



Australian Government

Not-for-Profit Reform Council

Dr Richard Grant
Acting Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation and References Committees
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Grant

I understand the Senate Economics Legislation and References Committee (the Committee) has requested information about the role and activities of the Not-for-Profit Reform Council (the Council).

The Council was appointed in December 2010 to provide advice to Government on a range of not-for-profit issues, including:

- implementing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC);
- tax reform;
- reducing red tape and streamlining funding arrangements; and
- implementing the National Compact: *working together*.

Membership of the Council is determined by the Minister for Social Inclusion and in addition to myself as Chair, current membership is:

Anne Robinson (Deputy Chair), Prolegis Lawyers
Glenn Appleyard, Australian Accounting Standards Board
Ken Baker, National Disability Services Limited
Sandy Blackburn-Wright, Westpac
Kasy Chambers, Anglicare Australia
David Crosbie, Community Council for Australia
Michael Coleman, Planet Ark Environmental Foundation
Cassandra Goldie, Australian Council of Social Service
Suzie Haslehurst, Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation
Evelyn O'Loughlin, Volunteering SA and NT
Frank Quinlan, Mental Health Council of Australia
Ron Edwards, Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation
Robert Fitzgerald AM (ex officio), ACNC Advisory Board

The Council meets up to four times per year face-to-face and has held other meetings via teleconference. In 2011, the Council met on 17 February (inaugural meeting), 18 May, 4 August and 9 November. To date we have issued a communiqué following each meeting to provide information to the not-for-profit sector and the broader public about matters considered by Council. I have attached the communiqués for this year's meetings for the Committee's reference.

The Council has convened a number of working groups to consider issues in depth. The current working groups are considering issues and providing advice in relation to the establishment of the ACNC as a national regulator, inconsistent regulation across Commonwealth and state jurisdictions applying to the not-for-profit sector, reducing red tape and streamlining funding arrangements, implementing the National Compact between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector, workforce issues and the sustainability of the not-for-profit sector, and the taxation treatment of the sector. These working groups include, and may co-opt other external experts in the relevant fields to inform their deliberations.

The Council works closely with the Office for the Not-for-Profit Sector, which also provides secretariat support for the Council.

I hope Committee members find this information valuable.

Yours sincerely

Linda Lavarch
Chair, Not-For-Profit Sector Reform Council