"There are some things that you intuitively know, but Agora makes you stop and reflect."