



SUBMISSION

to

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics

In response to the

Exposure Draft Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill

20 July 2012

Authorised on behalf of Community Employers WA by:

Chris Hall
Co Chair

Tony Pietropiccolo
Co Chair

email: economics.reps@aph.gov.au

Introduction

Community Employers WA (CEWA) is a registered Employer Organisation with the Industrial Relations Commission of Western Australia, and represents non-government, not-for-profit employers in the community services sector of Western Australia.

CEWA's primary objective has been to secure a 30% increase in government funding to non-government, not-for-profit community service organisations in Western Australia, to create the capacity to allow organisations to improve salaries and wages for staff so that they are fair and just and to ensure that vital community services remain viable. CEWA also seeks to improve the relationship between the community services sector and government.

CEWA is solely funded by its member organisations, which demonstrates the commitment of these organisations and the importance they place on CEWA's aims and objectives.

CEWA currently represents 115 community service organisations in Western Australia; its membership continues to grow, along with its increasing importance in representing the interests of community sector employers.

Exposure Draft Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill: Discussion Items

CEWA would like to express its position on some key elements of the Exposure Draft Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Bill.

Reduction in Red Tape

A key objective is the reduction of red tape and duplication with regards to compliance, accountability and transparency.

It has not to date, and remains, unclear that the Bill will achieve this. This is a potentially a significant failing, but remains pivotal to the success of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. This needs to be more prescriptive.

Regulation Dependent

The Bill provides little detail on some of the key issues for the sector and, to a large degree, relies on significant trust by the sector that the right thing will be done in regards to objectives and previous statements of intent.

Areas such as governance compliance standards and reporting are listed in the legislation, but details will not be known until it has been passed by law and regulation then determines how to enact the law. Heavy handed governance and reporting requirements, to be set out in future regulation, could have a huge impact on the liabilities of Boards and the compliance, and the resources associated with that, that need to met by not-for-profits.

Publicly-available Information

It is no clearer what organisational information will appear on the Charity Register. It is important that relevant confidentiality and privacy is maintained.

Regulatory Powers

The level of regulatory powers of the ACNC, such as procedural fairness and sanctions, are concerning and could lead to a misuse of law in dealing with organisations justly and fairly. It is also contrary to the concept of 'light touch' regulation.

Contact Details:

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Attachment 1 - Members as at 30 June 2012

Accordwest
Activ Foundation Inc
Advocacy South West Inc
Advocare
Albany Youth Support Association
Anglicare WA Inc
ARAFMI
Armadale Community Family Centre
Association for Services to Torture & Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)
Association for the Blind WA
Asthma Foundation WA Inc.
Australian Red Cross WA
Baptistcare
BJL Connecting Communities
Bluesky Community Group
Bunbury Pathways '92 Inc.
Burdekin – Youth in Action
Calvary Youth Services Mandurah Inc
Care Options
Centacare Employment and Training
Centacare Family Services
Centrecare Inc
Child Inclusive Learning and Development Australia Inc (CHILD Australia)
CLAN WA
Communicare
Community Housing Coalition of WA
Community Legal Centres Association (WA) Inc
Community Vision Inc
ConnectGroups
Continence Advisory Service of WA
Cyrenian House
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services Inc
Drug ARM WA Inc
Ethnic Communities Council of WA
Extra Edge Community Services
Financial Counsellors Association of WA Inc.
FPWA Sexual Health Service
Fremantle Multicultural Centre Inc
Good Samaritan Industries
Gosnells Women's Health Service
Headwest
Health Consumers Council (WA) Inc
Hills Community Support Group Inc.
Holyoake The Australian Institute For Alcohol & Drug Addiction Resolutions
Identity WA
Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre Inc
Kids Camps Inc
Koolkuna (The Eastern Region Domestic Violence Services Network Inc)
LAMP Inc
Landsdale Family Support Association Inc
Lifeline WA
Linkwest
Margaret River Community Resource Centre Inc
Meath Care Inc
Melville Cares Inc
MercyCare
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

Midland Joblink Inc.
MIFWA
Mission Australia
Mosaic Community Care Inc
Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia Inc
Ngala Family Resource Centre
Nulsen
Outcare (Inc)
Palmerston Association Inc
Parkerville Children Youth Care Inc
Pat Thomas Memorial Community House Inc.
Patricia Giles Centre
Peel and Rockingham Volunteer Resource Centres
Peel Community Living
People with Disabilities (WA)
Perth Home Care Services Inc
Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc
Richmond Fellowship
Rocky Bay Inc
Ruah Community Services
Secca
SEMYA
Serenity Lodge
Silver Chain
South Coastal Women's Health Services
Southcare Inc
Southside Care
St Patrick's Community Support Centre
St Vincent de Paul Society
Swan City Youth Service
Swan Emergency Accommodation
Technology Assisting Disability WA
Tenants Advice Service
The Gowrie (WA) Inc
The Salvation Army
The Spiers Centre Inc
The WA Aids Council
Therapy Focus Inc
Uniting Aid
UnitingCare West
Valued Independent People Inc
Vincentcare
Volunteer Task Force Inc.
WA No Interest Loans Inc.
WANADA
Wanslea Family Services Inc
We Can Community Services
Westcare Inc
Western Australian Association for Mental Health
Western Australian Council of Social Service Inc
Women's Council for DFV Services (WA)
Women's Health Resource Centre
Women's Health Services
Women's Healthworks
YMCA Perth
Youth Focus
Youth Futures WA