

**MEDIA RELEASE      31/08/2017**

## **Justice Connect acknowledges decision of Consumer Affairs Ministers**

Justice Connect acknowledges the decision made by Ministers at the Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs (Melbourne, 31 August) to make one important change to a recommendation made in the [Final Report of the Australian Consumer Law](#) (ACL), specifically in relation to fundraising activities.

Minister's agreed to bring forward the recommended project that would 'focus on whether any further reforms were need to the ACL to enable the sector to work more effectively to the benefit of the Australian community' from 2019-2020 to 2018-19.

This position is what the coalition to *#fixfundraising* bodies had called on Minister's to do in response to the recommendation. Whilst it is a good outcome, Sue Woodward, Acting CEO of Justice Connect said "it is a pity that Government's see the need for further research. The ineffectiveness of existing fundraising laws has been documented extensively by multiple government and independent inquiries dating back to 1995".

"We have already put forward the changes needed to the ACL to make sure it's application to fundraising is clear and broad, and can deliver a modern, national fundraising regulatory regime. Whilst we are pleased the project has been given a more appropriate timeframe, in our view, Governments could have simply moved to make the legislative changes we had proposed."

Whilst this has been somewhat disappointing – and means a fix to existing laws that are complex, outdated, duplicative, burden-some - may take longer we are pleased the ACL review process has led to Government's recognising that the ACL does apply to many of the activities of not for profits, including fundraising. There was considerable doubt about its application - even during the first stages of review. We now know it does apply and Governments have agreed to provide detailed guidance. We look forward to seeing that guidance.

We will continue our efforts to push Governments to deliver a national framework through legislative change to the ACL. Enough is enough. It's time to *#fixfundraising*'

Further information on the campaign is at <http://www.nfplaw.org.au/fundraising-reform-0>

*\*The coalition to #fixfundraising includes: Justice Connect, Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Community Council for Australia (CCA), Philanthropy Australia, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), Governance Institute of Australia, CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) and the Fundraising Institute of Australia and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association. A full list of supporters of the campaign is [here](#).*