

06 August 2018

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Committee Members

Support for Justice Connect Submission to this Inquiry

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre welcomes this inquiry into fundraising in the 21st century.

We are interested in this subject as an organisation that advocates for a strong civil society sector as an essential component of a healthy democracy, and as a public benevolent institution registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission that engages in fundraising and therefore must comply with fundraising regulations.

In both of these capacities we endorse the submission to this inquiry made by Justice Connect and its partners in the *#fixfundraising* campaign. This includes:

1. Clarification and amendment to the Australian Consumer law to ensure its application to fundraising activities is clear and broad
2. Repeal State and Territory laws, with State and Territory regulators instead to focus on regulating conduct using the Australian Consumer Law or other general laws to take action for misconduct, and
3. A short, plain English mandatory code of conduct for all fundraisers, supported by the work of self-regulatory bodies.

We share Justice Connect's view that this will deliver stronger, smarter and simpler laws to support charities, fundraisers and donors.

The need for a national and fit-for-purpose fundraising regulatory regime has been well-documented by multiple inquiries over many years. We call on the Committee to recommend clear actions to address these issues as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely

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