



29th September 2008

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

Submitted by email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS

**INQUIRY INTO THE DISCLOSURE REGIMES FOR CHARITIES AND
NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS**

Having carefully read the background paper re the above inquiry and attended Fundraising Institute Australia discussion groups on this matter I wish to provide the following submission.

As the President of a community-based incorporated cricket club in Victoria I am extremely concerned at the level of reporting that may be forced upon small clubs should dramatic changes be made to the disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Our Club has less than 100 members and turns over less than \$25,000 per annum. I would suggest that we would be forced to pay a professional adviser to ensure that we did not breach any disclosure requirements as such skills may not be available to us within our own ranks. As a responsible voluntary administrator I would also want the assurance that any advice we acted on had the over-riding cover of professional indemnity insurance.

Whilst recognising that exemptions within the current framework have been criticised I believe that some exemptions must be factored into any new framework.

May I suggest that any exempt organisation must be incorporated and would not be registered for GST as the level of organisation financial turnover primarily determines this? This could still be achieved within a national harmonisation framework.

I support the Fundraising Institute Australia recommendation that a Commission of Inquiry be established to further develop the initiatives explored in this Senate Inquiry.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Burnett
President