

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-466 to 278-580

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-466	Andrew MacKenzie	<p>After reading this report, I am very worried about the recommendations, including deductible gift recipient status being abandoned for some charitable organisations.</p> <p>My parents were not financially sufficient to send me to an independent school, but fortunately I was in a position that enabled me to send our children to a non-government school, that was subsidised by supportive donors. Accordingly, I was able to observe the benefits of independent-school education. If the Government accepts these radical proposals, I fear my grandchildren may be deprived of this opportunity. If it's worked for the last 70 years, what's the argument for reversing it?</p> <p>This will increase school fees at a time when we are trying to deal with unprecedented cost of living challenges. Has the Government properly allowed for the impact on the public school system if enrolments escalate due the parents being unable to cope with the increased cost of private education.</p> <p>Do these recommendations of the Commission represent an attack on religion in favour of minority groups? Should we allow our future generations education to be disadvantaged by incentivising animal activists, environmentalists, LGBTIQA+ groups? Is it consistent to remove the school building fund deductible gift provisions, yet continue to subsidise these other groups?</p> <p>I respectfully submit these comments, knowing that there are many other families that will suffer if the Government adopts the Commission's recommendations.</p>	22/02/204
278-467	Concerned Parent	<p>I write with deep concern after reading the draft report of the Future Foundations of Giving that has no doubt been a huge investment of time and work over the last 12 months or so and wish to highlight key issues that I believe are being missed by the commission.</p> <p>As an everyday Australian family with 3 children, we are active in supporting all kinds of charity and community events and operate by the simple ideal that we should all look out for each other, care</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>for those that need it most, and most of all, give our children the best education that they can in order to give them the skills to work together to make Australia a better place.</p> <p>In the report, I note the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary schools, secondary schools, childcare, and changes in various conditions for religious groups.</p> <p>Removing DGR status from many of these entities as listed above especially non-government schools & childcare centres will have devastating effects to the wider community. The school which my children currently attend benefit from DGR status. It will see a dramatic decrease in essential funds received decreasing the ability of these institutions to function properly due to the increased financial pressure, will be unable to invest in new technology and equipment and therefore be unable to provide high-quality education to the next generation.</p> <p>The only way that these institutions can bridge the funding gap is by dramatically increasing school fees, further increasing cost of living pressure on our family and others when we are at our absolute limits. I am sure that we aren't the only ones in this predicament with it being a national issue</p> <p>I fear that like us, many Australian families will be forced to send their children to government run schools. This comes at a time when government primary and high schools are already understaffed, over capacity, teachers stressed and unable to keep up with increased workload and battling sliding education standards in both primary and secondary levels (eg NAPLAN) when compared with international standards. The increase in school students joining because of the scrapping of the DGR status as recommended in this report will only increase this pressure on government run schools therefore damaging the quality of every child's education.</p> <p>I reference a couple of links below to support my comments:</p> <p>https://www.9news.com.au/national/new-data-reveals-one-in-three-families-cant-afford-back-to-school-costs/4ebb4017-4a58-41bd-a96a-b4f672a9f39f</p> <p>https://www.theeducatoronline.com/k12/news/breaking-point-teacher-anger-over-staff-shortages-reaches-steps-of-parliament/283207</p> <p>https://www.9news.com.au/national/teacher-shortage-mental-health-claims-rise-australia/c0f1b3c0-04a1-4fcf-a565-4d3d1e17cb90</p> <p>I hope that with these comments, you can reconsider these recommendations in the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report and realise how devastating the impacts will be on families and students across the country.</p>	
278-468	Matthew Laming	I am writing expressly to urge you not to implement the drafts recommendations for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to be stripped for non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.	

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		<p>It is a fact that non-government schools have received (DGR) support over many years (since 1954) to encourage donations to build essential infrastructure in schools for the education of current and future generations, infrastructure that would otherwise have to be provided and paid for by an already overburdened and operating at full capacity public education sector.</p> <p>Labor and Liberal governments alike for the last 70 years have directly supported (DGR) for non-government schools for its effectiveness in providing the financial support to build schooling infrastructure which in turn has resulted in in wide bearing ongoing benefit to all Australians.</p> <p>In a time of a spiralling cost of living crisis there is a very real fear that the financial impact that the stripping of (DGR) status from non-government schools etc will translate directly to a surge in school fees and a real risk of deterioration in the quality of schooling facilities.</p> <p>Also given that the draft recommendation of stripping (DGR) status is to non – government schools and that the vast majority of these are private or independent schools provided by religious organisations I feel that this is an attack on religion. The charitable benefits that religious organisations provide at every level of society are well documented and well proven, and the further recommendation contained in the draft , calling for the ending of basic religious charity status including those that support schools and religious education strengthens the perception that this is</p> <p>My concern as a parent with a child currently attending a non -government school is that the risk of extra financial burden being placed on us as a family is very real due to potential school fees rise and even further, subsequent relocation to the government public sector. This in turn will place similar unnecessary financial pain on the public sector and as this scenario is played out many times over across the state, ramifications will be felt.</p> <p>In closing I thankyou in advance for your careful consideration of the above points and I ask that the value of faith-based charity be recognised for the enormous contribution that it currently provides in the areas of schooling, childcare and aged care and that this recognition is forthcoming in the retention of (DGR) existing status being maintained for these organisations.</p>	
278-469	Greg Nason	<p>I have read the draft report with interest.</p> <p>Whilst there are some good pros and cons, I am deeply concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I am greatly concerned regarding this, as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>As we tackle the current pressure of the “higher living crisis’, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-470	Derek Mansley	<p>I have considered the draft report and would agree there is some good recommendations, but for the DGR status report to be scrapped for non -government, primary, secondary, childcare, and other religious organizations is of real concern.</p> <p>I have grandchildren and know this is of concern to many parents, whose children attend Independent Schools that benefit from DGR status. Obviously, everyone is facing the pressure of rising living costs already, this would drive school fees and it impact the number of businesses and individuals to continue donating.</p> <p>If this proceeds it will reduce those that can afford independent schools.</p>	22/02/204
278-471	Stuart Thomas	<p>I am writing in response to Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report. As having read the report, there are certain points which give cause for a great deal of concern. This relates to the recommendation for the 'deductible gift recipient' (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary and secondary schools, child care, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My concerns, and I am sure these would be shared by many others, is that access to independent schools, which benefit from 'DGR', will become at least very difficult, if not, an impossible option for the education of our children. The inevitable rise in school fees consequent on the absence of extra funds generated through the donations of businesses and individuals and coupled with the ever-rising cost of living which all Australian households would be experiencing give rise to my concerns for the future education of our children.</p> <p>Another consequence and concern arising from the points above would mean that the only option for education would be that our children be enrolled in our public school's system which from observation is already operating at maximum capacity. This would in turn impact on their quality of learning experience.</p> <p>As a parent and grandparent of children who have had the experience of being taught at independent schools and have personally witnessed the benefit, not only for themselves but also the wider community, to envisage the possibility of this being inhibited or taken away, is of great concern.</p> <p>I would exhort that my concerns be given fair consideration as there are obvious impacts which will affect oncoming generations in a negative way relating to the education of our children and the</p>	22/02/204

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		positive experiences which they are worthy of, should the recommendations of the Productivity Commission be adopted by the Government.	
278-472	Paul Urquhart	<p>As a father of 2 children that attend a local independent school, this draft report is of considerable interest.</p> <p>Based on my understanding, some recommendations in the report may appear to benefit society. But the scrapping of the DGR status for religious organisations including non-government schools is deeply concerning.</p> <p>The tax-deductible gifts received under its DGR status have helped our local school for many years to produce above-average academic results whilst offering very reasonable fees.</p> <p>My fear is that if the Government adopt & implement the report's recommendations, the school will have no alternative but to significantly increase their fees, and / or cancel their investment in refurbishing their buildings that allow them to improve the education experience for attendees.</p> <p>It will come as no surprise that our family's cost of living has increased to painful levels in recent times, and any fee increase would drive us to send our children to a public school where we know their academic potential won't be realised.</p> <p>It's well known that most non-government schools are provided by religious organisations, and I believe that any report recommending changes that make it harder for them is an attack on religion.</p>	22/02/204
278-473	Jonathan How	<p>Regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>We have read the draft report and are concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is a cause of concern as our children attend an independent school that benefits from this status. If this proceeds school fees will have to be increased to make up the reduction in donations from businesses and individuals who currently take advantage of tax benefit for these donations to the school.</p> <p>Our concern is that if the Government take up this recommendation, we may have to send our children to our local public school which will reduce their learning experience and potential.</p>	22/02/204
278-474	Andrew Baker	<p>I am a small business owner, Parent of 3 children now in their late teens and early twenties, and concerned Australian resident. I am sure there is great intention for overall community benefit in the productivity commission draft report 'foundations for giving'. I am however deeply concerned about changes proposed to DGR status for Non-government institutions such as childcare, aged care and in particular schools.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My children attended Non-government Christian schools and benefited from quality education in an environment aligned to our beliefs. The DGR status of these schools was appreciated allowing us to give regularly for the benefit of the students.</p> <p>If DGR status was removed from these schools or changed in any way, I worry about the increased school fees that will result. These independent institutions are of great benefit to the community and are a significant contributor to overall education.</p> <p>Australia is one of the best countries in the world to live due in part to our world class government and non-government schooling. The way our institutions are run including the DGR status of our independent schools should be cherished.</p> <p>I urge the government <u>not</u> to adopt the changes to current DGR status of our non-government institutions.</p>	
278-475	Trevor Bulloch	<p>I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent draft report's recommendations that suggest removing deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. While I appreciate the effort put into the report and acknowledge its merits, this particular recommendation has far-reaching implications that need careful consideration.</p> <p>One of my primary concerns stems from the potential impact on independent schools, such as the one my children attend. DGR status has played a pivotal role in supporting these institutions through generous donations from both individuals and businesses. The removal of this status may result in a decline in financial support, forcing schools to increase fees to compensate for the loss in income. At a time when many families, including mine, are grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the prospect of rising school fees is particularly worrisome.</p> <p>Moreover, the increase in school fees could potentially force families like mine to reconsider our options. The idea of sending our children to overcrowded local public schools, where the quality of education may be compromised, is a distressing prospect. It's essential to recognize that independent schools play a crucial role in providing alternative educational opportunities and fostering academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to take into account these concerns and consider a more balanced approach. The draft report is undoubtedly a valuable starting point for discussion, but it should undergo further analysis, refinement, and consultation before anything is finalized.</p> <p>I kindly request that you engage with relevant advocacy groups and organizations representing educational institutions like independent schools to ensure that the full spectrum of consequences is considered. Your thoughtful consideration of these issues will contribute to a more comprehensive and informed decision-making process.</p>	22/02/204

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		Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to a constructive dialogue that takes into account the concerns of families, students, and educational institutions like the one my children attend.	
278-476	Michale & Deborah Ray	<p>I have read the above-mentioned report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I am also concerned this is an attack on religion, as most private independent education is provided by religious organisations, and whilst I don't agree with some faiths, I believe religion and freedom of religion is one of the foundations that make Australia a country that foreigners want to immigrate to.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-477	Matthew Cox	<p>I am writing to express my concern having read the above draft report, specifically with regards to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We are a young family, with a single child whom we have committed to provide the best education experience we can which will be at an independent school that benefits from DGR status. I am concerned the proposed changes will mean increased school fees to make up lost income due to reduced giving from businesses or individuals able to donate to the school. At a time when we are experiencing major cost of living pressures, this is of great concern as it could force us to put our child into a local public school (if there is even room) which would directly impact our child's career and future.</p>	22/02/204
278-478	Craig Trim	After it was brought to my attention by concerned family and friends, I have read this draft report with interest and there are a few points that are also of great concern to me, so that is why I am taking the time to submit this letter, outlining my concerns within this report.	22/02/204

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		<p>My concerns relate to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, and if this DGR status was to be scrapped it would have a direct impact on the cost of living in our family and the families of all Australian that attend these non-government schools. At a time when cost of school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If the Government were to adopt these recommendations, it would force our family to send our children back to the public schooling system and I fear that this will impact their learning experience and suppress their potential. This will have an exponential affect as the public schooling system is already under pressure and the education of thousands of Australian children could be impacted.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, and the lives of all Australians that would be impacted.</p>	
278-479	Edward Fowler	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report, specifically the recommendation to remove Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary and secondary schools, along with other religious organizations.</p> <p>Having carefully read the report and considered its potential implications, I am troubled by the significant impact this recommendation could have on our education system and, subsequently, our society as a whole. As a parent who has had three children attend non-government schools, I am particularly alarmed at the potential repercussions.</p> <p>The proposed removal of DGR status for non-government schools will likely lead to a reduction in financial support from both businesses and individuals. This, in turn, could hinder the ability of these schools to undertake crucial building extensions and upgrade works. The likely consequence would be an increase in fees, placing additional strain on households already grappling with the challenges of the current cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>It is important to recognize that many private or independent schools are affiliated with religious organizations, and these institutions have long been the pillars of our society. As a concerned parent and prospective grandparent, I fear that this recommendation represents an assault on the very fabric and foundation of our cultural identity in Australia.</p> <p>Moreover, the potential outcome of this proposal is deeply troubling, as it may force families like mine to send our children to already overcrowded public schools. This, undoubtedly, will have a detrimental impact on their learning potential and could ultimately stifle their academic growth.</p> <p>Considering these concerns, I respectfully request that my concerns be given due consideration.</p>	22/02/204

