



Australian Government



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission

16 July 2024

Keeping bingo social, safe and fair
Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission

Submitted Online: [Keeping bingo social, safe and fair | Engage Victoria](#)

Our reference: ACNCSUB2024-010

1. The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (**ACNC**) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into keeping bingo social, safe, and fair.
2. We have addressed one question in the discussion paper, as we consider it is relevant to the ACNC's role.

About the ACNC and the charity sector

3. The ACNC is the national regulator of charities established by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth) (**ACNC Act**). The objects of the ACNC Act are to:
 - a. maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the Australian not-for-profit sector; and
 - b. support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative Australian not-for-profit sector; and
 - c. promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the Australian not-for-profit sector.
4. Currently, the ACNC has oversight of around 60,000 registered charities. The ACNC does not have oversight of the wider not-for-profit sector. These charities vary considerably in size, role, and function. Charities are a vital part of our community and economy. Registered charities employed over 1.47 million people¹ and reported revenue of \$200 billion in the 2022 reporting period.² While some charities are large and well-known entities, most charities are very small, volunteer-run organisations.³

What improvements would you like to see to how the VGCCC oversees the bingo sector?

5. In relation to the community and charitable organisations which may register under Part 3 of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* (Vic), we suggest there is scope to streamline applications for those organisations which are registered charities.

¹ ACNC, *Australian Charities Report - 10th edition* (2024) 32, <<https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/reports/australian-charities-report-10th-edition>>.

² Ibid, 18.

³ Ibid, 19-21.



6. The VGCCC's online form requests that organisations upload a significant amount of material, including:
 - a. the organisation's governing document
 - b. a copy of the organisation's purposes
 - c. financial information
 - d. minutes from the past two annual general meetings
 - e. evidence of endorsement by the Australian Taxation Office as an income tax exempt charity, an income tax exempt fund or a deductible gift recipient (if applicable).
7. For registered charities, much of this information is available through the ACNC. The Charity Register includes a charity's governing document (which includes the charity's purposes) and financial information.
8. All registered charities are eligible to receive an income tax exemption.⁴
9. The Charity Passport contains further information that may assist VGCCC in its regulatory role, including financial information and the names of all Responsible Persons.⁵
10. By accessing charity data directly through the Passport, the VGCCC could reduce the administrative burden imposed on registered charities and streamline the application process.

Next steps

11. If you have queries about this submission, please contact Joanna Austin, Director, Legal and Policy, joanna.austin@acnc.gov.au.

Sue Woodward AM
Commissioner
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

⁴ ACNC, *Charity tax concessions*, <<https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/factsheets/charity-tax-concessions>>.

⁵ For more information, see ACNC, *Charity Passport*, <<https://www.acnc.gov.au/about/red-tape-reduction/charity-passport>>.