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Manager
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Indirect, Philanthropy and Resource Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600
Email: nfpreform@treasury.gov.au

**Submission re Consultation Paper:
Development of Governance Standards, December 2012**

Dear Sir/Madam

Missions Interlink welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Treasury's consultation paper on the development of governance standards for charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

About Missions Interlink

Missions Interlink is a network of 167 Australian organisations with a significant interest of involvement in cross-cultural and global mission. It is not a mission agency, but rather the peak body representing cross-cultural mission organisations within Australia and exists to link, support and provide training to its members and associates. The size and income of Missions Interlink members varies greatly with 48 organisations at the lowest membership level (up to 2 personnel or donation income less than \$200,000), and 14 at the highest level (50 or more personnel or donation income above \$5,000,000). All Members are currently Tax Concession Charities and some are public benevolent institutions with DGR status.

Missions Interlink works with its members to facilitate good practice and compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. It seeks to promote and maintain high standards of accountability and governance through its application processes, Standards Statement, compliance checks, and education. Each constituent member must have a governing instrument and written policies that clearly define its organisational and accountability structures within Australia and demonstrate good accountability and governance principles.

Affirmation

Missions interlink strongly supports good governance and the development of governance standards for ACNC registered charities as outlined in the consultation paper. We support a principles-based, self-regulatory approach to good governance that takes into account the diversity of the sector and the ACNC must take an active role in educating the sector about meeting these standards. Our only concern about the standards relates to some of the language used in the document that may not be easily understood by everyone working within the sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Thyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Thyer
National Director