A snapshot . . .

The overall Charity sector in Australia is large and diverse

Charities have combined total income over $103 billion

The largest 5% of charities receive 80% of the sector’s income

Income sources
- $54.5 billion is from other income and revenue
- $42 billion is from government grants
- $6.8 billion is from other donations and bequests

* Donations contribute to: 13% of total income for large charities, 23% for medium charities and 32% for small charities.

Large Charities (over $1m revenue) employ 93% of the total staff, while smaller Charities (under $1m) employ 63% of the total volunteers.

Charities pursue purpose in a wide variety of ways

Word frequencies in descriptions of how charities’ activities and outcomes helped achieve their purpose

Australian charities operate throughout Australia and overseas

17% are involved overseas

85% operate within only one state or territory
13% operate in several states or nationally

64% are based in urban areas
31% are based in inner or outer regional areas
4% are based in remote or very remote areas

Around 40% of charities have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status

30% of small charities have DGR status
51% of medium charities have DGR status
66% of large charities have DGR status

Charities employ over 1 million staff and 1.8 million volunteers

Large Charities (over $1m revenue) employ 93% of the total staff, while smaller Charities (under $1m) employ 63% of the total volunteers

Charities by Sector
- Culture and recreation (6%)
- Development and housing (18%)
- Education and research (18%)
- Environment (3%)
- Health (9%)
- International (1%)
- Law, advocacy and politics (1%)
- Other/Unknown (11%)
- Philanthropy (6%)
- Religion (30%)
- Social services (7%)

Volunteers

Medium & Small

Large Charities

AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES REPORT 2014
Introduction

This is a summary of the size and shape of Australian Charities in pictures. Each page explores a different dimension including income and expenses, sector, size, geography, people, age and entity type and status.

Throughout this Summary there are links to an interactive presentation of the same data. When you are online you can explore the data in greater detail, for example, by “filtering” by Charities based in one state or sector or by zooming in on a map.

The data online will also be updated from time to time as more Charity reports are received so it might be more up-to-date than the information in this Summary.

See also . . .

Visit australiancharities.acnc.gov.au to:

• Download the complete Australian Charities Report 2014 (130 pages) – a comprehensive analysis of the Charity Sector.
• Download Sector Summaries in a similar format to this summary, but for Sectors like Health and Education and Research.
• Interact with “data cubes” for the whole Charity Sector or for one or two Sectors – you can view and customise all the graphics in this Summary.
• Read the latest news about new data and reports; for example, reports on Charities assisting people with Disabilities, Charities working internationally, and Red Tape as they are completed.

What’s in this data?

This summary includes all Australian Charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC):

• that had completed their AIS by 31 July 2015;
• excluding Charities who have approval from the ACNC for their data to be withheld*;
• including Charities who have reported as a “Group”. Each Group appears in this data as one Charity.

Not all Charities are required to complete financial information – they may be exempt, for example, if they are a Basic Religious Charity. These Charities do generally report other kinds of information and are included where relevant.

More detail about the data and what’s included can be found on this page of the microsite.

*The total number of charities and total income in this Summary is slightly less than in the main Australian Charities Report 2014 as a result.
Overview

Over half of Charities are in the Religion, Education & Research or Health Sectors; the significant majority of Charities are medium or small.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Charities*</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
<th>Total Staff</th>
<th>Estimated Volunteers</th>
<th>With DGR Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37,242</td>
<td>$101.9b</td>
<td>1,045,676</td>
<td>1,806,495</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charities by Sector

- Religion: 10,813 (29.9%)
- Education and Research: 6,620 (17.8%)
- Health: 3,102 (8.3%)
- Development and Housing: 2,700 (7.2%)
- Social Services: 2,501 (6.7%)
- Philanthropic, intermediaries and voluntarism promotion: 2,197 (5.9%)
- Culture & Recreation: 2,102 (5.6%)
- Environment: 956 (2.6%)
- Law, Advocacy & Politics: 513 (1.4%)
- International: 295 (0.8%)
- Other/Unknown: 5,443 (14.8%)

Number of Charities 37,242

- 130 (0.3%)
- 1,236 (3.3%)
- 4,490 (12.1%)
- 5,207 (14.1%)
- 7,293 (19.6%)
- 9,031 (24.2%)
- 9,795 (26.3%)
- No Financial Report: 0.0%

Total Income $101.9b

- XXL (> $100m): 50.5%
- XL (> $10m): 31.3%
- L (> $1m): 14.4%
- M (> $250,000): 2.7%
- S (> $50,000): 0.9%
- XS (< $50,000): 0.2%
- No Financial Report: 0.0%

The largest 4% of reporting Charities receive 80% of the income.

Charities range in size from very small (which we’ve defined as less than $50,000 income a year) to very, very large (over $100m income a year). We’ve created six segments based on reported total income. These segments are used in many of the following pages and in the online interactive presentation.

More detail about the size of Australia’s Charities can be found in section 2 of the Australian Charities Report 2014.

*The total number of charities and total income here is slightly less than in the main Australian Charities Report 2014 because charities with withheld data are not included in this summary.
Where are Australia’s Charities?
Australian Charities operate throughout Australia and overseas

Interactive Map
Each circle or dot on the map is a Charity; the size of the circle represents income and the colour represents the Sector. The map shows where Charities are based - their head office - so Charities that operate in your area may not be shown there.
Size and Sector

The largest Sectors by Total Income are Education & Research, and Health

**Income by Sector**
(n = 37,242; Total Income $101.9bn)
The size of the circles represents the total income of Charities in each Sector.

