



## **MEDIA RELEASE – EMBARGOED AND NOT FOR USE PRIOR TO WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017**

**Over 100 charities band together demanding Australia’s fundraising regulations are fixed by the Federal Government, highlighting current regulations work actively against a massive sector that now employs over 1.1 million Australians and has over \$134 billion in annual revenue.**

**Community Council for Australia (CCA) Chair Tim Costello says many charities now ignore the current funding regulations because they are too confusing, too complex and highly ineffective. CCA estimates less than 10,000 out of Australia’s 50,000 charities even comply with current rules. Tim Costello says millions of dollars are being wasted in lost productivity because of the almighty mess.**

Over 100 major charities have joined together to call on the Federal Government to fix Australia’s fundraising regulations – which they say are “an almighty mess” and are directly leading to tens of millions of dollars in lost productivity being wasted in the charity sector annually.

Tim Costello – the Chair of Community Council for Australia – is helping to spearhead the call for the change. He says Australia’s charity fundraising regulations are completely out of date and work actively against Australia’s massive charity sector.

Community Council for Australia (CCA) highlights the charity sector now employs a massive 1.1 million Australians with over \$134 billion in annual revenue and \$11 billion alone in individual giving.

Tim Costello says bluntly put, many charities now ignore the current rules because they are simply too confusing, too complex and highly ineffective.

He estimates that less than 10,000 out of 50,000 charities even comply with the current rules. He highlights changes would save the States and Territories running their own compliance branches.

Tim Costello says the sector has been asking the Government to fix fundraising in Australia for 20 years. He says that it seems that whilst cutting red tape is essential for business, the Government has not prioritised cutting red tape for charity.

Signatories demanding fundraising reform include The RSPCA; The Smith Family, World Vision, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS); CPA Australia; Australian Institute of Company Directors; Philanthropy Australia and Community Council for Australia. Organisations behind the call include Law Council of Australia; Mission Australia; Oxfam Australia; SANE Australia; Save the Children and a massive list of other charities.

An open letter will be delivered to Government on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

Tim Costello said, “Charities want to do the right thing but the rules work against them. It is more than time to fix this. A key point is that it can be done easily **at no cost**. Federal, State and Territory Governments need to provide charities with one nationally consistent modern and fit for purpose fundraising regime as part of the current review of Australian consumer law.”

David Crosbie – the CEO of Community Council for Australia – said, “Charities across Australia are completely frustrated with Governments not acting to remove red tape and duplication that is costing hundreds of millions of dollars in lost productivity. **Charities have had enough**. When it comes to freeing up charities to do their work, responsible Ministers fall into the arms of ill-informed bureaucratic advisors. They wave more forms in our faces. It’s laughable. Fundraising regulations are a classic example of feral bureaucracy. They are a dog’s breakfast of regulations costing hours of staff time in wasted compliance activity.”

Tim Costello said, “There have been numerous independent enquiries all asking for change yet we seem to be told this issue is not important enough. It is just not good enough. Our charities deserve better.”

“The charities of Australia support and enable so many aspects of our lives. They work in education, the arts, health, emergency services, the environment, employment, housing, health and so many other areas. They are crucial to Australia’s productivity and Australia’s well-being.”

“We need action now so that our organisations and the donors who support us can actually operate under a twenty-first century nationally consistent and fit for purpose regulatory regime. We are calling on Governments to fix the fundraising mess so we can get on with what we do best – which is building flourishing communities.”

#### **Media enquiries to Ross Woodward on 03 9769 6488**

#### **Signatories of the Joint Statement on Fundraising Reform:**

- Justice Connect
- Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)
- Governance Institute of Australia
- CPA Australia
- Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)
- Philanthropy Australia
- Community Council for Australia (CCA)

#### **Supporters of the campaign include:**

- AEG OGDEN
- AICD NFP Chairs’ Forum
- Academy of Football Australia
- Add-Ministry Inc
- Alola Australia Limited
- ArtSound FM
- Artist's for Kids' Culture
- Altona Bowling Club

