

21 February 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (UNSOLICITED COMMUNICATIONS) BILL 2019

This suggested Do Not Call register for Charities is not fair, reasonable nor practical.

Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation (ACCF), like many charities receives NO government funding and depends on direct contact with supporters and potential supporters for nearly 50% of our income through Raffles and appeals.

The Senate Committee is looking at a new law which we know will severely and unreasonably impact our telemarketing and particularly cold calling, by creating a new category of DNC Register thereby imposing expensive and onerous compliance tasks or preventing approaches to the public.

In practice "cold calling" is very happily tolerated by almost everyone we contact. We receive a complaint (which we address respectfully), only around once in 12 months, during which time tens of thousands of calls are made.

"Cold calling" is also one of our most effective ways to inform thousands of people about ACCF's lifesaving cervical cancer prevention message, which far too few people are up to date with. To carry out our charitable mission, ACCF needs to have every practical means available to allow us to reach every Australian.

So that we can share your response with the 18,000 supporter on ACCF's database in our next newsletter, we ask that you reply and advise us of your position in relation to this Bill which we see as unfair in its scope and impact and that does not really solve the problem it seeks to prevent.

We firmly believe that while the suggested new law may be well-intentioned, it will have severe negative, un-intended consequences for charities and the community.

In our assessment it will be unfair and ineffective in safeguarding the community. It is likely to restrict legitimate and compliant charities which are serving the community and filling gaps that governments leave unaddressed, while being unable to stop scammers and others who cause substantial harm.

That some people are upset about being telephoned has had repeated attention by regulators. Right now there is a workable level of access and protection for consumers and there is a range of very effective measures to prevent or control unexpected phone calls.

We humbly and sincerely request that the TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (UNSOLICITED COMMUNICATIONS) BILL 2019 be rejected.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in person or by phone if you can make yourself available.

Yours sincerely

Joe Tooma

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AUSTRALIAN CERVICAL CANCER FOUNDATION

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