

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

Government changes to DGR system will reduce red tape

Sydney, 6 December 2017

Fundraising Institute Australia's (FIA) has welcomed the move by the Federal government to bring all not-for-profits with deductible gift recipient (DGR) status under the umbrella of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

"It makes good sense to have a single regulator overseeing all reporting requirement, as opposed to the current system that sees some DGRs having to report to the Commissioner of Taxation," said Rob Edwards, CEO of FIA.

Under the reforms, all non-government DGRs will be automatically registered as a charity with the ACNC from 1 July 2019. There will be a 12 month transitional period to assist current non-charity DGRs with compliance. The DGR registers and Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme will be integrated with the ACNC charity register and duplicative reporting requirements will be abolished. The ACNC will also provide a central location for applications and reporting and will work with the ATO to provide a streamlined experience.

"FIA has been working tirelessly for red tape reduction across all levels of government," said Mr. Edwards. "It has been a long road, but we are starting to see results. Several of the States have now committed to streamlining their reporting requirements, and now the Commonwealth is coming to the party."

Earlier this year several states removed the requirement for annual reporting to both the ACNC and the state government. The ACT went even further, changing their laws so that charities who are ACNC-registered no longer need a license to conduct charitable collections in the ACT, including individual appeals.

"Taken together, these are significant and FIA will be pressing other jurisdictions to follow suit," said Mr. Edwards.

FIA affirms the need for charities to spend some funds and time on good administration to be sure donations are used effectively for a charity's mission. Duplicated reporting and licensing requirements are examples of avoidable administrative spending

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: Katie McCarthy; kmccarthy@fia.org.au