

17 January 2012

Manager
Philanthropy & Exemptions Unit
Personal & Retirement Income Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

email: NFPReform@treasury.gov.au

Re: Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission Bill 2012

To whom it may concern

On the weekend I was looking at the ACNC website with a view to seeing if there were any vacancies. I have had an interest in the NFP sector for several years through working with them in a voluntary capacity as well as through being a director of a Private Ancillary Fund. I applaud the establishment of the ACNC as a way of bringing some guidelines to the sector generally and wish to be part of an important initiative.

In reading the explanatory materials that accompanied the draft of the legislation to establish the ACNC, I noticed that it is proposed that a register of NFPs be maintained that would be accessible by the public, including contact details. As a director of a Private Ancillary Fund I am extremely concerned at the loss of our privacy.

The Barr Family Foundation is a way for our family and my parents in particular, to be able to privately support elements of the NFP sector that were in keeping with the wishes of our family. The organisations we support with their research and/or specific projects have to be located in Victoria and be doing work that will benefit children and their families.

If details of the Barr Family Foundation (BFF) are to be listed on the ACNC website, it is likely that the foundation would be inundated with requests from the huge number of NFPs that hold deductible gift recipient status. This would create an additional workload that would take away from the time and money available for the BFF to give to the NFP sector.

This is a waste of money and resources for the BFF, ultimately leading to a reduction of donations. Two particular projects that the BFF supported were pilot projects that went on to achieve great results for young children. Commonwealth funding to the tune of \$7m per year now supports one of these projects. The other one receives significant funding from the Victorian government. Will future projects be at risk if resources are wasted dealing with unsolicited requests? They probably will.

The Barr Family Foundation, as indeed all PAFs, are already subject to detailed compliance rules ranging from the amount we give each year to the annual returns lodged with the ATO. These are necessary to ensure the guidelines for PAFs are met and should be sufficient to satisfy the ATO on behalf of the public that this part of the NFP sector are meeting their obligations.

On behalf of our Foundation, I would strongly request that details of the PAFs not be made available on your website or through any other means. There can be no advantage to this and in the long run, it is only going to reduce the amount of money that goes into the NFP sector

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Michael Barr
Barr Family Foundation