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ONLY NINE MONTHS UNTIL TAX LAWS CHANGE! HAVE YOU APPLIED TO REGISTER YET?**Registration update**

Remember, we are only able to backdate to the date we received your **correctly completed** application. Therefore, for applications received after 1 July 2008, you will be outside the changed tax laws from 1 July until the date we receive your application. We strongly advise you to apply now to avoid any uncertainties. Most organisations have been granted exemptions from filing their first annual return until 2009, so there's no reason to delay applying!

Charities registered

1,554

Applications queued for analysis

3,901

Processing time

Note: If you don't hear from us straight away confirming that we have received your application, don't be concerned. As we are busy processing applications, you may not hear from us until you are registered. If we need further information from you, we will be in touch.

Current processing times are as follows:

- *Individual applications* – at least 14 weeks for correctly completed registrations, with more complex cases taking longer
- *Group applications* – at least 90 working days

Overview of types of charities registered as at 31 October 2007

The "big three" most common:

Sectors – education/training/research; social services; health

Activities – services; providing advice, information or advocacy; making grants to organisations

Beneficiaries – children/young people; general public; older people

Areas of operation were as follows (note: the total is greater than the total number of registered charities, as some organisations tick two or more categories on their application):

Auckland – 216

Bay of Plenty – 105

Canterbury – 196

Chatham Islands – 3

Gisborne – 35

Hawke's Bay – 55

Manawatu-Wanganui – 80

Nelson-Marlborough-Tasman – 52

Northland – 75

Otago – 91

Southland – 47

Taranaki – 56

Waikato – 105

Wellington-Wairarapa – 175

West Coast – 25

Nationwide – 401

Overseas – 97

You can register online at www.charities.govt.nz, download application forms from our website, or call our Contact Centre on freephone 0508 242 748 to request a copy of the forms.

New password required to log onto Charities Register

We've just upgraded our website, so if you are logging onto the Charities Register to complete your application, or wish to see your details, you will need a new password. To generate your new password, all you need to do is:

- Go to the Charities Login Page
- Enter your existing username
- Click on "Forgotten your Password?".

A new password will be automatically emailed to the contact email address you have supplied.

You can keep your new auto-generated password, or (once logged on) change it to something else if you prefer.

Our apologies for any inconvenience – but we are sure you will find the upgraded website much better to use.

Printing forms from the web without help pages

Following your requests, we have provided abbreviated PDF versions of the forms on our website, so there's no need to print the help pages. We expect that this will be particularly useful if you need to print a number of Officer Certification Forms and wish to reduce the amount of paper you are using. All forms can be found at

<http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/forms.htm>.

Annual returns not required until registered

We have already been sent a number of annual returns that we don't require yet, including from entities that: are not registered or have an exemption from filing as their financial year covers less than six months of their registration with us.

If you fall into one of these categories please note that you are not yet required to file an annual return.

Deferral of NZ IFRS for some charities

The Accounting Standards Review Board (ASRB) has deferred mandatory NZ International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS) implementation for some small New Zealand entities. In short, they can keep applying the accounting standards they have been applying in the past, rather than adopt NZ IFRS if they don't want to.

Many New Zealand based charities will be affected by this decision.

The Ministry of Economic Development is also considering the financial reporting regime for charities. It is not yet known what the outcome of this work will be.

The option to delay the adoption of NZ IFRS is open to:

- companies that are not issuers, not required to file financial statements with the Registrar of Companies, and not large as defined by s6(a) of the Financial Reporting Act 1993;
- entities that are not subject to the Financial Reporting Act 1993, not publicly accountable and not large as defined in the Framework for Differential Reporting.

If your charitable organisation is a small entity required to prepare general purpose financial statements, you may continue to apply the existing financial reporting standards in the meantime.

For more information refer to media releases at www.asrb.co.nz or www.nzica.com, or visit <http://www.knowledgeshop.co.nz/Network/News/profile.asp?DocumentID=2206>.

Invitation to Commission annual meetings

Our annual meetings are coming up very soon!

We are still in the relatively early stages of registering charities, so we warmly welcome all registered and unregistered charities to attend

this year. Please pass this invitation on to all the charities you know.

At each annual meeting, the Commission will report on the operation of the Commission during the preceding financial year, table its financial statements for that year, and report on anything that it believes may significantly affect the charitable sector.

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Commission's operation during the 2006-7 year.

The agenda will include an afternoon tea break with a chance to talk to the Board and some Commission staff, as well as other charities in attendance.

For catering purposes we would prefer you to RSVP by phoning the Commission's free information line 0508 242 748.

Venues are as follows:

Wellington (held on 19 November)

Christchurch

Wednesday 28 November, 2pm - 4.30pm
Canterbury Horticultural Hall
Hagley Park South, Riccarton Ave

Dunedin

Thursday 29 November, 2pm - 4.30pm
Dunedin Public Art Gallery Conference Room
30 The Octagon

Auckland

Monday 3 December, 2pm - 4.30pm
Fickling Centre
546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings

Tauranga

Tuesday 4 December, 2pm - 4.30pm
Bureta Park Motor Inn, Redwood Room
Vale Street, Otumoetai

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sport and recreation paper now available

We have just published our position paper on charitable purpose and sport and recreation bodies. To read it, go to the 'other resources' section at

www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets.htm.

Hear our CE on radio

Our Chief Executive Trevor Garrett was recently interviewed on the Ethnic Women programme on Wellington Access Radio about the work of the Charities Commission. To listen, visit www.accessradio.org.nz, click on the 'Ethnic Voices' section, then 'Ethnic Women' and listen to the 16 October programme.

IRD paper on honoraria and reimbursements

An issues paper *The tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers* has been released by Inland Revenue. It explores a number of options for clarifying and simplifying the tax treatment of reimbursements and honoraria paid to volunteers. The paper seeks feedback on suggested ways of dealing with current uncertainties in the tax law relating to these payments to minimise, as much as possible, compliance costs for volunteers and non-profit organisations. Submissions close on 14 December.

For more information see the government's media statement and the issues paper, "The tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers" at <http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz>.

Order a copy of our Annual Report

We will be presenting our Annual Report at our annual meetings. To request a copy please call freephone 0508 242 748 or email info@charities.govt.nz. You can also view our Annual Report online at www.charities.govt.nz/news/annual_reports.htm.

Tauranga registration workshop

Do you live in or around Tauranga? You may be interested in attending a Charities Commission workshop in December.

Date: Monday 3 December 2007

Time: 5:45pm – 7:30pm

Venue: TECT Theatre, The Historic Village, 17th Avenue West, Tauranga

The format of the workshop will be:

- an overview of the Charities Act and the benefits of registration
- common errors with registration and supporting documents
- your questions.

Resource material and information will be provided at the workshop.

Numbers for this workshop are limited, so a confirmed booking is essential. To obtain a booking form and for any other queries please phone The Volunteer Centre, (07) 571 3714.

If you'd like to read this newsletter on our website, or print it out in its 2-column format, please visit http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/update_newsletter.htm.

If you no longer wish to subscribe to this newsletter, simply reply to this email and type "unsubscribe" in the Subject field.