

From: [ACNC Executive Hub](#)
To: [COFG](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Proof transcript | Inquiry into the recruitment methods and impacts of cults and organised fringe groups
Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025 1:16:49 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Please find attached the ACNC's correction to the transcript.

The ACNC's responses to the questions on notice are below.

1. Can you provide information on reports the ACNC has received about allegations relating to coercive control and high-control organisations?

From 1 July 2023 to date, the ACNC received 99 concerns about 63 charities where alleged coercion was stated in the description, and the complainant has alleged coercive control or behaviour. A 'concern' refers to an issue or allegation about a charity's governance or compliance with the ACNC Act and Regulations. The ACNC invites individuals to report concerns if they believe a charity is not meeting its obligations. In addition to concerns raised directly with the ACNC, we may also become aware of potential issues through media reports, referrals from law enforcement and other regulators, and internally led compliance activities. It is possible that other concerns involving coercive control were raised during the relevant period but did not use those specific terms and were therefore not captured in this analysis.

2. How many concerns were reported in 2024-25, and of these, how many related to charities with a subtype of 'advancing religion'?

The ACNC received a total of 3,793 concerns about 1,640 charities in the 2024-25 financial year. Of these, 1,088 concerns were lodged about 188 charities with the sole subtype 'advancing religion'. Within that subset of 1,088 concerns, 82 concerns were raised about 40 Basic Religious Charities.

Please note:

- This data is limited to charities registered with the sole subtype of 'advancing religion' and therefore excludes charities registered with multiple subtypes (for example, 'advancing religion' and 'advancing education').
- Charities are not required to apply for any subtypes such as 'advancing religion'. This means that some charities that pursue religious purposes, and may have been the subject of concerns, are not included in the data because they are not registered with the subtype 'advancing religion'.

3. How many charities had their registration revoked (compliance revocation) in 2024-25? Of these, how many were Basic Religious Charities?

The ACNC revoked the registration of 22 charities in the 2024-25 financial year due to compliance action. None of the 22 charities revoked in 2024-25 were Basic Religious Charities.

4. Has the ACNC observed an increase in donations reported by charities with a subtype of 'advancing religion' since 2020 (i.e. since the COVID-19 pandemic)?

Since 2020, donations and bequests have increased across the charity sector, including charities with a sole subtype of 'advancing religion'. There are a number of reasons donations and bequests may have increased, such as enhanced fundraising efforts, greater public awareness and the growing use of digital giving platforms. However, the available data does not allow us to determine the cause of this increase, including whether it is linked to fewer unrecorded cash donations.

| | 2020 AIS | 2021 AIS | 2022 AIS | 2023 AIS |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Donations and bequests (advancing religion) | \$ 1,254,587,426 | \$ 1,337,664,268 | \$ 1,472,134,050 | \$ 1,569,976,878 |
| Donations and bequests (all charities) | \$ 12,684,188,675 | \$ 13,360,283,587 | \$ 13,944,151,470 | \$ 18,926,690,912 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total AIS submissions | 49,165 | 49,402 | 51,536 | 52,627 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

Please note:

- This information is based on the annual Australian Charities Report published by the ACNC, which analyses Annual Information Statements (AIS) submitted by charities. This information is publicly available via data.gov.au. More up to date information can be found on Data.gov.au (as the datasets are updated weekly).
- This data will not include that of Basic Religious Charities which are not required to provide financial information, unless they have opted to do so voluntarily.
- This data is limited to charities registered with the sole subtype of 'advancing religion' and therefore excludes charities registered with multiple subtypes (for example, 'advancing religion' and 'advancing education').
- Charities report 'donations **and bequests**' as one 'amount' to the ACNC. Therefore we do not have data regarding whether donations alone have increased.
- The number of organisations submitting an Annual Information Statement has steadily increased since 2020 (reflecting an increase in the number of registered charities), which may partially explain the increase in donations and bequests.
- Charities are not required to apply for subtypes including advancing religion, so it is possible that more charities would otherwise have been included.
- Charities sometimes receive one-off donations which can impact overall figures – for example, in 2023, the significant rise in donations and bequests can be attributed to the largest donation to a single charity ever reported to the ACNC of \$4.9 billion to the Minderoo Foundation group.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Kind regards

Rachel Auld (she/her)

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission



The ACNC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and Elders past and present.

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