

A decorative graphic consisting of a light blue arc that starts on the left and curves towards the right, ending in a bright yellow starburst shape.

What are we afraid of?

WACOSS Conference

May 2006

Is it the unknown or wilful blindness

- 2 million people living in poverty – those people who try and clean car windows
- 100,000 people homeless
- 1.3 million jobless
- Children living in poverty
- Two tiered services
- Widening gap
- The erosion near extinction of the fair go – well at least a fair go for all

Are we afraid of who we are?

- **Why did the NGO movement start?**
 - **What is civil society?**
 - **Are NGOs the new missionaries of the 21st Century?**
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Are we afraid of making a difference?

- **Were NGOs as successful as they thought?**
 - **Scaling up?**
 - **Global civil society**
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What do we see in the mirror?

Expenditure

- Ten years ago expenditure by 'for-profit' organisations increasing by was \$2.1 billion Not for profit' organisations by 47% (to \$7.1 billion)

Size

- The ABS has estimated that as at the end of June 2000 there were 9,287 employing businesses and organisations involved in the provision of community services.
- The 9,287 businesses and organisations comprised 2,800 'for profit' organisations, 5,938 'not for profit' organisations and 548 government organisations.

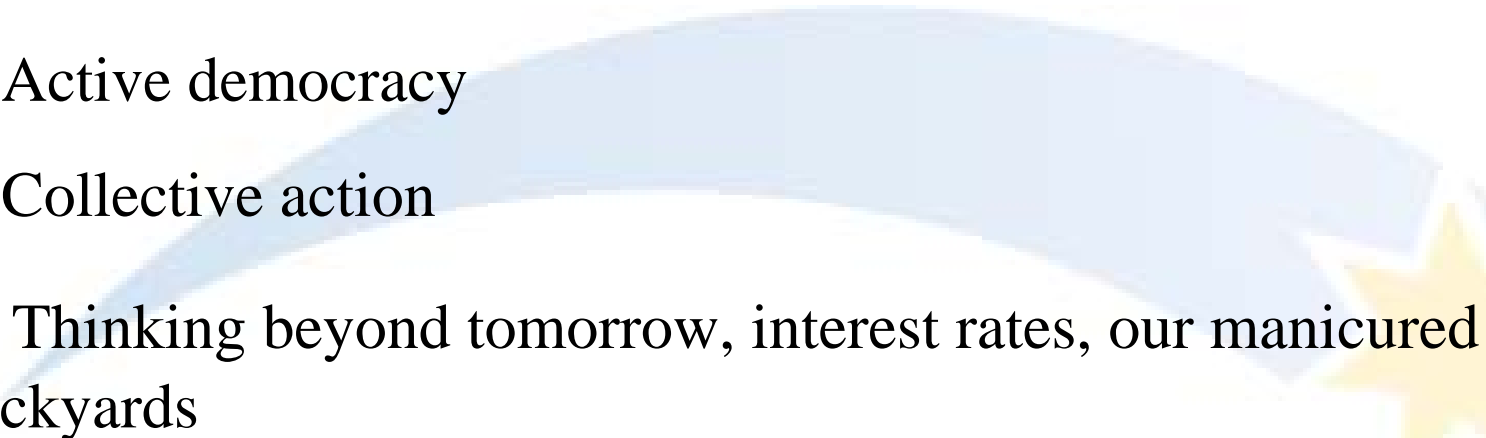
Potential

- Large, cashed up, passionate, national

Whose outside?

- Executive Government – control of Senate
- Changing views - opinion polls
- A conservative agenda which is active, organized and resurgent after 10 yrs
- A drive to outer metropolitan areas and its poor people, the highways now by-pass those people living in poverty in rural areas
- Terrorists
- Refugees
- Other people

