

I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into: **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Repeal) (No. 1) Bill 2014**

I have no connections whatsoever with the ACNC or its staff.

I have had over 40 years of experience working in the not-for-profit, the public and private sectors all at senior levels.

In particular I have been involved in a broad range of activities associated with Not-for-Profits. I have worked on Boards in both fund raising, funds delivery and administration in large and small bodies. Over that time I have observed the growth and operations of large and small charities, the rapid increase in the sector in the 90s and 00s. Prior to that I was an observer of the idiosyncratic nature of the old system and saw close up some of the rorts of the then system.

The Howard Government changes to charitable organisations were among the most progressive and welcome outcomes of that government without any doubt.

The Rudd /Gillard introduction of the ACNC put in place a central system long overdue in Australia, which exists in most other developed countries around the world.

This proposal to repeal the ACNC Act and abolish the regulator is a most retrograde step and is to be deplored. There is no doubt it will increase the potential for fraud and I imagine fraudsters relishing the prospect.

To introduce a Bill with a vague and totally unspecified means of replacing these functions is the act of a government covering up its intentions and also should be deplored.

*Max Bourke AM*