



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission

U3A Asia Pacific International Conference

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Presented by
David Locke
Assistant Commissioner



Objects





The ACNC's role

- Commissioner is a statutory office-holder who administers the ACNC Act and Charities Act
- A proportionate and light touch regulator
- Provide education and advice so charities understand their regulatory obligations
- Ensure public trust and confidence in the sector is maintained



The ACNC's functions

- Registration of charities
- Reporting and compliance
- ACNC Charity Register
- Charity Passport (data sharing across government)
- Advice, guidance and education, research and policy.

Charity Sector

- 56,500 charities

Key findings:

- \$100 billion in income p.a.
- 919,000 employees - 8% Australia's workforce
- 2 million volunteers
- 70% of charities are small (revenue of \$250k or less)
- Religion by the far the most common activity (25%), followed by education (6%) and grant making (5%)





U3A Registered Charities

- There are approximately 50 Universities of the Third Age (U3A) registered with the ACNC
- Predominately these are based in Victoria and New South Wales, with,
- 4 in South Australia, 3 in Queensland, 1 in ACT and 1 in Western Australia
- Generally U3A are registered under the charitable purpose of advancing education or advancing social or public welfare



The ACNC Charity Register

- The ACNC Charity Register is the first free, searchable, database of Australia's registered charities.
- The ACNC Charity Register has information about 56,600 registered charities, including:
 - 70,000 Annual Information Statements (2013 and 2014)
 - 30,000 governing documents
 - 13,000 financial reports
- The ACNC has added 6,000 new registered charities to the Charity Register, and removed a similar amount (those that are no longer operating or are not meeting their obligations).



Using the ACNC Charity Register

The ACNC Charity Register has been viewed over half a million times. The ACNC Charity Register has many search options.

Quick Search **Advanced Search** Search Tips FAQ Download Charity Data

Search the register by charity

Name	<input type="text"/>
Charity ABN	<input type="text"/>
Town/Suburb	<input type="text"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
States of operation	(Any) <input type="text"/>
Countries of operation	(Any) <input type="text"/>
Beneficiaries	(Any) <input type="text"/>
Charity Entity Sub-type	(Any) <input type="text"/>
Registration Status	(Any) <input type="text"/>
Date Registered	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> and <input type="text"/>

Find



ACNC's Compliance Approach

- The ACNC believes that almost all charities want to do the right thing and will self-correct where there is a regulatory failure.
- In first two years, the ACNC has aimed to increase awareness of obligations and build understanding.
- However the ACNC acts swiftly and firmly where:
 - vulnerable people or significant charity assets are at risk
 - there is evidence of serious mismanagement or misappropriation
 - there is a serious or deliberate breach of the ACNC Act.



Raising concerns

Members of the public raise concerns when a charity is:

- Losing significant amounts of money
- Harming beneficiaries
- A 'sham' or has illegal or improper purposes
- Providing private benefit
- Being poorly managed or governed
- Involved in criminal activity
- A threat to national security
- Otherwise breaching the ACNC Act, damaging public trust and confidence



Concerns about charities



1,307

concerns were raised
with the ACNC –
that's 12 per week!



786 concerns
were resolved by
the ACNC Advice
Services team

The ACNC receives 12 concerns per week.



The ACNC's compliance powers



10 charities
revoked



1 warning



1 direction



1 enforceable
undertaking

The ACNC has used its compliance powers over 100 times. The majority of these are for the purpose of gathering information.



Governance is a key compliance issue

Nearly three quarters of substantiated concerns were in relation to breaches of the Governance Standards.





Top 5 areas of concern noted by the ACNC

1. Record keeping
2. Ensuring not-for-profit nature
(Governance Standard 1)
3. Accountability to members
(Governance Standard 2)
4. Managing financial affairs
(Governance Standard 5)
5. Care and diligence and acting in good faith
(Governance Standard 5)



Governance for good and support



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