

9 September 2003

Consultation on the Definition of a Charity
The Board of Taxation
C/- The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Charities Bill 2003 - Exposure Draft

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre is a specialist alcohol and drug organisation integrating treatment and support service delivery with research, education and training. Turning Point leads the development of policy and programs to prevent and reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. The Centre is affiliated with St Vincent's Hospital and The University of Melbourne and is a collaborating centre of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, the National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction and the National Drug Research Institute.

The Turning Point Board of Directors recommends that charities should be permitted to engage in advocacy on behalf of those they benefit. Conduct of this kind should not deny them charitable status even if it involved advocating for a change in law or policy. Submissions from both charities and governments have demonstrated that charities are increasingly requested to represent to governments the interests of those they seek to benefit and to contribute to the development and administration of government policies. The Board of Directors considers that the definition of a charity should not prevent these developments as they represent an effective means of delivering outcomes for individuals, charities and governments.

Yours sincerely,

Peter McMullin
Acting Chairperson
Board of Directors
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre