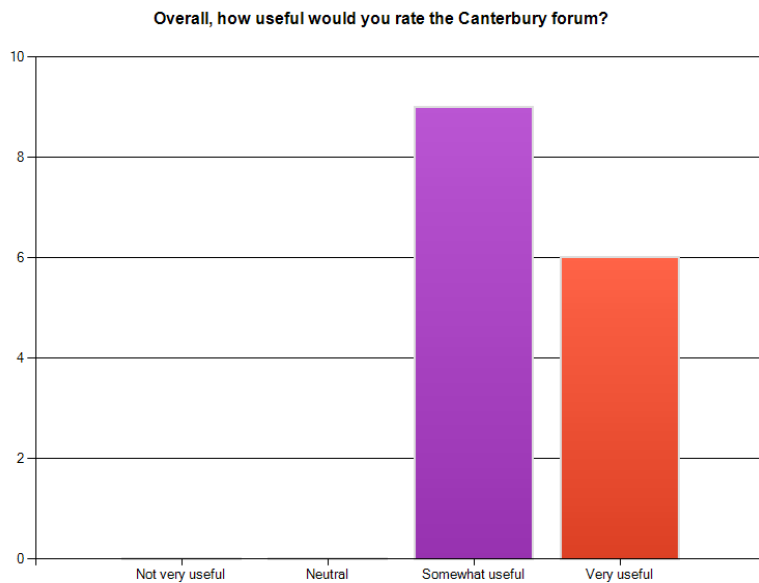


# Canterbury Regional Funders Forum Feedback Summary

The Canterbury Forum was held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Twenty-six people attended the forum and 15 (57.7%) provided feedback. The comments below are a summary of those received.

## 1. Usefulness of the Canterbury Forum



## 2. What was most useful for you about the Canterbury forum?

This is a summary of responses received.

- The networking, connecting names/faces with funds. SCT's presentation; their innovative approaches to trying new funding concepts was inspiring.
- The space for some critical thinking & reflection; the shared info from Jenny's research & John's presentation; the challenges & focussed questions; speed dating & small group work -all good, plus handouts & opportunity to network afterwards over lunch, much appreciated
- Getting an overview of the international perspective. Gaining a better understanding of the obstacles other funders face - especially Govt Policy under which agencies operate. Learning of the excellent practice of the Southland Community Trust. Networking. Socializing with sector members
- It was interesting to get the big picture beyond our region and the different responses
- The way it was held so that we got to meet and talk to other attendees about the problems we are all having and what if anything we are doing about it.
- Finding out what is happening overseas and how funders can make better decisions regarding funding in this economic climate
- Updates on giving during a recession

### **3. What was least useful about the Canterbury forum?**

This is a summary of responses received.

- I didn't think we quite nailed strategies, advice etc for groups/ communities we fund
- T was all useful -I do know that the NFP sector esp councils of Social services have been publishing a lot about the current issues plus tips for community & voluntary sector -I wonder about giving them some feedback they can publish in their regional & national newsletters?
- The speed dating
- Presentations from overseas
- Nothing that I can think of. If nothing else the networking opportunities makes these forum valuable
- Small group work - but only because the topic I selected turned out not to be as useful as I thought.
- Enjoyed all aspects of the forum

### **4. How could we improve any future events in your region? What topics and formats would be of most interest/use to you?**

This is a summary of responses received.

