

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

11 March, 2012

Constant Improvement Ensures Public Can Donate To Charity Confidently

Charities and not for profit groups across Australia have today reassured the community it can continue to donate with confidence, the peak association for fundraising said.

Rob Edwards, CEO of Fundraising Institute Australia, said recent sensational reports about how charities fundraise did not accurately reflect the standards already in place and failed to recognise the constant improvements in the sector.

“The benefits to the community delivered through the work of charities and not for profit organisations are enormous. However, public confidence risks being undermined by recent sensational reporting,” he said.

Charities and not-for-profit organisations contribute \$105 billion to the economy and employ more than a million people¹, transforming people’s lives and safeguarding the environment.

Mr Edwards said the FIA has been working with government on further improvements in the sector as part of its plans to establish a national regulator of charities and not for profits.

The Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC) is being established to:

- Act as the regulator for sector;
- To establish and maintain a publicly searchable database of charities;
- To provide a one-stop-shop for not for profits in their interactions across levels of government;
- To oversight financial and governance practices.

“The FIA is working closely with the federal government to ensure the ACNC adopts a clear and easy to manage charity reporting system for finance and governance, and that information it provides is relevant to and readable by the public,” Mr Edwards said.

“Fundraising is essential for charities and not for profit groups to be able to continue to do their valuable work in the community and for Australia’s environment.”

“Australia would be a much poorer society without fundraising to change the lives of others for the better.

“Australia’s not for profit sector plays a critical role in assisting some of the most vulnerable in our community. They work to feed the hungry, protect children, prevent violence and improve our environment.”

Media enquiries: Nicole Mackey, 0403 964 334

¹ IBIS World - Charities & Not-for-Profit Organisations Market Research Report | ANZSIC X0021 | Sep 2011