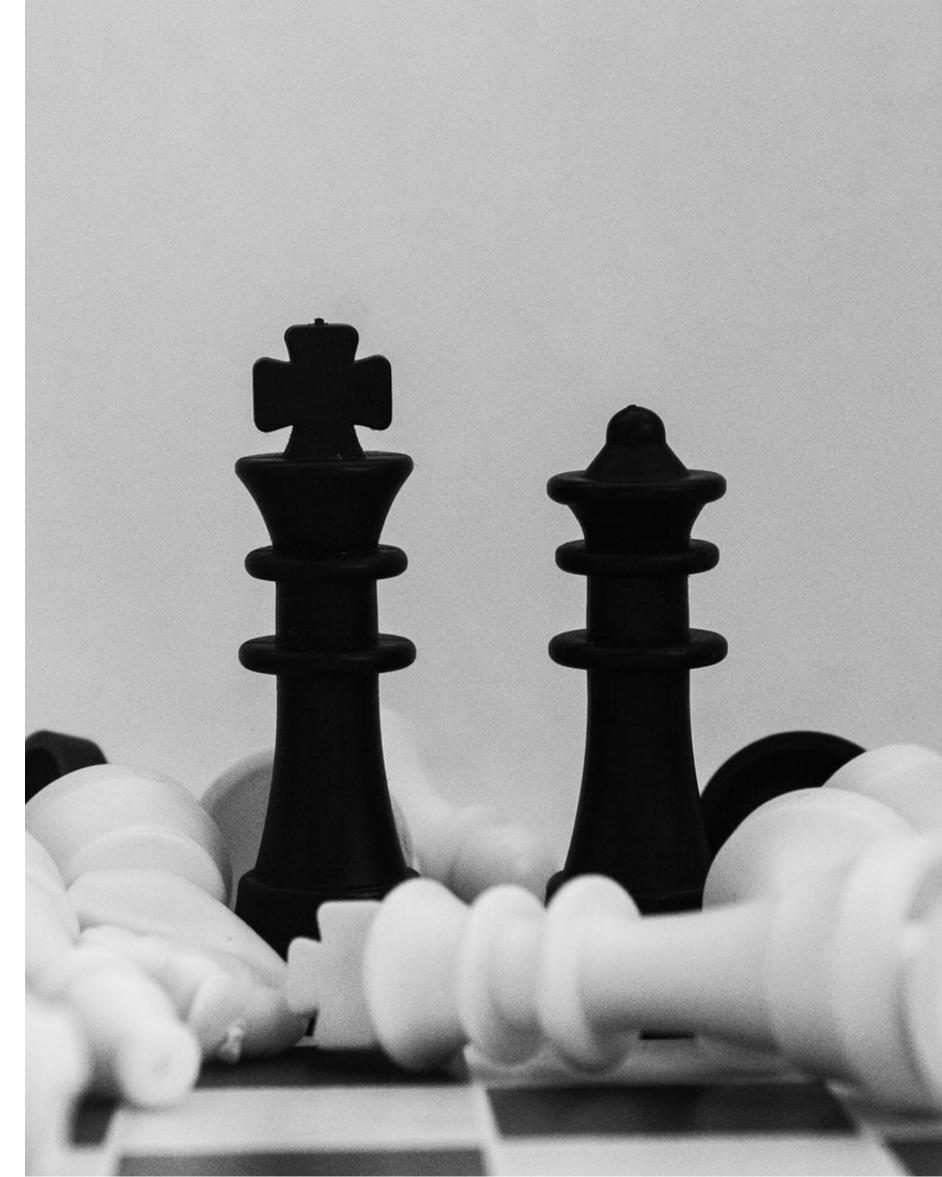
### Our Community

## Finishing well

Winding up your NFP or charity

Rebecca Lambert-Smith Practice Leader

24 August 2020





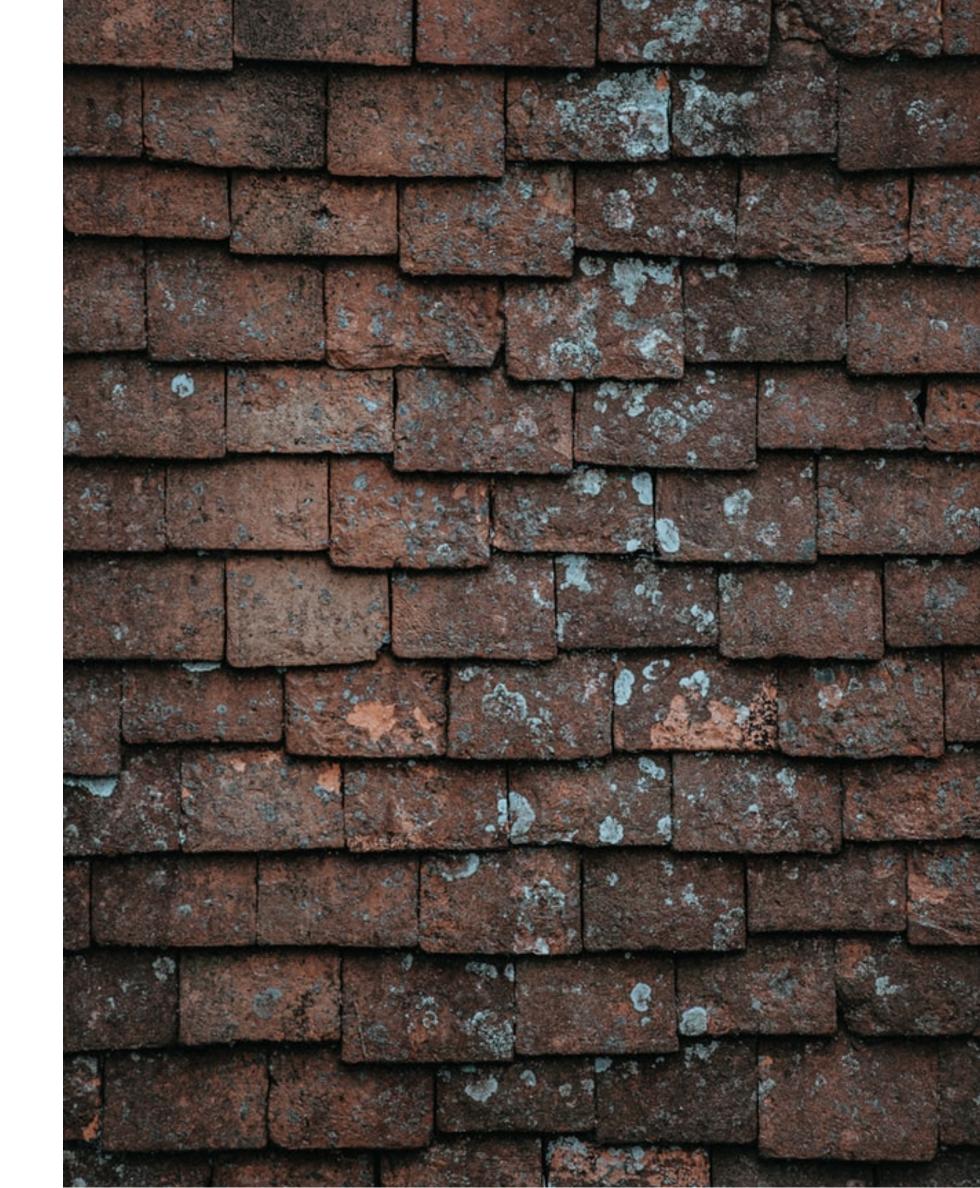
#### What we will cover today

- When is it time to wind up
- COVID-19 update
- Procedure for winding up
- Handling assets
- Protecting your Board members
- Questions



### **Terminology**

- Winding up
- Deregistration/Cancellation
- Constitution
- Board
- Members
- Charity



## Time to pull up stumps?



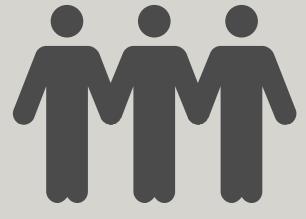
## When is it time to wind up?



