

MEDIA RELEASE

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BALLARAT CHARITIES INVITED TO COME ALONG AND ASK THE ACNC

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) will hold a free 'Ask ACNC' workshop for local charities on Tuesday 30 September.

Almost 3,000 people registered for the 'Ask ACNC' sessions held around Australia in August and early September, and the feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

"Attendees told us that the sessions provided valuable information, enabling them to better understand their charity's obligations," ACNC Commissioner Susan Pascoe AM said.

"They also said it was good to meet ACNC leaders and staff in person."

ACNC staff will be on hand to provide practical advice on:

- charity reporting obligations, such as the 2013 and 2014 Annual Information Statements
- making the most of the ACNC Charity Register, and
- how to save time by using the Charity Portal.

Ms Pascoe said charities of all types and sizes were welcome to attend, but encouraged smaller charities in particular.

"Ballarat charities are a diverse group that engage in many different types of activities, ranging from religion to education, and help many segments of the community.

"All charities are welcome to attend, but I would like to encourage the 68% that are small and make up the vast majority of Ballarat's charities to attend and ask us any questions they have."

Ms Pascoe also reminded charities that have not submitted the 2013 Annual Information Statement to do so soon, or risk penalties. She also encouraged charities to prepare for 2014 reporting.

"Of the 300 registered charities located in Ballarat and nearby areas, 70 still need to submit their 2013 Annual Information Statement, which was due by 30 June 2014.

"Submitting the 2013 Annual Information Statement is a legal requirement and registered charities that fail to do so risk losing their Commonwealth charity tax concessions. If you work or volunteer for a charity that has not submitted its 2013 Annual Information Statement, come along to the Ask ACNC session and we will help you.

“We can also help you with the 2014 Annual Information Statement which is now available on the Charity Portal, and is pre-populated with information from the 2013 Annual Information Statement to make it quick and easy to complete.

“This year charities will need to provide some financial information. By collecting this information and making it publicly available on the ACNC Charity Register at acnc.gov.au/findacharity, the ACNC is making a significant contribution to enhancing public trust and confidence in the Australian not-for-profit sector.”

The ‘Ask ACNC’ workshop in Ballarat will be held from 10am to 11am on Tuesday 30 September, at Studio Theatre, Caro Convention Centre, Federation University (Mount Helen campus), University Drive, Mount Helen.

ACNC staff will be on hand from 9am to answer any questions from those charities that do not wish to register for the workshop, and to assist any charities who would like assistance in completing their Annual Information Statement.

For more information, or to register, visit acnc.gov.au/AskACNC.

Key statistics about Ballarat charities

- 38% rely on volunteers.
- 4 operate nationally, while 11 operate overseas.
- Top three activities are education, religious and economic/social.
- Top three beneficiaries are general community, children and youth.
- 26% of charities are over 50 years old.
- 68% of charities are small, 9% medium and 23% are large.

There are also 8 charities in Ballarat and nearby areas that the ACNC has not been able to reach. These charities need to get in contact with the ACNC as soon as possible, or risk being removed from the ACNC Charity Register and losing their Commonwealth charity tax concessions. To view the full list of missing charities, visit acnc.gov.au/whereareyou

ACNC Media Contact

Interviews are available with senior ACNC staff.

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