

**Future Proofing Language Centres
Setting up a Charity, DGR, ROCO Status and Patrons
Sue Hanson Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Abor. Corp.**

The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation (GALCAC) has been established to operate as a business. The aim is to ensure GALCAC has a broad income bases which can weather funding changes brought about by changes of policy or government.

In order to support GALCAC's continued development, a business plan identifies two distinct arms to the corporation:

1. The Language Centre

- operating under a 10-year and an annual strategic linguistic plan.
- in receipt of Commonwealth funding.
- focused on recording, linguistic analysis, and creation of language use, preservation and intergenerational language transfer.

2. The Business Centre

- functioning as a charity – an annual charity fundraising campaign.
- undertaking fee-for-service work.
- applying for tenders, using capacity.
- focused on the creation of funds to undertake language-related projects, provide capital resources, provide adequate provision funds.
- create partnerships with native title bodies- undertake contract linguistic work.
- create long term provisional funds through the establishment of a Goldfields Language Foundation.

Registered Charity

1. ACNC – Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission

First, register with the ACNC before starting, to see if your organisation is eligible to become a charity.

Why become a charity?

Registered charities can:

- a) apply for [charity tax concessions](#) as a charity (such as income tax exemption or goods and services tax concessions) from the ATO (your charity must be registered before you can apply for concessions)

b) apply for additional tax benefits as a [public benevolent institution \(PBI\)](#), [health promotion charity \(HPC\)](#) or charity for the [advancement of religion](#)

c) apply for certain categories of [deductible gift recipient \(DGR\) status](#) – some categories are only available to registered charities.

What is your charitable purpose?

The Charities Act 2013 (Cth) lists twelve charitable purposes:

- advancing health
- advancing education
- advancing social or public welfare
- advancing religion
- advancing culture
- promoting reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia
- promoting or protecting human rights
- advancing the security or safety of Australia or the Australian public
- preventing or relieving the suffering of animals
- advancing the natural environment
- other similar purposes 'beneficial to the general public' (a general category), and
- promoting or opposing a change to any matter established by law, policy or practice in the Commonwealth, a state, a territory or another country

What is your type of charity?

Decide what your charity subtype is

- Animal welfare groups
- Arts associations
- Childcare organisations
- Community sheds
- Environmental groups
- Health Promotion Charities
- Hospitals and other healthcare providers
- Housing providers
- Medical research institutes
- Private and public ancillary funds
- Public Benevolent Institutions
- Social clubs
- Sporting clubs or associations
- Schools and other education providers
- Self-help groups

2. Open a Public Fund Bank Account

In order to run as a charity, the corporation needs to have a bank account and a receipt book just for the public fund.

- open a public fund bank account
- obtain a receipt book with 'public fund' on it.
- create a new MYOB sheet for the public fund.

3. Wording in your Rule Book

The wording in the Rules Book must comply with Australian Tax Office wording for the wrapping up of a charity and use of left over funds.

a. Check your Rule Book to see if there are sections on the below.

- Public fund
- Public fund use
- Public fund receipts
- Public fund donations
- Public fund purpose
- Public fund administration
- Public fund reporting
- Application of public funds
- Public fund bank account – running it, signatories, use.
- Winding up of the public fund bank account.
 - winding up of public funds purpose
 - decisions on public funds
 - loss of deductible gift reciprocity status
 - public fund compliance.

b. If there are not these sections in the Rule Book, check the ATO requirements for charity wording and make sure the wording is passed at a special meeting, minuted, the signed minutes and book sent to ORIC, for amendment.

Registered Cultural Organisation

ROCO organisations can receive tax deductible gifts. The Office for the Arts administers the register.

The register aims to strengthen private sector support for the arts and encourages Australians to contribute to the nation's vibrant cultural life.

Australian organisations can be listed on the register if their principal purpose is to promote one of the following cultural activities in Australia:

- ▣ literature
- ▣ visual arts

- ❑ community arts
- ❑ performing arts
- ❑ arts or languages of Indigenous persons
- ❑ music
- ❑ crafts
- ❑ design
- ❑ television
- ❑ video
- ❑ radio
- ❑ film
- ❑ movable cultural heritage.

Application process

Applications can be submitted using [SmartyGrants](#) to the Office for the Arts until 31 December 2023. After this time the ATO will accept applications and assess eligibility for the ROCO.

Register of Cultural Organisations
 Office for the Arts
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
 Communications and the Arts
 GPO Box 594
 Canberra ACT 2601
 Phone: [02 6271 7108](tel:0262717108)
 Email: roco.mail@arts.gov.au

Patrons

Patrons

A patron lends their name, credibility and prestige to an organisation as a way of supporting it.

Usually patrons are well known people with a media profile.

Patrons Role

1. Lend credibility
2. Offer support
3. Be the trusted face of an organisation
4. Add prestige.
5. Get the organisation noticed – raise the profile.

Patron Qualities

The Patron's face and name is usually used

1. On advertising material.
2. On letterhead.
3. On websites.

4. As a speaker at conferences, dinners and events.

Good Patrons

1. Well liked by the public
2. Trusted
3. Have a strong media profile
4. Are curious
5. Are committed to the organisation
6. Have availability
7. Have public speaking skills

Ambassador

The Ambassador is someone who is a champion for a cause, usually from personal experience. There may be several Ambassadors for an organisation, one for each causes.

Ambassadors will speak on behalf of an organisation or cause. They promote the cause. They will use personal experience to champion the cause.

Good Ambassadors

1. Well liked by the public
2. Trusted
3. Are curious
4. Are committed to the organisation
5. Have availability
6. Have well developed public speaking skills and can influence

Developing a Fund Raising Campaign

Let's work on ideas for a fund raising campaign for a charity.