



# AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES SUMMARY REPORT 2015

# Welcome

... to a summary of Australian Charities in 2015

## Introduction

This report summarises the size and shape of charities in Australia in pictures. Each page explores a different dimension including geography, sector & activity, finances, sustainability, change, people, age and entity type.

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.

### What's new?

The Australian Charities Report 2015 builds on reports in 2013 and 2014. This year **for the first time the Australian Charities Report includes:**

- estimates of the size and shape **whole of the charity sector** (see below for details) - data for around 51,000 charities is included. Previous year *Australian Charity Reports* have reported a subset of the charity sector data (based on charities which reported by a certain date).
- **estimates of change** from one year to the next.
- a closer look at indicators of charity **sustainability**.

### See also . . .

Visit [australiancharities.acnc.gov.au](http://australiancharities.acnc.gov.au) to:

- Download the complete **Australian Charities Report 2015** (100 pages) – a comprehensive analysis of the Charity Sector.
- Interact with “**datacubes**” for the whole Charity Sector or for one or two Sectors – you can view and customise all the graphics in this summary report.
- Download **specific interest reports**; for example, reports on aged care charities and smaller charities are due this year, adding to reports on charities working with people with disabilities, charities working internationally and charity red tape that were completed last year.

### What's in this data?

This summary report includes all charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) at the end of each charity's 2015 financial year:

- excluding charities who met the criteria for "double default" (non-reporters for two years)
- excluding charities who report to the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) - about 800 charities
- including charities who reported as a “Group”. Each group appears in this report as one “charity”. In some cases a Group of related charities reports as one entity; if each charity within a group is counted individually a total of 51,679 charities are represented in this data.

The most recent data available for each charity has been used. Some data has been estimated for charities who have not reported financial data. More detail about the data and methodology can be found on [this page of the microsite](#).

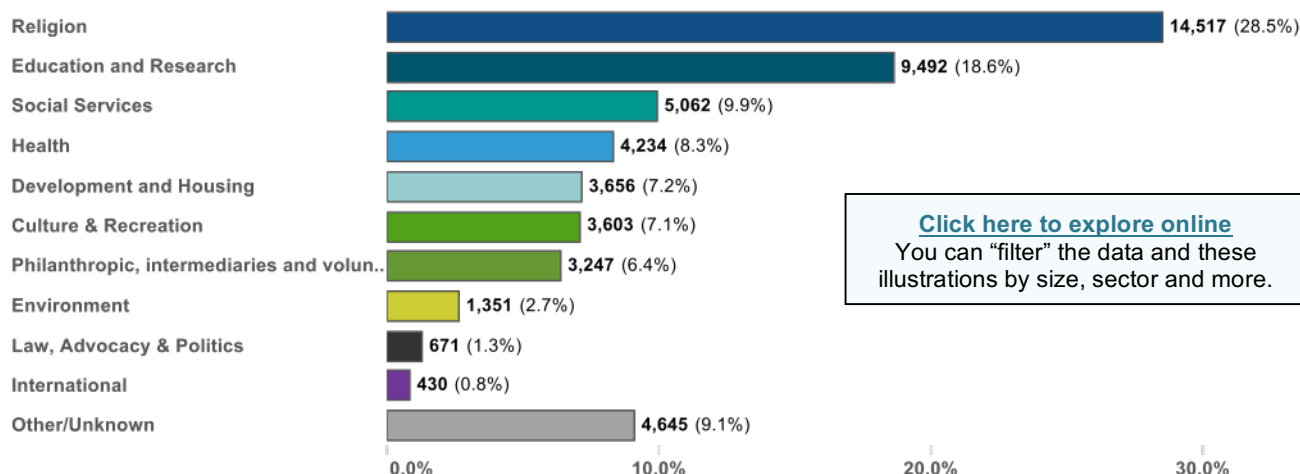


## Overview

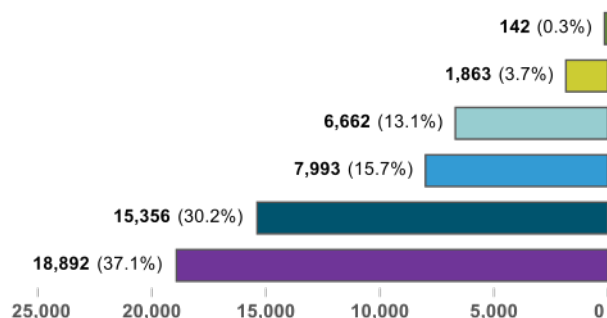
Over half of Charities are in the Religion, Education & Research or Social Service Sectors; the significant majority (83%) of Charities are medium or small

Number of Charities*	Total Income	Total Staff	Estimated Volunteers	With DGR Status
50,908	\$134.5b	1,222,676	2,966,157	38.4%

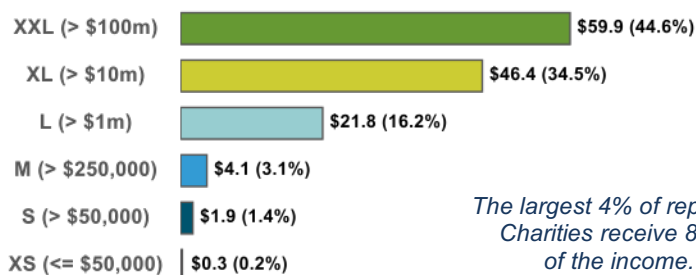
### Charities by Sector



### Number of Charities 50,908



### Total Income \$134.5b



*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 2015.



