



Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education

18 March 2021

Senior Advisor  
Not-For-Profit Unit, Not-for-profits and Tax Administration Branch  
Treasury Melbourne  
Level 16, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
Email: [charitiesconsultation@treasury.gov.au](mailto:charitiesconsultation@treasury.gov.au)

## **SUBMISSION ON CHANGES TO THE GOVERNANCE STANDARDS FOR REGISTERED CHARITIES**

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) thanks the Treasury for the opportunity to provide input into the consultation on changes to the governance standards in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Regulation 2013*.

FARE is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity working towards an Australia free from alcohol harms. Together with values-aligned organisations, health professionals, researchers and communities across the country, we develop evidence-informed policy, enable people-powered advocacy and deliver health promotion programs.

As a registered charity, FARE takes seriously its obligations to remain accountable to the public through the important work of the ACNC. However, the proposed changes to expand the power of the ACNC are an overreach, resulting in burdensome processes that will restrict the ability of charities to serve the community and not actually result in increased accountability. The changes are unnecessary and FARE opposes them in their entirety.

The proposed changes will undermine FARE's crucial work in elevating community voices so they can have a say in processes that directly impact them. FARE supports communities and health organisations to have a voice in liquor licencing applications. Without their voices, the significant health and social harms that alcohol causes to families and communities would not be properly considered. FARE's support of communities in this way would be under threat from the proposed new regulations.

The proposed changes will also add a significant administrative burden for organisations – an unfair burden laden on charities that would not be applied to businesses as it would stifle their productivity. Resources would have to be diverted to ensuring staff do not breach new requirements and creating new record keeping processes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation. If you would like any further information, please contact Luke Hutchins, Senior Policy and Research Advisor, [luke.hutchins@fare.org.au](mailto:luke.hutchins@fare.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Giorgi".

CATERINA GIORGI  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER