



NICK XENOPHON
Independent Senator for South Australia
AUSTRALIAN SENATE

Our ref: NC-A/SKM

Ms Susan Pascoe AM
Commissioner
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
GPO Box 5108
Melbourne VIC 3001

URGENT BY EMAIL: susan.pascoe@acnc.gov.au

Dear Commissioner

RE: ACNC registration of organisations associated with Scientology

I write to request that the registration of the Church of Scientology (and all entities related to Scientology) as a charity be reviewed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

I understand the Church of Scientology is registered by the ACNC as a charity with the purpose of 'advancing religion'. The Church of Scientology operates in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

According to the ACNC's website there are 14 organisations that contain the word 'scientology' in their names that are, or have been, registered as charities. Of those 14 organisations, two have had their registration revoked and one has had its registration voluntarily revoked.

You may be aware that a documentary aired this week in the United States, called 'Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief', contained new information, including highly disturbing allegations in relation to the conduct of the Church of Scientology in North America. These allegations included that the Church of Scientology ('COS') tortures its members, that it has stolen US Government documents and requires current members to cut all ties with friends and family members who have left the COS.

The Church of Scientology is a global organisation with common rules that apply to all of its branches. I am deeply concerned about the potentially wide-reaching and harmful influence this organisation may have on its Australian branches. Based on Scientology's aims and objectives, how it operates and the treatment of its members.

I therefore request that a review is conducted into the charitable status of the Church of Scientology and any associated entities in Australia as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Xenophon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NICK XENOPHON

2 / 4 / 2015