

27 August 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Mater Foundation (Mater Hospitals Appeal Ltd) is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Brisbane established to provide fundraising support and community linkage to Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Ltd and the Mater Medical Research Institute.

The Mater Foundation has an identified supporter and donor constituency of over 700,000 people, business and community organisations and serves the Mater Complex in Brisbane which has over 500,000 patients each year and over 6,500 staff and volunteers.

As a non-profit organisation specifically focussed on fundraising and philanthropy the Mater Foundation welcomes the Inquiry into the Disclosure regimes for Charities and not-for-profit organisations and also welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics.

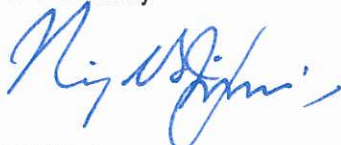
The Mater Foundation is also an organisational member of the Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA) and has twenty-six individual members of FIA on staff. In addition, the Chairman of FIA, Ms Lesley Ray, is a senior manager (Director of Fundraising) with the Mater Foundation and the Mater Foundation Executive Director, Mr Nigel Harris, is a current FIA Director, Past Chairman and current Chair of the FIA Ethics Committee.

To this end, the Mater Foundation specifically endorses the submission made by the Fundraising Institute Australia to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics as representative and reflective of the position of the Mater Foundation.

The Mater Foundation commends the research and consultation undertaken by the Fundraising Institute Australia in preparation of their submission and supports the document as being highly reflective of the views and needs of individuals, charities and non-profit organisations actively involved in fundraising practice.

The Mater Foundation supports the Fundraising Institute Australia recommendation of a commission of inquiry being established to further develop the initiatives explored in this Senate Inquiry, in particular 'model' fundraising legislation, the shape of a national regulator and the elements of a compact to underpin the values and funding of this sector.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Harris
Executive Director

Exceptional People. Exceptional Care.

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