

Individuals and Indirect Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Via: DGR@Treasury.gov.au

Re: Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Reforms

To whom it may concern:

Volunteering Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide a response on the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Reforms. We write in support of the proposed reforms to deductible gift recipient. In particular:

- The requirement for non-government DGRs to register as a charity or be operated by a registered charity from 1 July 2019;
- The transition arrangements available to assist affected DGRs to register as charities;
- The Commissioner of Taxation to use their discretionary power to exempt DGRs from the requirement to register as a charity in limited circumstances;
- The abolition of certain public fund requirements; and
- The transfer of administration of the three DGR registers and Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Schemes to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The primary aim with these reforms should be in the reduction of unnecessary red tape on the charitable and not-for-profit sector, and to streamline processes. As such, we reaffirm our view that DGR should be directly associated with charitable status, and that purpose, not activity should be the primary impetus to determine both charitable and DGR status.

Volunteering Australia also reiterates the important role the ACNC plays in the charities and not-for-profit sector. The role of the ACNC should be expanded and enhanced to cover DGR.

Volunteering Australia would welcome additional detail on the administrative transfer of the different DGR registers and Overseas Aid Gift Schemes, and the regulatory cause and effect for charities.

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body for volunteering working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. Our mission is to lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering in Australia. We work collectively with the seven State and Territory volunteering peak bodies to deliver national, state and local volunteering programs and initiatives in accordance with the Government's priorities.

Volunteering Australia is happy to provide further information on the matters raised above. To discuss this further please contact Ms Lavanya Kala, Policy Manager at Volunteering Australia at lavanya@volunteeringaustralia.org or (02) 6251 4060.

Yours sincerely



Ms Adrienne Picone
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering Australia