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		I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the broader implications of the proposed changes.	
278-480	Christopher Millar	<p>I have read with interest the Productivity Commissions Draft Report: Future foundations for giving. I commend the Commission on their intention to broaden the application of DGR status to deserving charities and to minimise the barriers to giving.</p> <p>However, I must raise concerns about the aspect of the report indicating a shocking recommendation to withdraw DGR status for a group of entities in the education and religious sector.</p> <p>I am well qualified to comment on this as I have given thousands of hours in volunteer and charitable work in DGR and non DGR charitable organisations, I have been both an employee and a business owner, I am a parent of students, both in public and private schooling, and I donate regularly to charities.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider and remove the proposal to remove DGR status of independent schooling. There are several significant reasons for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Australia to survive and thrive as a nation we need to innovate. The independent school sector is driven by high performing individuals who deliver highly qualified career ready graduates into society. These individuals enter the workforce as an asset to our nation, and are more likely to develop into high income earners who will in turn contribute significant taxation revenue. The independent school sector should be viewed as a national asset, not as a group of individuals who enjoy some sort of special privileges. Any move that impacts the success of our independent schools impacts Australia's future. • To make any change to the funding system which has existed for generations will increase the cost of tuition, and the cost of living pressures which are currently higher than ever. This will inevitably result is students moving from independent to public schools and increase the loading and funding requirements in the public sector. • The broadening of DGS status criteria will be supported by the community, however the removal of DGR status for the proposed sectors will cause community outrage <p>The use of DGR status to stimulate charitable giving is well established and recognised to be effective. The intentions of such giving should not only be to help the under privileged, but to assist the gifted to achieve.</p> <p>The proposal to broaden the availability of DGR status to an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 well deserving charities is applauded, however not at the expense of withdrawing DGR status from the educational sector.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>If we truly wish for our country to continue to thrive, we must retain the DGR status for the current DGR entities which are proposed for exclusion.</p>	
278-481	Allen Young	<p>s a parent of five children, all educated through the private school system, I write to express my concern regarding the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>Australian society has benefited greatly since 1954 when the value of the private school systems was officially recognized by the Australian government and granted tax relief for charitable giving. Over the last seventy years this has become a bedrock of the successful, Australian Private and Public Education system, which in turn has produced a cohesive and well-educated population from many backgrounds resulting in consistently thriving economy that is the envy of the world.</p> <p>As would be generally understood, there is a huge segment of likeminded parents in the Australian community doing everything in their power to further their children's education, often at great personal expense and sacrifice. These people are not only adding REAL and incalculable value to FUTURE society, but in practical terms, every dollar contributed is probably saving two or three dollars saved in public system TODAY given the well documented efficiencies of most private schooling systems.</p> <p>It seems completely senseless to remove existing tax-deductible status and structure for faith-based schools which as mentioned, has been, and continue to be, the bedrock of Australian society in favour of unproven social experiments offering charitable status to a range of charities such as Animal Welfare groups, International Human Rights organizations, Environmental Activists etc. very few, (if any) can demonstrate tangible benefit to the Australian public.</p> <p>Not only is the recommendation of the Productivity Commission ill-considered and flawed, I believe it would also be politically foolish in the extreme to alienate a huge (but often silent) proportion of the electorate by meddling with a system that encourages philanthropy in its purest and most beneficial form for the greater good and undeniable benefit of the Australian public.</p> <p>Even if not intended, it would be widely seen as an attack on religion as the great majority of private schools are faith based.</p> <p>If the Government were to adopt the recommendations of the Productivity Commission, it would have a serious financial impact. For us, and our extended family (five children and five grandchildren) it would mean,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much higher and unaffordable school fees • The abandoning of facility upgrades and school building capital works. • Our children would be forced to attend overcrowded and underfunded public schools. 	22/02/204
278-482	Daniel Bumpstead	I am writing in response to the Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.	22/02/204

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		<p>While the report is appreciated for its extensive research and insights, I must express my profound concerns about the proposed changes to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, significantly affecting non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>I wish to raise the following points for consideration.</p> <p>1. PARENT PERSPECTIVE</p> <p><i>Personal Perspective as a Parent</i></p> <p>As a parent whose children have benefited from attending an independent school with DGR status, I am deeply troubled by the potential removal of this status. The report's stance, particularly the view that extending DGR status to charities for advancing religion or specific education activities without explicit equity objectives (Philanthropy Report, page 205), is unwarranted and fails to recognize the high educational standards attained by independent schools and the ground-breaking educational approaches they offer.</p> <p><i>Parental Choice in Education: An Undervalued Aspect</i></p> <p>The removal of DGR status also poses a direct threat to parental choice in education. Parents often select independent schools based on specific educational philosophies or environments, and the ability to financially support these choices through DGR-eligible donations is a fundamental aspect of this autonomy.</p> <p>2. FLAWS IN RATIONALE</p> <p><i>Critical Examination of DGR Status Removal for School Building Funds</i></p> <p>The report's rationale, notably in Box 6.1 on page 189, significantly underestimates the ongoing and diverse financial needs of independent schools. By suggesting that the increase in government funding reduces the need for DGR status, the report fails to recognize the unique requirements of these schools. Many independent schools have specialized infrastructure needs and educational models that often extend beyond the scope of government funding.</p> <p><i>The Diverse Needs of Independent Schools</i></p> <p>Independent schools are known for their unique and innovative programs which are not typically covered by standard government support. This diversity in educational offerings is vital for meeting the varied needs and interests of students. The broad-brush approach of the report's rationale does not adequately account for these specialized requirements, risking the sustainability of such programs.</p> <p><i>Equity Misconceptions in Educational Funding</i></p> <p>Furthermore, the report's perspective on equity, especially in relation to DGR status for school building funds, reveals a misunderstanding of the concept. True educational equity is not just about equal distribution of funds but also about supporting diverse educational pathways that cater to a</p>	

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		<p>wide range of student needs and aspirations. A homogeneous education system, lacking in the richness and diversity provided by independent schools, would be an unintended consequence of removing DGR status.</p> <p><i>Undervaluing the Role of Faith-Based Organizations</i></p> <p>The report's assertion that activities for advancing religion may not align with broader community benefits (Philanthropy Report, page 192) overlooks the extensive contributions many faith-based charities and institutions make to social welfare, beyond their religious mandates.</p> <p>3. IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p> <p><i>Economic Impact and Parental Autonomy</i></p> <p>In our current economic climate, with escalating cost of living pressures, the removal of DGR status for school building funds could lead to significant increases in school fees. This not only risks placing a financial strain on families but also undermines the autonomy of parents in choosing the best education for their children. The report acknowledges that fees and donations constitute 82% of capital works funding in independent schools (Philanthropy Report, page 189), highlighting the critical role of DGR in maintaining the financial health of these institutions.</p> <p>4. INDIVIDUAL VS. GOVERNMENT FUNDING: THE NEED FOR A COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH</p> <p><i>Inadequate Recognition of Individual-Driven Funding in Education</i></p> <p>The report's stance on DGR-eligible school building funds, asserting that they "duplicate or cut across other funding arrangements" like the Australian Government's capital grants program, significantly underestimates the unique and crucial role of individual-driven funding. Contrary to the report's view, individual contributions are not mere duplications but essential complements to government programs. These contributions, often driven by a deep connection to school communities and a passion for specific educational initiatives, fill gaps left by the government's one-size-fits-all funding approach.</p> <p><i>Merits of Individual Contributions in School Building Programs</i></p> <p>Individual donors bring a level of passion, understanding, and commitment that goes beyond bureaucratic assessments. Their targeted contributions, driven by a desire to see tangible improvements in specific educational environments, often support innovative projects and specialized programs that might not align precisely with the criteria of government grants. This personalized approach to funding allows for a more responsive and agile allocation of resources, fostering educational environments that cater to the diverse needs of students.</p> <p><i>Limitations of Systemic Government Assessments</i></p>	

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		<p>While systemic assessments by government programs play a role in ensuring fairness and broad-based support, they often lack the granularity to address localized needs or innovative educational concepts. Individual donors, through DGR-eligible contributions, can swiftly target funds to projects that they believe will have the most significant impact, based on their intimate understanding of the community's needs and aspirations.</p> <p><i>The Essential Role of Individual Donors in Educational Innovation</i></p> <p>The individual-driven funding enabled by DGR status is vital for schools seeking to offer unique educational experiences or specialized programs. Such funding ensures that schools have the flexibility to pursue forward-thinking projects, contributing to the rich diversity of educational opportunities available to students. This approach is particularly crucial for maintaining and enhancing the quality and variety of educational experiences in a landscape where government funding alone might not suffice.</p> <p>In summary, individual-driven funding, complemented by government support, is indispensable in creating a dynamic and diverse educational system. The report's failure to recognize the importance of this dual approach overlooks the potential of individual contributions to bring about meaningful and innovative changes in the educational sector.</p> <p>5. CONCLUSION – ADVOCATING FOR A BALANCED AND INFORMED APPROACH IN EDUCATIONAL FUNDING</p> <p><i>A Plea for Balanced and Informed Decision Making</i></p> <p>I earnestly urge a thorough reconsideration of the recommendations concerning DGR status for school building funds and religious institutions. This critical decision should encompass more than just financial implications; it must also consider the diverse educational landscape in Australia and the importance of maintaining a variety of educational pathways for families. The richness and dynamism of our educational system depend on acknowledging and supporting these diverse needs.</p> <p><i>The Essential Role of DGR Status in a Diverse Educational System</i></p> <p>The DGR status for school building funds is more than a financial mechanism; it's a cornerstone in preserving the multifaceted nature of education in Australia. This status supports a wide array of educational approaches, meeting the varied needs of Australian families and communities. A balanced approach, valuing both government-led and individual-driven funding, is essential in maintaining this diversity. Individual contributions, often more agile and responsive to specific needs, complement government funding and ensure a dynamic educational environment.</p> <p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <p>Thank you for considering my comprehensive perspective on these critical issues. In making future decisions, I trust that the final report will embody a deeper understanding of the complex nature of</p>	

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		<p>educational funding and the vital need to preserve diverse educational pathways. A balanced and informed approach in this matter is not just a fiscal consideration but a commitment to enriching Australia's educational landscape, respecting the different needs of our families and educational institutions.</p>	
278-483	David Trim	<p>In reading through the draft report, I am sincerely concerned as the recommendations to exclude private schools, childcare, aged care and other religious institutions from DGR status. These institutions provide amazing care and benefit to a vast sector of the broad community and to remove support from them in any way would result in a decline in the services they provide and in turn put greater pressure on an already strained public system whether it be from education through to health or aged care.</p> <p>My children currently attend an independent school that has DGR status and I am well aware of the benefits that DGR provides for independent schools through the school building funds. If the DGR status was to be scrapped it would jeopardise many school building projects and improvements which are an ongoing need in any school to maintain quality learning environments and assisting children in reaching their full academic potential.</p> <p>I am certain that stripping DGR status from schools will have a negative impact not a positive one. Included in this negative impact would be the driving up of schools fees at a time when most families in the broad community are reeling from the current increases in the cost of living.</p> <p>Building projects also benefit the broader community by creating work and jobs, and I would be concerned that many schools would have to significantly reduce improvement projects which would negatively impact many local business and trades that this work supports.</p> <p>I also feel that it is an attack on religion – it is well known that many private schools are connected to religious organisations.</p> <p>Although there are some good findings in the draft, I would strongly urge to the government to reject this proposal.</p>	
278-484	Allister Trimmer	<p>I have been keenly interested in the Draft Report content. This includes some good recommendations and interesting findings and statistics. However, I have an issue with the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, to be withdrawn for aged care, non-government schools, childcare and other religious entities.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned because my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Over many years, this school has benefited from generous community gifts to enable the highest quality education and provide a supportive environment. Of note are major building works at the school that relied heavily on gifts, where students and teaching staff can enjoy educational events, functions and fundraising activities. Such events often also involve families,</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>volunteers and donors in attendance. They also represent an excellent facility to stimulate further philanthropic concepts, and future funds for educational needs of the school both for the dedicated educators and students alike.</p> <p>Should the Government take on the recommendations and DGR status changes, it clearly will reduce giving, because of lack of tax benefit for donors to donate to the school. The school then will need to increase student fees. Along with a number of other parents I have spoken to, I feel this will only add to the cost-of-living pressures for families. Some feel they will be forced to change their child's enrolment to a local public school, already overcrowded and impacting academic results.</p>	
278-485	Damian Pederick	<p>I wish to voice my concern over some of the recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>The purpose of this enquiry would seem to have intent that is closely aligned with many Australian's generous outlook; <i>to understand trends in philanthropic giving in Australia, the underlying drivers of these trends, and to identify opportunities and obstacles to increasing such giving.</i> Many Australian's -and logically, often our wealthiest, -give freely in support of the charities that help shape and aid our society. However, the draft report seems alarmingly negative in its proposal to target religious organisations and the education sector -in particular school buildings -as a means to <u>discourage giving</u>.</p> <p>As a parent with children at an independent school, I am accustomed to sacrificing most of our household income to support a school system that does not enjoy the same funding support as public schools. I do this willingly, and know that I am contributing significantly more to the cost of education than the average tax payer. Essential school building projects are willingly supported by local businesses, and the DGR status is a fair means of accessing tax beneficial philanthropic support for projects that are motivational for their public benefit. As having had personal involvement in school P&F fund raising in the past, I have seen first-hand, the willing and generous giving from businesses that believe in supporting children and education. The recommendations of this report, if adopted, would actively <i>discourage this giving</i>, -if not eliminate it, and force pressure onto taxpayers and the government itself.</p> <p>I would be concerned that schools will be forced to raise their fees to cover the shortfall if business is unable to support without a legitimate tax benefit. With inflationary pressure and cost of living the highest in decades, I doubt many families (including my own) could afford this and will be forced to send our children to overcrowded and unsafe public schools. This would have disastrous impact on our children's education, and place unwanted pressure on an already stretched public schooling system.</p> <p>Please, do not adopt these recommendations, and instead request that the commission realigns to its noble purpose, and find ways to <i>increasing such (philanthropic) giving</i>.</p>	22/02/204