# Where are Australia's Charities?

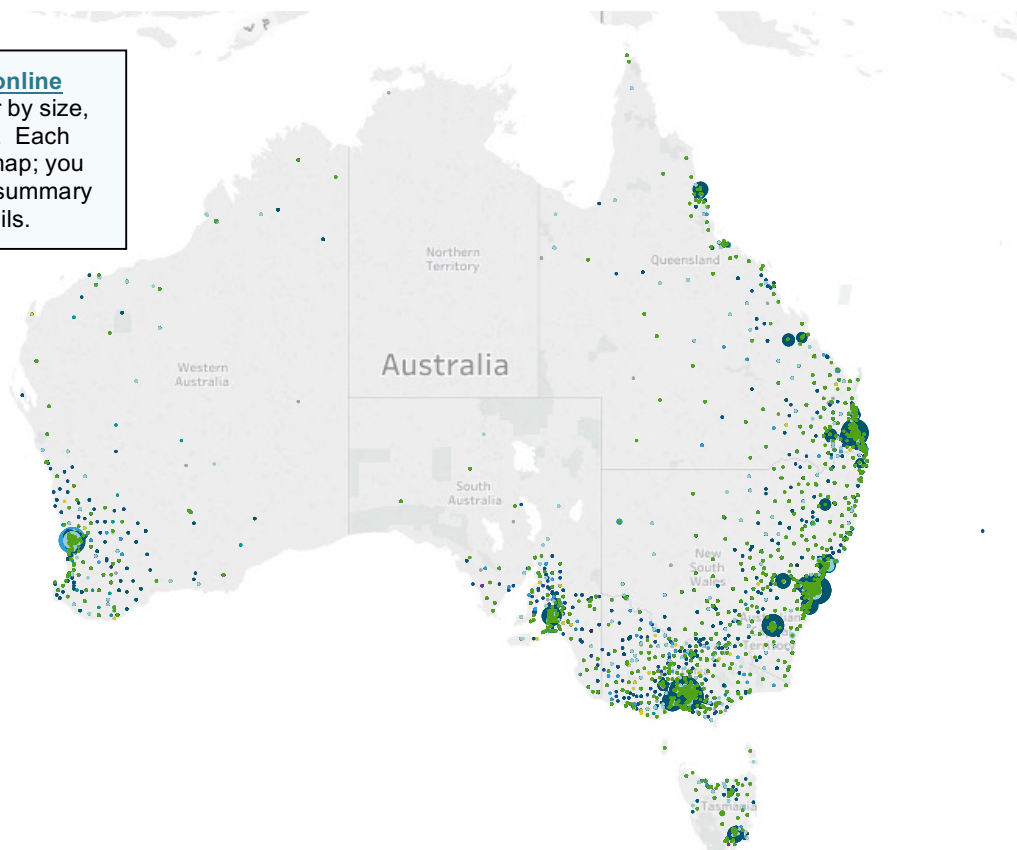
Australian Charities operate throughout Australia and overseas

## Interactive Map

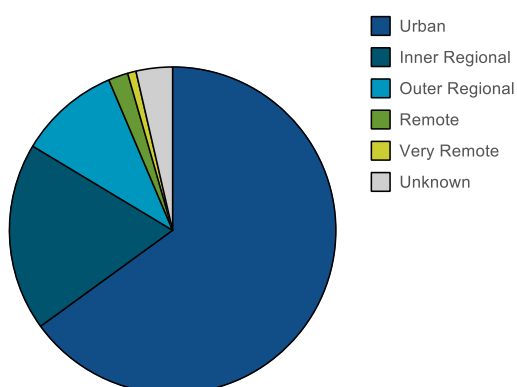
Each circle or dot on the map is a Charity; the size of the circle represents income and the colour represents the Sector. The map shows where Charities are based - their head office - so Charities that operate in your area may not be shown there.

[Click here to explore online](#)

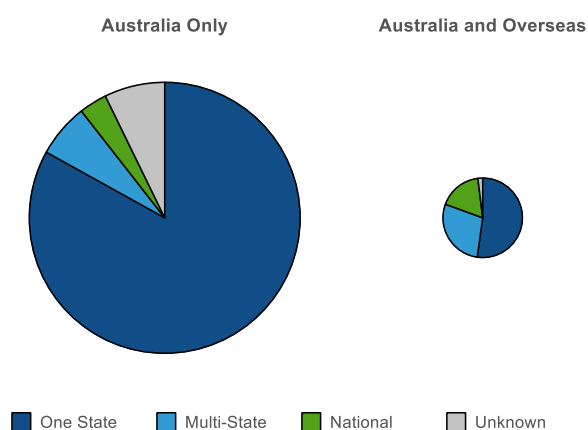
You can zoom in and filter by size, sector/activity and more. Each charity is a circle on the map; you can "hover over" to see a summary of that Charity's details.