**Purpose** related



Not financially viable



Lack of people



### Insolvency

- Unable to pay debts when they fall due
- Personal liability and penalties
- Red flags
  - Overdue payments
  - Repeated operating losses
  - Unable to pay for goods received
- Monitor your financial position





## Is there an alternative to winding up?

- Restructuring
- Merger or amalgamation
- Commercial activities and other income generation

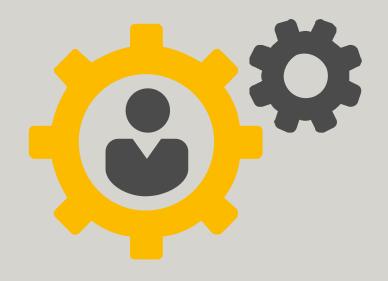


# COVID-19 Update Winding up





## Regulatory Relief



Regulation and Compliance



Statutory Demands (companies)





#### Insolvency safe harbor provisions

Application to incorporated associations

- Victoria safe harbor protection applies
- Northern Territory

Safe harbor protection applies, but separate offence exists (incurring debts not likely to be paid)

- NSW, South Australia, Western Australia Corps
   Act doesn't apply and separate offence exists
   (incurring debts while insolvent)
- Queensland, Tasmania and ACT Corps Act doesn't apply and no separate offence

# Procedure Winding up





#### **Ending an organisation**

- Removing all assets, ceasing operation, ending recognition of legal identity by government
- Process will depend on:
  - Type of entity
  - Tax status
  - Constitution
  - Financial position
  - People involved



## Voluntarily ending an organisation



#### Cancellation/deregistration

- Simple process to end registration of an entity
- Not formally "wound up"
  - Eligibility/Threshold requirements



#### Winding up

- Formal winding up
- Liquidator or administrator
  - Paying or settling debts
- Distributing surplus assets



#### **Amalgamating**

- Combining two or more associations
- Legal identities combine –
  no formal "end" of an
  organisation





#### Who makes the decision

- Board
- Members
- Regulator
- Courts

Remember to follow the proper process to make decision.

## Example – Winding up a solvent company



Board make a declaration of solvency



Members
pass a
special
resolution to
wind up the
company
and appoint
a liquidator



Notice of winding up published on ASIC website



Liquidator winds up affairs and lodges final documents with ASIC



(Three months later)
Company is deregistered



## Example – Voluntarily deregistering a company







## Example – Voluntary cancellation of association



Board determines that association meets criteria

Members
pass a
special
resolution
seeking
cancellation
and
approving
distribution of
surplus
assets

Distribute assets (if any)

Apply to regulator (i.e Consumer Affairs Victoria)

Regulator cancels incorporation





### Other matters



Records



Accounts, contracts and bank accounts



ACNC and other regulators



Notify stakeholders and the public



#### Transferring assets

- Where do leftover assets go?
- Who decides?
  - Associations
  - Companies
  - Trusts
- What characteristics must recipient have?
- Can you impose obligations on recipient?
   (Community foundation subfund? Trust?)
- Does liability attach to assets?



# Protecting Board members Winding up





- Do the numbers
- Follow the process
  - Constitution
  - Legislation
- Pass supporting resolutions
- Consider ongoing liability
  - Will liability outlast the entity?
  - Winding up vs deregistration
  - Insurance



# Questions? Winding up





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#### **Save Our Sector**

Helping the not-for-profit sector to survive, reinvent and sustain.

**#SaveOurSector** 



**DAMN GOOD ADVICE** 

#### Creating a COVID-19-Safe

#### Workplace

A comprehensive 44-page guide to the steps your organisation must take to create a pandemic-safe workplace. Includes essential checklists!

Download the FREE guide for NFP boards and managers

#### **Help Sheets**

Scroll through 20+ COVID-19-focused help sheets | More ICDA Tools & Resources

## Top not-for-profit thinkers spell out your priorities for COVID-19

Members of the Community Directors
Council (L-R) Pablo Alfredo Gimenez, Jodi

#### FAQs about your not-forprofit's AGM

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way not-for-profits are run, and AGMs will never be the same....

#### to help you through C

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## Get in touch

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