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278-486	Paul King	<p>I'm writing to object to any changes to the philanthropic laws for this country. We currently donate to our local Christian school that our children attend as well as other Christian charitable organisations. I believe the laws should be left the way they are as they are working well and any donations to charities currently are very beneficial to our society.</p> <p>Please consider this submission and leave our laws unchanged.</p>	22/02/204
278-487	Reuben Baker	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned parent, I felt compelled to address several apprehensions that have arisen upon reviewing the 'Future Foundations for Giving' Draft Report. My comments specifically pertain to the potential ramifications of the proposed recommendations on the educational landscape, particularly for private or independent schools like the one my children currently attend.</p> <p>Firstly, I am deeply troubled by the prospect of increased school fees if the government chooses to adopt the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The anticipated rise in fees would be a direct consequence of the necessity for schools to augment their income in the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals making charitable contributions. Such a scenario, in the midst of the current economic challenges, places an additional burden on families already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Moreover, I am concerned about the potential hindrance to essential building extension and upgrade works at our school due to reduced giving. These projects not only enhance the learning environment for our children but also support numerous small family businesses in our local area. A decline in these initiatives could have cascading effects on the economic ecosystem within our community.</p> <p>The proposed changes are also likely to compromise the quality of education our children receive. A decrease in resources may impede the school's ability to maintain a conducive learning environment, subsequently impacting the academic potential of our students.</p> <p>It is disconcerting to perceive these recommendations as potentially discriminatory against religious organizations. The majority of private or independent educational institutions are affiliated with religious bodies, and any adverse impact on these institutions can be construed as an indirect assault on the religious freedom integral to our society.</p> <p>Furthermore, the implications of these changes might compel families like ours to consider enrolling our children in local public schools, which are already grappling with issues of overcrowding. This would be a distressing consequence, as it could significantly diminish the quality of education our children receive.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>In conclusion, I implore the Productivity Commission to carefully reconsider the potential ramifications of the recommendations on private and independent schools. The broader impact on families, small businesses, and the educational well-being of our children cannot be understated.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to these pressing concerns. I trust that you will give due consideration to the voices of concerned parents like myself as you continue your deliberations</p>	
278-488	Ben McLerie	<p>I am writing to express my concerns as a parent regarding the recent recommendations put forth by the Productivity Commission concerning the 'Futures Foundation for Giving.' The proposal to eliminate the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status is particularly troubling to me, as I fear it could have adverse effects on the quality of our children's learning experiences.</p> <p>The potential removal of DGR status could lead to a surge in school fees, adding significant financial strain on families, including mine, especially at a time when the overall cost of living is already high. This may force some families, including mine, to consider public schools, which may already be grappling with capacity issues.</p> <p>Our current school heavily relies on donations to fund essential building upgrade projects aimed at enhancing the learning environment. If these recommendations were implemented, it would undoubtedly impede our school's ability to provide suitable facilities, impacting the overall educational experience for our children.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider these concerns, as they reflect the anxieties of numerous families like mine who are genuinely worried about the potential repercussions on the future of our children's education.</p>	22/02/204
278-489	Roger Unwin	<p>I recently read an article written by Nicole Flint, a political commentator with Sky News commenting on the recently released Productivity Commission Draft Report on philanthropy.</p> <p>After searching into the report further I am perplexed as to why the government would even consider withdrawing Deductible Gift Recipient status to some organisations including non-government primary and secondary schools that have clearly been of benefit to Australians for decades. Whilst Australia is a great country, we can't claim that our education results are up to the best in the world, thus our schooling system needs all the support it can get, both the public schools and in the private system.</p> <p>Many, many parents in Australia appreciate the choice there is between sending their children to the public school system or the private system. Gifts for building funds in non-government schools will almost certainly be significantly less if the DGR status is removed, this will result in increased fees charged by private schools. This in turn will create extra pressure on the public system as many parents will have to send their children to the public schools, it is well documented that the cost of living crisis is clearly impacting families.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>I have 16 grandchildren and whilst 3 are in the workforce now I support the decision of my children to endeavour to use the private school system for their children and I do support in any way I can. However, they are not immune from money pressures and would be faced with the decision to send their children to an overloaded public system if private school fees increase.</p> <p>In conclusion the government should recognise the contribution businesses make to the schooling system through this avenue and continue to encourage the support businesses make.</p>	
278-490	Harvey Joyce	<p>I hope this message finds you well. I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report, "Future Foundations for Giving," issued by the Productivity Commission. While the report contains commendable findings and recommendations, I would like to express my apprehension regarding the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-governmental entities such as primary and secondary schools, childcare centres, aged care facilities, and religious organisations.</p> <p>Of particular concern to me is the potential impact on the independent school that my children currently attend, which benefits from DGR status. In a time when the cost of living is escalating, the removal of tax incentives for donations to schools could result in increased financial pressure on families. This, in turn, might lead to a reduction in contributions, further exacerbating the financial challenges faced by educational institutions. I am afraid that the burden of compensating for lost income could prompt a rise in school fees, affecting families already grappling with the strain of living costs.</p> <p>My primary worry is that if the government adopts this recommendation, families like ours may be compelled to send their children to local public schools, which are already dealing with issues of overcrowding. Such a shift could adversely impact the learning experience and academic potential of our children.</p> <p>I kindly request that you take my concerns into consideration. I am confident that our family is not alone in being affected by these potential changes. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.</p>	22/02/204
278-491	Daryl Glenn	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. There are some good findings and recommendations, but I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a huge concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Times are tough and I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>I am concerned that if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure my family is not the only one impacted.</p>	
278-492	Matthew White	<p>In relation to the draft report, I am concerned as to any change that's not needed in relation to deductible gift recipient status.</p> <p>This status currently allows me giving opportunity to donate to non-government primary & secondary school, when a good income earning year allows.</p> <p>I am hoping my children will be able to attend an independent school that benefits from deductible gift recipient status as academic achievement, learning experience and potential for them is boosted.</p> <p>School fees will no doubt be increased if deductible gift recipient is taken away and benefits to society will be negatively impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-493	Scott Williams	<p>I have perused the draft report with great interest and wish to express my thoughts regarding certain aspects. While the document contains commendable findings and recommendations, I am apprehensive about the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Of particular concern to me is the potential alteration of DGR status, as it directly affects the independent school my children attend. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, I fear that the removal of tax benefits for businesses or individuals donating to the school will prompt a surge in school fees. This, in turn, may adversely impact the overall educational experience of our children.</p> <p>Should the government adopt this recommendation, it could compel families like ours to resort to our overcrowded local public schools, significantly influencing our children's learning environment and hindering their academic potential.</p> <p>I implore you to consider these concerns seriously, as I believe our family is not the only one that would be adversely affected by the Productivity Commission's findings.</p> <p>Additionally, I would like to highlight the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="676 1251 1850 1382">1. The adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations is likely to result in an increase in our school fees, as the institution seeks to compensate for reduced donations from businesses or individuals due to the absence of tax benefits, further increasing the cost-of-living pressure that are being encountered by families raising children. 	22/02/204

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		<p>2. I am worried that diminished financial support may prevent our school from undertaking necessary building extensions and upgrades, which are vital for supporting local small family businesses in our community.</p> <p>3. The decline in financial support may lead to a deterioration in the educational experience for our children, impacting their ability to learn in a conducive environment and compromising their academic potential which could affect their going on to be productive members of society.</p> <p>4. I perceive this as an indirect challenge to religious organizations, given that a majority of private or independent education is provided by such entities.</p> <p>5. There is a genuine concern that this situation may force families to enrol their children in local public schools that are already grappling with issues of overcrowding, and this would require a massive increase in federal government funding to cover the costs of the extra students, it would appear the cost of this would be far greater than what taxes on donations would achieve.</p> <p>I trust that you will take these concerns into consideration as you evaluate the implications of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.</p>	
278-494	Stephen Gibbs	<p>I am writing to you as a concerned parent of children that attend a small private school. I am worried about the recommendations to stop the Deductible Giving Recipient to these organisations. One of my children has Downs Syndrome and I have appreciated the support that the government has provided outside of school as well as during school. If the government adopts the DGR status I fear that the quality of the education and all the support that my children receive at this school will no longer be able to be supported particularly the special needs that my child needs.</p>	22/02/204
278-495	Sam Rowe	<p>There are some good findings and recommendations contained in the report, however I am very concerned about the recommendations for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for all non-government schools (primary and secondary), aged care, childcare and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is extremely concerning to me as my children attend a private school that benefits from DGR status. We are currently experiencing a huge increase in cost of living, and I fear that school fees are very likely to be increased to make up for the lost income from reduced donations driven by the lack of tax benefits for the businesses and individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>It is also likely that due to this reduced giving our school will not be able to fund required improvements such as facility upgrades and building extensions which I know would support a number of small family businesses in our local area.</p> <p>Private schools take a significant load off the public schooling system, and my worry is if the Government agree to adopt the recommendation of the commission, we will be forced to send our</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>children to one of the overcrowded local public schools which I believe will negatively impact their learning experience and stifle their potential academic achievements.</p> <p>Please urgently consider my concerns and reject these proposals from the commission. I am certain it won't be only our family impacted.</p>	
278-496	Roger Matthews	<p>I was shocked to read of the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's "future Foundations for Giving" draft report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing or reducing tax deductible status "DGR" for non-government religious organisations yet giving that status to animal activists, environmentalists and LGBTXYZ is a wicked and harmful judgement. 2. It would increase fees at non government schools which would add to cost of living burden of parents. This is likely to force some parents to move their children to public schools which will increase the burden/costs on the public system. <p>I am requesting these recommendations of the report are rejected.</p>	22/02/204
278-497	Ben Myhill	<p>I recently read an article written by Nicole Flint, a political commentator with Sky News commenting on the recently released Productivity Commission Draft Report on philanthropy.</p> <p>After searching into the report further I am perplexed as to why the government would even consider withdrawing Deductible Gift Recipient status to some organisations including non-government primary and secondary schools that have clearly been of benefit to Australians for decades. Whilst Australia is a great country, we can't claim that our education results are up to the best in the world, thus our schooling system needs all the support it can get, both the public schools and in the private system.</p> <p>Many, many parents in Australia appreciate the choice there is between sending their children to the public school system or the private system. Gifts for building funds in non-government schools will almost certainly be significantly less if the DGR status is removed, this will result in increased fees charged by private schools. This in turn will create extra pressure on the public system as many parents will have to send their children to the public schools, it is well documented that the cost of living crisis is clearly impacting families.</p> <p>I have 16 grandchildren and whilst 3 are in the workforce now I support the decision of my children to endeavour to use the private school system for their children and I do support in any way I can. However, they are not immune from money pressures and would be faced with the decision to send their children to an overloaded public system if private school fees increase.</p> <p>In conclusion the government should recognise the contribution businesses make to the schooling system through this avenue and continue to encourage the support businesses make.</p>	22/02/204

