



Australian Government Initiative

National Compact

Easy English version



part of the social inclusion agenda

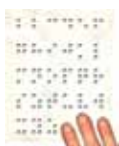
How to use this document



This information is written in an 'easy to read' way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Some words are written in **blue**. We have explained what the **blue** words mean.



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Or you can write to us:

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Contents

	Page number
What is the National Compact?	1
Working together	2
A shared vision	3
A shared purpose	5
Shared principles	6
Principle 1 – Giving everyone a fair go	6
Principle 2 – Trusting and respecting each other	6
Principle 3 – Listening to each other	7
Principle 4 – Celebrating diversity	7
Principle 5 – Helping people	9
Principle 6 – Thinking about culture	9
Principle 7 – Planning and making decisions	9
Principle 8 – Working well	10
Principle 9 – Thinking about the future	11
Principle 10 – Measuring our success	11
Shared goals	13

What is the National Compact?



The **National Compact** is an agreement between the Australian Government and the **not-for-profit sector**.

Some of the groups who work in the not-for-profit sector include:

- Charities
- Churches, temples and mosques
- Clubs and associations
- Unions
- Other groups of people working together.

Working together



The Australian Government is working to make our country better and fairer. But we can't do this on our own. We need to work together with the not-for-profit sector to make change happen.



We recognise that the not-for-profit sector plays a very important role in our community. We want to help the not-for-profit sector continue to do this great work.



The Australian Government also wants to make sure that everyone in our community can take part and have a say.



If we work together, we can all make a difference for our future. The publication of the National Compact is an important first step.

A shared vision



It's important for us to be clear about what we want the National Compact to do. That's why we have written a **vision statement**.

The vision statement is about how we want things to be in the future. The vision statement is written down so that we can all read it and use it.



The vision statement says that the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector will work together.

By working together we can make life better for all Australians.

We will try to make things better in the following areas:

- Social – the way we live together and share experiences
- Cultural – our way of life based on our values and beliefs
- Civic – the way we live as citizens of our country
- Economic – the way we manage money and the economy
- Environmental – the way we look after the world around us.



A shared purpose



We want to make the ideas in the vision statement happen.

This is called our **purpose**. Our purpose is a plan for what we are going to do.



Some of the things we need to do include:

- Improving the way we work together
- Helping the not-for-profit sector to do its work
- Making better **policies**.



Policies are rules about government programs. These rules are usually written down.

Shared principles



We have come up with a lot of ideas for making things better.

These ideas are called **principles**. Principles are based on what we believe to be important and true.

The Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector have agreed on these principles.



Principle 1 – Giving everyone a fair go

We want life in Australia to be fair for everyone.

And we want everyone to be included.

The work that the not-for-profit sector does helps make sure that everyone is included and treated fairly.



Principle 2 – Trusting and respecting each other

The Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector will **trust** each other. This means that we will tell the truth and can believe in what we say to each other.

We will also treat each other with **respect**. This means that we will treat each other with care and understanding. We will not be rude to each other.



Action plan

We know that the not-for-profit sector does a lot of good work in our community.

We will help the not-for-profit sector continue to do this work.



Principle 3 – Listening to each other

We want to make better policies, programs and services.

The not-for-profit sector will have a say in the way we do this.

We want to listen to each other. By listening to each other, we can improve the way we work together.



Principle 4 – Celebrating diversity

Our community is made up of many different types of people. This is called **diversity**.

The not-for-profit sector has an important role in helping the many different groups in our community.

We want to support and encourage the not-for-profit sector to do this work.



Action plan

We understand that the not-for-profit sector works with many different parts of the community. We will continue to value this diversity.





Principle 5 – Helping people

Some people in our community are left out. They may be poor or have other problems. They might not have the same opportunities as everyone else.

We want to work together to help make life better for these people.



Principle 6 – Thinking about culture

Culture is our way of life based on our values and beliefs.

Our values and beliefs often come from our family or the place where we were born.

There are many different cultures around the world.

And in Australia there are many different people from many different cultures. We want to make sure that we respect all these different cultures in the work that we do.



Principle 7 – Planning and making decisions

We will need to work hard to make life better for all Australians.

We will need to plan what we are going to do.

And we will need to make sure that we are making good decisions.

We think that the best decisions are based on facts.

Sometimes, we will need to learn new things so that we can make the best decisions.



Action plan

The Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector will share information and knowledge.



Principle 8 - Working well

The Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector will try to provide services that the community needs.

But first, we need to make sure that the services we already have are working well.



We will make sure that we are spending money well.

And we will support workers and **volunteers** as they continue to help people in the community.

Volunteers are people who choose to work without getting paid. They do this because they want to help.



Action plan

We will help and support people working and volunteering in the not-for-profit sector.



Principle 9 - Thinking about the future

We want to make sure that the things we do make people's lives better – now and in the future.

When we make changes to policies and services, we will think about the future.

So that we can provide good services for the future, we need to make sure that:

- there is enough money
- there are enough workers.



Principle 10 - Measuring our success

We will check to see that things are going well over time.

We will measure our success.

We will share this information with each other.



Shared goals



The Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector have many shared goals. These include:

- People working together
- Good communication
- Better ways of working
- Thinking about the future.



People working together

Here are some ideas for helping people work well with each other. We can:

- Respect each other
- Try to understand each other
- Talk to each other
- Listen to each other
- Share ideas
- Improve our skills.



Communicating well

Communication is the way that we share information. It may include:

- Talking
- Listening
- Writing
- Using a telephone
- Using a computer.



Here are some ideas for good communication:

- Decide together about the best ways to communicate.
- Help everyone have a say. This includes people from all types of cultures and communities.
- Let all not-for-profit sector groups have a say.



In the past, some not-for-profit sector groups did not speak up. They were afraid that if they said things that the government did not agree with, then the government might stop giving them money.

This is different now. We want the not-for-profit sector to speak up about the things that are important to them. This will not affect the money that the not-for-profit sector receives.



Action plan

The Australian Government will make sure that all the groups in the not-for-profit sector can have a say without affecting the money they receive.



Better ways of working

Sometimes in the past it was difficult for the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector to work together. We want to make this better.

Here are some ideas:

- Making sure there is less paperwork
- Sharing information and ideas with each other
- Making it easier to apply for and receive money
- Planning together
- Checking to make sure that our ideas are working.



Action plan

We will find ways to reduce paperwork and 'red tape'. We will also make it easier for not-for-profit sector groups to apply for and receive money.



Thinking about the future

We want to make sure that we can make things better both now and in the future. Here are some ideas for the future:

- Helping people to learn new things
- Finding new ways to work together
- Helping and supporting the people working in the not-for-profit sector.



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