



Matt Kean

Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation

MEDIA RELEASE

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INQUIRY ORDERED INTO FUNDRAISING BY ANTI-VAXXER GROUP

The fundraising activities of the Australian Vaccination-skeptics Network (AVSN) will be investigated as part of an inquiry ordered by the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Matt Kean.

Under the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*, individuals or groups seeking donations from the public for charitable purposes may require an authority to fundraise.

AVSN does not hold an authority to fundraise, and the inquiry will therefore review the group's fundraising objectives and methods, along with its financial records, to determine if the group has complied with the Act.

NSW Fair Trading will conduct the inquiry, as the administrator of the Act and associated regulation.

Fair Trading has served papers on AVSN meaning they must now produce various records in relation to their fundraising activity.

Mr Kean ordered the inquiry due to multiple queries and complaints about AVSN's fundraising practices.

"There has been ongoing concern about AVSN's potential breaches of the Act to warrant a thorough look at the group's fundraising activity," he said.

"I make no apologies for taking whatever action is necessary to ensure this group – and any other brought to my attention – complies with the Act.

"If you seek public donations for a charitable purpose, there are circumstances where you need an authority to do so, and I'm focused on making sure this group is obeying the law," Mr Kean said.

"Members of the public make charitable donations in good faith. The law is there to protect them and I can assure the community that breaches will not be tolerated."

Breaches of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* may constitute a criminal offence.

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