- Arts Law Centre of Australia
- Australian Arts Events Foundation
- Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Community Philanthropy
- Australian Council for International Development (AFCID)
- Australian Spirit Journeys
- Australian Women's Health Network
- Australian Specialist Cheesemakers' Association
- Baby in Mind
- Ballet without Borders
- BayWest Bicycle Users Group
- Bear Cottage Children's Hospice
- Bonnie Support Services Ltd
- Bonny Bayne Consulting
- Bridgid Cowling
- Bruce Christie
- Catherine Sullivan Centre, Strathfield
- Casey Life Assembly of God
- CBM Australia
- Centre for Social Impact
- Collective Shout
- Community Broadcasting Foundation
- Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
- Community Information & Support Victoria
- Community Legal Centres Queensland
- Company Matters
- Cumulus Rising
- Consumer Action Law Centre
- Concerned Tatong Citizens
- Council of Arts & Cultural Education & Development
- Cobaw Community Health
- Deloitte
- Diabetes Research Foundation WA
- Diabetes Victoria
- Deeper Movement
- Domestic Violence Australia
- Drug Policy Australia
- Elizabeth Stubbs
- Engineers Without Borders Australia
- EPIC Assist
- Epworth Healthcare
- Everydayhero
- FamilyCare
- Fibro & Us - Fibromyalgia Support Group Inc
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Financial and Consumer Rights Council
- First Step
- Focus on Recovery Incorporated
- Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)
- Foundation for Young Australians

- Fremantle Foundation
- Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA)
- GAAP Consulting
- Global Recordings Network Australia
- Good2Give
- Grace Christian Centres of Australia
- Grata Fund
- Grange Training Solutions
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Horizon Mentoring
- Human Rights Law Centre
- Hypersomnolence Australia
- Insulin for Life
- Keilor Over 50s Recreation Club Inc
- Kindred Spirits Foundation
- Lasallian Foundation
- Launch Housing
- Law Council of Australia
- Lifeline Gippsland
- Lorelei Drake
- Lymphoma Australia
- Makinson d'Apice Lawyers
- MalCorp Advisory and Consulting
- MarionLIFE Community Services Inc
- Marg Leser & Associates
- Maydena Community Association Inc
- Melbourne Fringe
- Melbourne Gliding Club
- Meningitis Centre Australia Inc
- MET Designs Ltd
- Mission Australia
- Mission Aviation Fellowship Australia
- MS Australia
- Movember Foundation
- Multicultural Council of the Illawarra
- mycause
- National Democratic Alliance of Sudan Australia & Oceania Inco
- Nicholson's Solicitors
- Ninti One Foundation
- Oaktree
- Organic Motion
- Oxfam Australia
- OzHelp Foundation
- Parkinsons Queensland
- PAFC
- Playground Ideas
- Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA)
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia
- Queensland Law Society
- RAS of NSW Foundation
- Rare Cancers Australia

- Reiss Legal
- Ricon Pty Ltd
- Rob Lavers
- SANE Australia
- Save the Children
- ShareGift Australia Limited
- Shay-Lee & Happy Hearts Inc
- Shine for Kids
- SIM Australia
- Social Impact Legal
- Social Traders
- Social Ventures Australia
- Somerville Community Services Inc
- So They Can
- South Gippsland Learning Differences
- Southlakes Community Services
- Sydney Pet Rescue and Adoption
- Sports Central
- Sunraysia Residential Services
- Surgical Specialities
- Taskforce
- Temple Society Australia
- Therapy Focus
- The Global Women's Project
- The Good Life Farm
- The Menzies Foundation
- The Myer Family Company
- The Peshawar School for Peace Inc
- Trustees of the Christian Brothers
- Toby Verey
- Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre
- Vision International College Inc
- Volunteering SA&NT
- Whitelion
- Willing Older Workers Inc
- Wings of Hope Incorporated
- WAYS Fundraising
- Women and Mentoring (WAM)
- Women's Art Register
- Women's Plans Foundation
- Work For The Soul
- Workplace Bullying Hero I Will Speak Up
- World Education Australia
- WorldShare
- YGAP
- Youth Projects Ltd
- YWCA Australia
- Xponential
- 3RPC Incorporated
- 3PVR Plenty Valley FM
- 107.3HFM(Heritage FM Incorporated)