



**AUSTRALIAN  
FEDERATION OF AIDS  
ORGANISATIONS INC.**  
ABN 91 708 310 631

PO Box 51  
Newtown NSW  
2042 AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 2 9557-9399  
Fax +61 2 9557-9867

Email: [afao@afao.org.au](mailto:afao@afao.org.au)

Web: [www.afao.org.au](http://www.afao.org.au)

Manager  
Philanthropy and Exemptions Unit  
Indirect Philanthropy and Resource Tax Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

**By e-mail:** [charities@treasury.gov.au](mailto:charities@treasury.gov.au)

3 May 2013

Dear Manager,

**Exposure draft of Charities Bill 2013**

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the national federation for the HIV community response. AFAO's members are the AIDS Councils in each state and territory; the National Association of People Living with HIV Australia (NAPWHA); the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); the Anwernekenhe National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance (ANA); and Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association. AFAO advocates for its member organisations, promotes medical and social research into HIV and its effects, develops and formulates policy on HIV issues, and provides HIV policy advice to Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

AFAO welcomes the exposure draft of the *Charities Bill 2013* (the Bill). We understand that under the Bill charitable entities will not be prevented from conducting advocacy activities and that peak bodies may be defined as charitable entities. AFAO endorses the positions taken in the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) submission, including its recommendation ii, that "*Clarification and clear guidance should be provided as to what kinds of political engagement will be considered to be a disqualifying purpose, ideally through a clear reproduction of the current law as it is expressed within TR2011/T4 .*"

Yours sincerely,

Rob Lake  
Executive Director

*AFAO is the peak body for Australia's eight State and Territory AIDS Councils. AFAO's national members are the National Association of People Living with HIV Australia (NAPWHA), the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association and Anwernekenhe National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance (ANA).*

