



# WESTCARE Inc.

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**SUPPORTING THE DISABLED FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

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 Web Address: www.westcare.com.au

## FACSIMILE

**TO: THE BOARD OF TAXATION**  
**ATTENTION: THE CHAIRMAN**  
**FAX: No 02 6263 4471**  
**DATE: 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**  
**FROM: RICHARD ELSEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**RE: SUBMISSION TO CONSULTATION ON THE**  
**DEFINITION OF A CHARITY**

Westcare Inc. has endorsement as an income tax exempt charitable entity under Section 50B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

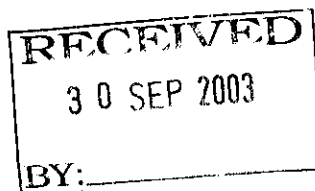
Westcare has been established since 1946 during which time it has been actively involved in charitable collections in support of its mission statement: "*WESTCARE Inc, a charitable organisation formerly known as The Tuberculosis and Chest Association of Western Australia, exists to enhance the lives of people with disabilities and to assist their integration into the community, while at the same maintaining a concern for the control of Tuberculosis*".

We welcome the broad direction of the draft Charities Bill 2003 with the following exceptions:

- We advocate removing restrictions on the advocacy and lobbying role of charities contained in Clause 8 of the draft. We support ACOSS in its request that a better approach which is less intrusive and burdensome for charities is to recognise that charities may engage in non-partisan advocacy that is an integral part of a strategy to promote an underlying dominant charitable purpose, such as relieving poverty, protecting the environment or supporting people with disabilities.
- We advocate the establishment of a Charity Commission which has the expertise to regulate access to charitable status which is currently regulated by the ATO. We strongly support that such a body works closely with the State Government agencies charged with regulating charities so that all levels of government are encouraged to adopt identical definitions of charitable status and administrative guidelines to implement them.

Yours faithfully

**RICHARD ELSEY**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



WINNER  
 Human Resources  
 Best Practice Award

PATRON: His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia  
 LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN SANDERSON, A.C.  
 PROUDLY SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
 AND TB MONITORING AND CONTROL

