

Answer to Question taken on Notice by The Salvation Army, received Thursday 6 September 2012

Dear Committee Secretary,

Further to the question taken on notice in the Senate Community Affairs References Committee on Tuesday 4 September 2012, The Salvation Army provides the following response.

The Salvation Army supports the importance of enshrining independence of organisations operating in the charitable and NFP sector. The ability of organisations to act freely and autonomously without fear of retribution from government funding bodies is essential in the achievement of a ‘robust, vibrant, independent and innovative’ NFP sector.

To this end, The Salvation Army is strongly in support of the inclusion of a further clause within the ACNC Bill that reaffirms and strengthens this independence.

On reflection of how practically the NFP sector can be protected from gag clauses in the future, The Salvation Army recommends that consideration is given to amending the Consequential ACNC Bill to include an amendment to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 to at least limit Federal Government funding contracts from including such gag type clauses.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

John McIntosh
On behalf of The Salvation Army