

**Submission to Treasury
Charities Consultation for DGR Registers' Reform
31st January 2023**

Introduction

The Australian Dance Council, Ausdance (QLD) Inc ('**Ausdance QLD**'). is the industry association (peak body) for dance in the state. Ausdance QLD is a registered non-profit membership association serving all dance in QLD; members are individuals, companies, non-profit organisations/institutions and community groups across all styles and cultures. Ausdance QLD has 1612 members: individuals, groups and organisations representing a dance community of approximately 25,000 dance practitioners.

Ausdance QLD is a Deductible Gift Recipient, and on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO), requiring regular reporting to the Register of Cultural Organisations via SmartyGrants. This submission is informed by the extensive non-profit governance experience of the Executive Director and Management Committee of Ausdance QLD. This submission has been reviewed by the major dance companies/organisations in QLD as well as medium-sized non-profit organisations.

Considerations and recommendations

1. Streamlining of administration

Ausdance QLD supports reduction of red tape at all levels of organisational operations. The ACNC requires annual reporting, and consistent updating if charities change Responsible Persons or any part of governing documents. The information currently provided to ROCO forms a part of charities' Annual Information Statement, and the required audits (either full or Special Purpose) ensure compliance with required management of donor funds. Ausdance QLD and key Ausdance QLD 'Charity' members, who are also on the Register of Cultural Organisations, including Ballet Theatre of Queensland, support the transition of registration/administration to the ATO to reduce replicated reporting.

2. Public Fund v. Gift Fund

The difference between a Public Fund and Gift Fund should be better explained to organisations so they're able to streamline internal administration. This considers the limited in-house expertise of many small Arts & Cultural DGRs.

3. Preparedness

Existing DGR organisations are prepared for transitioning, insofar as no additional work is required. Communication facilitated by State Government bodies (eg: Arts QLD) will ensure all DGR organisations are informed of changes.

4. Additional Considerations

Fundraising licensing and fundraising reporting is still required at State/Territory level. This is also a replication of reporting and represents an outdated model of fundraising which relied on door-to-door and local fundraising. The nature of fundraising has changed with the advent of digital fundraising platforms, so the State/Territory oversight of this element of administration is no longer required. It is not fit for purpose.

Contact Details

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