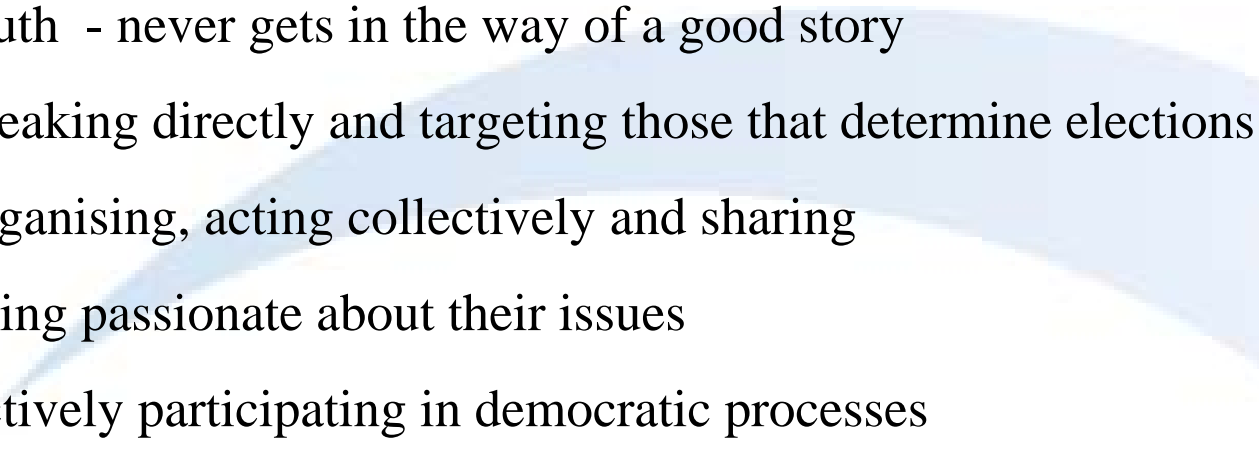
What we do not know we fear?

- ★ Big Ideas
 - ★ Active democracy
 - ★ Collective action
 - ★ Thinking beyond tomorrow, interest rates, our manicured backyards
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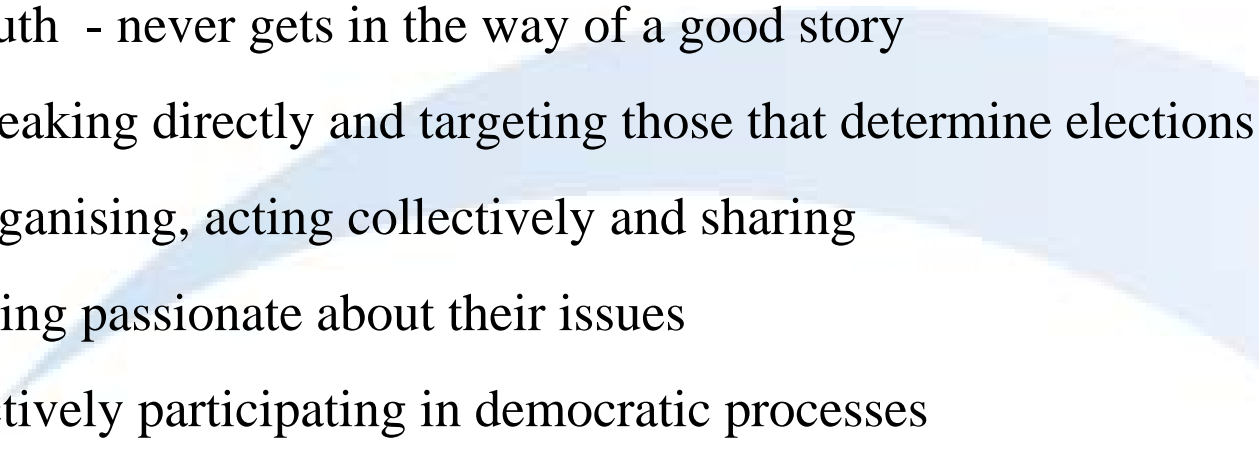
Fairness or Aspiration?

- ★ Whose fault is it?
 - ★ Governments and those doing it tough
- ★ Dreams are what we escape to: JLO
- ★ To live in the dream, where **MY** needs are paramount, we need to image the world where the poor are undeserving
- ★ We must become like the land of where dreams are made - California – where steroid laden, womanizing men have the aspiration to run one of the largest economies in the world.

What do does our opposition fear? – nothing?

- Truth - never gets in the way of a good story
 - Speaking directly and targeting those that determine elections
 - Organising, acting collectively and sharing
 - Being passionate about their issues
 - Actively participating in democratic processes
 - Thinking long term
 - Endurance and eternal vigilance
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If it is all lost - then what do we do?

- We can be silent and retreat into Big Brother, buying property, Indonesian gardens and dream

OR

- We can re-dream, re-image and like our oppositions share our vision with our fellow citizens in a way they can relate to and most importantly act on