**Charities by Sector**
The size of the circles represents the total income of each Charity.

Example: There are 130 XXL Charities with income over $100m pa; the majority of these are in the Education & Research and Health industries.

**XXL Charities by Sector**
(n = 130; Total Income = $51.5bn)

Click here to explore online
You can filter these graphics by Charity size, sector and more. Each circle in the right-hand image is one charity, online you can hover over the circles to see a summary of specific Charity information.
Overall, charities’ net income is around 8% of total income; however, the “margin” for small charities is less and extra-small charities tend to have below zero net income.
Assets

The majority of Charity assets are in the Education & Research and Health Sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Total Assets ($)</th>
<th>XS (&lt;= $50,000)</th>
<th>S (&gt; $50,000)</th>
<th>M (&gt; $250,000)</th>
<th>L (&gt; $1m)</th>
<th>XL (&gt; $10m)</th>
<th>XXL (&gt; $100m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$172,904</td>
<td>$680,462</td>
<td>$1,721,483</td>
<td>$7,988,559</td>
<td>$54,160,435</td>
<td>$747,382,693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets ($bn) by Sector: Total $168.0bn**

- Education and Research
- Health
- Development and Housing
- Other/Unknown
- Religion
- Philanthropic, Intermediaries and vo.
- Social Services
- Culture & Recreation
- Environment
- Law, Advocacy & Politics
- International

**“Asset Years”**
(Net Assets/Total Expenses %)

On average larger Charities tend to have net assets worth just over one year of expenses; this increases the smaller the Charity.
People

Charities employ over 1 million staff and over 1.8 million volunteers.

### Average Total Staff (incl full-time, part-time and casual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>XS (≤ $50,000)</th>
<th>S (&gt; $50,000)</th>
<th>M (&gt; $250,000)</th>
<th>L (&gt; $1m)</th>
<th>XL (&gt; $10m)</th>
<th>XXL (&gt; $100m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>2,903</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Volunteers (estimate*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>XS (≤ $50,000)</th>
<th>S (&gt; $50,000)</th>
<th>M (&gt; $250,000)</th>
<th>L (&gt; $1m)</th>
<th>XL (&gt; $10m)</th>
<th>XXL (&gt; $100m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>136.0</td>
<td>484.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Staff 1,045,676**

- **345,408 (33.0%)**
- **301,940 (28.9%)**
- **169,619 (16.2%)**
- **40,965 (3.9%)**
- **14,321 (1.4%)**
- **4,967 (0.5%)**

**Total Volunteers (estimate*) 1,806,495**

- **185,665 (10.3%)**
- **283,915 (15.7%)**
- **287,475 (15.9%)**
- **339,380 (18.8%)**
- **168,105 (9.3%)**
- **63,035 (3.5%)**

*Charities reported volunteer numbers in "bands" eg 51 to 100; this estimate uses a mid-point for each band.*
Age
On average, Charities have been operating for 33 years; 6% are over 100 years old

The illustration above makes it look like there's been rapid growth in the number of Charities established each year, but this can be misleading. The dataset includes only those Charities that reported for the 2014 year, so Charities that were (for example) established in 1950 but have ceased operations since are not included.
The pie charts illustrate the main entity types and charity types by charity size.

In general, **larger Charities** are more likely to be Companies or Incorporated Associations, be Public Benevolent Institutions or Charitable Institutions, and are more likely to have DGR status (70% for “Large” Charities up to 90% for XXL).

**Smaller Charities** are more likely to be Unincorporated Associations, to be Charitable Institutions (88%) and NOT to have DGR status (78%).
The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission

The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) is Australia’s national charity regulator. The ACNC has been set up to achieve the following objects:

- maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector through increased accountability and transparency
- support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative not-for-profit sector
- promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector.

Annual Information Statement and Reports

Registered charities are required to provide the ACNC with an Annual Information Statement comprising up-to-date corporate governance and financial data.

The ACNC commissions analysis and reporting of the data for distribution to the sector and the broader Australian community, closing the feedback loop for charities required to provide data and providing insights into Australia’s charities.

The analysis and reporting of the 2014 ACNC Annual Information Statement data is by the Centre for Social Impact in partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Visit www.australiancharities.acnc.gov.au to download a pdf of the full report or to explore the data presented in this snapshot. The data online may be more up-to-date than the information in this snapshot and you can also “filter” the information you see by sector, geography, charity size and more.

If you’re interested in a specific analysis question or report relating to a sub-sector you might be able to produce it from the data presented online; if not, you can also download data either from the online presentation or from the Registry itself, or contact CSI for an estimate of the cost to customise something for you.

The Centre for Social Impact - www.csi.edu.au

The Centre for Social Impact (CSI) is a collaboration between the University of New South Wales, The University of Western Australia and Swinburne University of Technology. CSI’s mission is to create beneficial social impact in Australia through teaching, research, measurement and the promotion of public debate. We aim to consider and promote best practice and thought leadership in the context of a systems thinking approach to social purpose.

The Social Policy Research Centre - www.sprc.unsw.edu.au

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at the University of New South Wales was founded in 1980 as Australia’s first national research centre dedicated to shaping awareness of social welfare issues. The Centre is dedicated to making a positive impact through independent and leading research that explores the key social issues of poverty, inequality, wellbeing and justice.