



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Vision New England Concerns Over Charity Advocacy Roles Resolved

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, has welcomed the abandonment of the draft Charities Bill announced recently in the Budget and confirmed this has resolved the issue of a charity's right to be an advocate.

Mr Windsor said, "The issues raised at the Vision New England Summit of local charities advocacy roles being threatened by the draft Charities Bill has been resolved with the Bill being abandoned during the Budget announcement."

"This is welcome news and a good response to the agenda item 14 raised by the NSW Cancer Council at the Vision New England Summit that stated:

Resolution 14:

That Vision New England Summit calls upon the Treasurer, The Hon Peter Costello MP, to alter the definition of charity within the proposed Bill where it applies to taxation law so that the rights of legitimate charities to operate as advocates for the communities is not impinged.

"The discussion at the Vision New England Summit focused on the view that charities should be a strong voice for the disadvantaged within our society and the abandoning of the draft Charities Bill is a step towards ensuring that charities continue in the advocacy role as well as their broader work."

"There are some administrative process issues that are generated by the abandonment of the draft Bill and delays in taxation amendment bills and I will follow these issues through to ensure that they do not negatively impact on the viability and role of charities," Mr Windsor concluded.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080