

6 August 2018

Senate Select Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Committee

**Endorsement of Community Council for Australia and Justice Connects submission to the Senate Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important review of the current framework of fundraising regulation for charities and options for reform.

White Ribbon Australia focuses on the prevention of men's violence against women. Our organisational purpose is 'engaging men to make women's safety a man's issue too'. We want all men to understand and act on their role in the prevention of men's violence against women.

To achieve this, we offer a range of violence prevention initiatives in schools, workplaces, online and through grassroots community events. These activities highlight the positive role men play in preventing men's violence against women and support them to be part of this social change.

Fundraising is paramount to supporting the primary prevention work of White Ribbon Australia. As a grassroots charity that receives less than 10% funding from the government, fundraising by White Ribbon Australia, and third party fundraisers, is vital to our sustainability.

The current regulations fundraisers must adhere to are significantly varied across all Australian states and territories, meaning that a national campaign must comply separately with all seven sets of regulations and definitions. The hours taken to ensure compliance are cumbersome for third party fundraisers, not to mention the large volume paid hours the charity must then spend ensuring the fundraiser has met compliance. There is an understanding that the purpose of charities is to do good, and the current regulations suggest anything but that.

White Ribbon Australia endorses the submissions made by Community Council for Australia and Justice Connect. The submission makes a number of recommendations that propose a review to the current regulations surrounding fundraising, aiming to lessen the burden on charities and fundraisers through a national regulatory body and a fit-for-purpose framework. It is our belief that a review of the current regulatory approach is not only favourable, but needed to ensure the integrity and longevity of the charity sector moving forward.

Kind regards



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CEO  
White Ribbon Australia