



Charities Act Update

Charities are reminded that in order to retain or obtain charitable-purpose tax exemptions, they must register with the Charities Commission by 1 July 2008. The Charities Commission is currently processing applications from November/December 2007. Therefore, later applications for charitable status may not be processed by 1 July 2008. However, the Commission does have the power to backdate an organisation's charitable entity status to the date it received the properly completed application. Tax benefits can be claimed provided an application is received prior to 1 July 2008.

An application to the Commission involves completing the prescribed application forms and providing a certified copy of the rules of the charity. Registering a charity is often not straightforward. Therefore, legal advice is recommended.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me.