

## **Submission to Commission of Audit**

**Made by Bob Dollery, of [REDACTED].**

This is my personal submission in response to the Commission of Audit's invitation for submissions from across the community.

My submission deals exclusively with Commonwealth funding to the not-for-profit sector, rather than services and programs delivered directly by Government.

- **Like any business, NGOs like certainty.** Making changes for year to year, and not providing a stable and consistent method of allocating funds causes distraction from the primary objective of serving the Community.
- **Unlike completive businesses, NGOs need to cooperate with each other.** A private business would not share secrets of productivity with its rivals, and acting in that manner would cripple the productivity growth in the sector. So be careful not to place 'normal' completion in this sector, else the result may be more advertising, more spin and less cooperation in solving community problems.
- **Allow internal finances of NGO's to be flexible.** As technology, sector knowledge and even general business knowledge increases, NGOs need to be able to respond with flexibility.
- **Pay for Committee Members.** The sector is becoming profession and there is an odious list of obligations that are the responsibility of Committee Members. Even though volunteers are still available, the reality is NGOs need more talented boards. Tertiary degrees are becoming common in the sector, yet people can be on boards simply by default, because there is an absence of busy, qualified people that are willing to provide their time for free.