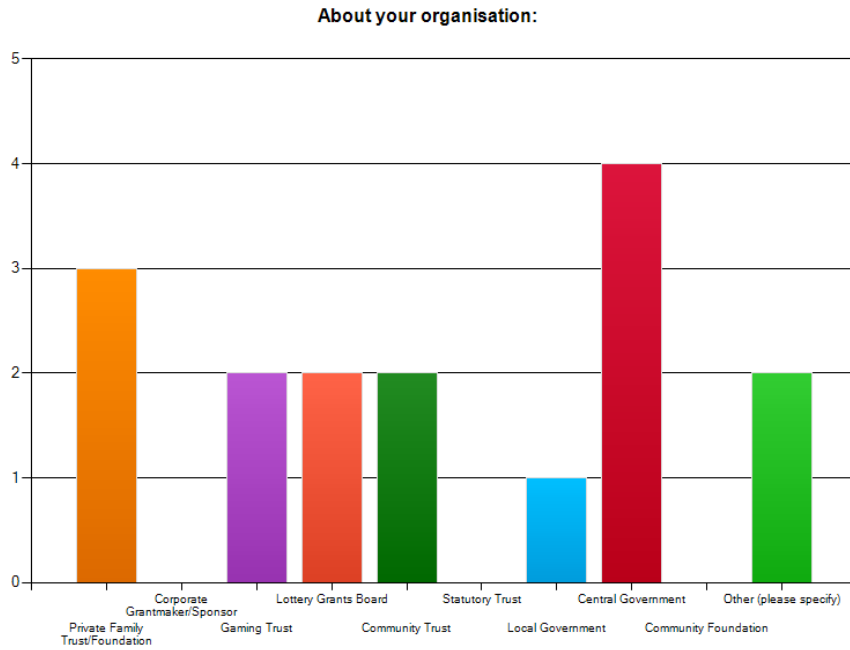
- The event was fine, probably more about enterprise development in a recessionary market.
- I found this format very useful, not special topics at the moment but maybe good in 6 months to scope what's happened in the sector that we are kept up-to-date at local & regional & national levels. I'm with a TA so we're between the philanthropy & voluntary sector but an important bridge & linkage.
- More short sessions about what particular Funders are doing - say 10 minutes at most
- After the discussion it would be good to have some actions to follow through. Otherwise it always feel like we are discussing only.
- Evaluation; accountability for operating grants; what works;.
- Some serious work on Collaboration, the barriers and how these might be overcome. Creating the mindshift that can lead to policy obstacles being overcome. Strong facilitation required
- As a philanthropist it is always good to see and talk to recipients of grants and get to know their problems and let them know what ours as are - information we require and why etc.
- May need a bit more time as it was a bit rushed due to the amount of important info.
- More examples of detailed responses like Southland Community Trust, more stats on NZ.
- Opportunity for networking with others is worthwhile. Day time meetings are easier to attend than end of day/early evening ones. Presentation from MSD on its funding would be useful.

### **5. Did you take-away the gem of an idea from the forum which you want to follow up on? If so, please explain briefly and if you have thought it through, outline your next steps in developing this idea.**

1. Yes - How do we measure the success for our trust???
2. NO not for me or our work. But I'd did think of some wonderful ideas which CCT should be following up on...which would greatly assist non profits here

3. My first thoughts were how aware is my organisation of the impact of recession on the voluntary sector in particular; that we don't have a complete picture of what our current levels of support are & they are varied between council units (& we're not a huge council) so we're not as informed as we could be about what else we could be doing, or doing more effectively & or how useful that may be in the current climate. I also want to do more reading about what has already been put together, & more proactive about checking in with key groups dependent on both Govt contracts & philanthropic funds, and more strategic about what we can do as council to support organisations esp in rural setting like ours, fire, St Johns etc; & ACE funding to schools has been cut from end of 2009 & those high schools provide much in terms of social capital opportunities to lots of the small communities in our district
4. Follow up rolling three year funding, with other Board Members
5. Lots of good thoughts - still processing them
6. Many of the ideas posed this Trust is already developing i.e. Assets to share other than money; funding and encouraging collaboration in the NGO sector, being part of a collaborative philanthropic project. Maintaining close relationship with grantees. However the entire August Trustee meeting is being devoted to addressing the questions in the GEO paper. The focus being: are we actually doing this and can we do it better.
7. I didn't get any fresh ideas, but it confirmed some others I had heard before.
8. With the main topic being about the current recession was good to hear what others are doing and what the advice internationally is. We as a philanthropic trust could/will be discussing changing our giving to current areas of need and away from our "same old."
9. I think it is important to continue the work I do in providing info on gaming machine funding to the community as it helps break the barrier between the applicant and the Society by demystifying the industry. I will continue this education as long as my manager allows.
10. Giving untagged donations
11. It confirmed what NZERN is doing is the correct course. I offered that Bush telly could film an interview that made the same points as at the workshop, to wise up the thousands of small conservation groups who are our constituency. [www.bushtelly.org.nz](http://www.bushtelly.org.nz).
12. Yes. My gem was to 'work within the square' - I'm with one of the govt dept who is fairly restricted by policy; so I thought, what can I do within the security and safety of policy? I thought I could learn more 'things' that I could use as a resource for community groups, have knowledge and network links available; that govt staff could maybe do things like internships to benefit the sector, that we can provide fairly consistent funding when other avenues might not. Etc.
13. I did. I would like to get applicants together in a room and see if we can get/make them work together.
14. We don't have the flexibility in our funding processes to be able to develop the ideas from the forum.

## 6. Types of Organisations Present



## 7. Roles in Organisation

