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KIT TO HELP COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community and sporting groups are being urged to consider the benefits of incorporating their associations using a straight-forward information kit drafted by the State Government and the South Australian Council of Social Service.

Attorney-General Michael Atkinson says there are many benefits to incorporating an association, including better chances of attracting grants and funding.

“Community groups contribute much to our society. They are often run by volunteers who give many hours of their time. Often their only reward is to see others reap the benefits of their work,” says Mr Atkinson.

“The Rann Government values community groups and their role in bringing people together for a common purpose.

“We want to see them thrive so that they can continue to benefit their members and the public. Society will get great value from this kit.”

The information kit explains clearly how associations can become incorporated. It also helps to set up a new association, giving it the best possible chance of achieving its goals.

Two key benefits of becoming incorporated are:

- an incorporated association has its own “corporate” identity or personality;
- its existence will continue after the original members have moved on.

“There is much evidence that incorporated associations fare better in many ways than those that do not incorporate,” says the Attorney-General.

Associations that do not incorporate often have difficulty applying for grants and funding. Most government and philanthropic organisations make it a basic requirement that applicants for funding are incorporated.

There are currently 17,872 incorporated associations registered with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA). The incorporation fee is \$134.

“OCBA and the South Australian Council of Social Service have approached this issue in partnership, to develop an initiative to help associations manage their affairs.”

“I hope that more associations take the opportunity to become incorporated and that, in doing so, they are able to rely on the guidance this initiative offers them.”

For more information on how to incorporate an association please contact OCBA on 1300 138 918.