



Australia's Charities and Not-for-profits

Written Submission

The Options Paper, Australia's Charities and Not-for-profits sets out proposed replacement arrangements for charities in Australia. The paper outlines policy directions proposed by the Government to introduce effective replacement arrangements that reduce the burden of regulation on the civil society sector.

The paper is being released to seek feedback from charities and interested parties on the proposed replacement options. Comments and feedback will inform development of the replacement arrangements. A summary of written submissions will be provided on the Department's website in September 2014.

Please use this submission template to provide your feedback on the proposed replacement arrangements for charities in Australia.

Completed submissions are to be sent by 20 August 2014 to:

consultationwithcharities@dss.gov.au (preferred method) OR

Civil Society and Programme Delivery Policy Branch

Department of Social Services PO BOX 7576

Canberra Business Centre, ACT 2610

Submissions received after 20 August may not be considered.

Unless otherwise stated, the information and feedback you provide may be used for publishing purposes. Please state if you do not wish for your comments to be published.

Instructions for completing the Submission Template

- Download and save a copy of the template to your computer.
- Refer to the *Options Paper, Australia's Charities and Not-for-profits* for context and discussion questions.
- You do not need to respond to all of the questions.
- Please keep your answers relevant to the topic being addressed, we ask that submissions be limited to two pages.

Name (first and surname): Enter your name

If submitting on behalf of a company or organisation

Name of organisation: Organisation name (if applicable)

Stakeholder category (e.g. service provider, client, peak body, academic):

State/Territory:

Contact email address:

Response from:

Jireh House Association Inc.

Service Provider

Tas

Response to Options Paper:

Jireh House is Government Funded to provide 6 crisis places for Women (with or without Children) subjected to Domestic Violence and Homeless Women (with or without Children). Current annual turnover is around \$730,000. Jireh House is located at Kingston, just south of Hobart.

There is only one issue that the Options Paper proposes that would be an extra burden (both time and cost) to comply with – that being to maintain a publicly accessible website.

Jireh House does have a very basic website (one page), which has not been updated for some time. The website does not currently require updating as Jireh House has a steady stream of “clients” that either phone directly or come via the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) out serviced “Front Door”.

Jireh House is required by the DHHS to report its financial position on an Annual Basis by completing the DHHS “Annual Grant Financial Accountability Report”. Also, as Jireh House is an Incorporated Association under Tasmanian Law, our Annual Audited Financial Reports have to be lodged with the Tasmanian Department of Justice within 6 month of our year end.

To update our website to comply with the proposed requirements would require the use of a contractor and would cost in the order of \$5,000 plus the cost for the annual updating of financial records plus the periodic changes that resulted from changes in the responsible persons.

At least with the introduction of the ACNC their website covered all the necessary recording. The proposal now pushes this burden to the individual organisations to fund the recording.

The unfortunate fact is that Jireh House does not even receive the full CPI increases in its funding each year but is asked to provide more and more compliance and recording with continually less funding in real terms.

The Options Paper states “The Government is committed to introducing effective replacement arrangements that reduce the burden of regulation on the civil society sector”. Unfortunately, this part of the proposal increases the burden.