



# **Narcotics Anonymous.**

## **Australian Regional Service Committee**

### **Suggestions for Meetings considering registering for an Australian Business Number (ABN)**

The Admin Committee has become aware that some NA groups/meetings may be considering registering for an ABN in order to obtain a Square or other device to accept 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations electronically.

Groups/meetings in this circumstance should carefully consider the following information from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Australian Business Register (ABR) and seek advice on how it might impact them.

#### **ABN Entitlement**

“Not everyone is entitled to an ABN – you must be running a business. You are also responsible for your own income tax, superannuation and GST(if applicable)”.

To check if you are entitled to an ABN, go to <https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/abn-entitlement>.

#### **ABN Important Facts from the ABR and ATO**

“Most people who have an ABN are required to lodge an annual income tax return. This is regardless of whether the business is reporting a profit or loss and above or below the tax-free threshold.”

<https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/abn-important-facts>

“You need to lodge a tax return if you carried on a business, even if your business hasn't earned any income. There's no threshold for business income, so you need to lodge an income tax return even if you only earn \$1. What you need to report and how you lodge your annual tax return for your business depends on your type of business entity.”

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Reports-and-returns/Income-tax-return/>

#### **Updating your ABN**

“It's your responsibility to maintain your ABN details and update your details within 28 days of any changes.”

<https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/abn-important-facts# Refreshing your ABN>

#### **ABNs for life**

“An ABN is for life. You are only entitled to an ABN while you're running an enterprise. The ABR periodically checks to make sure an enterprise is still in operation. The best way to prove that is by keeping your tax returns and activity statement lodgments up to date.”

#### **Other points to consider**

Applying for an ABN may solve one problem (e.g. to get a cashless card reader e.g., a Square), but in doing so may place onerous obligations on the Trusted Servants of the group/meeting. This could detract from the primary purpose of the meeting.

Significant personal details may be required when applying for an ABN.

<https://www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/applying-abn/what-you-need-your-abn-application>

Should the trusted servants move on to another group/meeting or from NA altogether, the ABN registration will still exist under the original personal details. There are obligations (per above) to update details of the changed ABN holders or to lodge a tax return (if it is required).

#### **Consideration of other NA Meetings**

Other groups/meetings casually observing this solution for funds collection may not understand such requirements or obligations. They too may apply for an ABN, be subject to onerous obligations and in the long-term cause challenges for their trusted servants and their group/meeting.

If you have questions about this, please contact the ARSC Chair at [chair@na.org.au](mailto:chair@na.org.au).

**ARSC Administration Committee July 2023**