

Dear Commissioner,

RE: Productivity Commission 'Future fountains for giving' Draft report

I am writing to express my concern regarding some of the suggestions made in the report. I noted that it was recommended to remove the deductible gift recipient status for non- government primary and secondary schools, child care, aged care and other religious organisations.

I don't see how removing this status would have any positive benefit for the government or for society. As a business owner and parent I would be adversely affected in multiple ways from the proposed changes.

If non-government schools don't receive the required funding to undertake building and facility upgrade projects that are needed, the education experience at these schools will be degraded resulting in a negative impact to our children's academic potential. Furthermore, these building works support local businesses which is good for our local community.

I am concerned that by removing this status from non-government schools, it will discourage philanthropic giving to these organizations which will force them to increase their fees to cover the shortfall from reduced giving from businesses. Most households with younger children are already under financial pressure from cost of living increases.

Noting that most non-government schools are backed by religious or faith based organisations, this feels like an attack on religion, which I believe is fundamental to healthy society. The public school system is already overcrowded and in moral decline, so, I do not like to consider the possibility that I may be forced to send our children there.

I sincerely hope you will consider my concerns and I am sure ours isn't the only household that will be adversely affected by the proposed changes.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Baker