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New SPA publication available

'Insights Into Social Procurement: From Policy to Practice'

Earlier this year SPA commissioned Joanne McNeill to undertake a piece of work exploring policy perspectives in Australian social procurement practice, with a particular emphasis on State government. We are pleased to advise that the publication is now available in print and electronic form. The publication provides case studies on three State government departments with social procurement programs currently underway, as well as discussion on useful approaches to developing and implementing social procurement strategies more generally.



"Over recent years the strategic potential of procurement as a function has become increasingly recognised, both inside and outside government. Aligning budgetary spends to deliver maximum 'value for money' against policy priorities is now seen as good practice, as a result a much more holistic understanding of what constitutes value in this context is emerging. The notion that value is achieved simply through lowest price is seen as naive, with

considerations of value now being broader and including a range of factors. As a result, social procurement is increasingly recognised as a strategic activity".

The publication can be accessed via the [SPA website](#), or please [contact us](#) if you would like a hard copy.

Events info

SPA and its Member organisations deliver a range of events related to developing social procurement policy and practice in the Australasian region. Information on past events can be accessed via our [website](#).

We are also happy to help spread the word about any social procurement related events happening around the Australasian region. Please [drop us a line](#) to let us know about any coming up in your geographical area, industry sector, or if there is an opportunity to showcase a specific social procurement opportunity. We can list them for you in future editions of the SPA Bulletin.



Social Procurement Forum & Market Day

4 August 2015, Brisbane

Together with SPA Member Social Traders and the QLD Social Procurement Council, SPA has partnered with the Queensland Government's Department of Housing & Public Works and the Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to deliver this event.

The inaugural *Make a Connection, Make a Difference* Social Procurement Forum & Market Day is being held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

This free event is open to government, industry, not-for-profits, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and social and disability enterprises. Helping everyone come together to foster a shared understanding of social procurement and to discuss how to leverage millions of procurement dollars for social benefit.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Social Traders Connect

Social Traders works to break the cycle of disadvantage and build resilience in Australian communities through social enterprise.

To facilitate social procurement, Social Traders has developed a membership network: **Connect**. This program links government and corporate business opportunities with certified social enterprises. Our services include assessing supply chain opportunities, sourcing and certifying social enterprises as well as reporting on social impact for programs and projects. We have the largest social enterprise database in Australia and are currently working with buyers including GPT, Price Waterhouse Coopers, the Municipal Association of Victoria, LendLease and Mirvac. Our work with these businesses varies from developing purchasing panels of certified social enterprises through to providing input and advice on new major projects.

Social enterprises should check out our website, where there is list of current opportunities with buyers [here](#). Enquiries for buyers and social enterprises interested in Social Traders Connect, please email [Sam Edmonds](#) or check out the [Social Traders](#) website.



Academic research furthering social procurement policies & practice

Social procurement and the construction industry also features in SPA's *'Insights Into Social Procurement: From Policy to Practice'* publication - with one of the case studies focusing on the NSW Government's new Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy.

Social enterprise in the construction industry: Building better communities

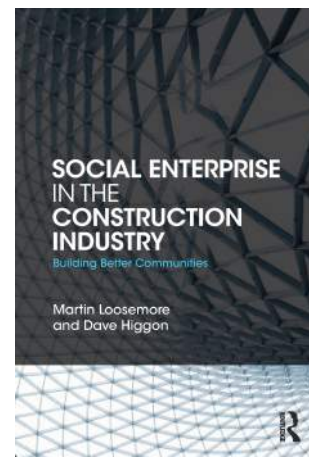
By Martin Loosemore & Dave Higgon, available September 2015

Through the emerging lens of social enterprise, this book examines how the global construction and engineering industry can engage more effectively with the communities in which it builds, addressing disadvantage and environmental degradation to leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Combining insights from leading research and real-life case studies of social enterprises operating in the construction sector, this book explores why social enterprises remain significantly under represented in the construction industry. It provides a practical framework to help social enterprises work more effectively in the industry and for construction clients, consultants, contractors and subcontractors to work effectively with social enterprises.

This book is timely given international trends in social procurement which increasingly require firms tendering for construction and engineering projects to demonstrate the 'social value' which they bring to the communities in which they build, in addition to their project management credentials.

By contributing an important sector-specific dimension to the social enterprise debate, the authors hope this book will not only contribute to advancing our understanding and practice of social enterprise in the construction and engineering sectors, but that it will also contribute to the wider global social enterprise debate. They also hope that this book will inspire a new generation of budding social entrepreneurs to build construction businesses around their values rather than their pockets. Most importantly, the authors hope it will inspire and inform clients and procurers of construction products and services and those who work in the construction and engineering industry to recognise the important opportunity they have to work with social enterprise to contribute positively to the communities in which they build.



MARTIN LOOSEMORE is Professor of Construction Management at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He has published numerous articles and books in the areas of corporate social responsibility, risk management, innovation and human resource management.