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278-498	Craig Flintoff	<p>As an interested citizen I have read the draft report and although there are some good findings and recommendations, I found the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations quite concerning.</p> <p>My concern is that as my children attend an independent school that benefits from (DGR) status, with the current financial pressure at an all-time high, I fear that our school fees would be driven up further to accommodate for the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for individuals and businesses to be able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I also fear that if this recommendation is adopted by the Government, I will be forced to send my children to one of our overcrowded local public schools which would be detrimental to their academic potential and hinder their general learning experience.</p> <p>As I strive to provide the best for my children in every way, please consider my concerns, as your decisions will impact what I'm able to do for them.</p>	22/02/204
278-499	Robert Campbell & Bridget Clifford	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential repercussions our school may face if the government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The proposal, if implemented, could lead to an increase in school fees, creating a challenging situation for both parents and educational institutions.</p> <p>One of the primary reasons for the anticipated fee hike is the reduced support from businesses and individuals, stemming from the elimination of tax benefits. This shift in financial dynamics poses a significant threat to our school's budget, compelling them to seek alternative sources of income, such as increased fees from parents.</p> <p>As a result, I worry that our school might struggle to undertake essential building extension and upgrade works. These projects not only contribute to the improvement of our educational facilities but also support numerous small family businesses in our local area. The potential halt in these initiatives could have a detrimental impact on our community's economic ecosystem.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed changes could lead to a decline in the overall education experience for our children. A reduction in resources and the ability to maintain a suitable learning environment may hinder their academic potential. As parents, we are naturally concerned about the quality of education our children receive, and any compromise in this aspect is unsettling.</p> <p>Adding to the complexity of this situation is the fact that our household is already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. The prospect of increased school fees only exacerbates the financial strain we are currently facing.</p> <p>Moreover, I cannot help but view this potential policy shift as an indirect attack on religious organizations. The majority of private or independent education is provided by religious entities, and</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>any adverse effects on these institutions could be seen as a challenge to religious freedom in education.</p> <p>In the worst-case scenario, the financial strain imposed by the proposed changes might force us to consider enrolling our children in local public schools. However, I am aware that these institutions are already grappling with issues of overcrowding, which could further compromise the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of the proposed recommendations on our school and its community. It is my sincere hope that alternative solutions can be explored to ensure that our children's education remains of the highest quality without unduly burdening parents and compromising the well-being of our local businesses.</p>	
278-500	Ben Gillies	<p>I have read the draft report and while many of the points covered have merit, one area raises some genuine concerns. The recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be discontinued for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations will have far reaching implications and a long-term negative impact on many Australian families.</p> <p>My children currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. If the DGR status was to be removed I feel that independent school fees would be driven up to make up for the decreased income due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school. Given the current cost of living crisis, this would place unsustainable financial pressure on my family which would force us to send our children to our local public school, which is already overcrowded. Our children's education would be negatively impacted, and I feel their academic potential would suffer.</p> <p>I am sure there will be many families facing the same challenges, your consideration is much appreciated.</p>	22/02/204
278-501	Garth McAlphin	<p>I have read the Productivity Commission's draft report with genuine concern.</p> <p>I understand the "purpose of the inquiry is to understand trends in philanthropic giving in Australia". It seems the goal is to also differentiate what does vs what does not deliver a "net community-wide benefit". As a parent of 3 children that attend an independent school, I am extremely worried about the recommendations that have been made, particularly for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. I am very concerned for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing the tax-deductible status for primary and secondary school building funds will stifle and deter businesses and/ or individuals' donations to the school, simply because of the lack of tax benefit. What then? Scrapping the DGR status can only mean the increase of school fees 	

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		<p>to make up for the lost income from reduced giving. We are already experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, and I fear this will just force us to send our children to the already-overcrowded local public schools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="674 316 1850 539">2. The public school system is already struggling on multiple fronts, and any school management team will tell you how much more they would love to provide for their students, ... "if only they had the funds". Stifling independent schools is only going to further over-stretch the public system, which is not a benefit to anyti Every parent wants their children to receive the very best education they can and to achieve exceptional results. Overcrowding schools will not only cause the education experience of our children to decline, lower their ability to learn in a suitable environment and therefore impact their academic potential. <li data-bbox="674 555 1850 874">3. This charitable purpose has existed for 60+ years and was established to encourage donations to build infrastructure like new classrooms in which to educate the next generation of young Australians. We personally, and the whole country have all benefited from generous philanthropy towards schools. Under the Productivity Commission's 'rationale', removing DGR status effectively states that educating our children, even in independent schools, is not important as it is 'deemed' that such giving does not deliver a "net community-wide benefit" Really, where is the Commission's <i>'future foundations'</i> outlook in that? Surely all primary and secondary school education results in a public benefit given it produces students who will go on to become productive members of society? - some of whom will be future leaders and most of whom will become hard-working tax-paying citizens. <li data-bbox="674 890 1850 1010">4. I also strongly feel that the underlying vein behind this radical Productivity Commission's proposal is an attack on religion, to decimate support for faith-based schools and other religious organisations, given that majority of independent or private education is provided by such organisations. <p>Do we want to be a nation that promotes and subsidises health, culture, human rights, security, and the environment, but <i>excludes support for education, childcare, aged care and religion</i>? Surely it can be seen that there is no 'net community-wide benefit' in that? I implore that the Government <i>immediately reject</i> the Productivity Commission's draft recommendations that apply to non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Please consider my genuine concerns, as I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted, but also future generations.</p>	
278-502	Arne Wallace	I have read the draft report for Future foundations for giving with interest. Whilst I agree with some of the report, I am concerned about the recommendations around the DGR status regulation to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.	22/02/204

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		<p>I have 3 girls who will be attending an independent school over the next 15 years, and this is of particular concern. Cost of living pressure is already making it very difficult to support my children and give them the education we wish. The public education schooling system is excellent; however, they are generally full up. I fear the school fees would only be driven up due to lack of tax benefit and loss of giving to ensure our students maintain the best possible learning environment.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to already overcrowded public schools which will impact their learning experience and academic potential.</p>	
278-503	Brad Harris	<p>I have read the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report with concern and anxiety as to where this will lead to. To axe the provision the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status that has existed since 1954 for an existing educational body that is for the public benefit will have a negative impact upon the school my child attends.</p> <p>The federal government needs to reject this proposal for the good of the citizens of this land they swore to move and protect.</p>	22/02/204
278-504	Jordan Smith	<p>Having read the draft report, I am writing to convey my sincere concern about the proposal to remove deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have 3 children attending an independent school benefitting from DGR status and my worry is our school fees will increase if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>In the current economic climate, a large percentage of young Australian families including ourselves are experiencing an unprecedented cost of living crisis. The lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school will without doubt drive school fees up further to make up the shortfall and add to the further pain to the already stressed finances of many families with children.</p> <p>I am also worried that if the Government adopt this recommendation, and school fees become unaffordable we may be forced to send our children to an overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. We do not wish this to happen.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure there are many families nationally that are directly impacted by this proposal.</p>	22/02/204
278-505	Karl Mansley	<p>After reading through the draft report and other material related to the proposals mentioned in the draft report, I can see that there are some worthy recommendations and good findings however there is an area in the draft _report that concerns me greatly and this is around the DGR status. My view is that to have DGR status scrapped from any non-government organisations is an attack on religion and other entities that benefit from the gifts given by members of these organisations.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My concern is that removing DGR status from these non-government entities will only increase the fees that parents etc. must pay each year and, in a time where we are experiencing excessive cost of living pressures and other difficulties then it seems to be very shortsighted of the Government to be proposing a draft recommendation that would only see families come under even more pressure.</p> <p>Another major concern is that if this proposal is applied and it does see an increase in our school fees then it will make it unsustainable for me to be able to send my children to a non-government school and this will force them back into an already overcrowded local public school system.</p> <p>This will certainly have an impact on their learning experience and academic growth and will also have an impact on the lifestyle choices that we would like to see our children make as they grow up. I'm sure there would be many other concerned persons in Australia as there are many, many non-government organisations that rely heavily on the gifts from various stakeholders.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit my concerns and I look forward to a conscientious decision that reflects the views of a broader community and maintains the DGR status for all non-government organisations.</p>	
278-506	Paul Whiffin	<p>I am writing, as a concerned parent of children who attend an independent school, regarding the Future foundations for giving draft report.</p> <p>I have read the draft report and have concerns regarding the recommendation for deductible gift recipient status (DGR) to be scrapped for non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We are living in a time where expenses and cost of living pressure on families are increasing to levels never felt before. The organisations that have been mentioned above are some of the important ones that benefit from DGR status, and I fear that if this was to be removed, it would only serve to drive up expenses such as school fees even further. These organisations would need to try and make up the lost income from reduced giving, as businesses and individual donors would not receive any tax benefit for donations given.</p> <p>With lessened income, our school would not be able to carry out upgrade or expansion works which in turn would affect the education experience of our children. This could impact their academic potential and the ability to learn in a suitable environment. These works also serve to support many small family businesses in our area.</p> <p>I also feel that these recommendations are an attack on religion as a majority of these independent schools are provided by religious organisations. These education facilities serve to uphold important values in our communities for the benefit of all mankind.</p> <p>If the Government were to take on these recommendations, I am worried that I will be forced to send my children back to a local public school, which I understand are already overcrowded. This</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>will impact their learning experience and lessen their academic potential. This is not a path that I would like my children to go.</p> <p>I am sure I am not the only one who has these concerns and would be grateful for you to take this into consideration.</p>	
278-507	Scott Joyce	<p>I have read the draft report and I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is very concerning to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure like never before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the loss from reduced giving.</p> <p>With the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals being able to donate to the school this will limit funds substantially.</p> <p>If the Government proceeds with this recommendation we will likely be forced to send our children to our local public school which will impact their learning experience and limit their academic potential.</p> <p>With the large number of students that would be similarly affected it is surprising the Government is considering this proposal due to the enormous extra burden this will place on the public school system.</p> <p>As you know there is already a lack of suitable public schools, buildings and teachers. Please reconsider the fallout from this proposal due to the wide ranging affects it would have on the Government of Australia as well as students and parents.</p>	22/02/204
278-508	Daniel Andrews	<p>I have perused the draft report with interest. I am concerned about several of the points noted in the draft as per above for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As parents of a young family, we firmly believe in investing in the education of future generation, giving them the best opportunity to get ahead in their formative learning years will be the entrance to their success in later life. With this in mind we will be looking to private or independent education which often managed and or provided by private or religious organisations.</p> <p>Many well-respected non-government or religious entities from childcare thru to senior / tech education rely on such funds by being able to donate to, this then provides a foundation for such entities to be able to upgrade facilities which in turn further aides the experience and furthers the development of the individual's ability to learn.</p> <p>To take away the DGR and the basic religious charity status for non-government schools will mean that the extra cost associated with better education, at a time where the general cost of living is at</p>	

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		<p>crisis point for many families. This will mean that parents face the possibility of putting their children back into the government schooling system which is already over overburdened and in my belief not providing adequate training for the future generations.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, I am sure we will be one of many families impacted by these changes.</p>	
278-509	Charles Dover	<p>I have read the draft report put out by the Productivity Commission. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular worry to me as our family planned to have our children attend an independent school which benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, which the Labor government has promised many times to combat, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals including myself able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I'm concerned if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to one of the overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. I feel strongly that the Government should be putting at the top of the list, the best education opportunities for our children. Lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment will constrict talent which will have flow on affects for years to come.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-510	Stephen Gainer	<p>As an interested citizen I have read the draft report and although there are some good findings and recommendations, I found the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations quite concerning.</p> <p>My concern is that as my children attend an independent school that benefits from (DGR) status, with the current financial pressure at an all-time high, I fear that our school fees would be driven up further to accommodate for the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for individuals and businesses to be able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I also fear that if this recommendation is adopted by the Government, I will be forced to send my children to one of our overcrowded local public schools which would be detrimental to their academic potential and hinder their general learning experience.</p> <p>As I strive to provide the best for my children in every way, please consider my concerns, as your decisions will impact what I'm able to do for them.</p>	22/02/204

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278-511	Peter Sharpe	<p>My interest has developed into deep concern as I have read the draft report. In the report there are some good recommendations, but, of great concern is the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>At a time when cost of living pressure is almost crushing to myself and almost all Australians, the removal of the DGR status from the independent school which my children attend could only result in school fees increasing further. This is of great concern. For many years millions of Australian children, like my own, have benefited from the philanthropy of businesses and individuals who have gained a tax benefit because of their donations to schools with DGR status; the scrapping of this status could only result in a reduction of revenue for the schools which will result in the schools having to increase their fees.</p> <p>In my local area there are many small businesses and trades persons who would be impacted by independent schools not being able to take on new building and renovation works due to a reduction in giving. The social and financial impact of this will be significant.</p> <p>My concern is that if the recommendation is implemented by the Government, I will have to send my children to our local public school. Our local public school is overwhelmed with children they currently have enrolled. With many other families in our area in the similar position as myself, the likely hood that adopting this recommendation will cause an influx into the public school and further overwhelming the situation is very high. To put our children into this circumstance will be very negative experience and will strangle them academically.</p> <p>Please take note of and consider my concerns. I am certain there are many other families that would be affected by this.</p>	22/02/204
278-512	Hannah Simpson	<p>I have read the draft report and while I believe there are some good findings and recommendations, I am rather worried about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient, (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Why this worries me is our Son attends an independent school that benefits from DGR status. With a current cost of living crisis biting a vast majority of families, I'm concerned that school fees would only sky-rocket further to make up the lost income from reduced donations, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to his school.</p> <p>If the Government was to implement this recommendation, we will be forced to send our Son to a potentially overcrowded local public school, as other fellow parents would be forced to do similar or alternatively if we could work a miracle and find sufficient in the household budget to keep him at the independent school. Future school infrastructure would be severely impacted due to lack of</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>funding...Either option would have long term negative effect on my son's education and why should his generation suffer in education opportunities when we were given a fair go..?</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family would be one of many impacted.</p>	
278-513	Stuart Wallace	<p>As a concerned parent, I worry about the potential increase in our school fees if the Government decides to adopt the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The need for our schools to boost their income through fees is a direct result of reduced support from businesses or individuals, as they won't receive tax benefits under these proposed changes.</p> <p>The potential decline in giving and resources may adversely affect the overall education experience of our child, compromising their ability to learn in a conducive environment and potentially hindering their academic potential. This concern arises at a time when our household is already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>I also view this situation as potentially detrimental to the role of religious organisations in education, as a majority of private or independent education is provided by such groups.</p> <p>Moreover, these circumstances might force us to consider enrolling our child in local public schools, which, from my understanding, are already dealing with issues of overcrowding. This adds another layer of concern regarding the quality of education and individual attention our children may receive in such an environment.</p>	22/02/204
278-514	Richard Joyce	<p>I am writing as very concerned parent and grandparent with children in the private schooling system, in response to the proposed radical changes to the funding status of non-public schools and other Faith Based Institutions contained in the Future Foundations for Giving – Draft Report.</p> <p>This in my view, is an attack on Christianity and the Liberties and Freedom Australia is known for as a Western Country. It is clear that the vast majority of private schools in Australia are Christian based, and they are singled out in the report on page 18 –“School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission’s proposals.”</p> <p>The recommendations made in this report regarding changes to the DGR support provided to private schools needs to be strongly rejectedti Why create a situation where thousands of children and teachers will suffer negative, far reaching life changing harm, through the cutting off of the liberty we currently have to make quality life choices?</p> <p>Please consider very carefully what lies behind the recommendations made in this report – there would be nothing good come out of it for anyone if these recommendations were to be acted ont</p>	22/02/204

