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ACNC Review Secretariat
The Treasury

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acncsecretariat@acnclegislationreview.com.au.

28 February 2018

Dear ACNC Review Secretariat

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) welcomes the opportunity to provide this brief submission in relation to the Review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) legislation. In particular, the review is considering the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Consequential and Transitional) Act 2012* after its initial five years of operation.

Broadly, the community legal sector supports a clear regulatory framework for the not-for-profit sector that ensures good governance and transparency, and the work of the ACNC. This support builds on a long history of the sector advocating for the establishment of a single, independent, specialist national regulator for charities and other not-for-profit organisations.

A number of centres have made detailed submissions to this Review and we draw the Panel's attention to the submissions made by CLCs such as Justice Connect which runs the national Not-for-profit Law program. As a result, NACLC makes only the following brief high-level points:

- the objects of the ACNC Acts continue to be relevant
- there is a continued need to harmonise Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation and reduce red tape and the compliance burden on charities, including for example in relation to fundraising
- there is a need to ensure sufficient resources are provided to the ACNC to undertake its work and achieve its objectives
- we support the removal of the exemption for basic religious charities, and
- we support further review of the ACNC and related legislation in five years.

If NACLC can assist the Panel in any way, for example by facilitating further engagement with the community legal sector, or to discuss this submission please contact me at amanda_alford@clc.net.au or on 0421 028 645.

Yours sincerely

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