

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

FIA ready to assist with new Guidance for RSLs on Fundraising

Sydney, 13 February 2018

Following the Report of the New South Wales Inquiry under the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* into the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL NSW Branch), Justice Bergin has recommended that executive members of the governing body and management team members involved in fundraising complete fundraising courses with the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA).

Justice Bergin also recommends FIA work with the NSW Department of Fair Trading and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) on guidance for fundraisers working on behalf of RSLs. “Clear guidance needs to be given to charities, and in particular those engaging in charitable fundraising, to ensure the donating public can have confidence in how their money is being spent. It is recommended that NSW Fair Trading liaise with the ACNC, and any other entity including the Fundraising Institute of Australia to develop that clear guidance.” (Report paragraph 10.72).

“It is also recommended that consideration be given to the imposition of a condition that the executive members of the governing bodies of each of the entities and the management team responsible for fundraising within the entities complete the Certificate in Fundraising course with the Fundraising Institute of Australia and that in addition the Fundraising Manager complete the on-line Diploma in Fundraising course with that Institute,” (Report paragraph 12.34).

“The NSW Charitable Fundraising Act and Regulations are particularly complex, confusing and overdue for review and simplification, as FIA has been urging for several years,” said FIA CEO Rob Edwards. “I welcome the Report’s findings about the need for simplification.”

The Report found: “Each charitable fundraiser is governed by many different and overlapping provisions in the Act, the Regulations and the standard and particular conditions of their fundraising authority. There is the real prospect, as happened with each of the entities in this Inquiry, that fundraisers may lack familiarity or clear understanding of the detail of the statutory regime. It is therefore recommended that consideration be given to some simplification of the regime by removing the duplication and overlapping provisions and consolidating them into one place, preferably the conditions of the fundraising authorities that are granted, with the Act providing the key provisions.” (Report paragraph 13.2.28).

FIA has a range of courses designed to promote professionalism, excellence and compliance with the FIA Code as well as statutory requirements. <https://www.fia.org.au/education-training.php>

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.

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