

Coalition for fundraising reform



The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW

The Hon. Anastasia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland

The Hon. Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia

The Hon. Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania

The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria

The Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of Western Australia

The Hon. Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

The Hon. Michael Gunner MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

5 April 2017

Dear Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers

Australia's charity fundraising regulations are a mess. They're out-of-date - they deal with wishing wells and the length of handles on collection boxes, but not with online fundraising, crowdfunding and websites. Charities want to do the right thing, but it's too complex, too confusing and it's ineffective.

In economic terms alone this is a big issue: the charity sector employs over 1.1 million Australians generating over \$134 billion in annual revenue, including more than \$11 billion from individual giving. The loss in productivity involved for the thousands of charities who try to meet the requirements of the seven different fundraising regimes amounts to tens of millions of dollars annually.

It is time to fix this. It can be done, easily, at no cost. Federal, State and Territory governments can provide charities with one nationally-consistent, modern and fit-for-purpose fundraising regime as part of the current review of the Australian Consumer Law. It can be clarified and amended to ensure charities (and those raising funds for them) are required to meet a clear set of donor-focused expectations and requirements in their fundraising activities.

For more than two decades, the sector has been asking governments to *#fixfundraising*. There have been numerous independent inquiries all recommending change, yet still we are told this issue is not important enough. It seems cutting red tape for business is essential, but cutting red tape for charities is not.

The charities of Australia support and enable so many aspects of our lives – education, the arts, health, housing, employment, recreation, social services, childcare, emergency services, family support, justice systems, international development, the environment, religion and spirituality, animal welfare, and many other areas that are crucial to Australia's productivity and well-being. We need action now so our organisations, and the donors who support us, can operate under a 21st century, nationally-consistent and fit-for-purpose regulatory regime.

We call on your Governments to prioritise working together to fix this fundraising mess so we can get on with what we do best – building flourishing communities.

Signatories

Founding organisations

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
of COMPANY DIRECTORS



Supporting organisations





Mirboo North & District



MELBOURNE



WE
LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS
VE



SOCIAL TRADERS



Primary
ETHICS







Supporting organisations (continued)

Salvation Army, Australia Southern Territory

Ethical Consumers Australia

OzHelp

Southlake Community Services

Consumer Action Law Centre

Women's Legal Service Victoria

Ashdale Special Families

Ricon Pty Ltd

Curious Legends

Rotary Club of Foster

Altona Bowling Club

Doonside Senior Citizens

CG Jung Society of Melbourne Inc.

Network of Caring

Orbita Inc

OTC South Pacific

Seaford Community Centre

Vovi International Pty Ltd

Prader Willi Syndrome Association

Health Ethics Australia

International Needs Australia

Council of Arts & Cultural Education & Development

Samoa Community Support Service Western Sydney Inc

Reservoir Community Advocacy Group Inc

Liverpool Women's Resource Centre

Nightingale Park Society of Aged Care Accommodation

Carrum Downs Senior Citizens Club Inc.

Chinese Cancer Society of Victoria

Australian Volunteer Fire Services Foundation Ltd

More information and a list of organisations that have signed up to #fixfundraising is at www.justiceconnect.org.au/fundraisingreform