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278-515	Bradley Caldwell	<p>I have recently noticed in the news this draft report from the Productivity Commission, and as a parent with two children in an independent school, felt concerned as to the potential impact of this, if it was to proceed.</p> <p>I certainly appreciate the Productivity Commission has the best intentions in mind, but I am especially worried about the recommendations for changes to the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for some schools, and I fear it would very negatively affect the school my children go to.</p> <p>The school is in a small town, with relatively small numbers, and is planning a upgrade, of which local businesses in the town are contributing to. If this recommendation was to go ahead, I am very concerned that this funding may be in jeopardy.</p> <p>The building upgrade is very much needed, and cannot see how it could happen if business contributions were impacted. I, as a parent, are very much struggling with the massive increases in general living costs, and believe many others would be feeling the same, and unable to contribute further, through increased fees.</p> <p>Considering an alternative and sending my children to a public school, is a difficult option, as the closest one already has very high student numbers in each class, and can only see that getting worse if the independent school is not an option.</p>	22/02/204
278-516	Brendan Joyce	<p>I write to bring to your attention certain aspects of the draft report that are causing grave concern within a number of affected communities.</p> <p>Although the general nature of the report appears well intended, the amendment of the deductible gift recipient status to exclude non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is potentially hurtful to many families. This appears to be an attack on religion, as so much of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I have two (soon three) children attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status. With recent increases in the cost of living (likely to continue), it will be untenable for us to sustain an increase in school fees that will result from the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If the Government adopts this recommendation, we will have to withdraw our children from the school and education of their choice and send them to local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I trust that the above is an unintended consequence of the recommendation and would kindly ask you to consider my concerns as the impact of implementation will be widely felt, and not well received.</p>	22/02/204

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278-517	Michael Gillies	<p>Whilst there are some worthy findings and recommendations, I am worried about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I feel that this is an attack on religion, given that religious organisations provide the majority of private or independent education. At a time when Australia needs strengthening and solidarity, this is a divisive move that will further undermine the social fabric of our nation.</p> <p>As a householder with children attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status, I'm also concerned about the proposed reforms further increasing the cost of living pressure, which is already at unprecedented levels.</p> <p>Public schools in our area are already overcrowded, so I fear having to send our children to them. It would be an inferior learning experience with a consequential impact on their academic achievements.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns; I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-518	Lloyd Knight	<p>I have read this draft report with concern about the recommendations to scrap the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-governmental organizations, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious.</p> <p>I think that DGR status is essential for integrity (honesty, accountability, reliability, transparency and ethics) that the government is working in public interest.</p> <p>My concern is that I have 3 children that attend an independent school with eligibility for DGR status. We are under extreme cost of living pressure at the moment like never before and it would be further impacted by an increase in school fees which would be driven even higher by lack of business tax benefits and individual donations.</p> <p>I fear for my children that it would ruin their learning experience, suitable environment and academic potential to be forced to send them to an overcrowded public school.</p> <p>There would be many other families impacted if the Government scrap this recommendation so I would be very grateful if you would consider these concerns.</p>	22/02/204
278-519	Jonathan Pringle	<p>I wanted to share my thoughts on the recent Productivity Commission draft report titled 'Future foundations for giving.'</p> <p>After a thorough examination of the report, I acknowledge the recommendations it presents. Nevertheless, I am writing to express my concerns about the suggested elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This raises a specific worry for me as my children are currently enrolled in an independent school that relies on DGR status. In this period of unprecedented cost-of-living challenges, there is a genuine concern that school fees could escalate to compensate for the diminished contributions, stemming from the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals capable of supporting the school through donations.</p> <p>My concern is that if the government adopts this recommendation, families like ours will have no choice but to send their children to local public schools, which, in many cases, are already grappling with overcrowding. This shift could adversely affect the quality of education our children receive, potentially hindering their academic growth.</p> <p>I urge you to consider these concerns, as I believe our family is not alone in facing these potential challenges.</p>	
278-520	Terry Patten	<p>As a concerned parent that currently sends my child to a private school, I noticed that the “Future Foundations for giving report” has issued a recommendation for Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR) Status to be scrapped for non-government schools, child care, aged care and other organisations. My concerns with this suggestion are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase in school fees as a result of this decision. With current inflation/interest rates and cost of living expenses going up faster than ever in the last decade, this will put even more pressure on household budgets, not only for myself but other battling Australian families right across Australia. • This also limits my ability to support school my child attends and other charitable entities on a personal level as this means I cannot donate “before tax” money to support other people in my local community and further abroad that have need for support, due to lack of Government Support and Welfare in the first place. • Please consider that over 35% of all Australian Children attend private schooling. In 2022, this equated to over 1.435 million children across Australia. Do you think it is fair that such a large number of students should have a poorer learning experience as a result of poor government decisions and stripping funding from private schools? Ref: https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latestrelease#:~:text=Students-,ln%202022%3A,and%20independent%20schools%20(15.9%25). • Given the economic pressure this would impose on private schools and those who work hard to educate over 35% of all Australian school children, the educational experience for children attending these schools will decrease. Every facet of a school operation has a cost attached to it. If funding is less due to the government indirectly taxing these funds, then the 35% of all Australian school children will suffer as a direct result of this poor suggested government policy. 	22/02/204

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beware – Creating a poorer learning experience will have a generational effect on the whole Australian economy in time. The school children of today will be entering the Australian workforce when adults and will be poorer performers as a direct result of this short-sighted and poor government policy. • If the government effectively taxed spending on the private schooling sector by removing DGR status to private schools, this would also put more pressure on the public schooling system. It would remove private schooling as a financially viable option for a lot of children, thus forcing more children to attend public schools. • Aside from the above points, I believe this is a subtle attack on religion as most private schools are provided by religious organisations, such as Catholics. <p>In summary, I suggest you seriously consider the above points and the negative long term effect this policy will have on the Australian economy and also both the Australian public and private schooling sectors.</p>	
278-521	Tim Bryan-Brown	<p>Having read through the draft report I was impressed with how comprehensive the detail of the report was.</p> <p>However, I would like to express my concern with regard to the recommendation that the DGR status be withdrawn for non-government schools, childcare facilities and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Having sent my eldest two children to Government schools and then opting to send the next two to independent schools the outcome of a higher academic achievement was obvious from the improved learning experience from the independent schools.</p> <p>My concern is that should the Government take up this recommendation it will impact the operational requirements for independent schools causing increased fees which will further increase the current pressure of the cost of living.</p> <p>I feel it would be a retrograde move if we were forced to send our children back to the public school system which is overcrowded and does not provide the learning experience required for a positive schooling outcome.</p> <p>This submission is made as a concerned parent and trust it will be considered favourably.</p>	22/02/204
278-522	Bill Baker	<p>I recently read over the Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report. While there are commendable findings and recommendations, I feel compelled to voice my concerns as an Australian citizen, taxpayer and parent regarding the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities, including aged care, advancing religion, education and childcare.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This issue is particularly worrying for me, given that my children are enrolled in an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. I am concerned that the removal of DGR status will lead to an increase in school fees due to a reduction in financial support from donors with the tax benefit incentive removed. At a time where our family like many, is already grappling with cost of living pressures, such a fee increase would be crippling.</p> <p>As a parent, the best possible education and learning experience for my children is of utmost importance to me. I fear that removal of the DGR would jeopardise our ability to send them to the school of our choice, which would have negative consequences on their academic and social progress throughout their lives.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider these concerns, as I know our family is not alone in being impacted by this proposed change. There are many other families and local businesses in our area whose plans and finances would be seriously set back if this went ahead.</p>	
278-523	Mark Hales	<p>I am writing to you as a concerned parent and community member regarding the proposed changes under the Future Foundation for Giving report by the Productivity Commission.</p> <p>I have read through this report and whilst I encourage the extension and support of philanthropic giving, I perceive some far-reaching negative repercussions on our society in so many ways from the details of these proposals.</p> <p>Aged care, education and religion are fundamental pillars that have driven advancement in our society for decades. Education drives skills which drive jobs which drives economic value and prosperity. Faith gives so many people purpose and hope in their lives, which drives people to live and work together in harmony and respect for the betterment of each other. When we start taking away support for these institutions, we are affecting the fabric and strength of our local, state and federal communities.</p> <p>At a more personal level, my children will shortly attend our Christian community based private school which depends upon the support of DGR status via private donations to fund the building and operations of the school.</p> <p>The proposed changes will dramatically affect my already stretched financial circumstances. Taking away DGR charitable status will naturally reduce the donations which will result in an increase in fees to continue funding the school. I know many family and friends who will be affected similarly. This reduced giving will likely also lead to a decline in spending on maintaining the quality of facilities and education at the school.</p> <p>With this added pressure to my household, this may force us (and many other families) to send our children to public schools which will only put greater strain on the taxpayer to cater for the increased funding needsti</p>	22/02/204

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278-524	Russell Horsfall	<p>I wish to submit my objection the government for the proposed changes to the 'deductible gift recipient' (DGR) status which would affect all private schools and places of worship.</p> <p>The result of these changes will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put households into financial hardship, who are already suffering from rising inflation. 2. Put secondary school children into public schools, which are already overcrowded. 3. Increase school fees due to the tax free funding provided by businesses and individuals being illuminated. <p>Result in a lack of funding so needed for upgrading of school facilities which are vital to the education of school children.</p>	22/02/204
278-525	Ruth Hawkins	<p>It has recently come to my attention the draft report on the Future Foundations for Giving and whilst this may have some good points it is with great concern that we express our unease with regards to the recommendations to remove the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As we have children at an independent school that currently benefits from the DGR status this is of specific concern to us. As a family we are already facing rising cost of living circumstances which have never been seen before. This would only worsen our current living conditions as our school fees would be unattainable because of the lost proceeds from the reduced giving's of the DGR which would be driven by the absence of tax benefit for businesses or individuals capable of making a contribution to the school.</p> <p>Removing these benefits would also have significant impact on any improvements that the school needed going forward and would also impact many small family businesses that depend on the undertaking of this building work.</p> <p>If the Government does take on this proposal my concern would be that we would have no choice but to send our children to an already overcrowded public school. This would have substantial negative consequences on my children's learning experience and would suppress their academic development.</p> <p>We would ask that you please contemplate my great concerns as this matter would be impacting a lot of families Australia wide.</p>	22/02/204
278-526	Andre Buchner	<p>It is with alarm and significant concern that I write this submission following the reading of the above report.</p> <p>I have lived in Australia for 25 years and always been impressed with the attributes of Government here, which is favourable and without discrimination towards the education of the young and care of the old, and the protection of religious organisations.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>It is of concern that there is a proposal to scrap the deductible gift recipient status of these organisations.</p> <p>My child attends an independent school and hopefully my grandchildren will soon be able to do the same but with the above proposal, and the consequent lack of tax benefit for individuals and businesses, I fear that the reduced private donations to the school will force these children to be sent to an already overcrowded public school.</p> <p>These children are our future and I want to ensure that I give them the very best opportunity in life with an excellent educational experience. With the increased cost of living, I fear that this might not be possible.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you consider this letter favourably as I am sure that there would be many families who will be negatively impacted if these far-reaching recommendations were to be implemented.</p>	
278-527	Jim McNaughton	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the draft report. While supportive of some of the recommendations, the proposal to withdraw DRG status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations, is of concern.</p> <p>To illuminate the point, I can speak from experience, as a parent of a small family who attend an independent school which currently has DGR status. I'm aware that securing funds to provide for suitable infrastructure has always been a challenge and is not getting any easier. Removing DGR status will surely lead to a decrease in the level of gifting from supportive donors – making this challenge even more difficult.</p> <p>I would urge the Commission to carefully reconsider this recommendation and the possible effect it will have. It seems illogical that funding the proper education of our children – one of the most important goals of any society – would become more difficult for some schools, because a particular avenue of charitable giving for some Australians, is taken away.</p> <p>Separately, to believe that the Government can make up this loss of charitable donations that support schooling, without any negative impact on the non-independent schools, seems unrealistic. The Commission should be very careful to avoid 'turning off a tap', that currently lessens the load on the Governments own essential commitment to education funding.</p> <p>For all parties – independent schools, non-independent schools, the Government – and our small family – it really does not make sense to remove DGR status as per this recommendation. We would appreciate your careful consideration of this viewpoint.</p>	22/02/204
278-528	Peter Stead	<p>Recently I read through the draft report and became very concerned after learning about the impact the recommendations could have on the education sector if government adopted them.</p> <p>Extract:</p>	22/02/204

