



MAKING YOUR WAG A LEGAL ENTITY

1. Incorporation

Deciding whether to incorporate can be a significant decision for your group. Incorporation is voluntary, so it's something your group could decide to do at any time, or decide never to do.

Becoming incorporated means that your group is registered with the Victorian Government (through Consumer Affairs Victoria). Incorporated groups have legal rights and responsibilities that other groups don't have, including:

- Being a legal entity separated from its members, which makes it easier to sign leases and agreements at arm's length; and
- Providing some protection for members from debts and liabilities incurred by the group.

Whether you incorporate or not, it is sensible to think through any risks involved in doing what you plan to do. Make sure that the people who are helping you are covered for any possible issues that may arise.

#Tip: [Our Community](#) has some great, clear information about the benefits and drawbacks of incorporation, and some tips about how to go about it.

2. Insurance

If your group does is not likely to have assets or buildings, you will not need building or contents insurance. The kinds of insurance that are particularly relevant are Public Liability and Volunteer Insurance. See [Our Community](#) about the different types of insurance available and issues you need to consider.

As insurance can be expensive, you might like to consider whether your group can be auspiced by another organisation so that you are covered under their insurance. One possibility is your local Neighbourhood House (otherwise known as learning centres or community houses).

Neighbourhood houses are local community organisations that strongly focus on bringing people together and building stronger communities. They may be very willing to auspice your group. [Find](#) your local neighbourhood house.

