



AUSTRALIAN
FEDERATION OF AIDS
ORGANISATIONS INC.
ABN 91 708 310 631

PO Box 51
Newtown NSW
2042 AUSTRALIA

Ph +61 2 9557-9399
Fax +61 2 9557-9867

Email info@afao.org.au

29 September 2003

The Board of Taxation
C/- the Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Madam/Sir

Consultation on the Definition of Charity

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is a charity that represents Australian HIV community based organisations at a national level. Our membership includes State and Territory AIDS Councils, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) and Scarlet Alliance, the national organisation representing sex workers. Amongst AFAO's activities is the provision of HIV policy advice to the Commonwealth government, advocating for our member organisations, developing and formulating policy on HIV/AIDS issues, and promotion of medical and social research into HIV/AIDS and its effects.

AFAO wishes to inform the Board of Taxation that it endorses the submission of ACOSS (*A Charity by any other name... ACOSS Submission to the Board of Taxation on the draft Charities Bill, 2003*) dated September 2003 in its entirety. In particular, AFAO is concerned that the draft Bill imposes counter-productive restrictions on the advocacy and lobbying activities of charities. We strongly recommend that Clause 8 of the Bill be amended to overcome this problem in the manner suggested by recommendation 1 of the ACOSS submission.

We look forward to the outcome of the Board's consultation.

Yours faithfully

Don Baxter
Executive Director