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		<p><i>“School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission’s proposals.”</i></p> <p>My two children attend an independent school that has benefited over the past 3 decades from donations towards capex projects that have helped shape the learning experiences of many students. I fear these wouldn’t have been possible or greatly reduced without it having DGR status. Indeed, there are future plans for a new multipurpose hall which would most likely be shelved if the proposed recommendations were adopted.</p> <p>Supporting businesses and individuals from our town would donate elsewhere and the local school would miss out.</p> <p>To add to it I expect the school fees would be increased to compensate from loss in donations which as you could appreciate couldn’t come at a worse time with inflation pressures currently.</p> <p>I don’t disagree that reform is needed especially where opportunity to simplify, however any changes that impact quality of education of young Australians should be treated with utmost care.</p> <p>Also noted one of the key reasons for the proposal is</p> <p><i>“...to help donors direct support to where there is likely to be the greatest net benefits to the community as a whole”</i></p> <p>I am very concern how the “directing” will happen and how “the greatest net benefit” will be determined. It seems like interference in the current freedom of choice we can make as individuals.</p>	
278-529	Jeff Grace	<p>For 30 years I have worked in various industries that relate to commercial building and fit-out in both private and public sectors. I frequently visit schools in my current consultancy work and my children have attended both private and public schools.</p> <p>The process for upgrades and maintenance works to be conducted at a private school is significantly more cost effective and requires less funds due to the managers/principles having a mandate to return a profit. This process does not apply in the public sector and funds unfortunately are often wasted and abused.</p> <p>It is well known and commonly spoken of, that funds in the hands of the private sector are used more effectively and generate more profit and benefit to the community than comparing the same funds in the public sector.</p> <p>Therefore, it should be obvious that any change in funding or tax benefits that puts more financial burden on the private sector, will not only push that spend to the public purses, but it will require significantly more funding to make up the same result.</p> <p>There are several recommendations in this draft that propose dangerous changes that will lead to persecution and bias based on religion and financial status and will undoubtedly cost the Govt far more to maintain a high standard of education. My real fear is an outcome in only a few years of a</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>dramatically reduced quality in education for All Australians due to the extra increase in govt spending required to produce the same overall results. The private sector is currently doing a lot of the heavy lifting by utilising tax exempt gifts and funding and using these funds very effectively and economically.</p> <p>Whoever supports cutting access to or reducing the availability of funds towards the private schooling sector, is ignorant of the actual increase in cost for the public schooling system to take up the extra burden that would suddenly be placed on it. And it would be the middle-class families who would be the biggest losers here. Anyone who is wise, would support increasing the funding and availability of philanthropic giving to the private sector to enable more students attend private schools which would reduce the overall total cost of education and likely produce a higher level of student achievements and results in Australia.</p> <p>I sincerely trust that my concerns outlined above are given due consideration and that any recommendations to reduce or eliminate deductible gifting or ending of charitable status for education and religious organisations will be wholly rejected. The Government simply cannot not afford to support this.</p>	
278-530	Geoff Thomas	<p>I have perused the above Productivity report with a mixture of interest and alarm.</p> <p>Whilst admitting there are some worthy & beneficial findings with subsequent recommendations, the proposal to remove DGR status for privately managed & funded schools (<i>primary & secondary</i>) aged care facilities, childcare facilities, etc, is alarming, to say the least.</p> <p>My children and grandchildren have all attended (& <i>some currently attending</i>) independent schools in WA & Vic that benefit from the DGR status, as well as friends and loved ones in aged care facilities that also benefit from the DGR status.</p> <p>According to ACARA, 36.9% of teachers are in private schools or ~ 113,300 teachers, headmasters & professionals. There are almost 3,000 private schools Australia wide, so I ask, if the DGR is scrapped for private schools, & many forced to close because they are no longer financially sustainable (and this is a REALITY) where does the money come from for an extra (<i>up to</i>) 3,000 schools & 113,300 teachers once the DGR is scrapped? In addition to already high school fees, parents & grandparents like me also voluntarily contribute financially every year to our private schools to support the education of our children & grandchildren. But if the DGR is scrapped & our schools become financially unsustainable, this will force our children to go to government schools. When this occurs, I for one won't be giving a dollar extra & neither will hundreds of thousands of other parents and grandparents.</p> <p>According to the Education department data there are 4,042,512 students Australia wide of which 19.7% go to Catholic schools and 15.9% to other non-government independent schools, making a total of (<i>rounded</i>) 1.44 million students in private schools</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>I could find no statistics for the cost of schools/teachers/ educators nor could I find what the contributions to non-government schools are, but GOOGLE estimate secondary teachers wage is between \$90,000 – \$100.00 plus of course, head teachers & higher qualified educators. This equates to a conservative figure of \$10,197,000,000 per annum, but of course, the Commission will have access to more accurate numbers. OH, YES... plus 11% superannuation. OH, YES... plus security for schools both property & students. OH, YES... plus perks such as vehicles for more qualified educators</p> <p>Google puts the cost to build a “<i>relatively standard</i>” primary school at \$15,000,000 and a secondary school at about double that, but that’s just to build them. There is also the maintenance costs, and at the private schools where my grandchildren attend, there are many tradespersons like myself (Builders, Electricians, Plumbers, Painters, etc) who donate their time & often material costs, to support their school, but we definitely will not continue doing so if our private schools close because of being financially unsustainable & our children are obliged to attend public schools, or our aged ones are obliged to reside in a government aged care facility.</p> <p>I note with interest that the Sutton Trust Report say that the following percent of qualified professionals graduated from private schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61% in law, politics, medicine & journalism. • 71% of top military officers • 74% of High Court Judges • 32% of MP’s <p>These statistics alone indicate the enormous benefit that private schools have contributed to ALL of the Australian community at large, to say nothing of the quality of care for those we love who reside in aged care facilities. (<i>Both of us will probably end up in an aged care facility ourselves in the not-too-distant- future, so be careful what you wish for</i>)</p> <p>My genuine concern is that if the government adopt the recommendation to scrap the DGR for private schools, aged care facilities & other (<i>predominately</i>) religious organisations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many private schools will be forced to close & pupils attend already overcrowded public schools. • This will affect the academic outcomes of many students • Will substantially increase school fees, already high, especially with the increased economic hardship and the current cost of living pressures • Will substantially increase costs to care for our aged population 	

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These increased fees/costs will become a necessity to offset the lost income from private giving to these various institutions • The actual financial benefit to the government in scrapping the DGT is questionable, as the DGR is only a modest (but very much appreciated, thank you) percentage of what it actually costs to build, staff, operate and maintain a school or aged care facility. A major percentage of the shortfall of the above expenditure comes from private giving & fund raising, all of which stops if our children are 'forced' to go back to public schools because we cannot sustain the FULL COST of running & maintaining our private schools. • The government don't simply save whatever DGR amount they contributed to a private school or aged care facility, they will have to bear the brunt of the FULL COST of new or upgraded facility costs AS WELL AS the running and maintenance costs <p>I have given due respect and consideration to the DGR proposal, I ask in return that you please give due respect & consideration to the genuine concerns I have raised, as this is not just a couple of hundred families affected Australia wide, but is hundreds of thousands of families adversely affected, as well as almost 1.5 million students and tens of thousands of our aged parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones.</p>	
278-531	Ben Larsen	<p>I would like to comment on the Productivity Commission draft report on future foundations for giving.</p> <p>As a parent and a grandchild, that has benefited from family and children attending schools and aged care facilities, that have held DGR status, I'm very concerned about the move by the current government.</p> <p>I feel it has the potential to destabilize a system that has been in place since 1954 which has led to many aged care and famous schools known for teaching some of the highest achieving student's future in doubt</p> <p>More of a concern is that it will greatly increase the cost of living through increased fees to attend these DGR funded systems.</p> <p>This will also put pressure onto the public schooling system which is already overcrowded and is generally considered to be run in-inefficiently compared to the private system.</p> <p>I also see it as an attack on religion in a country where we are considered to have freedom of religion.</p> <p>We would urge the government not to allow such a law to be passed and put an end to communistic ideasti</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-532	Timothy Eagle	<p>I have researched and read this draft report with intense interest as I am a Father of two young boys – both in independent primary schools who benefit from DGR status.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I feel this is a direct attack on religion and my concern is, that if the government moves forward with this recommendation, I will have to send my boys to a public school without the same support they currently get in an independent school.</p>	22/02/204
278-533	Carl Hansen	<p>After reading the draft report, which I found insightful, I am troubled about the recommendations of scrapping the 'deductible gift recipient' DGR status for non-government, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to us as parents and grandparents, as my children/grandchildren attended/will attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In an unprecedented time of pressure on the cost of living, I fear school fees would only be driven up further from the lost income of businesses having the ability to donate with the tax benefits stripped from them.</p> <p>I deeply concerned that if the government adopt this recommendation, we would be forced to send children to an already overcrowded public school, which will not only impact their learning experience, but also hinder their academic potential and quality of contribution to society, later in life.</p> <p>I ask you to consider my concerns, to ensure our family won't be impacted from such recommendations.</p>	22/02/204
278-534	Brett Lindqvist	<p>I have read the draft report and would like to express some points that are of concern for now, and into the future of this country. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>In my understanding, it would seem inevitable that our school fees will increase if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations. Ours schools will need to increase their income from fees to make up for the reduced giving from businesses or individuals because of the lack of tax benefit for these entities or people.</p> <p>Secondly, I believe that should the Government adopt this recommendation, we (and many other similar families across the nation) will be forced to send our children to overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Our children need quality education that comes from faith-based schooling. Our children (along with many others) will become future business leaders and work in the public domain. If they are forced to be educated in the public schools that are under resourced, Australia is putting itself at a significant disadvantage by cutting the potential of the next generation for the sake of some small funding cuts.</p> <p>I sincerely trust my concerns are taken seriously as I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-535	Ben Grace	<p>My family and I have recently relocated to Australia, and I am genuinely shocked to hear and read that the government is considering changes to the tax system (DGR status) for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations. It's disconcerting to think that a country like Australia, which cherishes democracy, freedom, and religious values, is entertaining such views. I'm genuinely worried about the potential repercussions if these changes become law.</p> <p>One of the immediate impacts will be a significant increase in our school fees (as my children attend independent schools) if the government adopts the recommendations put forth by the Productivity Commission. This is because our schools will need to raise additional funds through fees, given the reduced contributions from businesses and individuals who will no longer receive tax benefits.</p> <p>I'm also concerned that this reduced support may hinder our school from carrying out necessary infrastructure improvements, which in turn support local businesses. This will lead to a decline in the quality of education our children receive, impacting their ability to learn effectively and achieve academic success.</p> <p>All of this is transpiring at a time when we are already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. I can't help but feel that these changes are beginning to resemble an attack on religion, particularly since a majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organizations. It might even compel us to reconsider our decision to move to what is known as the "Lucky Country."</p>	22/02/204
278-536	Ryan Caldwell	<p>I followed this inquiry and have read the report. I believe it has some good information I agree fully with. I'm convinced philanthropy is a great way to move our nation forward for the poorer of our society. It is a huge benefit where I live (a regional area), philanthropic activity is 100% vital to the wellbeing, safety, and mental health of regional communities.</p> <p>However I am greatly and deeply concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. Someone please take time to consider my concerns expressed below, I am very grateful to whoever does, especially if this recommendation is abandoned.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Scrapping DGR will do massive damage to a lot of good DGR enables organisations to provide to Australians, that Governments don't or can't do, and will unquestionably worsen national productivity</p> <p><i>Educational concerns;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would cause a huge loss of trade & jobs = loss of GST & Income tax to the Federal Govt' 2. The contribution to Australians that organizations across Australia eligible to receive this giving method will be reduced – and the burden will end up redirected directly back onto to all 3 levels of Government. 3. It will clearly 'significantly increase' school fee's and Aged Care Fee's as these Organizations have to fund their needs and asset expenditure some other way. 4. Increased school fees will hugely increase the cost of living at a time when it has become extremely difficult to sustain the cost of living 5. Increased School fees will put private education out of reach to a lot more Australian Children, reducing the choices available to them and their Parents to find a way to improve their lives – something we can't afford as a nation. <p><i>Parental perspective:</i></p> <p>We made the choice to accept an enormous amount more pressure in our lives to increase our income and fund private education for our children. This forced us to smarten up, and become more productiveti But if school fees go higher we will not be able to do it.</p> <p>We chose to burden ourselves with the extra load because;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we did not want to put our children through the overcrowded public education system where harassment, bullying and other terrifying worsening behavior is prevalent and remedial adjustments to it are too slow. • In 2021we could see that the methods of education in the public system had fallen too far behind the pace of change in the modern world, choosing private education to better prepare our children for the modern-day workplace. <p>Whilst happy with our choice, and ok with the results, it is exceptionally hard. We live in a regional area, on a shoestring budget, and the range of affordable choices are already too low</p> <p><i>Business owners perspective</i></p> <p>I employ Australians, they're 1st, but finding school leavers who have acquired enough learning skills to be able adapt what they were taught at school, into their own advantage, becoming effective in the modern business world is a cause of very much stress for them, and their employers.</p>	

