

From: [Peter Gordon](#)
To: [Charities Consultation](#)
Subject: Community Foundations
Date: Thursday, 13 July 2023 4:10:11 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-wiqiire.png](#)

I am writing in support of reform of the treatment of community foundations. Hands Across Canberra is one of the network of community foundations across Australia. We support over 360 local charities all of whom work with vulnerable people.

Community Foundations Australia has been representing the network of community foundations as these reforms are working through the government process. We fully support and reiterate the approaches pursued by CFA.

1. Community foundations are seeking to simplify their structures and the red tape, compliance and administrative costs and burdens and so urge the government not to *require* community foundations to have to establish a new trust or company.

As community foundations will not be able to convert their public ancillary funds to be a community charity fund (CCF) nor distribute the funds to the corporate trustee (due to the wording in the PuAF trust deeds and PuAF Guidelines), most community foundations will want to be able to distribute the funds in their public ancillary funds to a CCF in an existing charitable trust and get rid of one of the entities in their existing complicated structures.

The current wording of the proposed Bill does not allow the CCF to sit within a trust with broader charitable purposes and we strongly request this is possible in the same way the proposed Bill allows a CCF to sit within a corporate entity. This will reduce red tape by not requiring new trusts to be established.

2. The Bill does not seem to allow distributions to non-DGRs for DGR purposes or activities and this is an essential part of the application to the government to facilitate the role of community philanthropy, particularly relevant in rural and regional areas, but applicable everywhere. Could the Bill and Explanatory memorandum be amended to make this clear?

Community foundations are growing in number and relevance in Australia and are becoming a vital part of many communities. And this role has been particularly important as an integral and responsive partner in emergency responses.

Please keep me informed as this work progresses.

Thank you

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