

'SVA has made the Brisbane Hub possible by facilitating new relationships with local corporate partners. The Hub, in turn, has been able to broker new relationships and bring new knowledge, skills and resources to social enterprises such as Mu'ooz, Blackstar and Food Connect. This is a new way of working that adds value on the ground to social innovation in Brisbane.'

Susan Black Brisbane Hub Coordinator  
Social Enterprise Hubs



Sydney, NSW

Focus Area Employment for  
Marginalised People

Web [www.socialenterprisehubs.org](http://www.socialenterprisehubs.org)

### Mission

To support the development of the social enterprise sector in Australia by providing social enterprises with access to mentoring, consulting, pro bono work, management tools and business skills.

# Social Enterprise Hubs

## Model

A Social Enterprise Hub (Hub) is a three-way partnership between local government, a business partner and SVA. They provide two levels of assistance to social enterprises: an intensive one year Accelerator Program for selected enterprises and general services for other social enterprises in the local area. Hubs build the growth and capacity of social enterprises (and the emerging social enterprise sector) to provide employment to marginalised people. The Hub's Accelerator Program partners with other expert partners, for example Hewlett Packard, Matrix on Board and local businesses to provide business skills and expertise that would otherwise be unavailable or cost prohibitive for most social enterprises. These build sustainable trading entities that deliver social benefits and real employment for marginalised people achieved through key partnerships.

## Growth

- In 2006, SVA launched the first Hub in Brisbane in partnership with accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and Brisbane City Council. The Brisbane Hub Accelerator Program has supported seven enterprises including businesses in garden maintenance, pest control, catering, cleaning, farm fresh food to city families and creative arts. The third Accelerator Program commenced in July 2008.
- The second Hub was launched in Parramatta in September 2007; a partnership between SVA, Parramatta City Council and the Allco Foundation. The Parramatta Hub is in the process of scoping and identifying potential social enterprise activities in the local government area and has accepted its first round of social enterprises in the Accelerator Program.

Initial SVA distribution		<b>2006</b>	
SVA in-kind support		\$200,000	
Total distributions from SVA to date			
– Brisbane Social Enterprise Hub		\$255,000	
– Parramatta Social Enterprise Hub		\$150,000	
– Yarnteen Indigenous Social Enterprise Hub		\$40,000	
Total distributions from SVA to social enterprises to date			
– Foodconnect		\$92,000	
– Blackstar Coffee		\$30,000	
SVA brokered support			
– Social Return on Investment for Brisbane Hub social enterprises (2007): Blackstar Coffee, Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative, Sustainable Gardening Services Limited, Ethical Pest Management, Foodconnect		\$13,000	
– Mallesons Stephen Jaques for Brisbane Hub social enterprises (via close, on-going relationship)		\$50,000	
– Matrix on Board financial systems assessment (2007) for Sustainable Gardening Services (Brisbane Hub)		\$10,000	

	FY06	FY08	CAGR
Revenue	\$100,000	\$401,543	100.4%
Marginalised employees supported	N/A	52	N/A



[www.socialventures.com.au](http://www.socialventures.com.au)

### Impact

- The Brisbane Hub currently supports six social enterprises who provide employment for 73 people, 52 (71 per cent) of whom were previously marginalised. In FY08, there have been procurement opportunities for three enterprises and loan and capacity building funding for two enterprises.
- The Brisbane Hub social enterprises have contributed to strengthening the community through providing employment for marginalised people, community events and connections with other businesses. For example, *Blackstar Coffee* has a soccer team competing in a local competition which includes a number of players from refugee backgrounds and *Foodconnect* has created close ties with local businesses, including *Mu'Ooz Eritrean Restaurant and Catering*, a business established by women from the Horn of Africa.
- Parramatta Hub held two *Meeting Places* in FY08 for 70 social enterprise representatives and industry leaders to share expertise and network.

### Looking Ahead

The Hub model will focus on developing more Hubs in Queensland (Ipswich and Logan) in FY09. The Queensland government will also become a partner of the Brisbane Hub through the *Participate in Prosperity* program in 2008. Two of the social enterprises in the Brisbane Hub, *Foodconnect* and *Blackstar Coffee*, are exploring opportunities to replicate. In 2008, the Yarnteen Social Enterprise Indigenous Hub in Newcastle will form a partnership with Allco Foundation and SVA. This hub will have a specific Indigenous social enterprise development focus with a view to becoming a centre of Indigenous training and development across NSW. Discussions are also underway with the ACT Mental Health Coalition and ACT government regarding the establishment of a social enterprise hub in ACT.