

9 March, 2018 (Extension granted)

Principal Advisor
Individuals and indirect Tax Division
The Treasury
Leighton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission in response to the Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) legislation.

General Comments

1. The Australian Women Donors Network endorses the submission from Philanthropy Australia to this review.
2. Additionally we propose measures be introduced to address the existing gender data gap in the ACNC's reporting architecture.

Specific Comments

1. Australia, as part of the United Nations, has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In order to achieve SDG 5, Gender Equality, it will be necessary to have the ability to measure social investment, and social impact, by gender.
2. The ACNC does not currently require reporting on the gender composition of:
 - philanthropic trust and foundation boards; nor of
 - Not-For-Profit boards.
3. The ACNC does not currently require reporting on the distribution of investment, nor the delivery of services, in the community by gender.
4. Data is critical in building confidence in the community and providing transparency for donors.

5. The absence of gender data prohibits meaningful analysis and assessment of social sector investment.

Recommendations

The Australian Women Donors Network recommends:

1. The inclusion of a requirement to report on Board composition by gender to bring the sector in line with the ASX, AICD and contemporary business practice: and
2. The introduction of reporting that enables mapping and analysis of philanthropic and social investment by gender.

The Australian Women Donors Network thanks the Review Panel for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters raised in this submission further.

In this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0417 545 986 or by email at julie.reilly@womendonors.org.au

Yours Sincerely,



Julie Reilly
Chief Executive Officer

About the Australian Women Donors Network

The Australian Women Donors Network works to increase investment in an education-focused not-for-profit organisation that facilitates gender-sensitive practice within the social investment and grant-making sector. We also foster a greater investment in women and girls. Both strategies are proven models for creating more effective social investments and outcomes, which ultimately creates a more equitable society for all. Established in 2009, our growing Network consists of social investors and grant-makers who value these principles and practices, as well as supporters from government, corporate and community sectors.