

Mr Murray Crowe  
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The Treasury  
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## **REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION (ACNC) LEGISLATION**

Dear Mr Crowe

Carers Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) legislation currently being undertaken by the Treasury.

Carers Australia appreciated the establishment of the ACNC in 2012 after many years of advocacy by the charities and not-for-profit sector. We particularly acknowledge its role in regulating charities and not-for-profits and the credibility it has brought to the sector through its education and reporting activities. The introduction of the system of recognising complying charities, through the use of the Registered Charity logo on websites, has had the effect of enhancing charities' reputations as trustworthy and deserving of support. It has also contributed to increased public awareness of the ACNC and an expectation that it should continue. Carers Australia certainly supports this kind of public acknowledgment for these reasons.

Carers Australia sees no reason to change the objects of the ACNC legislation, as we believe that these continue to be appropriate to the ACNC's purpose and strategic directions.

From 1 July 2016 Carers Australia began operating as a company limited by guarantee, reporting to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). With the introduction of the ACNC, there was the potential for duplicative reporting. However, we were pleased to be able to report to one body our annual financial statements and the details of Board directors. We are very supportive of the initiatives taken by the ACNC to reduce duplicative reporting and would support any further moves in that direction.

## **ACNC Submission**

In response to the *Recommendations for matters to be considered by Review Panel* contained in the ACNC's submission to the Review, Carers Australia has the following comments:

### Recommendation 2

We do not support any extension of the ACNC's objects to promote the effective use of resources or to enhance the accountability of not-for-profits to donors, beneficiaries and the public. To fulfil these aims would require the ACNC to determine standards of compliance which could be unacceptably intrusive and difficult to interpret.

### **Support for other submissions**

Carers Australia wishes to endorse the submissions of the Community Council for Australia (CCA) and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

In summary Carers Australia

- supports the value of the ACNC to the charity sector as a regulator and its role in publicly acknowledging charities that meet compliance requirements through its Charity 'tick'
- supports the current objects of the ACNC legislation and sees no reason to change or extend them
- supports the initiatives taken by the ACNC to reduce duplicative reporting and would support further moves in that direction.

Please contact Mary Reid, Business Manager, at [mreid@carersaustralia.com.au](mailto:mreid@carersaustralia.com.au) for further information on this submission.

Yours sincerely



ARA CRESSWELL  
Chief Executive Officer  
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