



Australian  
**Charities** and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission

# The Ministry of Governance - Corporate Challenges in the Context of Church Ministry

## **Catholic Health Australia Annual Conference**

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# Ministry of Governance

- Processes and relationships that allow the entity to fulfil its mission = shared belief, vision, culture, relationships and leadership
- Rules, systems, protocols, infrastructure, processes

# Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)?



**The ACNC is the independent national regulator of charities.**

- Established on 3 December 2012
- 56,567 registered charities passed over from ATO

## **The ACNC:**

- **registers** organisations as **charities**
- helps charities understand and meet their obligations through **information, guidance, advice** and support
- maintains the **ACNC Register**
- works with governments across jurisdictions to develop a **simplified reporting** framework.



# Objects in ACNC Act (2012)

The objects of this Act are:

- 1 to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the Australian not-for-profit sector; and
- 2 to support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative Australian not-for-profit sector; and
- 3 to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the Australian not-for-profit sector

*The ACNC will not interfere in the religious or pastoral affairs of church agencies*

# Corporate Challenges for Church Agencies of ACNC



- Annual Reporting
- Notifying ACNC of major changes
- Complying with Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards



# Governance Standards

- **Purposes and not-for-profit nature of a registered entity**
- **Accountability to members**
- **Compliance with Australian laws**
- **Suitability of responsible entities**
- **Duties of responsible entities**

# Corporate Challenges for Government Agencies



- Report once, use often (*Charity Passport*)
- Acquittal for NFPs
- Reducing Regulatory Duplication
- ACNC Annual Report to Parliament
- One stop shop



# Church Ministry

- Quality of **Health Care** in Catholic Hospitals is equal to, or exceeds, that in any other hospital
- Quality of **Pastoral Care** in Catholic Hospitals equal to, or exceeds, that in any other hospital
- Quality of **Financial Management** in Catholic Hospitals is equal to, or exceeds, that in any other hospital
- Quality of **Governance** in Catholic Hospitals is equal to, or exceeds, that in any other hospital








# Impact

- General increased public trust and confidence through ACNC register, and specific credibility from being 'registered' charity
- Clarity re standards and expectations of good practice (Governance Standards - *minimum*)
- Maintenance of records and annual reporting
- Red tape reduction across Cwltth agencies through *report once, use often and one stop shop*, with further reductions as states and territories come on board (eg SA and ACT)

# Finding out more: [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)



## Providing you with access to information is a priority for us

- Weekly Commissioner Column (sent to 6,193 subscribers)
- Media alerts and releases and newsflashes
- Aboriginal Liaison officers
- Podcasts and webcasts – coming soon
- Phone: 13 ACNC (13 22 62) 8 am to 8 pm AEDST
- Email: [advice@acnc.gov.au](mailto:advice@acnc.gov.au)
- Social media:
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