

Treasury and Department of Finance
submissions@ncoa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: National Commission of Audit (NCOA)



I write on behalf of Volunteering Australia (VA), which is the national peak body working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. VA's mission is to lead, strengthen, promote and celebrate volunteering in Australia.

VA formally acknowledges and supports the Community Council for Australia's submission to the Treasury and Department of Finance.

VA specifically supports the following key points:

- The importance of ensuring that government operations and expenditure create public value and ensuring there is transparency and accountability while promoting the same
- The national harmonisation of regulatory requirements for the not-for-profit sector in order to reduce duplication, red tape and compliance costs
- The engagement of Volunteering Australia to provide volunteering impact assessments of any proposed policy and/or regulatory change
- The introduction of a single national charities passport, listed on a publically searchable national register and administered by an independent and responsive regulator
- Program and policy development that relies heavily on the existing expertise in our not-for-profit organisations
- The achievement of government policy and program objectives through the involvement of not-for-profit organisations as active partners with more scope to develop and implement their own proven and/or innovative solutions
- Ensuring appropriate performance reporting systems are in place, including the acceptance and encouragement of reporting failures for non-performing programs, with an eye to program improvement and enhanced government performance management
- The adoption by Australian governments of a more measured, efficient and outcome-focused approach to the outsourcing of services, contracting and funding of not-for-profit organisations
- A streamlining of the tendering, contracting, reporting and acquittal requirements in the provision of services to reduce compliance costs and ensure the associated compliance burden is proportionate to the funding provided and risk involved
- An improved data collection system focused on outcomes and user/community impact, rather than specific inputs and outputs
- The adoption of a more realistic approach to the length of contracts and timing of notices for the renewal or cessation of program funding, including funding agreements for National and State/Territory peak volunteering bodies.

Sincerely,

CEO, Volunteering Australia
ceo@volunteeringaustralia.org