

ACNC Sector Forum – Thursday 19th November 2020

Agenda Item 2: Bushfire Response 2019-20, A Review of Three Australian Charities

Hon Dr Gary Johns, ACNC Commissioner, provided an overview on the review and report released.

- ACNC reviewed three charities for the purpose of ensuring charities that received significant donations were responding appropriately.
- The report is intended to provide insights to the public on charity operations and challenges.
- ACNC plans to conduct more reviews early next year, however these will not be made public.

Agenda Item 3: Reporting & Red Tape Reduction Key Updates:

Mel Yates, ACNC Director Corporate Services and Reporting Red Tape Reduction, provided updates on Charity Marketplace, Best Practice Financial Disclosures and Red Tape Reduction:

Charity Marketplace

- To date, over 3,000 2020 Annual Information Statements have been received.
- From feedback received the following changes have been made:
 - Added the option of 'online' as a location in the AIS.
 - Added case studies in the AIS guidance to assist charities with adding their programs (examples are church, school and grant making).
 - It is important to categorise programs thoughtfully in the 2020 AIS.
- Any members interested in testing phase 2 of the Charity Marketplace, involving the development of the register search function should contact Rachel.Smith@acnc.gov.au.

Best Practice Financial disclosures

- Following feedback received, the ACNC has revised the position on:
 - Overall materiality: disclosure would be made where total Government Revenue is 10% or more of Total Revenue
 - Additional materiality: disclosure would be made of only the top 10 funding departments, with others listed in an Appendix Several other changes relating to the use of notes in the financial report and passing on funding to other charities
- We expect to release the guidance before the end of the year.

Red Tape Reduction

VICTORIA

- From 1 September 2020, a new arrangement between the ACNC and Consumer Affairs Victoria means charities will only be required to submit annual information statements to the ACNC. They will have to notify CAV of their intention to fundraise.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- The ACNC and Consumer Protection have entered into a streamlined reporting arrangement from the 2020 Annual Information Statement, whereby associations only need to report to the ACNC using the Annual Information Statement. The ACNC will require some additional information that we will share with Consumer Protection.

Agenda Item 4: ATO Update – JobKeeper Payment

The Sector Forum received a presentation and update from Jennifer Moltisanti, Assistant Commissioner, Not-for-profit Centre and Government, ATO, on the JobKeeper scheme.

- As of 27 September 2020, 12000 ACNC registered charities have received JobKeeper payments totalling about \$5.8 billion.
- Information on JobKeeper eligibility is available on the ATO [website](#).

Agenda Item 5: NFP Private Sector Financial Reporting Framework

Fridrich Housa, Deputy Technical Director, AASB presented on the NFP Private Sector Financial Reporting Framework project. The AASB welcomes feedback on the design of the framework.

Agenda Item 6: Treasury Update:

Jacky Rowbotham, Principal Adviser, Treasury provided updates on:

Requiring DGRs to Register as Charities

- Draft bill and explanatory memorandum are open for public consultation on the Treasury [website](#). Submissions are due by 4 December 2020.
- Under the Bill Non-Government Item 1 DGRs will be required to be registered as a charity. Approximately 1,000 entities will be affected by the reform.

Fundraising Reforms

- NSW is leading reform on the harmonisation of charitable fundraising laws. The proposal is for a cross border recognition model for charitable fundraisers, whereby a registered charity would be deemed to be authorised to fundraise in each participating jurisdiction.
- The proposal is to be considered by the Council on Federal Financial Relations. This Council is made up of Commonwealth, State and Territory treasurers.

Agenda Item 7: Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Anna Longley, ACNC Assistant Commissioner sought feedback from the group on proposed changes to the ACNC Stakeholder Engagement Framework.

- The ACNC is in the process of finalising the Stakeholder Engagement Framework and encourage feedback to Rachel.Smith@acnc.gov.au by 24 December.

Agenda Item 8: ACNC online learning modules for responsible persons

Rachel Smith, ACNC Director Advice Services, Education and Public Affairs sought the views of members on the value of the ACNC developing online learning to compliment current education and guidance materials. The group provided positive feedback and indicated several topics that would be beneficial to develop online modules on, including the Governance Standards, External Conduct Standards and identifying conflicts of interest.

- Rachel encouraged members to contact her at Rachel.Smith@acnc.gov.au with further feedback.

Agenda Item 9: Round Table discussion

Members outlined the current environment for the sector. Matters discussed included:

- Sustainability, unpredictability and uncertainty remain important concerns.
- Funding pressures include the end of JobKeeper payments in March.
- Working internationally has challenges presently, as does the application of the External Conduct Standards.
- COVID has brought new ways of working and highlighted the need for RPs to be aware of legal and financial obligations.