

The Wattle Day Association Incorporated (WDA) welcomes and supports 'a simpler, refocused deductible gift recipient (DGR) system that creates fairer and more consistent outcomes for donors, charities and the community'.

The WDA is a small, not-for-profit, volunteer community organisation. The association was founded 25 years ago in 1998 to promote public awareness of National Wattle Day (1 September). We formed six years after the official proclamation and gazettal of this national day by the then Governor-General Bill Hayden. Under the current system our advocacy and associated activities to raise awareness of this gazetted Australian national day are ineligible for DGR status with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Our committee consists of seven volunteers and we rely upon membership fees, badge selling, donations and the occasional small grant to function and maintain our online presence through a website (<https://wattleday.asn.au/>), social media (Facebook, X and Instagram) and printed brochures and flyers. Since 2012 we have been registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) where we are classified as a small organisation. We have been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) since 1 July 2000. However we are ineligible for DGR status under the current DGR system as we are focused on advocacy. As a result we have been severely hampered in seeking and securing support as many private funding organisations require grant applicants to have DGR status.

We seek clarification from this inquiry as to how the activities of the Wattle Day Association Inc. (WDA) would be considered under the principles of the proposed new reforms. Would our activities be classified as providing greater community-wide benefit? And therefore would the WDA; a small, volunteer-run, community group focused on advocacy regarding a Commonwealth government proclamation, be eligible for DGR status?

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