Based in Urban, Regional or Remote Area:



Operates in:



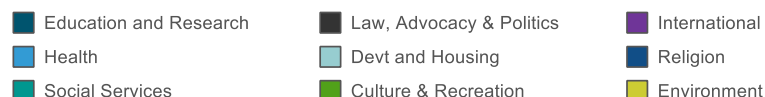
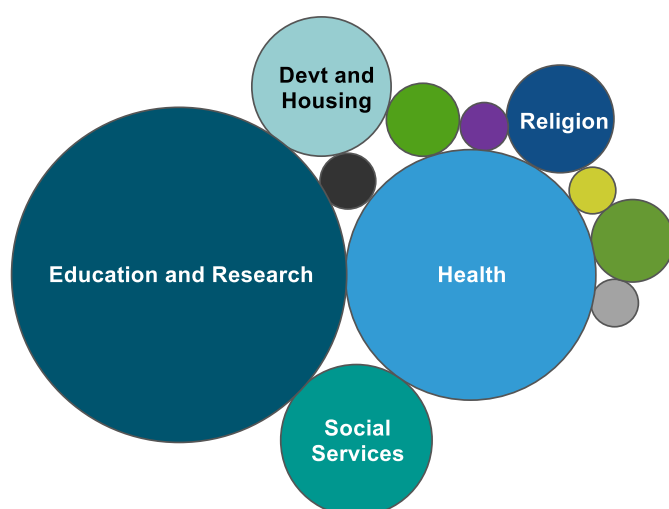


## Size and Sector

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

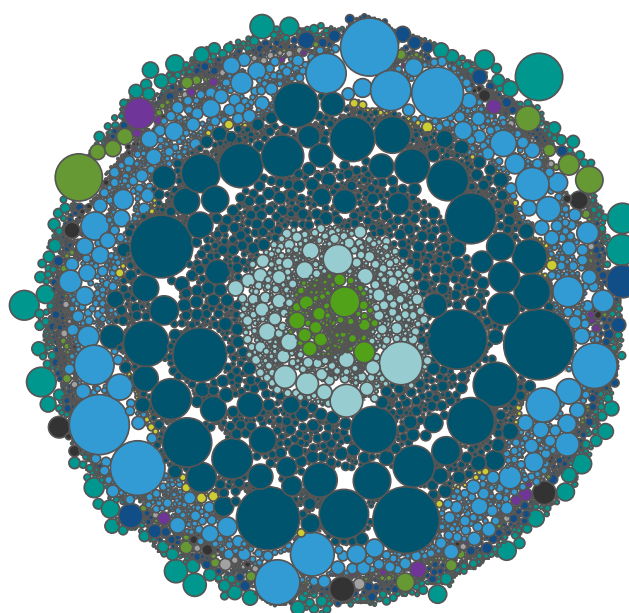
### Income by Sector (n = 50,908; Total Income \$134.5bn)

The size of the circles represents the total income of Charities in each Sector.



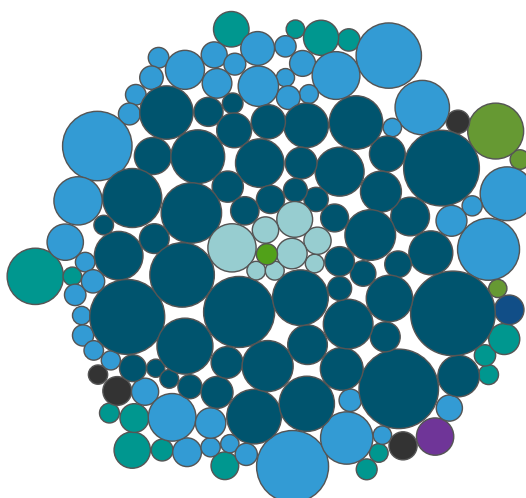
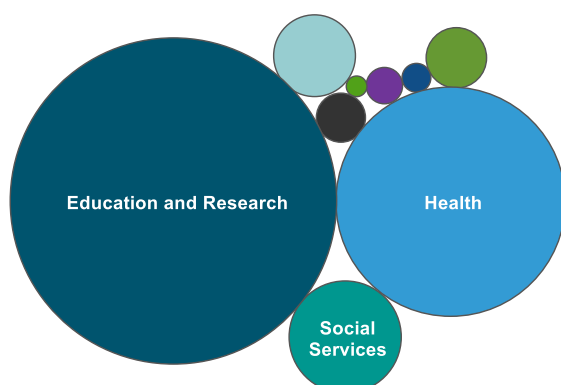
### Charities by Sector

The size of the circles represents the total income of each Charity.



Example: There are 142 “XXL” Charities with income over \$100m pa; the majority of these are in the Education & Research and Health industries:

### XXL Charities by Sector (n = 142; Total Income = \$60.0bn)



[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 the Charity's information.

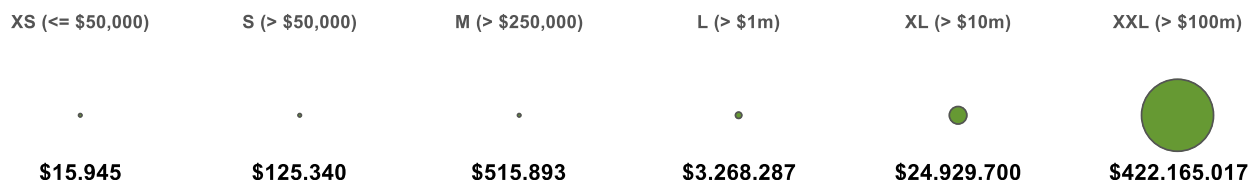


# Income and Expenses

Charities of all sizes receive around half or more of their income from sources other than government grants and donations

