



ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE LTD

ROTARY AUSTRALIA BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (RABS)



What is the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society?

RAWCS has established the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (ABN: 54 563 288 318) to assist Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts within Australia to respond to needs within their own communities and to gain tax deductibility for donations made to their particular project. RABS is a public benevolent institution (PBI) with full Australian Taxation Office certification.

RABS will be administered on a National basis, fully utilising the RAWCS website to minimise administration costs.

RABS Projects can be registered by Australian Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts who are of good standing with Rotary International. A Rotary Club can only register one RABS project at a time. An open project must be acquitted by RABS National before a new registration will be accepted. In addition to registrations by Clubs, Rotary Districts can register up to two District projects.

Rotary Clubs and Districts operating RABS projects are deemed to be acting as agents for RAWCS Ltd.

What are the project criteria?

The ACNC Act requires that all Benevolent Society projects must address one of the following criteria that arouse the compassion of your community:

Poverty	Distress	Destitution
Sickness	Misfortune	Helplessness
Suffering	Disability	

The main requirement for RABS projects is that they provide direct relief to people in need. If the clients are disadvantaged, the relief should target that disadvantage, i.e. a place to sleep for the homeless, food and money for those in poverty, counseling and support of those in distress.

Examples

The recent Blue Mountains Bushfires occurred with great swiftness and impact on individuals and the mountainside communities. Devastation to property plus the physical and emotional toll was immediate and will be long lasting. At the height of the fires when the need for assistance became obvious the Rotary District Governor (Graeme Davies D9685) of the affected region immediately organized a campaign of assistance by completing the RABS registration form (available to download from www.rawcs.org website) which gave him access to a Donation link and bank account (the RAWCS' OAF account) with the ability to accept online donations from the public. Importantly it also provided donors tax deductibility through the DGR (Designated Gift Recipient) status. Automatic tax receipts were issued and accounting records created.

RAWCS assisted with the Public Appeal through Social Media by reaching 10,000 within the first few days whilst the fires continued. This was backed up by communications throughout the country via Rotary's network of clubs.

Whilst the funds were being collected from across the nation, the D9685 Recovery Team were compiling a priority list of needy recipients with Blue Mountains Authorities. Governor Graeme attests to the speed that RAWCS/RABS acted and to the necessity to have the infrastructure ready and operable.

RAWCS and RABS personnel are confident that DG Graeme and his teams will provide good, appropriate assistance to all victims, in the most sympathetic manner.

This was a powerful illustration of how RABS will help Rotary solve distressful situations humanely and quickly.

Another example

Already we have witnessed the delight that young Toby and his family experienced when they received a customised Kia Carnival van. The "Give Toby Wheels" appeal, brilliantly promoted and organised by the R/C Somerset (D9830) saw the community at large open their hearts to support the Appeal. Toby has severe disabilities – a cochlear implant in both ears; little head control; and low muscle tone in and around his ankles - which demand special splint support daily. Toby cannot use his muscles to stand or move and so the family use a hoist to ease their own backs.

Under Project Chairperson Joan Rylah the 'Give Toby Wheels' community response raised so much that the appeal has been raised to \$100,000 to fit out two more wheelchair adapted taxis for the Burnie- Wynyard area in Tasmania.

Please visit

www.rawcs.org.au