



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies welcomes Federal Government's response to Charity Review

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council President, Claire Victory, has welcomed the Federal Government's response today to the report of the review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, *Strengthening for Purpose: Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission legislation review*.

Speaking shortly after the release, Ms Victory said the response heralded some promising developments for the charitable sector.

'The ACNC's regulatory oversight of the charitable sector will strengthen the public's trust in our good works,' Ms Victory said.

'It's encouraging to see the ACNC Advisory Board will now be able to meet with the Minister for Charities. It's important for the Government to receive advice from experts in the charitable sector as well as from the regulator.

'The Government's commitment to continue to work towards reducing administrative burdens on our sector will ensure precious funds are not wasted on red tape.

'We agree with raising the reporting threshold for smaller charities.

'The Government's commitment to work with the states and territories will help iron out some of the existing cross-jurisdictional inconsistencies.

'Disclosure of executive salaries on an aggregated basis is a welcome move towards a more transparent and accountable approach in line with good governance and community expectation.

'In recent months the Society has worked with the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer in the face of the national tragedy brought about by the bushfires.

'That close working relationship provided valuable insights to Government about how charities respond in emergency situations across multiple jurisdictions.

'It also highlighted some of the challenges faced by charities and government as we collectively develop a unified, integrated recovery plan that responds to the unique needs of individual communities.

'The Society is mindful of the generosity of the thousands of people who give their time and money that enables the Society to provide a hand to people in need. We thank all donors for the trust they place in us. We will continue to exercise good stewardship of these resources as we walk with people in need of material and emotional support,' Ms Victory said.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.