

Hello Seniorclerk, Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry into tax changes for Not-for-Profits.

I volunteer on the Device Help Desk of the Albury Wodonga Repair Cafe Inc (Incorporated in Victoria). I am also a Committee Member and helped the President work through the requirements of this Tax change. We are not registered as a Charity.

We are a small group which runs a Repair Cafe for members of our community. From 10am to 1pm on the first Saturday of each month (except January) our volunteers repair items brought into the "Cafe" by members of the public. e.g. We sharpen secateurs, repair clothing, repair battery operated items, fix furniture and give advice on Devices (smart phones, tablets and laptops).

The President and I spent hours looking through the ATO website trying to find what we had to do to comply with this new Tax requirement. We eventually found a Not-for-Profit phone help line, 1300 1390 248, and completed a tax self assessment of our Small group (<\$150,000) using the Registration number on a letter from the ATO sent to the President, in less than 5 minutes. This process could have been made simpler if the letter from the ATO had made this Self Assessment process clearer for groups such as ours. Our Cash Flow is less than \$3000 pa and Volunteer groups such as ours should not have been subjected to such a huge waste of time and worry.

A member of our Committee recently visited a Repair Cafe in Germany. The most striking difference between their organization and ours is that the German Government encourages and completely funds their operation, let alone inflicting Tax obligations on them. We receive funding of \$1500 pa from Halve Waste, if we Invoice them. We pay Wodonga Senior Citizens \$50 each time we use their Hall (a Council building) for our Repair Cafes. We buy Insurance from the Wodonga Council to cover our Volunteers at each Repair Cafe. We pay each year to renew our Incorporation to Consumer Affairs Victoria, however if we run an event such as a stall at a community activity in Albury, NSW, our Victorian Incorporation does not cover us. We recently bought a shelving unit for our equipment at the Senior Citizens Centre and had to get permission from the Wodonga Council to erect it in their store room. This is an indication of how small volunteer groups are treated in Australia. Rather than "cleaning up the tax obligations" for Not-for-Profit groups the Australian Government could have put some effort into making the administration and funding of volunteer groups simpler.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

Warm Regards,

Bruce Nulty, on behalf of the AWRC Inc Committee

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