



Do you need to set up a community organisation?



Passion is most important in wanting to make a difference in communities. Many people assume that if they want to make a difference they need to set up a charity or a legal entity of some kind, creating a juggle between working on their cause and admin / legal requirements. These are the key steps to help you decide how to help your community.



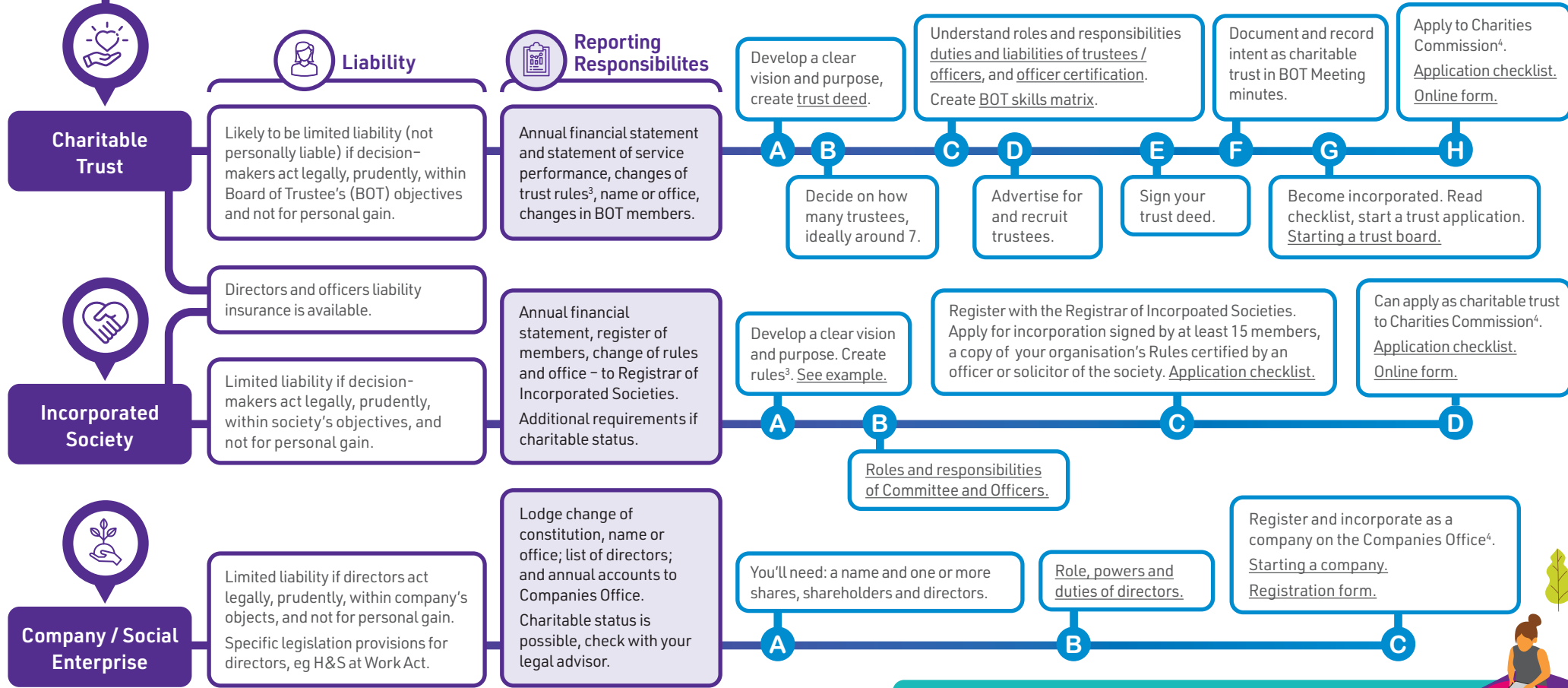
4 Choose a legal entity / organisation structure^{1&2}.

Decide which liabilities and reporting responsibilities will work best for your organisation.

YES

5 Name and set up your new entity.

Once you have chosen the structure, follow these steps to set up the entity. *Note: Incorporation is the formation of a new corporation, it may be a business or a not for profit organisation.*



¹ You need to register your organisation / group with the Charities Register and obtain charitable status from Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Charities. This means your group won't be taxed on income and it will be easier to apply and receive public funding.
² You'll have to show that your group's purpose is the relief of poverty, or the advancement of education or religion, or some other purpose that benefits the community, and you'll also have to show that the purpose has a public benefit.
³ Rules are documents that set out your charity's purposes, what you do and how you operate eg. a trust deed, constitution or charter.
⁴ Fees apply to these application processes. Check the costs with each organisation as you go.

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Helpful Websites:

- [Community Law NZ](#)
- [Charities Services Companies Office](#)
- [Societies and Trusts Online](#)
- [NZ Companies Office](#)
- [NZ Sport: Nine ways to effective governance](#)