



A significant step forward: Labor to establish a national 'one-stop-shop' regulator for Australia's \$43 billion non-profit sector

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After 15 years and more than 5 major reports, PilchConnect welcomes today's election commitment by the Labor Party to implement key regulatory reforms for Australia's non-profit sector.

The initiatives announced by Labor include the establishment of a new, national 'one-stop-shop' regulator for non-profits by the end of 2011, the immediate establishment of an Office for the Non-Profit Sector within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the convening of a Non-Profit Sector Reform Council.

PilchConnect called on the Coalition and Greens to release their policies on non-profit regulatory reform, for Australia's \$43 billion non-profit sector. "There is broad interest from the public in this issue because the non-profit sector touches every Australian in some way – whether through volunteering, belonging to a local community club, receiving welfare services from a non-profit, or donating money to a charity" said Sue Woodward, Senior Lawyer, PilchConnect.

"Clear, urgent and comprehensive reform is vital for a sector that has immense economic and social significance, but is struggling under regulatory red-tape" said Ms Woodward.

"The regulatory regime for non-profits is more complex than for business, despite the fact that many small non-profits rely almost entirely on volunteers, have limited resources and little capacity to access legal help" said Ms Woodward. "Most non-profits we work with just want to focus on the reason they set up in the first place - providing critical emergency accommodation or material support to disadvantaged people in the community - not on wading through complex legal and regulatory reporting obligations".

PilchConnect is pleased that [Labor's commitment](#) implements key recommendations of the major [2010 Productivity Commission Report](#). A national regulator should enable all non-profit community organisations to lodge one report to one regulator. The mantra of 'report once use often' was recognised by the Productivity Commission as an important way to overcome current duplication and inconsistencies in reporting requirements.

PilchConnect looks forward to being consulted on the best way to implement these critical reforms. These reforms are in line with our submissions to the Productivity Commission and other reviews such as the Henry Tax Review and the 2008 and 2010 Senate Inquiries into non-profit sector regulation: www.pilch.org.au/submissions.

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[PilchConnect](#) is a specialist legal service established to provide free legal information, training and advice to NFP community organisations. The PilchConnect service is a sector-based response that promotes good governance among non-profits and assists them to understand and deal with their legal and regulatory obligations.