

Hi All

Thanks for attending the webinar with us last Thursday!

1st up – apologies for not getting the answers to the webinar questions to you sooner – but we have been working flat-out getting our new online Diploma of Governance ready. Our very first cohort of students started yesterday. If you are interested, details on the Diploma (including part scholarships) can be found [here](#)

We've collated the questions received during the webinar, and can give you answers or directions to where you can find the answers below:

Q: Can donors get tax deductible receipts if donations are made via crowdfunding?

A: Yes! But there are some important things to remember.

If you have DGR status, you can provide a tax-deductible receipt in return for a pledge of the same amount. You can't, however, provide a tax-deductible receipt in return for a pledge associated with a reward. For example, let's say one of your supporters wants to pledge \$100 towards your project in return for a reward of entry to your next gala ball, and also wants to pledge \$50 as a donation towards your project. They'll need to make two separate pledges, and you'll need to issue two separate receipts. The receipt for \$50 will be tax deductible, and the receipt for \$100 won't be tax deductible. It's your responsibility to issue correct receipts and to ensure that you're operating within all applicable laws and regulations. If you're unsure, we recommend you speak to a fundraising expert, lawyer or tax adviser.

Q: Are philanthropic contacts on the Funding Centre site?

A: The Funding Centre doesn't have a funder directory as such. However, you can search for grants by funder using a drop-down menu, which lists all of the funders with grants advertised in the Funding Centre. Each individual grant round will more often than not have funder contact details displayed at the bottom of the page.

Q: Are PAFs also listed on the Funding Centre site?

A: We list funding from all types of funders, including PAFs (Private Ancillary Funds)

Q: Are there any stats/data on your website that we can have a look at?

A: Yes – we have recently completed two major NFP surveys which include lots of stats, which are available [here](#):

Q: Do you know if there are any organisations that offer support in applying for DGR status?

A: We have a short Funding Centre help sheet on DGRs, which can be found [here](#).

Guidance from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) can be found [here](#)
Justice Connect has a comprehensive guide to applying for and maintaining deductible gift recipient endorsement, which can be found [here](#)

Q: What is DGR status?

A: Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs) are organisations which can receive donations that are tax deductible. If a donation is tax deductible, donors can deduct the amount of their donation from their taxable income when they lodge their tax return. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is responsible for decisions on DGR endorsement.

Q: Are there some Philanthropics who are "hibernating" during the lock down?

A: Yes - many funders, including philanthropic funders have postponed, redirected or in some cases cancelled funding rounds while they consider how best to support the communities they aim to serve. You will need to check on the funder's website (if they have one) or contact them individually to find out how they are responding to the current situation

Q. What about held trusts like ones from the Fremantle Foundation? Will these grants be applicable to them?

A. As above – every funder will be making their own decisions, so you will need to contact them individually at <https://fremantlefoundation.org.au/apply-grant/>

Q. I'd like to speak with Our Community about how to categorise and develop a strategy around 'systemic solutions' and 'grassroots' solutions. The gaps in the system won't ever get filled until we create a structure and framework for 'systemic solutions' that support reform as opposed to putting bandaids on 'problems' (*organisational details redacted here*)

A: There are a few issues here – but at the heart of it is the need for advocacy to government and partners to build better solutions. However, charities in particular need to be careful that their advocacy furthers or aids charitable purposes, and is not “contrary to public policy” (ACNC website). We recommend you join us, as part of the Festival Of Community Directors, for the Australian NFP Advocacy Week, from 21 -25 Sep, where we will be exploring this in detail, with our partners at BDO <https://www.bdo.com.au/en-au/industries/not-for-profit/nfp-advocacy> Also useful might be the Community Council of Australia: <https://www.communitycouncil.com.au/node/254>

Q do you have to be a member of our community to access all of these web sites and resources that are being mentioned eg Give now, SOS events?

A: Membership to Our Community is free, as are most of the resources offered by the Institute of Community Directors in their policy bank and help sheets, and the information sheets for the Funding Centre. You need a subscription to access the Funding Centre grants database and to manage and track your grant applications, as well as receive alerts about new and updated rounds. The price is \$125 per year for a single-user NFP subscription. You can trial the Funding Centre for 14-days for free [by filling in this form](#). GiveNow's crowdfunding service [CrowdRaiser™](#) has a small fee of 3%, which is much lower than other crowdfunding services. For more on GiveNow plans, [visit this link](#). For a fee comparison of GiveNow's CrowdRaiser™ to other similar platforms, [visit this link](#).

Q. Within our school community fund raising often serves two purposes, first and foremost obviously is to raise funds for the school (often with a specific purpose in mind) but the other is as an opportunity for the school community to come together and connect. I am wondering if that can be reconciled in other contexts during these times of social distancing ect.

A: The best way to support these two aims currently is to start an online fundraising community. This can be done by using a specific website, social media platform, or crowd raising platform. Have a look on the GiveNow site [here](#) for ideas.

Q. My other questions is in regards to fundraising that has families and school community members as our main revenue base during these challenging times. Many more families are struggling financially at this time so it seems tricky to ask them to contribute money as they did before Covid-19 etc. How do we reconcile this in a school fundraising context?

A: Check out this help sheet from the Funding Centre: [Fundraising during the COVID-19 crisis: top 10 tips](#).

That's a big list of Q & A's – but to put this into context, there were 855 registered participants for the webinar!

I hope this has been of some assistance, and look forward to supporting your community or NFP group in future.

Regards,

Lisa and Stef