



Sector Group Report

Kia ora Koutou,

On 20 September 2023, the Charities Sector Group (SG) met online via Zoom. 11 sector leaders and specialist professionals (listed below) met with staff from Charities Services in the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and other agencies to discuss points of common interest.

The purpose of this document is to communicate some of the points of discussion during the SG and allow members to communicate the discussion to their member organisations.

SG Sector only discussions

Sector Co-Chair Chris Glaudel outlined what the members of the sector discussed during their sector only time.

Members met to build engagement and raise points for discussion ahead of the SG meeting. These discussion points were sent to Andrew Newbery ahead time, and expanded on during the meeting.

Members are interested in a greater frequency of meetings in the 2024 calendar year, and more regular discussion via email and other channels. This will enable better engagement and communication between members and Charities Services. Proposed dates for meetings in the new year will be circulated by Charities Services.

Members of Te Rātā Atawhai, the Charities Registration Board (the Board), passed on their apologies for the meeting. Both the Board and SG members expressed an interest in rescheduling a meeting in the near future.

The Co-Chairs plan to review the SG Charter, for circulation and discussion with members, before it is renewed in February 2023. The Co-Chair role description will also be reviewed.

Members are interested in more engagement with the future of Community and Voluntary Sector policy, and other substantive topics. Other members of DIA will be invited to future meetings to aid these discussions.

The SG noted that, while work has been done to improve engagement with members, there is still more to be done. Some of this will be aided by the review of the Charter, and greater frequency of discussions.

Changes to Charities Services Forms

Jordan Hoerara (Team Leader Capability) lead a discussion on the consultation on the proposed changes to the forms charities use when they register, update their details, and file annual returns. Jordan thanked the sector for the depth of feedback received thus far. Charities Services noted that feedback was received through SurveyMonkey, emails, and online drop-in sessions.

SG members provided extensive and robust feedback on the proposed changes in a number of areas. Members noted concerns in the sector about the introduction of a question to explain the reasons for accumulating funds, and suggested giving clear explanations on why the information was being sought, what would be done with it, and that it is ok for Charities to accumulate funds.

The group also gave feedback on the value and importance of performance reports, and their concerns that these would be lost if the combined Tier 4 form was completed as currently described. Members asked about whether the framing of some of the questions would result in accurate or inaccurate data, and highlighted the value of the data set when the right information is collected.

SG members and Charities Services discussed the challenges in making a forms consultation process engaging for the charitable sector, along with ways to gather better information from respondents. Attendees discussed ways to get the most value out of user testing on proposed form changes, and offered their support in finding testers.

Implementing Changes to the Charities Act

Andrew Newbery gave a brief presentation on Charities Services' progress implementing changes to the Charities Act, with specific focus on the rollout of the 5 October 2023 changes.

SG members gave feedback that the new review of governance procedures was not well understood, and that Charities Services would need to focus on explaining this requirement to the sector. They also asked for guidance on what evidence is needed to meet the new requirement.

Members noted the value of the Charities Act change hub on the Charities Services website, and drew attention to work being carried out by the sector itself to explain the wide range of changes in the not-for-profit sector.

Members asked for greater engagement across government agencies to provide a linked up view of changes being made and consulted on, to identify opportunities for collaboration and feedback.

Inland Revenue update

Representatives from Inland Revenue (IR) presented to the SG about tax updates and consultation taking place. This included data on donation tax credit claims, updates on the approach to tax relief for donations of trading stock, and regulatory stewardship of the donation tax credit regime.

SG members gave feedback on changes they're seeing in mass market donations, and supported better education for the sector to understand donation tax credits

Attendees

Sector Group Members: Chris Glauzel (Community Housing Aotearoa), Craig Fisher (Independent), Emma Wethey (Philanthropy New Zealand), Kristina Marckean (Plunket), Michelle Kitney (Volunteering New Zealand), Peter Bain (InterChurch Bureau), Rachel Qi (Multicultural Council of Wellington Incorporated) Steven Moe (Parry Field Lawyers), Sue Barker (Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand) Abigail Freeland (Platform Charitable Trust), Sarah Doherty (NZ Navigator Charitable Trust).

DIA Charities Services: Charlotte Stanley (General Manager), Andrew Newbery (Manager Engagement and Business Improvement), Penelope Cox (Manager Regulatory), Rachel Prosser (Principal Advisor), Belinda Thomas (Team Leader Charities Support), Jeffrey Scoringe (Manager Investigations), Jordan Hoerara (Team Leader Capability).

Inland Revenue: Stewart Donaldson (Principal Advisor Policy), Sasha Irvine (Analyst), Samantha Putt

Apologies: Abann Yor (Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition Incorporated), Craig Barrett (Baker Tilly Staples Rodway), Denise Kingi-'Ulu'ave (LeVa), Jane Zintl (Ara Taiohi Incorporated), Jim Datson (Fundraising Institute of New Zealand), Juliet Chevalier-Watts (University of Waikato), Kitty Bennett (Te Atamira Taiwhenua), Mihiarangi Piripi (Whāia Legal), Paulien Fa'atafa (NZ Navigator Charitable Trust), Peter van Hout (Interchurch Bureau), Richard Leung (New Zealand Chinese Association Incorporated), Rochelle Stewart-Allen (Hui E! Community Aotearoa), Sue McCabe (Philanthropy New Zealand), Tai Ahu (Te Ohu Kaimoana), Valerie Williams (Todd Foundation)