

PilchConnect pro-bono referral guidelines - proposed organisations

While PilchConnect gives priority to assisting existing not-for-profit organisations, our member law firms have some limited capacity to help groups seeking legal advice on starting up a new not-for-profit organisation. This includes assistance with drafting constituent documents, advice on incorporation options, suitable legal and membership structures, and other relevant matters.

For the purposes of determining whether we can assist groups wanting to start up a new not-for-profit organisation, PilchConnect will look at the following factors:

- ▶ whether there is a *group* of people who are interested in starting up and committed to contributing to the new organisation (we generally can not assist *individuals* acting on their own who have an idea for a new not-for-profit venture);
- ▶ whether the proposed not-for-profit program or service will have a community benefit;
- ▶ whether there is a genuine need for the establishment of the not-for-profit service (in general, we do not assist where the new organisation will duplicate an existing program or service and / or may better off affiliating with, or operating under the auspices of, an existing not-for-profit organisation);
- ▶ whether the group has:
 - a clear idea of the aims and purposes of the proposed organisation (a draft mission statement for the organisation),
 - details of the proposed programs / services the new organisation plans to provide or carry out;
 - given proper consideration to the governance arrangements for the proposed organisation (for example, has names of potential directors or committee members); and
 - has a realistic financial plan and has given proper consideration to potential funding sources.

Before formally applying for legal assistance through PilchConnect, those organisations that are yet to formally establish a not-for-profit operation should first explore the 'getting started' page on our website at www.pilch.org.au/gettingstarted/. If your question is not answered through our website then contact PilchConnect to seek further assistance.