



A FOCUS ON FUNDING

DESPITE A MASSIVE FLOW OF MONEY INTO THE BUOYANT CHARITY SECTOR DURING 2006, RAISING SUFFICIENT FUNDS REMAINS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR PATIENT ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS.

PAGES 19-26 OUTLINE THE RESULTS OF A DECEMBER 2006 *HSCNEWS* MINI-POLL WHICH DISCUSSES WHY HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES GENERATING INCOME. PAGES 6-17 LOOK AT WHY PATIENT ORGANISATIONS, IN PARTICULAR, ARE TURNING TO BIG BUSINESS AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FOR RESPIRE (AND WHY, IN DOING SO, HAVE OPENED THEMSELVES UP TO CHARGES OF BEING IN THE POCKET OF BUSINESS).

THE ARTICLE ON PAGES 27-38 EXAMINES PATIENT GROUP CODES OF CONDUCT, USING FIVE HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS AS CASE STUDIES. THESE GROUPS HAVE TRIED TO RESOLVE THE TENSIONS BETWEEN RETAINING INDEPENDENCE AND ACCEPTING SPONSORSHIP. THE ARTICLE ANALYSES HOW THE CODES OF CONDUCT ARE AT VARIANCE, AND NOTES SOME OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED.

FINALLY, TWO MORE CASE STUDIES OBSERVE TWO VERY DIFFERENT, BUT EQUALLY INNOVATIVE, GROUPS WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR. THE ITALIAN LEGA ITALIANA FIBROSI CISTICA [PAGES 39-44] AND THE CALIFORNIAN TAPROOT FOUNDATION [PAGES 45-47] HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, OVERCOME (FOR THEMSELVES AT LEAST) THE PROBLEMS OF FINANCIAL TURBULENCE THAT PLAGUE MANY HEALTH GROUPS.

PAGES 48-50 CARRY A LETTER FROM TWO CONVENORS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GROUP CHILDREN OF MENTALLY-ILL CONSUMERS, WHO COMMENT ON ONE ASPECT OF THE BURGEONING INTERNATIONAL CARERS' MOVEMENT [COVERED IN *HSCNews*, ISSUE 33].