

SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Fact Sheet

Background

Non-profit organisations (NPOs) make a huge contribution to all aspects of New Zealand life and form a key part of the community and voluntary sector.

They cover a variety of forms that are not part of government. To be considered an NPO a group must be organised, private, non-profit distributing, self-governing and non-compulsory.

NPOs are vital to the success of New Zealand, yet little research has been conducted regarding the overall levels of funding they receive from government.

In 2006, a questionnaire was sent to 34 government departments requesting information about funding payments made to NPOs. All of the recipients completed the questionnaire.

The data collected from the Survey of Government Funding of Non-profit Organisations will greatly contribute to research about the size, nature and scope of government funding of the non-profit sector.

Key Findings

- The aim of the Survey of Government Funding of Non-profit Organisations was, for the first time, to provide a broad overview of central government's payments to New Zealand's NPOs.
- The survey tested each department's ability to track specific information about the NPOs that received funding from the data they usually collect.
- The survey found that in 2005/06 payments of \$1.25 billion (GST excl.) to NPOs were made from departments.
 - As a point of comparison, the Statistics New Zealand Household Economic Survey found that in 2004, New Zealand households spent nearly \$2.16 billion on overseas travel.
- Results showed that government's major payments were made to the health, education, and social services sectors.
- The largest amounts paid to NPOs in 2005/06 were from the Ministry of Health (\$552 million), the Ministry of Education (\$344 million), and the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, now part of the Ministry of Social Development (\$119 million).
- Data from this research will help to build a better picture of NPOs' role and contribution to the New Zealand way of life, when used in conjunction with the Statistics New Zealand Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account, and will contribute to the upcoming Johns Hopkins country report being prepared in conjunction with the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector.