



Hands Off Our Charities

Red Line Principles for the *Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017*, and the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017*

We the 'Hands Off Our Charities' alliance supports laws that protect the integrity of representative government and promote fairness and participation in public debate. We recognise concerns regarding foreign influence on Australian politics, including multi-party support for banning foreign donations to political parties. However, we emphasise that measures to address foreign influence should not undermine our democracy or unduly constrain public interest advocacy by charities and not-for-profits.

We will only accept new or amended laws that ensure:

1. The ability of charities and NFPs to use funding (including international funding) for issues-based advocacy is not restricted
2. There is a clear distinction between issues-based advocacy and politically partisan electioneering. This should be consistent with the distinction drawn in the *Charities Act 2013* (where "promoting or opposing a candidate or a party for political office" is a disqualifying purpose for a Charity – section 11)
3. Charities and NFPs don't face a greater compliance burden than they do presently, and charities and NFPs are not subject to more extensive regulatory controls and administrative requirements or criminal offences than other third parties (e.g. businesses and industry associations)
4. Donors of gifts that are not intended or used for promoting or opposing a candidate or a party for political office should not be subject to new public reporting or registration requirements

5. A clear and precise regime that is unambiguous. Charities and NFPs should not be left wondering *what* parts of a regime apply to them and *when* they apply
6. Charities and NFPs are free to cooperate on issues-based advocacy to advance issues of public interest, including by working with non- Australian citizens and non-permanent Australian residents

Members of Hands Off Our Charities

22 June 2018

Australian Council of Social Services
Actionaid
Amnesty International
Anglicare Australia
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Council for International Development
Australian Marine Conservation Society
Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Beyond Zero Emissions
Campaign for Australian Aid
CARE
Caritas Australia
Child Fund Australia
Community Council for Australia
Consumer Action Law Centre
Digital Rights Watch
Environmental Justice Australia
Environment Victoria
Greenpeace
Human Rights Law Centre
Human Rights Watch
Jesuit Social Services
National Association of Community Legal Centres
Nature Conservation Council
Oaktree
Oxfam Australia
People With Disabilities Australia
Pew Charitable Trusts
Public Health Association Australia
Queensland Community Alliance
Queensland Conservation Council
RESULTS
Save the Children
Sunshine Coast Environmental Council
Union Aid Abroad APHEDA
UnitingCare Australia
Uniting Church in Australia (Synod of Victoria and Tasmania)
World Wildlife Fund
350 Australia