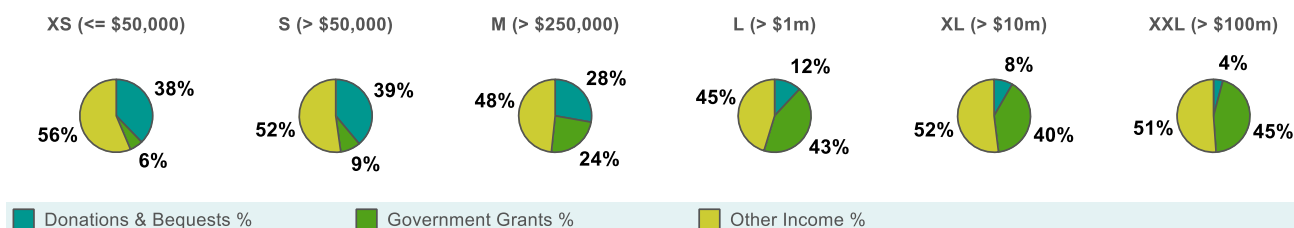
## Average Total Income

All charities: \$2.64M (n = 50,908)



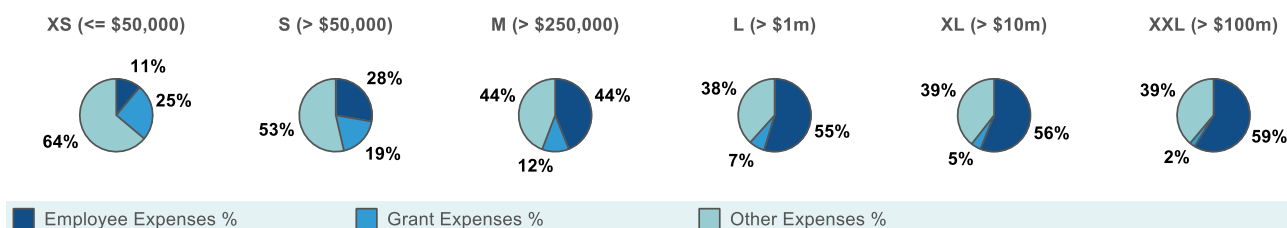
## Where did Charities get their Income?

On average, smaller Charities rely more on donations and bequests and less on government grants. Use the filters on the right to explore whether this is true for all Activities.



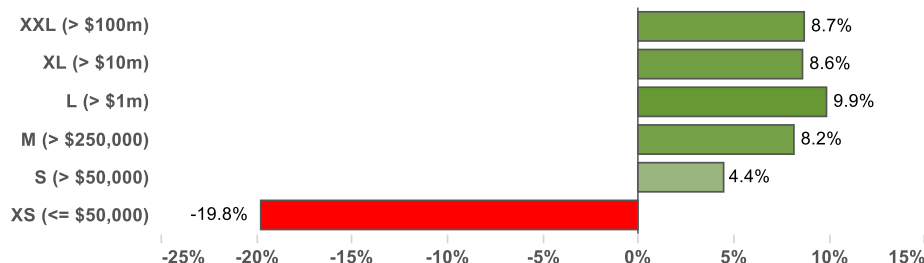
## How did Charities use their Funds?

On average the larger the charity the greater the proportion spent on employee expenses and less on grants made to others.



## Net Income Ratio (Net Income/Total Income %)

All charities: 8.7% (n = 50,908)



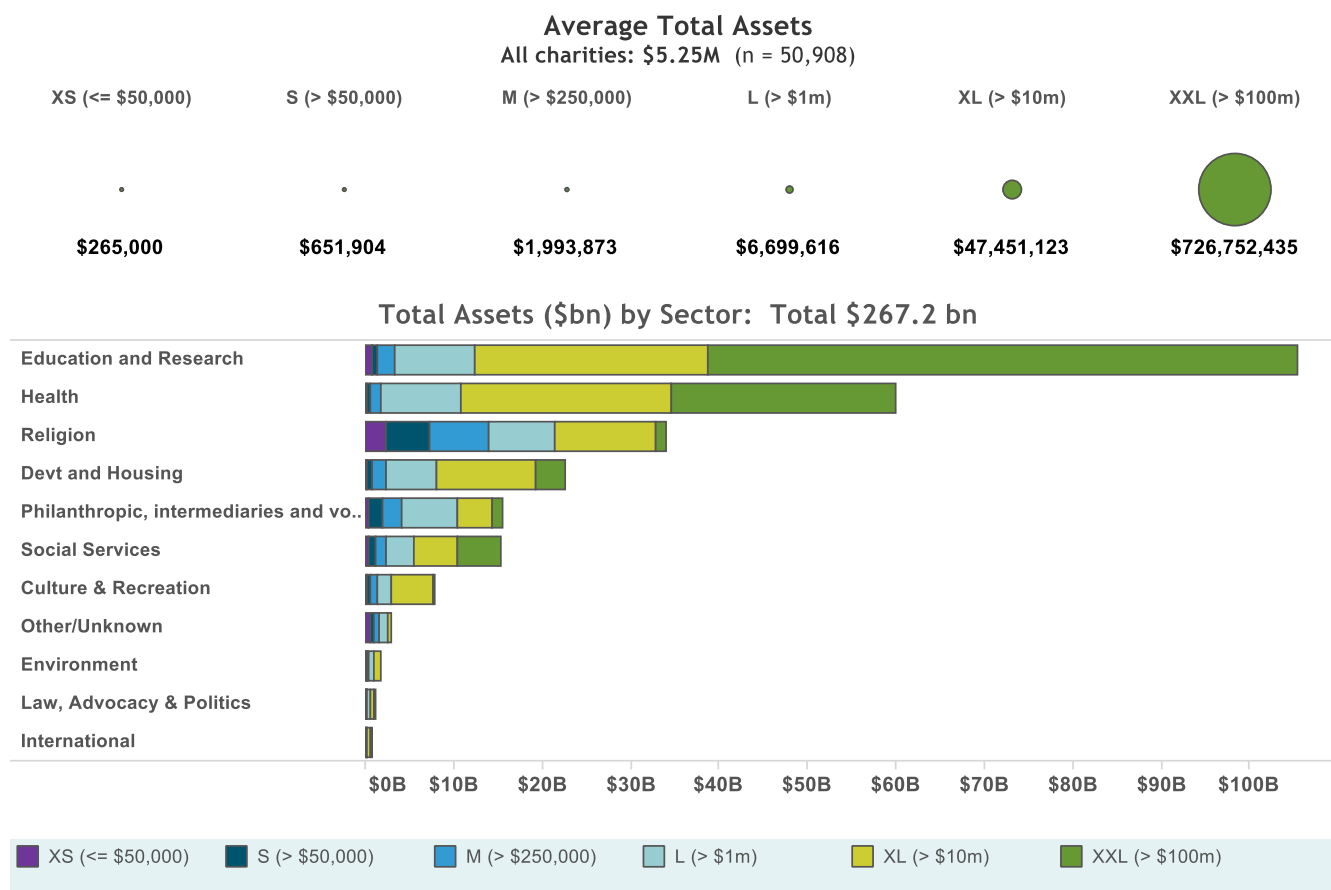
Overall, Charities' net income is around 8-9% of total income; however, the "margin" for small Charities is less and extra-small Charities have below zero net income on average.

