Senate Estimates November 2022

Topic: AIS Reporting



Key points at a glance

The 2022 online AIS was launched on 10 August 2022.

As at 30 September 2022 the ACNC had received:

- 926 (2%) of 2022 AIS submissions charities are required to submit their AIS six months after the due date. The ACNC defers the due date to 31 January for charities with a 30 June year end.
- Lodgment rates similar to previous years.
- 46,565 (86%) of 2021 AIS submissions
- In 2021-22, 68% of Annual Information Statements were submitted on time (target 75%)
- AIS Extensions for disasters: The Commissioner can grant extensions to AIS due dates
- When disasters are declared, the ACNC can grant extensions to charities in disaster-affected areas.
- When this happens, we use our communications channels to let charities know and the reporting due date will be updated on their Register record and in the Charity Portal where they submit their Annual Information Statement.

2022 Annual Information Statement (AIS)

Contact: Mel Yates 0401 469 109

- The 2022 online and group versions were made available on 10 August 2022.
- o The paper version of the 2022 AIS was made available on 17 October 2022.
- The bulk version is being finalised we expect to publish this by the end of November 2022.
- For charities and ACNC approved reporting groups with a reporting period ending 30 June 2022, the Commissioner has extended the due date from 31 December 2022 to 31 January 2023.

1 of 3

Senate Estimates November 2022

Topic: AIS Reporting



- Changes to the 2022 AIS include:
 - updated charity size thresholds

	2021 AIS	2022 AIS
Small	<\$250k	<\$500k
Medium	\$250k<\$1mil	\$500<\$3mil
Large	=>\$1mil	=>\$3mil

- o collection of key management personnel remuneration for large charities
- an option for small charities using cash accounting to provide a description of their assets and liabilities
- an additional question to implement streamlined reporting for NSW fundraisers

We published new/updated guidance on these topics.

2021 Annual Information Statement (AIS)

- At 30 September 2022, 46,565 2021 AISs have been submitted to the ACNC using all four versions of the 2021 AIS (online, bulk, group and paper).
- We granted various deferrals:
 - for charities and ACNC approved reporting groups with a reporting period ending 30 June 2021, the Commissioner extended the due date from 31 December 2021 to 31 January 2022
 - a blanket extension was granted to charities who had an address for service or registered charity business address that was identified as being affected by the Queensland floods in January 2022
 - another blanket extension was granted to charities who had an address for service or registered charity business address that was identified as being affected by the Queensland/NSW floods in March 2022.

Focus areas in 2022

 In June 2022, the ACNC published a report on our analysis of 250 annual financial reports (AFRs) from 2020 as well as our focus areas for 2022. 28% of AFRs included a disclosure note regarding the impacts of COVID-19. Most common disclosure issues identified in 2019 were also present in the 2020 review, including insufficient or no disclosure of:

Senate Estimates November 2022



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- whether the entity is a for-profit or not-for-profit for financial reporting purposes
- related party transactions, including compensation for key management personnel for charities preparing general purpose financial statements (GPFS).
- By 30 June 2023 the ACNC will review at least 250 charity annual financial reports from the 2021 reporting period, with a focus on:
 - ensuring compliance with ACNC reporting requirements
 - confirming that the financial information provided in the AIS matches the information in the AFR
 - monitoring the disclosures of government revenue in AFRs with reference to the recommendations in our best practice guide to disclosing government revenue.
 - Typically we publish the report on our website and highlight learnings in guidance and news pieces to assist charities with future financial reporting.

Transitional reporting arrangement extended

- The ACNC accepts reporting that meets the requirements of other regulators to avoid imposing duplicated reporting requirements.
- These arrangements are in place up to the 2023-24 financial year (the maximum timeframe allowed under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment (Reporting) Regulations 2020.