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>It is super obvious, that reducing education options available to Australians will have a massive detrimental impact on National productivity and is unfair to the Nations up and coming generations.</p> <p><i>Aged care concerns</i></p> <p>The public system again is underfunded, overloaded, and just overburdened... the Government can't possibly afford to do what private Organizations are doing.</p> <p><i>Religious organizations concerns</i></p> <p>The Government doesn't have to fund them now, they keep huge amounts of society happy, why increase their costs and make it more difficult for them to survive?</p>	
278-537	Malcolm Ovenden	<p>We have been reading the report that has been drafted with great interest and concern. We are troubled about the proposal for the removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for childcare age care, non- government schools and other religious based organisations.</p> <p>We currently have 2 children who attend a non-government school which currently benefits from DGR status. We are living in a time where the rising cost of living is increasing as never before. If this was removed the school fees would be forced up to make up for the loss of income from reduced giving. For many years the school has benefited from persons who have made tax deductible donations.</p> <p>The concern is that if the government take on this recommendation, we would have to remove our children from the current school. The issue is that the public schools in our area are so full we cannot be assured they will receive the best learning and they will be stunted in their academic potential.</p> <p>We ask you to consider our plea. We are only a microscopic percentage of families that will be affected.</p>	22/02/204
278-538	Stuart Cooper	<p>I refer to the draft report called "Future foundations for giving" the which I have read with interest. In reading it I note some good points and appreciate the effort gone into the research followed by the creation of the report. While in some cases the recommendations could be of benefit to the community as a whole it does seem to me that the greater benefit from the changes will be of assistance to a relatively small community.</p> <p>Further I note the recommendations to exclude certain activities or subtypes: namely, primary, secondary, religious and other informal education activities, with an exception for activities that have a specific equity objective (such as activities undertaken by a public benevolent institution) – the activities of childcare and aged care in the social welfare subtype (other than activities undertaken by a public benevolent institution)</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This recommendations is a puzzle and great concern to me for several reasons, which I will seek to outline.</p> <p>Our children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status and the decision to send them there was a great considerable financial and moral consideration. What we have noticed is that typically independent schools are exposed to competition between them and use improvements to both facilities and education along with high quality educators to attract enrolments. Whilst there is a financial price tag for the student and/or parent as a result it is considered well worthwhile to a parent who is wanting to give the best they can for their children even if it means cutting back in other expenditure areas. However the enrolment fee is only a portion of the income to these high quality independent schools. The considerable portion is from philanthropic giving inspired by the potential DGR benefit.</p> <p>What my concern is should our school and others like it be stripped of DGR status philanthropists will suddenly stop or phase out giving to these organisations and in turn the enrolment fee will climb dramatically to cover the cost of running the school and most likely make any further improvements as they have enjoyed up till now impossible. This dramatic fee climb will be added to a community all ready suffering from a cost of living crisis like hardly experienced before in the history of this country.</p> <p>Should the Government adopt this recommendation over time independent schools will become unviable and potentially close forcing parents to return students to overcrowded and already under resourced public schools. As everyone knows the staff in the public system are finding it harder and harder to keep the level of behaviour and learning outcomes constantly improving in view of a society that is better equipped for whatever the future throws at our most precious resource, to quote American president JF Kennedy: "Children are the worlds most valuable resource and its best hope for the future" By pursuing this recommendation I have no doubt whatsoever that the academic potential of our children and children yet to come will be seriously stifled and in turn the society in which we live will also be stifled increasing strain on the financial and mental welfare of our citizens.</p> <p>Who then knows what the impact of this will be on the country we know and love.</p>	
278-539	Ashley Wakefield	<p>I am writing in relation to the draft report for the Future Foundation of Giving.</p> <p>As a father to young children who will, in the future, be upcoming in the school systems, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status being scrapped for certain schools and religious organizations.</p> <p>As a household that is currently feeling the pressure of rising cost of living, I feel that school fees will only be increased further due to reduced giving from businesses or individuals because of the</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>lack of tax benefits. I also feel that our children's education will decline due to overcrowded public schools and they will be unable to strive towards their full academic potential.</p> <p>I would appreciate if you considered my concerns and I understand that our family wouldn't be the only ones impacted.</p>	
278-540	Ben Woodbury	<p>In regards to the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report</p> <p>I have read the draft report and whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to my wife and I as our children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. As we all are experiencing inflated cost of living from the current climate and pressures never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, this however will have an overall impact and will increase the already growing pressure of the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, the school will have increased financial pressure because of the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school, I know the school relies heavily on donations for improvements and other running costs as I volunteer at the school and a business owner that also donates funds. My fear is the school may become seriously impacted or even not viable if the DGR status is scrapped for non-government primary, secondary schools and would force us to send our children to already overloaded public school that will have an impact on our children's learning.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, along with many other families that will be impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-541	Ricky Sharpe	<p>I have read the above report and it's of concern to me that there is intent to remove DGR status from non-government primary and secondary building funds.</p> <p>As a business owner and contributor for many years to the building fund for the non-government school that my children attend, I am conscious of the negative impact that a reduced incentive to give will have on the quality of the school facilities and in turn the quality of the education provided. Its likely that a decrease in giving and the need to maintain the facilities will result in an increase in student fees and in a time where the cost of living is front and centre of everyone's minds it would seem inappropriate for the government to change the status quo.</p> <p>Adoption of these recommendations could well result in families having to send their children to public schools which in turn would come at a considerable increase in cost to the government.</p> <p>I also feel there is an underling effort in the recommendations to distance the government from advancing religion, ignoring, and indeed undermining the foundational, positive impact and influence that religion plays in society.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-542	Dean Grace	<p>I urgently write to express grave concerns about the proposed removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for independent schools, as outlined in the Productivity Commission's draft report.</p> <p>The potential loss of DGR status would lead to skyrocketing school fees, placing an unbearable burden on families already facing financial strains. This jeopardizes the accessibility of quality education for countless children, forcing parents into difficult decisions about their academic future.</p> <p>Furthermore, the impact on local public schools, already grappling with overcrowding, would be detrimental. We risk compromising the quality of education and hindering the academic potential of our children.</p> <p>I implore you to advocate for the preservation of DGR status for independent schools. Our children's educational future hangs in the balance, and your support is crucial in safeguarding their access to quality education.</p>	22/02/204
278-543	Michael Ford	<p>The report has been brought to my attention by a concerned family member. Notwithstanding there are some points of merit, I am very concerned about the recommendations for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As a grandparent this is of great importance me, as my grandchildren will be attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status. With the cost of living pressure that we are currently experiencing, I fear this is going to increase the impact of that, due to rising school fees. The lack of income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefits for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school must result in higher school fees.</p> <p>It would a be devastating thing to be forced to put our children into the overcrowded public system where their learning experience would decline, and their academic potential is not fully realized.</p> <p>Please urgently consider my concern, its not only my family that this will impact.</p>	22/02/204
278-544	Daniel Greene	<p>Have recently read the draft report I felt compelled to voice my opinions and concerns. The report covers a lot and is very insightful, however I am concerned by the recommendations for DGR status to be taken away from schooling and religious organizations.</p> <p>In a world where it is typically every man for himself, these are two fundamental areas that support the furtherance of the race. Firstly the whole principle of education is teaching others something you have learnt yourself so individuals can go on to live their life and become a productive member of society, secondly religion is the pursuit of faith with the support of others who believe and follow with devotion. These two areas clearly support the progress of the human race and would fall under the meaning of a charity which 'provides public benefit and supports defined groups of individuals'</p> <p>My children currently attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR status, we are currently experiencing pressure with increased cost of living with no improvement in sight and I fear that school fees will only increase to make up for the lost income due to decreased giving. With a</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>reduced tax benefit for business or individuals donating to the schools, there will no doubt be a reduction in giving.</p> <p>If the government takes on the recommendations in this report, this will put pressure on the independent school and will force us to send our children to the local public schooling system. This will impact their learning and affect their academic potential, as well as put additional pressure on an already overcrowded public schooling system.</p> <p>I would question whether the money saved from removing tax-deductible donations will be enough to support the increased pressure and demand on the public system?</p> <p>I hope my concerns can be considered as I am sure there will be many other families impacted by this as well.</p>	
278-545	Jamie Fooks	<p>We are interested in the productivity commission 'future foundations for giving' report, as concerned parents who send our child to a private school which receives tax deductible gifts.</p> <p>If the deductible gift recipient status is removed our private school fees will increase, and the quality of learning environment will decrease.</p> <p>Due to the dramatically increased cost of living, we could be forced to send our child to a public school which is already at capacity, and has a lower class of learning.</p> <p>Private schools are a boost to our local economy, and implementing the proposed changes would have a direct negative impact on many small local businesses.</p> <p>It appears there is a targeted discriminatory element of this report against religious organisations which is not aligned with Australia's as a free country.</p> <p>We would urge you to reconsider these things which will wreck households, local economies and even the nation.</p>	22/02/204
278-546	Andrew Shirliff	<p>I am writing as a 'quiet Australian' and a concerned parent of four school-aged children, after becoming aware of the proposed recommendations by the Productivity Commission to remove the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for giving to non-government schools and the call for ending 'basis religious charity' status.</p> <p>The commission states the intent of these recommendations is to increase philanthropy, but these very recommendations do the very opposite. It discriminates against religion, and discriminates against those that choose to send their children to non-government schools.</p> <p>If the recommendations are endorsed, we may not be able to support our children through private education, and any building upgrades at the school they currently attend would no doubt be re-considered and either postponed or abandoned without the DGR support. Without building upgrades the quality of our children's education will decline with lack of suitable facilities.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Make no mistake, the DGR support is a strong catalyst for encouraging philanthropy.</p> <p>Given that DGR status for philanthropy to non-government schools has been in place since 1954 and the fact that freedom of religion is one of the very principles of democracy in this great country Australia, we should be valuing religion more for its contribution to society rather than penalizing it in favour of leftist radical notions that are being put forward.</p> <p>The sad alternative could mean the closure of many non-government schools, with many government schools becoming further crowded and the burden being placed more firmly on the government to provide quality education. It would also mean an increase in the school fees, which would hurt us a lot as family of six given we are already feeling the cost-of-living pressures with inflation and higher interest rates.</p> <p>In summary, the recommendations by the Productivity Commission should be abandoned and the Government should not adopt them. It would be un-Australian to do so.</p>	
278-547	Matthew Craig	<p>I recently read the draft report and have been contemplating and considering the detail closely with concern.</p> <p>I can see that there are some good conclusions and recommendations, however I am highly concerned about the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have several close family members who attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, and I also have children who I intend enrolling in the same independent school in a few years' time. We are currently in a time where cost of living pressures are intense, like I've never known before. To have DGR status removed will only result in school fees being driven up to cover the loss of income the school would normally receive from businesses and individuals who donate to the school currently. DGR status provides a tax benefit for businesses and individuals who donate to the school.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation the increased pressure, as a result, on my family's household budgets will mean we are forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to please consider my concerns very seriously as I'm sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-548	Michael Penhall	<p>I am reaching out regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report. I have read the drafted report in detail. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations to be scrapped.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This is of concern to me, my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The impact will be increased school fees and things like building extensions and upgrade works will be stopped, education experience will decline, this also comes at a time when we are under greater financial pressure.</p> <p>I'm worried if the Government carry through this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to the overcrowded and understaffed local public school which will surely impact their learning experience and reduce their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one with the same concerns.</p>	
278-549	Russell Grace	<p>I've carefully reviewed the Productivity Commission's draft report on 'Future Foundations for Giving' and, while acknowledging some positive findings, I'm troubled by the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities like independent schools.</p> <p>This is particularly worrisome as my children attend an independent school that greatly benefits from DGR status. With the current strain on the cost of living, the removal of this tax incentive could lead to increased school fees, making quality education less accessible.</p> <p>If adopted, this recommendation might force families like mine to consider overcrowded local public schools, impacting our children's learning experience and hindering their academic potential. I urge you to take these concerns into account, as our family is likely not the only one facing these potential challenges.</p>	22/02/204
278-550	Ron Thrush	<p>It was interesting to read the draft report, however it is very concerning about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non -gov organizations, like primary, secondary, aged care, childcare and others.</p> <p>My wife and I are concerned, due to our children that currently attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR status.</p> <p>Our cost of living has increased and there is pressure on a lot of fronts. We fear the school fees would be driven up to make up for the lost income from this reduced giving. And the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to our school the children go to.</p> <p>We are very worried if the Gov adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to have our children go to an overcrowded local public school and not receive the excellent learning they currently get. This will have an impact on their future.</p> <p>We have family in aged care as well, we don't need added financial pressure.</p> <p>We are not alone in this concern, many in our community / area have raised their concerns.</p> <p>Please consider the above, and the many in this country that this will impactti</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-551	George Muller	<p>I believe the removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status from non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations will have devastating consequences on this essential provision to Australia's society and wellbeing overall.</p> <p>One obvious impact will be the direct financial blow to the independent schooling sector inevitably resulting in an increase of enrolment fees. This will undoubtedly add increased pressure on already struggling families who have made considerable financial sacrifice in choosing this educational pathway for their children. Over one-third (34.9%) of our school students are enrolled in non-government schools.</p> <p>This draft report appears to be primarily directed against the advancing of religion and the benevolent activities provided by religious organisations, while it is evident a large percentage of our greatly respected professionals in all walks of life, have proved the benefit of a non-government education.</p>	22/02/204
278-552	Ruben Hansen	<p>I am a parent to children who are educated at an Independent School that benefits from DGR Status.</p> <p>We have read the Draft report with keen interest, and there are many interesting and valuable findings, however we are deeply concerned about the suggestion to scrap the DGR status of Non-government primary, secondary, childcare, religious and aged care organisations.</p> <p>With the cost of living increasing rapidly, the scrapping of the DGR status of the aforementioned organisations will only result in school fees being driven up, to a point where it will be unaffordable to us as a household.</p> <p>This in turn will result in us being forced to send our children through the public schooling system, dramatically impacting their overall education experience and overlooking their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, as we are one of thousands of households who will be impacted by this proposal.</p>	22/02/204
278-553	Tristan Harris	<p>I trust this letter finds you in good health. I wanted to share my reflections on the recent draft report by the Productivity Commission, titled 'Future foundations for giving.' While the report contains commendable findings and recommendations, I am writing to express my reservations about the proposed removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>The potential elimination of DGR status raises concerns for me, given that my children are enrolled in an independent school that relies on this status for support. At a time when the cost of living is escalating, I worry that the school may be compelled to increase fees due to a reduction in contributions, given the diminished tax incentives for potential donors.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My primary concern is that if this recommendation is adopted, it could compel families like mine to reconsider educational options. The possibility of enrolling our children in a local public school, which may be already strained for resources, poses a threat to their educational experience and academic growth.</p> <p>I sincerely urge you to take these concerns into consideration, recognizing that our family is likely not the only one facing such apprehensions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.</p>	
278-554	Adrian Hattingh	<p>After having read the report including the findings and recommendations, I must express that as a grandparent, I am deeply concerned about the recommendation for the scrapping of DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>There are far-reaching impacts on my grandchildren, who are currently enrolled in a non-government school, should the government adopt this recommendation. Some of the implications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School fees will inevitably increase considerably to compensate for the loss of charitable giving from businesses who will lose the tax benefit of such donations. • Increased financial pressure on the parents whose finances are already under pressure from increased cost-of-living costs. • Education experience for our grandchildren will decline as the school will not have the funds to continue with capital expansion or remedial works. • Possibility that our grandchildren will be forced to attend already overcrowded public schools where there is a breakdown of discipline and a disregard for authority, and increased school violence. <p>I am exhorting you to consider my grave concerns regarding the adopting recommendation to scrap the DGR status, which will not only impact on our family but also many, many other families in similar situations.</p>	22/02/204
278-555	Caleb Jackson	<p>I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report from the Productivity Commission titled 'Future foundations for giving.' While I appreciate the positive findings and recommendations within the report, I find myself particularly uneasy about the suggestion to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>This recommendation hits close to home for me as my children currently attend an independent school that greatly benefits from its DGR status. Given the unprecedented cost of living pressures we are facing, I am concerned that the removal of DGR status could lead to a reduction in charitable giving. Consequently, this could force independent schools to raise tuition fees, placing an additional financial burden on families like mine who rely on this tax benefit.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>In such a scenario, I fear that we might be compelled to enrol our children in the local public school, which is already struggling with overcrowding. This shift could potentially impact their overall learning experience and limit their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to take these concerns into consideration. It is my belief that our family is not alone in facing these potential challenges should the government decide to adopt the mentioned recommendation.</p>	
278-556	Alistair Dent	<p>I am writing in response to the draft report released by the Productivity Commission, which I have read in detail. I am alarmed and concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as I have three children attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status. This status allows our family to contribute modest amounts towards furthering the education environment and outcomes for our children.</p> <p>Government funding only provides a portion of what is required to run the school, this is supplemented by tax deductible donations and other fundraising efforts by the local community. Removal of DGR status for our independent school would put the viability of the school at risk, unless families could sustain massive hikes in school fees. Given the current cost of living crisis and the state of household budgets – they can not.</p> <p>I have grave concerns about the flow on impacts from this, as I'm sure it would be replicated right across the country. More pressure on students, more pressure on families, more pressure on local communities and more pressure on public schools already struggling under the student load.</p> <p>In addition to the practical concerns I have raised above, I have very strong concerns about the basis for these recommendations outlined in the report. It seems like a thinly disguised attack on religion, give that the majority of private and independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I urge the government and the Productivity Commission to truly listen to the very real concerns of parents and organisations across the country that would be impacted by the proposed recommendations.</p>	22/02/204
278-557	Conrad Dykstra	<p>I have read the PC draft report recently and shocked at some of the recommendations. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I'm really worried about the recommendations for 'deductible gift recipient' status to be scrapped for non-government private schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a real concern to me as some my older children go a private school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing an ever-increasing cost of living crisis, I'm worried that</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>school fees would only be further increased to make up the lost income from reduced giving, by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I also feel this is an attack on religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>My concern is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will have no choice but to send our children to our local public school which are already overcrowded, and no doubt will have an impact to their learning and reduce their future academic potential.</p> <p>Please hear my real concern, I am sure our family won't be the only ones affected.</p>	
278-558	Felicity Bryan-Brown	<p>As a parent of school children currently, I am writing this submission to you regarding my strong concerns about the above stated draft report.</p> <p>From past experiences of having children educated in Government schools and also children educated in Independent schools, I can witness to the fact that the Independent schools deliver a higher academic learning experience which has led to strong academic results.</p> <p>For the Government to implement the suggested recommendations, this will seriously impact the Independent schools to the point where they will be forced to pass on some of the shortfall of funding. With an increase in school fees on families attending Independent schools, this will further increase the pressure of the cost of living which already is high in Australia.</p> <p>If families are driven to send their children back to the public schools, this would be a harmful decision and increase the pressure on everyone that is involved in the educating of a child. <i>'It takes a village to raise a child.'</i></p> <p>It is with great concern I have written this submission and I just ask you please reflect on the impact the recommendations for DGR status will have on so many families.</p>	22/02/204
278-559	Barry Voss	<p>As a concerned parent, I am writing to express my feelings regarding DGR status.</p> <p>As parents we are greatly concerned as to the impact this will have on our children.</p> <p>We have supported an independent school for a number of years and the school, the parents & the children have benefited greatly from community giving to school projects.</p> <p>We are also greatly concerned for the wellbeing of our children in a declining world and have found enormous protection and care and respect in a faith-based school.</p> <p>The direct impact of this will be increased school fees at a time where cost of living is impacting young families who strive for better education in a protected environment.</p> <p>Quality education of our children is the most important aspect for my wife & I and we appeal for you to not only support, but to embrace DGR status in non-government schools.</p>	22/02/204

