## Funding Summary

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**No. of working group members:** 11
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### Introduction

The Citizen Science Network Australia (CSNA) is a new national initiative to develop a community of practice in support of the burgeoning population of citizen science stakeholders within Australia. A variety of stakeholders met for the first time at Queensland Museum in Brisbane on the 6th of May, 2014 to support the formation of the CSNA. Since this inaugural workshop event, four working groups (entity & governance, mission & objectives, communication, funding) each led by a voluntary convener have been collaborating in a concerted effort to drive the network toward incorporation. Further information about the workshop and the CSNA's mission and objectives can be found at www.citizenscience.org.au

This summary outlines the key outcomes of the Inaugural Workshop and proposed method for moving forward with the CSNA's funding strategy as proposed by the *Funding Working Group.*

### Workshop summary

Workshop members discussed aspects of CSNA funding in breakout groups following presentations about CSNA entity from David McInnes and Stephanie Von Gavel. Each breakout group (comprising 8-10 people, 9 groups in total) was asked to identify potential and preferred methods of funding for the CSNA and report a summary of their group's discussion to the workshop audience. Potential funding routes were discussed and ranked by the wider audience, including the use of multiple funding sources, suggested ranking for most likely or should be investigated first were:

1. **Grants –**
   a. government federal and/or state (enabling)
2. 
3. **Sponsorship/Donations –**
   a. Corporate
   b. financial and in-kind
   c. philanthropic organisations

4. **Subscriptions –**
   a. Memberships – Organisation level and/or individuals
   b. Tiered subscriptions e.g. fee for contributing organization and member organisations and individuals would be free or nominal. Would need to distinguishing between benefits for each level.
5. **Other –**
   a. Pozible, Kickstarter, online crowd-funding
   b. Professional services (e.g. technical advice, IT support, speaker fees, core funding, consultation) in-kind
   c. provide services
   d. sell advertising
   e. provide training

There was general consensus amongst the audience that membership for individuals or citizen science projects should be free or nominal if possible, in view of the small operating budgets of most citizen science projects.

Breakout group summaries also included a discussion about which aspects of the CSNA will require funding and where, more broadly, stakeholders would prefer to see the funding come from:

**What is being funded?**
- Workshops (pay your own way)
- Website (how much does it cost?)
- Hosting projects?
- Support and/or only a database of projects (directory)
- Supporting position

**Where is funding coming from?**
- Not (primarily) the citizens
- Subscriptions - modest, voluntary?
- Universities and NGOs
- Local State and Federal government Agencies

### Next steps

At the conclusion of the Inaugural Workshop, participants agreed to form a volunteer working group on entity and governance to support the CSNA in becoming an Incorporated Association. The *Funding Working Group's* main objectives are to:

- Identify CSNA funding needs
- Secure funding to support the functioning of the organisation

### Actions required

- Investigate potential funding sources

### Further information

The CSNA *Funding Working Group* members meet once a month to progress tasks associated with this working group.

Further information can be requested from the Working Group Convener:

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*CSNA Funding Working Group*