

Dear Karen,

RE: Productivity Commission's Draft Report 'Future Foundations for Giving draft report and my concerns regarding the proposed changes to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

I hope this letter finds you well. I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report on 'Future foundations for giving' by the Productivity Commission, and I would like to share my concerns regarding the recommendations made, particularly those related to scrapping deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.

While I acknowledge the positive findings and recommendations in the report, the proposal to eliminate DGR status for certain institutions raises significant apprehensions for me. As a parent with children attending an independent school benefiting from DGR status, I am worried about the potential repercussions.

One immediate consequence, should the government adopt this recommendation, would be an increase in our school fees. The loss of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to the school could result in reduced giving, forcing educational institutions to compensate by raising fees. In an era of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, this prospect is particularly concerning.

Furthermore, I am apprehensive about the impact on our school's ability to undertake essential building extension and upgrade projects. These initiatives not only enhance the learning environment for our children but also support numerous small family businesses in our local community.

The potential decline in giving could also adversely affect the overall education experience for our children. A reduction in funding may hinder the school's capacity to provide a suitable learning environment, subsequently impacting the academic potential of our students.

Additionally, I perceive this recommendation as a potential threat to religious organisations, as a significant portion of private or independent education is provided by such entities.

The ultimate consequence of these changes could be the necessity to enroll our children in overcrowded local public schools, which, as I understand, are already strained beyond capacity. This outcome would not only compromise the quality of education but also limit the potential for individual academic growth.

I trust that you will consider these concerns seriously, recognising the broader implications that the proposed changes may have on families like mine and the community at large.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Parsons