

Management Scholarships for NFP Managers

A number of universities whose staff are Members of ANZAM will be interested in the Scholarships now offered through the Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF) for the managers and officers of not-for-profit (NFP) organisations. The aim of the ASF's Scholarship Program is to assist in raising the efficiency and effectiveness of NFP organisations, especially charities.

The urgent need for education and training opportunities in the NFP sector was highlighted in the recently released Report into the sector by the Productivity Commission. In its Report, the Commission accepted ASF's view that education and training opportunities are severely limited, especially for charities because donors want to see their funds spent on frontline services. They do not want to see money being diverted to overheads, which includes training. Consequently, charities cannot, as a rule, support their staff in improving their management skills by undertaking further education and training.

Interestingly, for ANZAM members, there is also growing awareness that specialist NFP courses are not always required – they want standard courses in marketing, finance, H.R., accounting, organisation management and entrepreneurship.

In 2009, ASF awarded 100 scholarships, many of them tenable at Australian universities. Was your university one of them ?

Generally, an ASF university scholarship requires the university to accept students into a post-graduate program (a Graduate Certificate or Graduate diploma) at the same rate as a Commonwealth Supported Place in that program. Clearly, universities are not “out of pocket” when they take students at the CSP rate, while the benefit to the charity can be very substantial.

ASF now has an email contact list of over 65,000 directors and staff in Australian charities. All scholarships are listed on the ASF website: www.scholarships.org.au and alerts for the closing dates are sent by email to all participating charities. The ASF Scholarship Program is not only a great way to contribute to improving the performance of our charities; it is also a very effective way of publicising university post-graduate offerings that might appeal to the managers and officers of NFP organisations. With pending legislation, more NFPs will be required to upskill and this important sector could be your next source of highly motivated students.

Is your University one of ASF's partners – check it out on the website ? www.scholarships.org.au

Want more information – contact Emeritus Professor Murray Wells on murray.wells@scholarships.org.au (Murray is a former President and Life Member of ANZAM), or contact ASF's CEO, Amy Lyden, at amy.lyden@scholarships.org.au