



Online Resources for Support Groups

Starting a Support Group



Yahoo! - Free Online Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

A place where people with a shared interest meet, get to know each other, and stay informed. Your group gives you instant access to:

- Shared message archives
- Photos and photo albums
- Group event calendars
- Member polls and shared links

Multiply - Free Online Group

<http://multiply.com/info/about>

Your Own Convenient Website

- Share everything...your blog, videos, photos and more, in one place: your Multiply site. Get your own web address. Choose a professional theme. Change the colors. Make it yours.

Robust Privacy Options

- Blog for the whole world, post photos for friends-of-friends, or share a video with just a person or two. On Multiply, you set your privacy options... and do so on an item-by-item basis

Keeping in Touch

- Multiply's powerful, flexible "Inbox" not only lets your friends and family know when you've posted something new, but also keeps them updated when replies are added. This keeps everyone in the loop, which keeps the discussion flowing

Collective of Self- Help Groups (COSHG)

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

COSHG has lots of useful information on starting a group as well as running workshops for people who are starting Self Help Groups or the issues that you need to deal with during the life of a group.



Genetic Support Council of WA Inc

ConnectGroups Western Australia

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

ConnectGroups – Support Groups Association WA (previously Western Institute of Self Help (WISH) Inc) is a unique not-for-profit, community-based organisation that provides support and assistance for individuals and support groups with start-up, ongoing development, advocacy and networking.

Self-Help Queensland

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

Provides information on local self-help groups. Helps persons to start and maintain groups.

Starting a Support Group

<http://www.mentalhelp.net/selfhelp>

This guide has been developed to act as your starting point for finding every type of national, international, model and online self-help support group that is available. The self-help groups contained in the database that you can access by keyword in the box at the bottom, can help you find and/or start a support group in your community.



Computer Resources

Green PC

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

Green PCs are recycled personal computers that are refurbished and repackaged into usable, Internet-ready computers, and then made available to low-income communities, individuals and community organisations. The only qualification for an individual or family to have access to a Green PC computer is that they be holders of current Health Care Cards or are able to verify their low income status in some other way.

DonorTec

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

DonorTec provides donated software and hardware from companies such as Microsoft and Cisco to eligible Australian non profit groups with Income Tax Exempt Status (ITE). Via this program you can get the latest products each year e.g. Microsoft Windows Vista



Software



Adobe Software: In-kind Product Donations

<http://www.adobe.com/ap/aboutadobe/philanthropy/index.html>

As part of Adobe's ongoing, innovative community relations programs any non-profit community organization is eligible to receive up to 3 products per year free of charge. These donations are intended to provide long-term support for successful service programs.

Free PDF Creator – PrimoPDF

<http://www.primopdf.com>

Convert to PDF from any application by simply 'printing' to the PrimoPDF printer - it couldn't be easier! Within minutes, you can create high-quality PDFs by converting from Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and virtually any other printable file type.

Ministry Blue: Discounted Computer Software.

<http://www.ministryblue.com/software.html>

Designed for Charities, churches, missions, not for profits etc (In Australia Only)

Nonprofit Open Source Initiative (NOSI)

<http://www.nosi.net>

Connects nonprofits to software solutions that help them more effectively meet their missions of positive global change. We connect and strengthen physical communities of non-profit users and software developers by convening and facilitating innovative technology events.

We connect and strengthen virtual communities of non-profit users and developers through the Social Source Commons, which maps out available software tools and related information resources. And we provide capacity building services, working with software developers to produce better tools for nonprofits, and with nonprofits to better leverage these tools.

OpenOffice.org - Produced by: OpenOffice.org Project

<http://www.openoffice.org>

OpenOffice.org 3 is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages and works on all common computers. It stores all your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose. Non-profit users see also:

http://why.openoffice.org/why_nfp.html



Genetic Support Council of WA Inc

Word/Excel/PowerPoint File Viewers - Our Community Pty Ltd

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/tech/view_software_package.do?articleid=1400

Produced by: Microsoft

Microsoft provides free programs that allow you to view and print documents created with Word, Excel or Powerpoint versions 97 or 2000. Users can zoom, view page layout, headers/footers, footnotes, and annotations. Download links are provided below.

The viewer applications are available for Windows 2000 Service Pack 4, Windows Server 2003, Windows XP.

Technology Assisting Disability WA

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

Technology Assisting Disability WA Inc. (TADWA) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, the frail aged, and those caring for them, through the application of technology and the skills of volunteers.

TADWA is accredited by Microsoft® under its Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR) program and as such is able to offer clients quality computers with fully licensed operating systems and software installed at minimal cost.



Grants and Funding

Charities Aid Foundation Australia

<http://www.cafonline.org/cafaustralia>

The Charities Aid Foundation is a registered charity that works to create greater value for charities and social enterprise. We do this by transforming the way donations are made and the way charitable funds are managed.

- We also help shape the charitable sector through our research and events Door to Door Collections and Tele-marketing Collections.

Collecting Money - Fundraising

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/ConsumerProtection/Content/Business/Charities/>

Any organisation or club collecting money or goods from the public for charitable purposes needs to be licensed under the Charitable Collections Act. There is no fee required for a licence, however each of the Principal Executive Officers must provide a NATIONAL POLICE CLEARANCE.



Grants LINK - Commonwealth of Australia

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au>

This website helps you find funding available under a variety of grant programs for individuals, businesses and communities to help you to develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship.

List of sites for available community funding and how to apply.

<http://www.community.gov.au>

Managing Community Groups



The Community Management Centre – A to Z of Resources

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/view_help_sheet_list.do?categoryid=374

The national resources gateway - is for community groups seeking information and resources on every aspect of how to manage a community group.

Technical Resources



TechSoup – The Technology Place For Nonprofits

<http://www.techsoup.org>

TechSoup Global is one of the most comprehensive technology resources for NGOs in the world. Working with corporate donors, including Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, and Symantec, TechSoup provides nongovernmental organizations, nonprofits, libraries, and community-based organizations with the latest professional hardware, software, and services they need.



Websites

CommunityGuide

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

All local Community Groups and Sporting Clubs may register for a website of up to 10 pages on CommunityGuide to promote their organisation, activities, events, etc.

You will receive your own login and password to the CommunityGuide website builder so that you can update and change your information at anytime.

As the CommunityGuide is regularly indexed daily by all the major search engine robots, your organisation will be promoted in all the Major Search Engines just by being a part of CommunityGuide.

This is a Free Service - We do not charge any fees for recognised Community Groups, Sporting Clubs or non profit associations.

ComfyPage

<http://comfypage.com>

ComfyPage is a product from Affinity Software. We're a company made up of two brothers in Perth, Western Australia.

ComfyPage was designed to put website owners back in control. Create and update your website for a low cost. That's what we want for ourselves and for the world. We use ComfyPage for our websites so we know it works.

Your basic ComfyPage is absolutely free. You can:

- choose from our wide range of templates
- customise your own template
- add as many pages as you like
- list products and services, and
- upload files and images.

Add-ons

We recognise that you will want to do more with your ComfyPage as time goes on. Later, as your ComfyPage grows and you want to make it even more interactive, you can choose to purchase some of our range of very affordable add-ons at \$7AUD that will enable you to do things like:

- include a contact us form so visitors can email you without you giving out your email address
- maintain a mailing list to send out newsletters and messages
- display a photo gallery, and
- run Google ads to make money from your site
- accept donations through your site

You can also choose to accept online credit card payments with PayPal so you can operate an online shop for a onetime fee of only \$25AUD.