Note that the result for XS charities may look misleading - around 60% of XS charities have a positive Net Income Ratio, and the average is significantly below zero because some with negative ratios have larger negative Net Income. See the main report (link at right) for more detail.

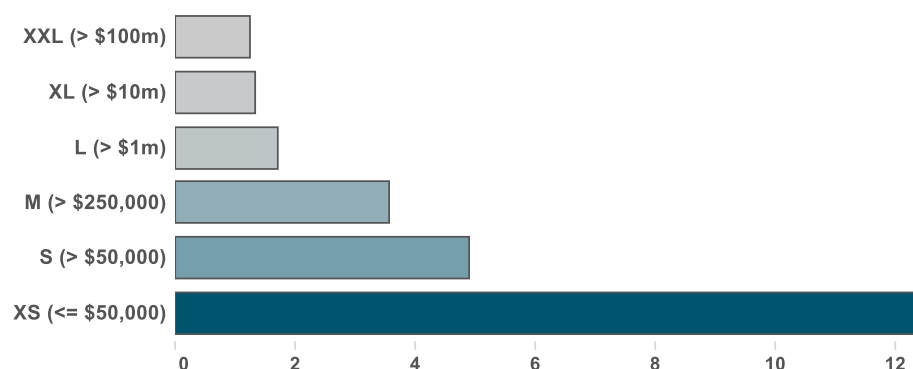


# Assets

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



**"Asset Years" (Net Assets/Total Expenses %)**  
All charities: 1.52



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

See the Main Report for more detail about use of ratios like this one - and in particular, the chapter on Financial Status of Charities.



# Sustainability

Indicators of Charity sustainability vary widely across sectors and sizes

## Long-Term Sustainability (n = 31,972)

Growth in Net Assets (%) vs "Asset Years" (Net Assets/Total Expenses)

Asset Growth	"Asset Years"			
	0 - 6 months	6 - 18 months	18 months - 5 years	>5 years
> 20%	10.7%	5.0%	3.9%	2.7%
10% - 20%	3.4%	3.1%	2.5%	1.8%
0 - 10%	5.3%	5.9%	7.1%	15.3%
< 0	13.0%	6.9%	6.0%	7.3%

**Asset Growth** (Net Income/Net Assets) represents the rate at which charities grew or shrunk net assets. To effectively maintain their size, Charities' Asset Growth would be around CPI (eg 2-3% pa).

**"Asset Years"** (Net Assets/Total Expenses) estimates how many years' expenses could be funded with no additional income.

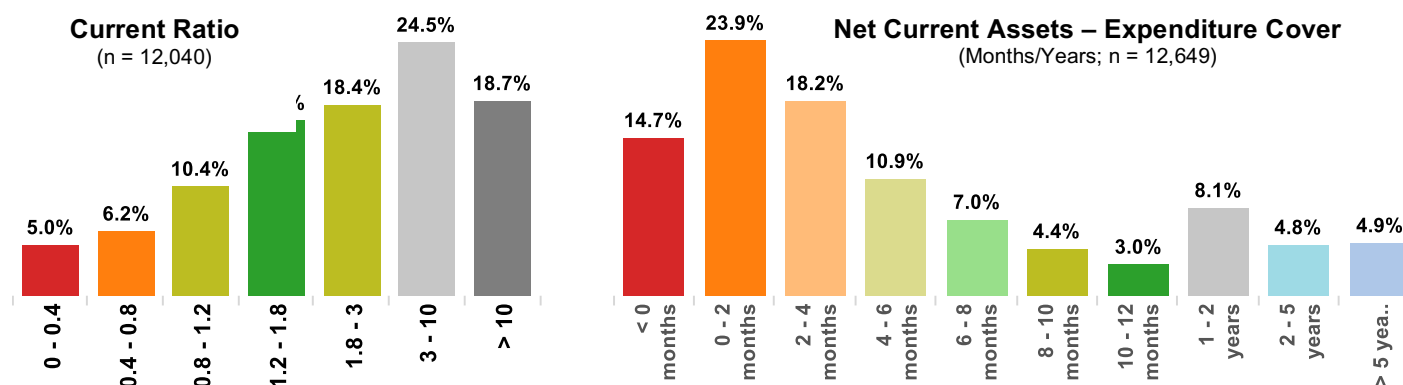
Looking at these two ratios in combination can give an overall view of sustainability; for example, a Charity that has low Asset Years (0-6 months) and is shrinking assets (Asset Growth below 0) may be in risky position; at the top right of the table asset-rich charities are also growing assets very rapidly.

