



# Central Australian Show Society

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## Registration with the Australian Charity Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC)

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### Pre-ACNC Registration Questions

**Q1: Is there a checklist for becoming ACNC registered tailored towards Show Societies? A:**

Yes, there is a self-assessment tool that has been developed by ACNC. While it's not specifically tailored for Show Societies, it can help guide you through the process. You can access the tool here: [Charity registration self-assessment](#)

**Q2: How complicated is the process to register for ACNC? A:** The process should not be too complicated, as ACNC has improved guidance on its website. You'll need a compliant governing document (constitution), an ABN, well-defined objects, and responsible people. The registration typically takes about 15 days for ACNC to review and register.

**Q3: What if the process for ACNC registration is not successful? A:** If your application is not successful, ACNC will follow up with you to provide guidance on what needs to be done. They aim to work with applicants to ensure a successful outcome.

**Q4: Can ACNC provide resources for governing documents or charitable purposes? A:** Yes, ACNC provides templates for governing documents and examples of charitable purpose clauses. For Show Societies, an example might be, "*The organisation is established to be a charity with the purpose of advancing agriculture by holding an annual agricultural show to promote the value of agriculture to the community.*" Templates and examples can be found on the ACNC website.

**Q5: Is bulk registration possible for Show Societies? A:** ACNC is currently working on a bulk registration process that would allow state bodies to help members register more easily, however discussion will need to be held with your specific state body around this option.

**Q6. Are there specific state regulations for Show Societies in addition to ACNC requirements? A:** Yes, each state and territory may have different reporting requirements and obligations for charities. You can find specific information regarding your state's regulations through this ACNC guide on state and territory regulators

#### Post-ACNC Registration Questions

**Q1: What are the ongoing reporting obligations once registered with ACNC? A:** All registered charities must complete an Annual Information Statement (AIS). Charities with revenue below \$500,000 do not need to submit financial reports, only a summary of activities. The AIS must be submitted within six months after the end of the financial year.

**Q2: What should Show Societies do if they lose access to the ACNC portal? A:** If access to the ACNC portal is lost, Show Societies should update their Responsible Persons and



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Authorised Persons immediately. It is recommended to have multiple Responsible Persons registered to avoid access issues. ACNC also has a hotline available for portal access assistance.

**Q3: Can Show Societies list their state body as an authorised person to back up access to the portal? A:** Yes, Show Societies can have multiple authorised people, including their state body. However, the Responsible Person must be an individual, not a generic entity.

**Q4: Is it permissible for Show Societies to use income from camping or other activities for showground upkeep? A:** Yes, as long as the profits from such activities are reinvested back into the showground or the society's charitable purpose, this is considered permissible under ACNC regulations.

**Q5: What happens if a Show Society's ACNC registration is revoked? A:** If a society's registration is revoked, it will have to re-register. It's recommended that societies choose the date of their previous revocation when re-registering to avoid any gaps. ACNC can provide assistance in this process.

**Q6: How can I contact ACNC for support?**

A: The advice phone line 13 22 62 is open from 1pm - 5pm weekdays (AEST), they also have an online enquiry form that can be filled out at any time: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/contact-us>

This FAQ document is intended to provide clear and accessible answers to the most commonly asked questions by Show Societies regarding ACNC registration and post-registration obligations.

# CHARITY REGISTRATION SELF-ASSESSMENT



# Charity registration eligibility

This section will help you assess whether your organisation is [eligible for charity registration](#) and if there are any issues to address.

## 1.1 Is your organisation currently registered as a charity with the ACNC? \*

If you are not sure, please check the [ACNC Charity Register](#).

- Yes. I want to assess if my organisation is meeting its ongoing obligations as a registered charity.
- No. I want to assess my organisation's eligibility for charity registration.

## 1.2 Organisations ineligible for charity registration \*

An organisation cannot be registered as a charity if it is:

- an individual or a partnership
- a political party
- a 'government entity' – this is part of an Australian or foreign government or one of its agencies, and some organisations established by a state or territory under a law, or
- included in a written decision made by an Australian government agency or judge that lists it as engaging in or supporting terrorist or other criminal activities.

**Do any of the above categories apply to your organisation?**

- Yes
- No
- Notes

## 1.3 Disqualifying purposes \*

Certain purposes will disqualify an organisation from being a registered charity. These are:

- engaging in or promoting unlawful activities (for example, tax evasion, people or drug trafficking, dealing in weapons or illegal goods)
- engaging in or promoting activities that are contrary to public policy  or
- promoting or opposing a political party or candidate for political office.

**Does your organisation have any of the disqualifying purposes mentioned above?**

- Yes
- No
- Notes

## 1.4 Not-for-profit \*

An organisation must be a not-for-profit to apply for charity registration and continue being registered with the ACNC 

A not-for-profit is an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain, or other benefit of particular people (for example, its members, the people who run it or their friends or relatives). A not-for-profit can make a profit, but any profit must be put back into the organisation and used for its charitable purposes.

