

Before registering

Charities Services provides initial advice and support to groups wishing to register as charities. This advice includes helping with the best legal form for their group (e.g. a trust, incorporated society, or company), and providing information on the benefits and obligations of registration.

- I see people in need in my community and I want to help
- How do I set up a charity?



OUR VISION

Our work contributes to a well governed, transparent and thriving charitable sector with strong public support.

OUR LEGISLATION

The Charities Act – promoting public trust and confidence in the charities sector, encouraging the effective use of charitable resources.

Protecting the sector

- How do I report my concerns about a charity?
- A fake charity is seeking donations in my area



- Charities Services investigates:**
- breaches of the Charities Act
 - serious wrongdoing connected with charities
 - charities no longer qualified for registration

We focus on the most severe risks to public trust and confidence in the charitable sector. Most of our investigations involve us working with charities to improve their governance. In serious cases, we can issue warning notices, or recommend to Te Rātā Atawhai that a charity is deregistered. We work closely with other regulators, when they are better placed to address the issues raised (e.g. SFO for serious fraud or WorkSafe for unsafe employment practices).

222	concerns addressed
34	open inquiries
7	referrals to other agencies
16	completed inquiries
1	deregistered for serious wrongdoing

On deregistration, we provide information to Inland Revenue (there are deregistration tax consequences) and the Companies Office (to ensure consistency between registers).

Community groups incorporate through MBIE - Companies Office.

Registering as a charity

Charities Services engages with groups to help them get registered. We have information on our website to support the registration process. We must ensure groups meet registration requirements, so they can advance their charitable purposes.

1,727	registration decisions
1,568	applications received
1,496	applications approved
231	applications withdrawn
0	applications declined

- What information do I need to provide to register?
- Does our rules document meet requirements?

37 Charities Services staff across four teams support almost 28,000 registered charities

TE RĀTĀ ATAWHAI CHARITIES REGISTRATION BOARD

Charities Services services the Board and supports it to undertake its statutory functions. The Board is independent.



- The Board registers and deregisters charities
- The Board delegates straightforward registration decisions to Charities Services

TE RĒHITA KAUPAPA ATAWHAI - THE CHARITIES REGISTER

- How do I find out about a charity?
- I want to know how many hours volunteers provide to charities

Charities Services looks after a public searchable database of all registered charities, that includes financial and non-financial information.

- I need to update my rules, how do I do that?
- What reporting do I need to do to stay registered?

Staying registered

Charities Services works with charities to ensure they meet their obligations under the Charities Act. These obligations include filing annual returns and financial statements that meet reporting standards, and updating their key details on the Charities Register. These requirements enhance the sector's transparency and accountability.

We carry out checks of performance reports/financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting standards. We remove charities who persistently fail to file annual returns; and check key changes to their rules to make sure charities continue to qualify for registration.

396	charities deregistered for failure to file two or more annual returns
385	charities voluntarily deregistered

Percentage of charities applying reporting standards

96%	100%	97%	61%
TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	TIER 4

Inland Revenue Te Tari Taake We provide information to Inland Revenue who administer tax benefits for registered charities.

Education & capability building

Charities Services aims to build sector capability. We develop resources, deliver engagement events, and communicate regularly to ensure charities understand their obligations.

Website views	678,829
Newsletter views	109,731
Blog views	31,445
Webinar views	5,724
Social media followers	2,694

- What's my role as an officer?
- How do I run my charity well?

SECTOR FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2020/21

