



Australian Government

Australian  
**Charities** and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission

19 April 2021

The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Treasury  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Charities  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Our reference: CAS-843216-H1Z3Q1

Dear The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh

**Re: The Church of Scientology**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 April 2021.

As you acknowledged in your letter, we are restricted by the secrecy provisions in our legislation as to what we can say about any registered charity. However, I will provide as much information as I can within those confines and relay generally the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) approach to concerns and regulation.

Please be assured that the Australian Charity sector is well regulated. Registered charities must report to the ACNC and meet the ACNC Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards, where applicable. Compliance with the Governance Standards is a requirement for registration as a charity. Compliance with the External Conduct Standards is a requirement for charities operating outside of Australia.

The ACNC takes all concerns raised about registered charities very seriously, no matter how that concern is raised, and investigates charities where necessary.

The ACNC approaches regulation responsively and makes deliberative and flexible choices about the regulatory strategies applied, depending on the specific situation.

We use the regulatory pyramid, outlined in our [Regulatory Approach Statement](#), by which most of our effort is focused on education, and escalated to more interventionist sanctions proportionate to risk and the responsiveness of charities when problems arise.

Where a charity is found to have breached the Governance Standards or External Conduct Standards, the ACNC will take swift and appropriate action in accordance with our Regulatory Approach Statement.





To ensure there is transparency for the public, when an investigation leads to enforcement action, including the revocation of charity registration, this information is published on the Charity Register and our [Compliance decisions webpage](#).

As one of our key objects is to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the Australian not-for-profit sector, we take all concerns about charities seriously and work hard to ensure that the Australian public can have full confidence in the charities registered with the ACNC.

Sincerely,

**The Hon Dr Gary Johns**  
Commissioner  
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission