

Social Enterprises

Social enterprises are businesses that trade in the market with a social purpose (Social Enterprise Coalition UK).

Social Enterprises are found in most economic sectors and are distinguished by the way they do business:

- they are commercial enterprises that trade in the market place in order to achieve explicit social aims and financial self-sufficiency.
- they are part of a stakeholder economy and are structured and governed by and for stakeholder groups or by trustees
- their surpluses are principally reinvested to achieve their social/community aims.

“Whereas in the traditional private business model any commitment to the community is demonstrated after economic profit is earned, the social enterprise model is an integrated approach where the social aim is incorporated as part of the production process for goods and services.”
(Social Enterprise London)

There are many different types of social enterprises covering a range of forms and functions. These include:

- **Local community businesses:** have a strong geographical definition and focus on local services and markets
- **Social firms:** provide employment and training to disadvantaged groups
- **Intermediate labour market companies:** provide training for the long-term unemployed
- **Credit unions and community banks :** provide access to finance for members
- **Co-operatives :** jointly owned enterprises in which associations of people unite to meet common economic and social needs
- **Employee-owned businesses:** create and save jobs as part of economic development strategies
- **Charities trading arms:** enable charities to meet objectives in innovative ways e.g. fair trading companies
- **Development Trusts:** regenerate communities by investing in local community owned or small businesses through finance, business training and support

Social Entrepreneurs

"While a business entrepreneur may thrive on competition and profit, a social entrepreneur has a different motivation: a commitment to leading through inclusiveness of all actors in society and a dedication to changing the systems and patterns of society." - Ashoka Fellows in India, April 2000

"Social entrepreneurship: The art of simultaneously pursuing both a financial and a social return on investment (the "double bottom line")". - The Institute for Social Entrepreneurs USA

Follow this link to Social Enterprise London website

<http://www.sel.org.uk>

Follow this link to Social Enterprise Coalition UK website

<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk>

Follow this link to The Institute for Social Entrepreneurs, USA

<http://www.socialent.org>

Follow this link to Ashoka, India

<http://www.ashoka.org>

Follow this link to The Social Enterprise Alliance website

<http://www.se-alliance.org/index.cfm>

Selected social enterprise websites in Australia

Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management (CACOM)

<http://www.business.uts.edu.au/cacom/>

The Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management (CACOM) was established in 1990. It is located within the [UTS:Business Faculty](#) but operates independently of any teaching program.

The mission of CACOM is to enhance the Australian community sector and its management through research, training, publications, seminars and conferences. The website contains useful social enterprise publications and information.

Social Enterprise Partnerships (SEP)

<http://www.partnerships.org.au/>

SEP builds peer-generated strategic development of social enterprise and social entrepreneurship. We say 'peer-generated' because we do not begin with the agendas of government or the corporate sector. We begin with the work and issues of the social enterprise sector, and shape our priorities around these.

Social Ventures Australia

<http://www.socialventures.com.au>

Social Ventures Australia (SVA), Australia's first venture philanthropy organisation, was established in 2002 by the Benevolent Society, The Smith Family, WorkVentures and AMP Foundation. Its aim is to integrate the Australian public, corporate and social sectors to create entrepreneurial, innovative and results-driven solutions to Australia's social problems.

Australian Employee Ownership Association (AEOA) Online

<http://www.aeoa.org.au>

A resource for association members and visitors interested in employee ownership issues.

Some examples of social enterprises in Australia

Bendigo Bank

<http://www.csbanking.com.au/public/>

An example of community sector banking which brings together public, private and community sector participants to provide innovative financial solutions to meet the demands of the stakeholders.

Brotherhood of St Laurence

<http://www.bsl.org.au/main.asp?PageId=7&iMainMenuPageId=7>

The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) is tackling poverty in Australia by developing new ways of supporting and delivering welfare.

COW Cooperative Ltd.

<http://www.mercury.org.au/cow/index.html>

The Consumer Organised Work (COW) Cooperative Ltd aims to serve a need in the mental health services area by providing opportunities for work and employment.

Indigenous Stock Exchange

<http://www.isx.org.au>

Raises capital and support for new and small Indigenous businesses and social enterprises.

Local Energy Trading Systems(LETS) in Australia

<http://www.lets.org.au/>

People trading goods and services using alternative currency.

Maleny and District Community Credit Union

<http://www.malenycu.com.au/>

Since 1984, Maleny Credit Union has fostered sustainable development in the Maleny district.

Oz Green

<http://www.ozgreen.org.au>

Oz GREEN is dedicated to addressing critical water issues by enabling informed and active community participation in the care of the world's waters and the building of a life-sustaining society.

Social Change Media

<http://media.socialchange.net.au/>

Social change Media is an employee-owned social marketing agency.

Work Ventures

<http://www.workventures.com.au>

Work Ventures exists to build a just creative and sustainable society by providing quality employment economic, and community development services.

Related Reading:

Some of the links supplied below go to PDF documents. To read PDF, you need Adobe Acrobat Reader. This can be downloaded for free from the Adobe website at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Community Development Finance Institutions: Evidence from Australia and Overseas. 2003 Kathryn Parker and Mark Lyons. ACORD Report
http://www.accord.org.au/publications/ACCORD_CDFI_Report4.pdf

Cooperatives and the Triple Bottom Line: a presentation for the Annual Conference of the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia – September 2003 by Jill Jordan
http://www.australia.coop/cs_maleny.htm

Homeopathic Finance – Equitable Capital for Social Enterprises: Report from the New Economics Foundation UK on the history, barriers, finance and support for Social Enterprises in the UK.
<http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/Homeopathic%20finance%20final%2031%20May%202001.doc>

Northern Ireland Social Economy Review (June 2001)
http://www.colinstutt.com/html/social_economy_policy.html

A Review of the Scottish Executive's Policies to Promote the Social Economy (Jan. 2003)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/rose-00.asp>

Social Economy Entrepreneurship and Local Development by Renato Galliano for the North Milan Development Agency and the European Association of Development agencies
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/55/17017950.pdf>

Social Entrepreneurship: Some Important Distinctions Jerr Boschee and Jim McClurg
http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/building_stronger/enterprise/se.htm
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Social Enterprise in Australia Chris Talbot, Peter Tregilgas and Kerrie Harrison
<http://www.se-alliance.org/index.cfm> (Report Parts 1 and 2)
http://www.ucwesleyadelaide.org.au/publications/resources/Soc_ent_pt3.pdf
(Part 3 - Handbook)

The Social Enterprise Sourcebook Jerr Boschee
<http://www.socialent.org/sourcebook.htm>

Why a Third Sector Round Table? Mark Lyons
<http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/download/roundtable.pdf>

Information compiled by Roslyn McDonald, Project Officer
communitybuilders.nsw