

# Coalition for fundraising reform



## Update on the implementation of the National Fundraising Principles

Under the Fix Fundraising banner and with [support](#) from hundreds of charities large and small, the coalition has advocated for a nationally consistent, contemporary and fit-for-purpose fundraising regime.

As a result of our advocacy, in February 2023 Commonwealth, State and Territory governments [agreed to a set of](#) National Fundraising Principles for charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The National Fundraising Principles offer a simple solution: a single set of modern, fit-for-purpose rules for all ACNC registered charities to comply with wherever they fundraise in Australia.

However, they will only be effective if they are implemented in a harmonised way with the co-operation of all States and Territories. To achieve this, all States and Territories must:

- (a) implement the Principles as agreed and announced in February 2023 without amendment**
- (b) repeal or ‘switch off’ all local fundraising rules so that a charity, no matter where it fundraises, will only need to comply with the Principles, and**
- (c) ensure any regulatory guidance is uniform across all States and Territories.**

Anything short of this approach will defeat the aim of national harmonisation and make fundraising compliance more confusing, complicated and time consuming for charities.

## Progress towards implementation of the National Fundraising Principles

Disappointingly, progress on this important reform has been limited with only Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia taking concrete steps to implement the Principles. This is despite all State and Territory governments committing to releasing their plans to implement the National Fundraising Principles by July 2023.

The Principles will not deliver the potential benefits to charities across Australia until all States and Territories have worked to achieve national harmonisation.

## REPORT CARD:

### Progress towards implementation of the National Fundraising Principles

	Have they released their implementation plan?	Have they implemented the Principles without amendment?	Have they repealed or switched off all local fundraising rules for charities?
TAS	✓	!	✗
QLD	✓	✗	✗
SA	✓	✓	✗
VIC	✗	✗	✗
NSW	✗	✗	✗
WA	✗	✗	✗
ACT	✗	✗	✗
NT	–	–	–

We have seen progress in the following states:

**Tasmania:** In September 2023, Tasmania became the first state to take steps to implement the Principles through the [introduction](#) of the *Charities and Associations Law (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023*. The Bill is still making its passage through parliament and is subject to further debate. The Fix Fundraising coalition is advocating for amendments we believe are necessary to support the aim of national harmonisation.

**Queensland:** In November 2023, Queensland released its [implementation plan](#) for the Principles, noting it intends to amend the *Collections Regulation 2008* (Qld) to apply the Principles and repeal existing conduct provisions.

**South Australia:** In January 2024, South Australia implemented the Principles by replacing the content in the existing South Australian [Charities Code of Practice](#) with the Principles. These amendments to the Code of Practice came into effect on 29 January 2024 and charities must comply from 1 March 2024. Several existing provisions in the *Collections for Charitable Purposes Act 1939* (SA) also still apply in addition to the Code of Practice.

**Other States and Territories:** Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Australian Capital Territory are yet to release their implementation plans. The Northern Territory does not currently regulate fundraising.

### About the Fix Fundraising coalition

The coalition for fundraising reform was formed in 2016 and is comprised of sector and peak professional bodies: [Justice Connect](#), [Australian Institute of Company Directors](#), [Australian Council of Social Service](#), [Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand](#), [Community Council for Australia](#), [CPA Australia](#), [Governance Institute of Australia](#), [Philanthropy Australia](#), and [Public Fundraising Regulatory Association](#).