

Ms Brenda Berkeley
Manager
Indirect Philanthropy and Resource Tax Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

charities@treasury.gov.au

Dear Ms Berkeley

I am writing to provide you with our submission on the Exposure Draft Charities Bill 2013 and associated materials.

UnitingCare Australia supports the introduction of a statutory definition of charity which addresses the actual weakness of the current arrangements whilst preserving its strengths; and does not result in an increase in administrative or regulatory burden on the Not-for-profit sector.

We believe that the Exposure draft of the Charities Bill 2013 and associated Bills, while sound in structure and purpose, needs to be amended so as to provide greater clarity and certainty in the following key areas: the disqualifying purpose; application of the presumption of public benefit; and the treatment of “infrastructure” entities which support charities in fulfilling their purpose and mission.

I would welcome the opportunity to expand upon the comments made in our submission in person. In the meantime if you have any questions about our submission or the issues raised in this letter please contact our Director of Services Sustainability, Joe Zabar, on (02) 6249 6717 or joe@nat.unitingcare.org.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lin Hatfield Dodds'.

Lin Hatfield Dodds
National Director

2 May 2013