This applies while the organisation is operating and if it winds up.

See our guidance on [not-for-profits](#) for more information.

**Does your organisation operate as a not-for-profit?**

- Yes
- No
- Notes

## 1.5 Charitable purposes and activities \*

To be registered as a charity, your not-for-profit must have one or more of the 12 [charitable purposes](#) listed in the *Charities Act 2013* (Cth) that are for the [public benefit](#).



A charity's 'purpose' is what it was set up to achieve. Some people also refer to this as their charity's 'mission'. A charity's activities work towards its purposes .

Some purposes may benefit the community but not fit the legal meaning of a [charitable purpose](#).

For example, if your organisation is a club or association that primarily focuses on social interaction, it is not eligible for charity registration because social interaction is not considered a charitable purpose on its own.

See our guidance on [sporting clubs](#), [social clubs](#), and the [types of charities](#) that register with us for more information.

**Select one or more listed purposes below that match your organisation's purpose/s.** 

- advancing health 
- advancing education 
- advancing social or public welfare 
- advancing religion 
- advancing culture 
- promoting reconciliation, mutual respect, and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia 
- promoting or protecting human rights 
- advancing the security or safety of Australia or the Australian public 
- preventing or relieving the suffering of animals 
- advancing the natural environment 
- other purposes beneficial to the general public 
- advancing public debate (promoting or opposing a change to any matter established by law, policy or practice in the Commonwealth, a state, a territory or another country) 
- My organisation's purpose is not listed
- Notes

## 1.6 All purposes must be charitable \*

To be registered as a charity, all of your organisation's purposes must be charitable, except for purposes that are 'incidental or ancillary', (which are purposes that are supportive of the organisation's charitable purpose or purposes).

**Are your organisation's purposes, as reflected in both its activities and in the objects of its governing document, charitable?**

- Yes
- No
- Notes

## 1.7 Activities \*

All of your organisation's activities must work towards its charitable purpose(s).

If your organisation has any activities that do not support its charitable purposes, it is unlikely to be entitled to registration as a charity.

**Do all your organisation's activities support its charitable purposes?**

- Yes
- No
- Notes

## 1.8 Public benefit or private benefit \*

To register as a charity, your organisation's charitable purposes must be for the public benefit. It cannot exist solely for private benefit and must use its resources in a way that is in the charity's best interest.

If the charity provides a benefit to an individual or group, it must justify how that benefit furthers its purpose and why it is in the charity's best interest. Situations that can be defined as involving a [private benefit](#) can also encompass goods, services, or anything else the charity 

provides.

See our guidance about [related party transactions](#), and the [requirement for charities to be for the public benefit](#).

**Does your organisation provide any benefit to an individual or group that does not further its charitable purpose or is not in the charity's best interest?**

Yes

No

Notes

## 1.9 ACNC Governance Standards \*

Organisations (except [Basic Religious Charities](#)) must meet the [ACNC Governance Standards](#) to be registered as charities with the ACNC and remain registered.

The Governance Standards are a set of core, minimum standards that deal with how a charity is run (including its processes, activities, and relationships) – its governance.

The Standards require charities to remain charitable, operate lawfully, and be run in an accountable and responsible way.

Because the Governance Standards are a set of high-level principles, not precise rules, charities must determine the actions they need to take in order to comply with them.

See our guidance on [ACNC Governance Standards](#) for more information.

**Do you confirm that you have read the above guidance, and your organisation complies with the Governance Standards?**

Yes

No

Not applicable. It is a Basic Religious Charity.

Notes

## 1.10 External Conduct Standards \*

To obtain and maintain charity registration with the ACNC, your organisation must comply with the [ACNC External Conduct Standards](#) if operating overseas.

The External Conduct Standards are a set of standards that govern how a registered charity must manage its activities and resources outside Australia.

The Standards require charities to take reasonable steps to ensure appropriate standards of behaviour, governance and oversight when undertaking activities or providing funding overseas.

See our guidance on [External Conduct Standards](#) for more information.

**Do you confirm that you have read the above guidance and that your organisation complies with the External Conduct Standards for the activities it conducts or funds it sends overseas? This includes plans to conduct activities and send funds in the future.**

Yes

No

Not applicable. My organisation does not conduct activities or send funds overseas. It does not plan to conduct activities and send funds overseas in the future.

Your self-assessment for Section 1 is now complete.

Based on your responses, your organisation may be eligible for charity registration.

Before you apply, you should read our [registration checklist](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

To apply, follow our [instructions to start an application in the Charity Portal](#).

We strongly recommend completing Sections 2 (Charity information) and 3 (Charity subtypes) to identify additional requirements for charity registration and avoid delays in processing your application.

You can save your progress up to this point and complete the rest of the assessment later.



[Print a copy of your assessment](#) and exit the self-assessment tool.

Notes

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