

The Actions:

| Theme | Action | |
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| Reducing the regulatory burden and streamlining interaction with Government | Action 1 | <p>Reducing the burden of reporting</p> <p>The Government will investigate options to streamline the process for community organisations to submit annual financial statements. Options may include the use of online technology.</p> |
| | Action 2 | <p>Review of audit requirements</p> <p>CAV will review audit requirements for NFP organisations, including setting out options for raising audit thresholds.</p> |
| | Action 3 | <p>Regulatory consistency</p> <p>The Government will work with community organisations and the Commonwealth Government to develop a regulatory framework which is appropriate for both large and small NFPs.</p> |
| | Action 4 | <p>Amendments to trading and model rules</p> <p>Model Rules under the <i>Associations Incorporation Regulations 1998</i> will be simplified.</p> <p>The AIA will be amended to provide greater operational flexibility to incorporated associations.</p> |
| | Action 5 | <p>Additional administrative reforms</p> <p>CAV will undertake a series of other amendments to the AIA to further reduce administrative burdens on the sector, by improving internal grievance procedures, merging the roles of Public Officers and Secretaries and allowing small associations to apply for voluntary cancellation.</p> |
| | Action 6 | <p>Update of the Fundraising Appeals Act</p> <p>Government will introduce a number of regulatory reforms to streamline and modernise the registration practices for NFP fundraising organisations. In addition, the definition of fundraising will be updated; and CAV will lead efforts to identify current exemptions to fundraising registration requirements.</p> |
| | Action 7 | <p>Enhancing regulatory awareness and engagement</p> <p>This Action is specifically designed to enhance engagement between service providers and government on changes to the regulatory environment.</p> |
| | Action 8 | <p>Enhanced regulatory support</p> <p>CAV in consultation with the Office for the Community Sector will investigate the provision of additional regulatory support to the sector.</p> |
| | Action 9 | <p>Ensuring service agreement consistency</p> <p>Departments will jointly explore opportunities to drive greater consistency in service agreements and accreditation systems by aligning quality and</p> |

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| | | accountability requirements. |
| | Action 10 | <p align="center">Grants reform</p> <p>DTF and DPCD will investigate the feasibility of streamlining the financial and accounting terms used in discretionary grant agreement reporting and will promote the use of a standard chart of accounts and data dictionary by grant applicants.</p> |
| | Action 11 | <p>Inter-governmental collaboration and reform</p> <p>The Government is strongly committed to pushing for national reform to harmonise legislation impacting the NFP sector. The Government will present to the <i>Council for Australian Federation</i> an overview of the proposed NFP regulatory reforms in Victoria and seek agreement on priority areas of harmonisation of NFP regulation between jurisdictions.</p> |
| Building the capacity of community organisations | Action 12 | <p>Investing in leadership development</p> <p>To deepen the skills of those working or involved in the sector, the Government will fund a feasibility study to determine the most effective means of developing leaderships capabilities within the sector – and in particular the viability of a National Academic Centre of Leadership Excellence.</p> |
| | Action 13 | <p>A Community Services Workforce Capability Framework</p> <p>Government will work with the sector (and other jurisdictions) to develop a framework, focusing on how to develop the skills and capabilities needed in the sector.</p> |
| | Action 14 | <p>Community sector placement and mentoring</p> <p>The Government will develop a placement and mentoring program to contribute to shared knowledge and understanding between government and community organisations.</p> |
| | Action 15 | <p>Increasing the skills and engagement of volunteers</p> <p>Government will continue to assist community organisations so they are better able to attract, retain and train volunteers through the development of a comprehensive volunteer and participation strategy that will build on the work of the past three years.</p> |
| | Action 16 | <p>Developing organisational support services and networks</p> <p>Government will commit to broadening and expanding the range of information and support services available to community organisations to help them meet challenges of performance, long-term strategy and capacity development.</p> |

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| Supporting innovation and growth | Action 17 | Building capacity for innovation and growth The Government will explore options to build capacity for innovation and growth in the sector through full or partial funding, engaging business and philanthropic organisations, and the use of three year service agreements. |
| | Action 18 | Developing community enterprise Government will continue to strengthen the ongoing viability of community enterprises and provide support to existing and emerging enterprises in partnership with the private sector and philanthropic organisations. |
| Enhancing the role of NFPs in local community life | Action 19 | Sharing facilities and infrastructure To assist wider take-up of shared facilities, government will publish a best practice guide that will help schools and their community partners develop effective ways to plan, develop and manage shared-use facilities. The Community Support Fund will continue to encourage multi-use facilities through its infrastructure stream. Government will also improve grant processes to make sure that the various sources of funds for shared use projects are better coordinated. |
| | Action 20 | Stronger role for community foundations Government will fund 12 local Community Foundations in sites where there is the right mix of community interest and need, in areas where Government has invested and the groundwork for success has been developed. |
| | Action 21 | Attracting more support to local sport and recreational associations Government will continue to improve the planning, coordination and provision of community facilities like sports clubs in the growth areas. |
| | Action 22 | Local government community planning and engagement Government will work with local government peak bodies and local councils to build the community planning knowledge and skills of councils, and communicate good practice. |
| Recognising community organisations and coordinating efforts across Government | Action 23 | Establishing the Office for the Community Sector The Office for the Community Sector will implement this action plan and lead the coordination and implementation of policy priorities affecting the sector across the whole of Victorian Government. |
| | Action 24 | Facilitating dialogue and exchange between the sectors State-wide forums will be established to discuss the issues addressed in the action plan. Events will also be held to address and discuss opportunities to enhance the involvement of business and the philanthropic sector in partnerships with government to strengthen community organisations. |

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| | Action 25 | Supporting a new representative body for community organisations Government will provide one-off facilitation funding to support the sector to consider the establishment of an appropriate representative arrangement. |
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