**To read more about these measures (and some important caveats) click here.**

## Short-Term Sustainability (Medium and Large charities only)

Medium and Large charities report "Current Assets" and "Current Liabilities" - these are more "liquid" (short-term) items like cash in the bank or amounts owed to suppliers.

The **Current Ratio** (left) is Current Assets/Current Liabilities; if it is more than one then short term assets are greater than short-term liabilities. **Net Current Assets** is Current Assets - Current Liabilities. At right this value is compared with annual expenses, giving an indication of how many months or years expenses can be paid with Net Current Assets.





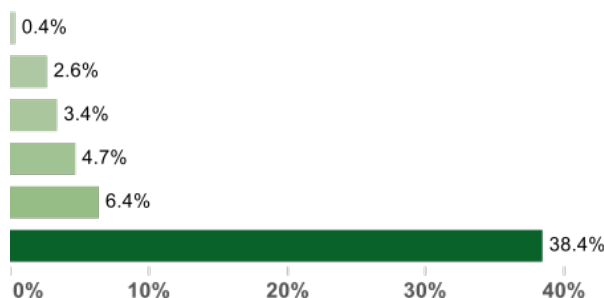
## Change 2014 to 2015

On average, charity income grew 2% between 2014 and 2015.  
55% of charities' income grew, 42% shrank and 3% stayed the same.

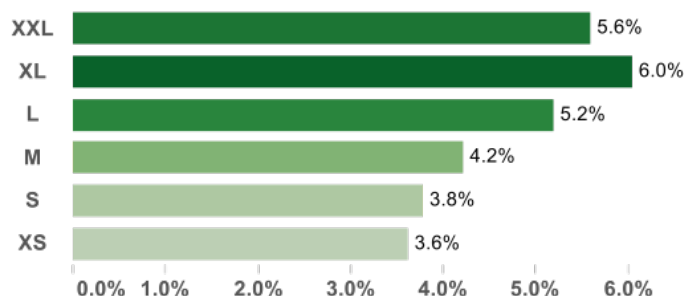
Change in Total Income 2014 - 2015 (n = 29,675)

	< -25%	-25% to -10%	-10% - 0%	0%	0 - 10%	10% - 25%	> 25%
XXL	8.3%	6.5%	16.7%		56.5%	8.3%	3.7%
XL	7.1%	6.7%	16.5%	5.3%	40.4%	18.1%	5.9%
L	10.3%	8.6%	15.9%	2.2%	31.7%	19.0%	12.4%
M	14.5%	11.5%	15.8%	1.9%	23.7%	16.6%	15.9%
S	18.0%	11.8%	15.2%	4.3%	16.4%	13.4%	20.9%
XS	23.9%	10.2%	10.3%	2.8%	7.4%	10.4%	35.0%
Grand Total	17.2%	10.4%	14.0%	3.0%	19.0%	14.3%	22.0%

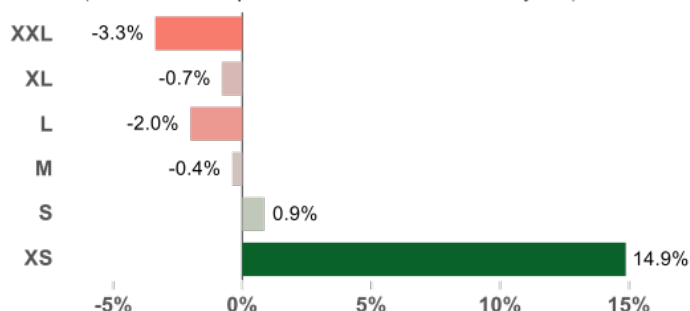
Change in Total Income (%) - 2014 to 2015  
(Charities who reported financial details in both years)



Change in Total Assets (%) - 2014 to 2015  
(Charities who reported financial details in both years)



Change in Net Income Ratio (%) - 2014 to 2015  
(Charities who reported financial details in both years)



This page summarises change in key financial data for charities who reported financial data in both 2014 and 2015 financial years. The "income size" used (XS, S etc) is based on the charities' income in the 2014 year.

Results *may* look misleading because the data excludes charities that reported in the 2014 year but then *ceased to operate*; for example, there may be a number of smaller charities for whom this was the case. As a result this data may show charities that grew more than charities that shrank.

