

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

FIA Wants Charity Portal Expanded to Cut Fundraising Red Tape

Sydney, 28 February 2018

Fundraising Institute Australia has called upon the Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission to seize the opportunity to reduce the regulatory burden on fundraising.

“A recommendation of this Review should be to urge all governments to commit to a harmonisation effort,” said Rob Edwards, CEO of FIA. “This should be put back onto the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agenda with an objective to secure agreement to consolidate fundraising licensing and reporting requirements.”

“COAG should establish a NFP Working Group tasked with addressing duplication of regulation. This Working Group should have appropriate sector representation which is notably lacking at present.

“As an interim measure towards eliminating duplication the Review Panel should consider recommending development of the ACNC Charity Portal to be utilised as a ‘One Stop’ platform to register fundraising campaigns in compliance with all state and territory requirements thus eliminating the current need for multiple applications.”

Mr. Edwards noted that the terms of reference for the ACNC Review allow for consideration of matters outside the ACNC legislation.

FIA also recommends the Review consider a greater role for self-regulation to maintain trust and confidence in charities by promoting best practice and ethical conduct in fundraising activity, as envisaged in the 2010 Productivity Commission report into the *Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector*¹ which led to the establishment of the ACNC.

“While the ACNC does not have the power to regulate fundraising activities, these are part of the ‘trust and confidence’ object in a general sense, therefore the Commission has sought to provide guidance in fundraising practice,” said Mr. Edwards. “There is scope, as envisaged by the Productivity Commission, for closer co-operation between the ACNC and sector bodies including FIA in promoting good fundraising practice.”

About Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA)

With over 1500 members, Fundraising Institute Australia is the largest representative body for the \$12.5 billion charitable fundraising sector which is supported by some 14.9 million Australians. FIA members include charities operating domestically and internationally as well as the organisations and professionals that provide services to them. FIA advocates for the interests of the sector, administers a self-regulatory Code, educates fundraising practitioners, promotes research, and creates forums for the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

For media enquiries, please contact Kai Ianssen on 0423 685 530 or klianssen@fia.org.au.

¹ www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/not-for-profit