DAVE HIGGON has over 35 years' experience in the building and construction industry. His broad experience covers management of workplace health and safety, industrial relations, and staff training and development. His background includes time spent as a union organizer, tradesman, building industry subcontractor, university lecturer and currently as employee relations manager for Brookfield Multiplex.

Social enterprises can help drive social, economic growth

Martin Loosemore also recently published an article via [Sourceable](#) on 2 June 2015 arguing that the construction industry can help drive social and economic growth through engaging with social enterprise suppliers.

"... social enterprises represent a largely untapped and innovative way for businesses operating in the construction industry to engage more effectively with the communities in which they build, providing potentially life-changing opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society".

Community Chef: A case study in local government innovation

By Australian Centre for Excellence for Local Government
and Local Government Managers Australia

Community Chef is a local government owned social enterprise with a state-of-the-

art environmentally sustainable commercial kitchen facility in Melbourne's south-western suburbs. It is a collaborative joint venture between councils in Victoria, but operates as a separate arms-length business and contracts to member councils and other clients. It delivers cook-chill or snap frozen, high quality, nutritious meals ready for use by elderly, frail and disabled community members.



The Community Chef project is an interesting example of local government collaboration and resource sharing, with councils working together to deliver quality service outcomes under an innovative social enterprise structure. It is also a sophisticated social procurement strategy, the like of which has had little exposure in Australia.

The core message from the case study is that the Community Chef model can be adapted and applied in any number of other government service areas and functions, both within local government and beyond, such as aged care, child care, housing, and youth services. One of the intentions of the case study is to inspire and encourage those involved in the local government sector to consider and pursue different, innovative and collaborative solutions to the complex challenges they face.

The case study can be accessed [here](#).

Past event snapshots

Applying Social Procurement Principles

Perth, 18 June 2105

Social Procurement Australasia (SPA) partnered with SPA Member Arc Blue Consulting and the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) to deliver this business breakfast in Perth. In addition to Arc Blue's Chris Newman, speakers were: Alex Taylor, Director Client Procurement Services at WA Department of Finance and Courtney McLeod, from Fortescue Metals Group.

2015 'Buy Social' Award Winner

The winners of the [2015 Social Enterprise Awards](#) were announced at a ceremony held at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Melbourne on 3rd June. This year Good Samaritan Industries (on behalf of the Western Australia Disability Enterprises Alliance - WADE) was awarded category winner.



WADE has worked closely with the Western Australian State Government to increase government supply opportunities for Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs). In the last three years, WADE has secured almost \$22 million in contract arrangements with state and local government agencies, enhancing and delivering hundreds of employment opportunities for people with a disability. Read more about the practice leading social procurement initiative [here](#), and from the policy perspective in SPA's new '*Insights Into Social Procurement: From Policy to Practice*' publication (see above).

If your organisation is involved with implementing social procurement strategies consider nominating for the 2016 Awards. The 'Buy Social' category was created to recognise:

Any social enterprise, public sector body or private sector organisation that has demonstrably made efforts within its own organisation and remit to create more opportunities to buy from social enterprises. This could be a local authority implementing a council-wide procurement policy, a company changing its procurement processes, or a not for profit seeking to support social enterprises through buying social.



Recent developments elsewhere

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation in British Columbia, Canada has released its [Social Impact Purchasing Guidelines](#), outlining the 'why's and how's' of social procurement in their context and providing a useful point of comparison for developments in the Australasian region.



The [British Medical Association \(BMA\)](#) has called for social criteria to be included in all National Health Service public procurement contracts. An [online article](#) from Supply Management reports that the BMA and Swedish campaign group, SwedWatch found that 'where social criteria for NHS procurement had been introduced, it produced tangible results and called for this to be rolled out to all NHS public procurement contracts'.

Social Procurement Australasia Membership

Established in June 2013, Social Procurement Australasia (SPA) builds awareness around, and supports the effective adoption of, social procurement and commissioning strategies. Core to strategic procurement functions, social procurement improves 'value for money' through including social value considerations in procurement and purchasing processes. SPA provides an

Australasian Association (working across Australia, New Zealand and the region) that supports growing demand for guidance, networking and development. SPA is an unincorporated association that relies on its members to contribute finances and time commitments to assist with developing and implementing its agenda.

If your organisation is interested in furthering the development of social procurement policies and practice, and in being recognised as a practice leader in this emerging and exciting field, please [contact us](#) to arrange an introductory discussion about becoming a member.

Our current Members are:



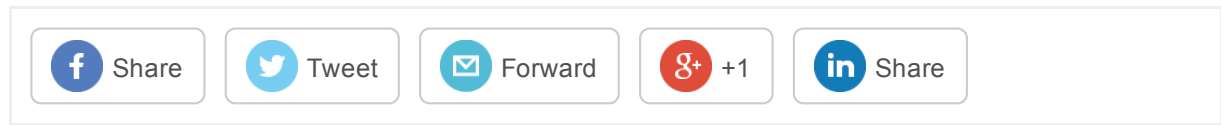
**Gold Coast
City Council**



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