Senate Estimates November 2022

Topic: Registration



Key points at a glance

- As of 30 September 2022, there were 60,218 registered charities
- **687** new charities were registered between 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022
- 176 charities were voluntarily revoked between 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022
- **92%** of registration application cases were completed within 15 days of all the information being received.
- 97% of registration applicants are satisfied with the service they have received from the Registration Directorate.

In 2021-22:

- 5621 applications were received, 3152 charities were registered,
 544 applications were refused or withdrawn, 2319 were closed as incomplete
- 83% of new charity registrations were completed within agreed timeframes (annual target 90%)
- o 91% of respondents were satisfied with their registration experience

Registrations

1 July 2022 - 30 September 2022

- 1375 applications received (including 461 re-applications)
- 687 charities registered
- 137 applications were either refused or withdrawn
- 559 were closed as incomplete

1 July 2021 – 31 July 2022

- 5621 applications received (including 1846 re-applications)
- 3152 charities registered
- 544 applications were either refused or withdrawn
- 2319 were closed as incomplete

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Year	Applications received (including reapplications)	New charities registered (includes re-registrations)	Refused or withdra wn	Closed as incomplete
1 July 2022- 30 September 2022	1375	687	137	559
1 July 2021- 30 June 2022	5621	3152	544	2319

Voluntary revocations

• 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022

245 charities applied to be voluntarily revoked

Objections

• 1 July 2022 - 30 September 2022

1 objection regarding a decision not to register as a charity or subtype were received.

Service standards

- 1 July 2022- 30 September 2022
 - 92% of registration application cases were completed within 15 days of all the information being received.
 - 97% of registration applicants are satisfied with the service they have received from the Registration Directorate.

Withheld data

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- A charity can apply to have some or all their information withheld from the Charity Register.
- For each piece of information that a charity wants withheld, they need to choose from a list of reasons drawn from the legislation and explain why that reason applies to the charity's situation.
- The Commissioner's Policy Statement on Withholding Information and the ACNC Act makes it clear that publication is in the public interest with very few exceptions.
- Information may be withheld from the Charity Register if it:
 - is commercially sensitive and publication could cause detriment to the charity or a person
 - o is inaccurate, or likely to mislead or confuse the public
 - is offensive
 - o endangers safety,
- In addition, under the ACNC Regulation, certain information with respect to private ancillary funds and information in an AIS or AFR that discloses the identity of donors, may be withheld.

Register Integrity

- Currently undertaking integrity work supporting Object 1 under the ACNC Act: to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector and the ACNC Register
- Integrity of Register is critical to good regulation of the sector and to promote transparency for example when people wish to donate to a charity
- Two areas of integrity work:
 - Administrative which encompasses all the charities on the ACNC Register, (for example ensuring governing documents are up to date, correct number of responsible people listed as managing the charity).
 - Review of charities on the Register for charitable entitlement
- We produced a report providing high level detail of the outcomes.