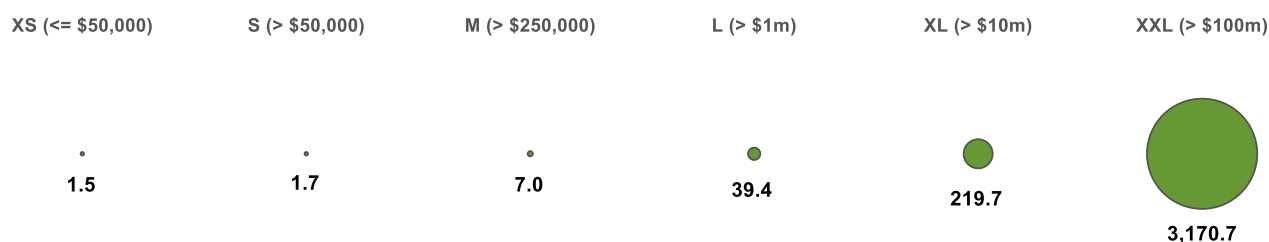


# People

Charities employ over 1.2 million staff and nearly 3 million volunteers

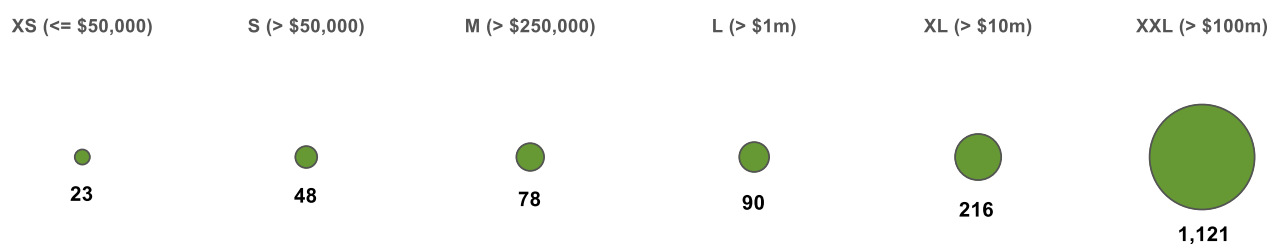
## Average Total Staff (incl full-time, part-time and casual)

All charities: 24.0 (n = 50,908)

