

SC1 Ayra & Care Champs Case Study

Lead Educator: Rachel Gear

Ayra was excited when Umbrose, the CEO and founder of Care Champs, approached her and asked if she would consider joining their charity's board. Care Champs is a small charity which provides financial grants to make accommodation more accessible to people with disabilities. Ayra's experience advocating for her daughter with cerebral palsy and writing a blog for mothers of children with disability meant that the invitation seemed like a good fit.

Ayra arranged to attend the next Care Champs board meeting to check it out. It all sounded very positive. To gain a deeper understanding of the charity, Ayra went online and looked up Care Champs on the ACNC Charity Register. Their latest financial report raised some red flags. The charity's governing document was not there at all when it should be. Also, only Umbrose was listed as a responsible person on the Charity Register.

Ayra made a time to raise these concerns directly with Umbrose. Umbrose disclosed that Care Champs had not engaged in any fundraising activities or provided any grants for over 12 months. This meant that Care Champs was not undertaking any activities to pursue its charitable purpose. They also appeared to be trading insolvent. Ayra was shocked. Nothing like this was even remotely apparent from the board meeting she had attended.

When questioned further, Umbrose explained that his name was the only board member name on the Charity Register because he kept forgetting to update the ACNC on the changes. There were five new board members who joined in the last six months, and they do have a governing document but he doesn't know where it is. That's why it was not on the Charity Register.

Ayra's sensible approach to the invitation from Care Champs meant she was in a much more informed position to make her decision about joining their board.