

23 November 2018

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Chair

Senate Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

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Dear Senator Bilyk,

Re: Response to Questions on Notice

Thank you for the opportunity to present evidence at the recent public hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century. We are writing to elaborate on that evidence, and to provide responses to questions we agreed to take on notice.

Examples of the Anglicare Australia Network conducting advocacy against its interests

Anglicare Australia's advocacy aims to improve the lives of those we serve. On that basis, we routinely advocate for positions that go against the interests of our services. Eliminating homelessness, for example, would put an end to many housing and homelessness services delivered across our Network. Reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island young people in care – another Anglicare Australia priority – would also reduce the funding available to our members.

In recent years, Anglicare Australia has taken a leading role in advocating for the rights of older people in aged care. We have called for personal control over home care funding and a more transparent complaints process for aged care. In 2018, we called for a commissioner to advocate on behalf of people in aged care and their families. This is advocacy in support of our mission, although each of these measures would go against the interests of the Anglicare Australia Network as a major provider of home care and residential aged care.

In 2018, we used our Rental Affordability Snapshot to call for reform of Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). At present, a large proportion of all CRA payments go directly to social housing providers. Anglicare Australia is an outlier in the sector because our advocacy goes beyond calling for an increase to CRA – a proposal which benefits providers – and calls for the payment to be restructured to benefit renters themselves.

At other times, our advocacy work has led us to relinquish funding opportunities. For example, our concerns about the employment services system have led our members to cease providing employment services because the policy settings are inconsistent with our mission. This is a major source of potential income that has been foregone. We have also supported funding Aboriginal-controlled organisations in mental health and out-of-home care, and have chosen to view these organisations as partners rather than competitors.

The role of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

At the hearing, Anglicare Australia was asked to reflect on the ACCC's position on the Australian Consumer Law (ACL). In its evidence to the Senate Select Committee and its recent submission to the review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC), the ACCC has opposed the proposed amendments to the ACL.

However, Anglicare Australia continues to endorse Justice Connect's position on amending the ACL. We draw the Committee's attention to Justice Connect's own response as part of the review of the ACNC:

"We respectfully disagree with several points made by the ACCC. It is our view that the ACL (and related legislation and multi-regulator framework) provides immediate opportunities to provide a vastly improved regulatory environment for fundraising activities; activities that directly support the sustainability of charities and other NFPs and can directly impact public trust and confidence in the sector..."

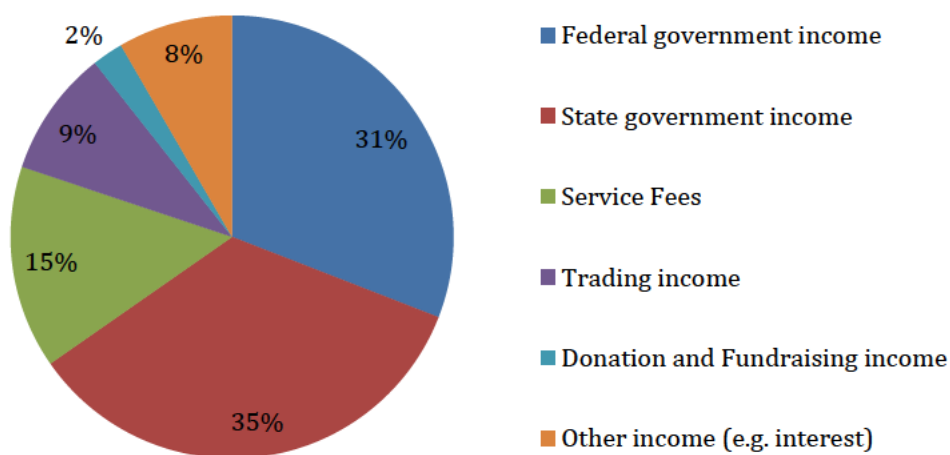
"[The] breadth and national consistency are strengths of the ACL over fundraising legislation bounded by state and territory borders with inconsistent and more restrictive definitional limits (eg, some of the regimes refer only to charitable purposes and others are far broader covering community purposes). There is no single "specialist regime" to replace – the existing state and ACT legislation (there is no fundraising legislation in the NT) does not provide a uniform (or even close to uniform) licensing, registration or financial reporting regime." ¹

Anglicare Australia supports Justice Connect's comments. We appreciate the ACCC's concerns about its limited interactions with the charity sector to date, and note that it would need additional funding if its role were to be expanded.

Funding sources and activities for the Anglicare Australia Network

Anglicare Australia has been asked to detail the funding sources for our Network and describe our total budget. Our Network has a joint budget of \$1.48 billion, a workforce of 18,594 staff and more than 11,000 volunteers. The Anglicare Australia Network has contributed to more than 50 service areas in the community, catering to specific or integrated needs of over one million people.

¹ Justice Connect (2018) *Supplementary Submission to the ACNC Review*. Available online: https://www.nfplaw.org.au/sites/default/files/media/JusticeConnectNFP_LawsupplementarySubmissionACNC_Review20April2018.pdf



The graph above shows the main income sources for the Anglicare Australia Network. 31 percent of Network funding comes from the federal government, 35 percent from state governments, 24 percent from service fees and trading income, and the remainder from other sources, such as donations.

We have based these responses on a review of the draft Hansard proof. Should the Committee wish to direct additional questions to Anglicare Australia, please don't hesitate to contact the Anglicare Australia office

Yours sincerely,

Kasj Chambers
Executive Director
Anglicare Australia