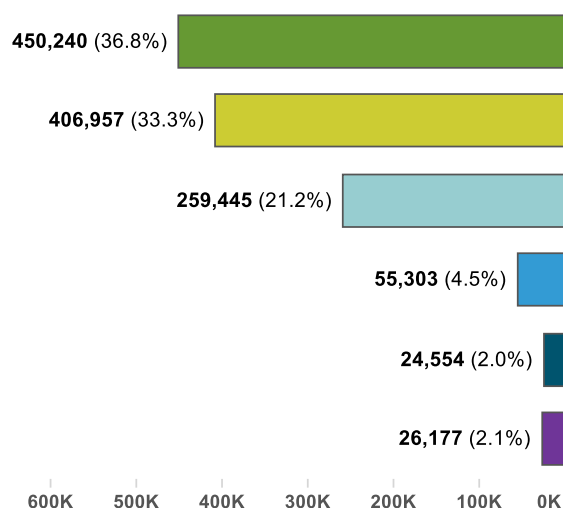


## Average Volunteers

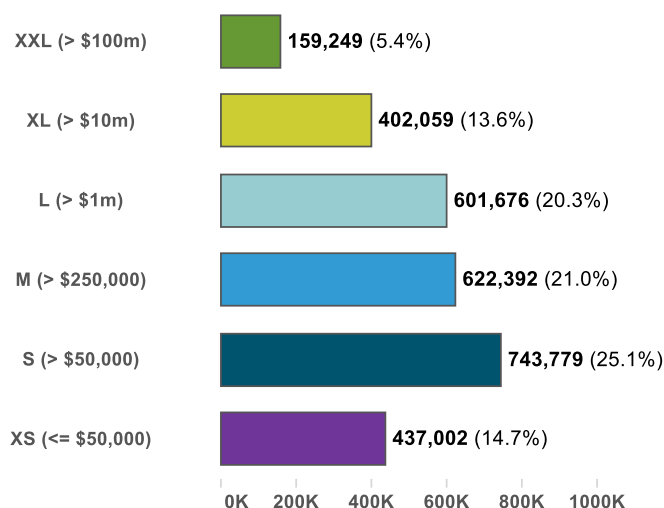
All charities: 58.3



## Total Staff 1,222,676



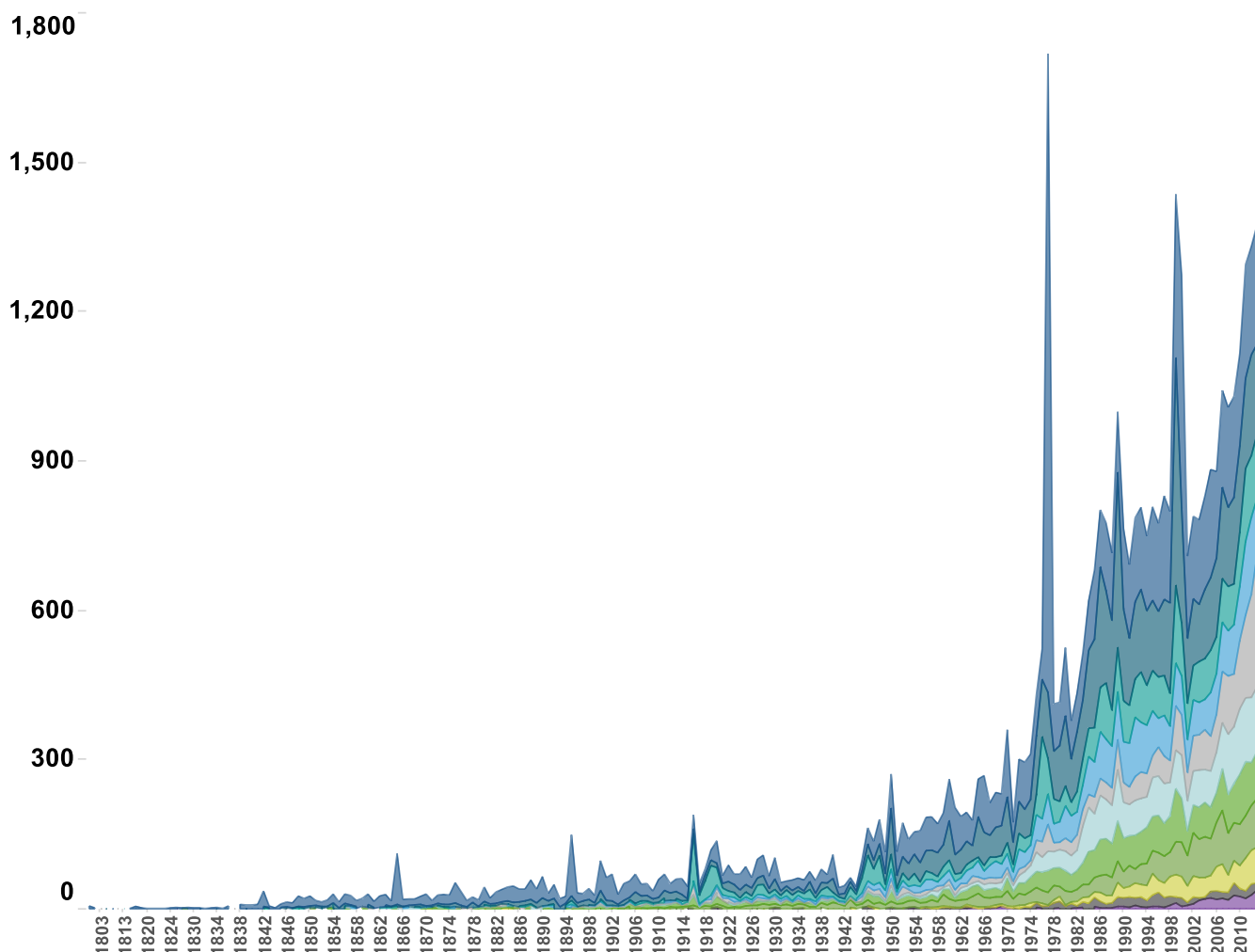
## Total Volunteers 2,966,157



## Age

On average, Charities have been operating for 32 years; 6% are over 100 years old

Number of Charities Established by Year



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 were registered at the end of the 2015 year, so Charities that were (for example) established in 1950 but have ceased operations since are not included.

[Click here to explore online](#)

You can filter by size, sector and more, and on this page you can enter a keyword and include only charities with that word in their name.



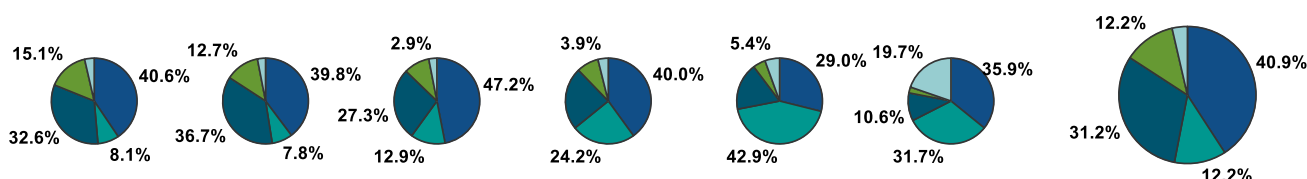
## Entity Type & Status

Entity type and status vary significantly from very small to very large Charities

### What kind of entity are Charities?

All Charities

XS (<= \$50,000) S (> \$50,000) M (> \$250,000) L (> \$1m) XL (> \$10m) XXL (> \$100m)

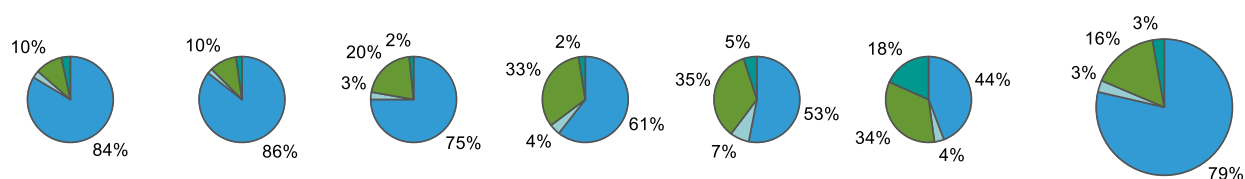


■ Incorporated  
■ Unincorporated  
■ Public Company  
■ Trusts  
■ Other/unknown

### What are the main Charity Types?

All Charities

XS (<= \$50,000) S (> \$50,000) M (> \$250,000) L (> \$1m) XL (> \$10m) XXL (> \$100m)

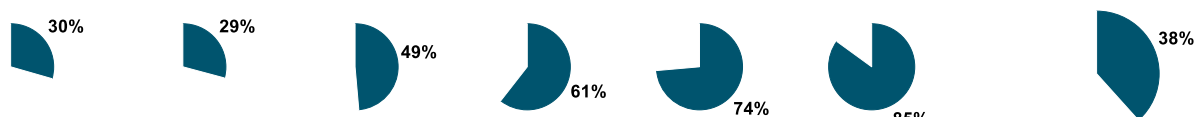


**Charity Type**  
■ Charity  
■ Public Benevolent Institution  
■ Health Promotion Charity  
■ Other/Unknown

### Do Charities have DGR status?

All Charities

XS (<= \$50,000) S (> \$50,000) M (> \$250,000) L (> \$1m) XL (> \$10m) XXL (> \$100m)



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 (61% for "Large" Charities up to 85% for XXL).

**Smaller Charities** are more likely to be Unincorporated Associations; to be Charitable Institutions (84%) and NOT to have DGR status (70%).







## 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 2015 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