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278-560	Richard Simpson	<p>I have gone through this draft report and feel I must convey the serious apprehension I feel about some of the changes it has proposed.</p> <p>Specifically, I am concerned about your recommendation to remove the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government childcare, primary & secondary education, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The reason this is particularly worrying for me is that I currently have children attending an independent school which has DGR status and subsidises its school fees substantially for all students through charitable gifts it receives.</p> <p>Even with these lowered fees, our children's school fees are a financial burden for our family and will only become more so as the cost of living continues to ratchet up.</p> <p>If our children's school is forced to raise its school fees once it loses its DGR status, my grave concern is that we will be unable to continue to give our children the education we wish.</p> <p>Instead, we would have no choice but to transfer them to a public school. I know that these are already quite full, with far larger class sizes and thinner spread of resources than my children are used to. It seems obvious that this overcrowding will only get worse if your recommendations regarding religious schools come into force.</p> <p>This is likely to cause a decline in my children's schooling experience and inhibit their learning and even future potential.</p> <p>Beyond these troubles, I worry that the reduced giving to my children's school will mean they are unable to improve or extend their facilities at all. Not only will this affect the school's quality, but a cessation of all extension and improvement works will affect a lot of small family businesses in our area, which I know are supported by such projects.</p> <p>Finally, I cannot see this recommendation as anything other than a direct attack on religion in Australia, as it is well known that a huge quantity of the private education in this country that you are targeting is furnished by churches and religious organisations.</p> <p>Your recommendation also indirectly inhibits my ability to give my children an education in an environment that I trust, and which supports our family's beliefs.</p> <p>I request you sincerely reflect on my submission, and realise that my concerns will be shared by a lot of other parents you will be putting in the same difficult position.</p>	22/02/204
278-561	Bradley Dunn	<p>As a concerned parent of three school age boys I am writing with concern as to the draft report I have read containing the recommendation to scrap the deductible gift recipient status for non government education, aged care and other religious organisations. My particular concerns relates to how this affects non-government schools and the serious impact this would have on our</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>education system right across the nation and the increase in cost of living pressures already faced by households in the current economic climate.</p> <p>This will no doubt have a huge effect on investment in education facilities and I feel that we need to keep front of mind that any investment of this nature is a good thing for the nation and very importantly supports future generations. The quality of education facilities is of utmost importance as we know that the learning environment has a direct impact on the quality of education that teachers can provide as well as the individuals ability to learn and absorb what is being taught.</p> <p>Education is a fundamental to quality of life and the ability of an individual to set themselves up for the future. The more we can support a greater education the likelihood of enhancing their academic potential and their opportunities for a bright future increases.</p> <p>The school that our children attend has invested extensively in facilities through the past couple of years and as parents we can testify to the impact that this investment has had on the education of our children. I have also witnessed the volume of small business involved in such works such as tradesman, landscapers, fencers etc that have been involved in these projects which would directly impacts the local economy.</p> <p>Considering the majority of the organisations that would be affected by the draft changes are owned and managed by religious organisations I feel that changes of this nature would be a direct attack on religion.</p> <p>Support for education, child care, aged care and religion should be cornerstones of the Governments agenda not a focus for this sort of reform which would be damaging.</p> <p>I trust my concerns about these draft changes have some impact on the decision of the Government , I know that our household wouldn't be the only one affected.</p>	
278-562	Russell Dunlop	<p>I am writing to you today to express my deep concern as a parent and member of a local school community. Regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report recommendations.</p> <p>The purpose of the inquiry is significant, I believe it is important that philanthropic giving, and its drivers and opportunities are well understood. However, I am deeply troubled with some of the proposed changes and the negative impact they will have on our schools and community.</p> <p>The consequence of the government adopting the scrapping of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status in Australia for non-government schools would be profound, our school like many others has relied on the DGR support for decades to encourage support for critical infrastructure projects. The removal of this tax benefit will place the burden of these projects back on the school community and inevitably lead to increased school fees placing further burden on ours and countless other families already struggling with the cost-of-living increase.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Limiting the ability of our schools to undertake building extensions and upgrades will also have a significant impact on small local businesses and trades people that provide much needed life and employment in our community.</p> <p>It is distressing that the quality of education our children receive has the potential to decline, proper facilities are a vital part of a high-performance learning environment, at a time when there is an urgent need to foster and grow the innovators and leaders of the Australia of tomorrow it is of no value to the community to work to erode the learning environment for these bright young people.</p> <p>It is also important to recognise that many non-government schools are affiliated with religious organisational, removing and hampering support for these institutions could be seen as a direct attack on religion undermining the valuable contribution to education in Australia.</p> <p>Lastly an increase in the cost of education of our children will force us and many other families that have no further resource to impose our children on an already stressed and overcrowded local public school and public education system. Our family holds strong religious beliefs and we have chosen a school that aligns with our beliefs and values, we believe it is vitally important for a diverse education system that caters to many different values, needs and beliefs and it is disheartening that the proposed changes could see our children's options and educational outcomes limited.</p> <p>In conclusion, I would urge the Productivity Commission to consider the future far reaching implications of the recommendations outlined in the Future foundations for giving' draft report, Whilst the goals of the inquiry are good and right the consequences for education and our community cannot go unaddressed, We would respectfully ask that you consider the concerns of a concerned parent like myself in relation to the impact of these proposals on our children's and our countries future,</p> <p>We thankyou for your time and look for a decision that will benefit all Australians.</p>	
278-563	David Bissett	<p>As a parent of 3 children, I am extremely concerned about the findings of the abovementioned report relating to the DGR status for private schools including primary ,high school, childcare, age care some religious organisations.</p> <p>Our children benefit in many ways I believe from the fact these non-government schools provide a safe, predictable, and progressive environment for our children to achieve their absolute 'personal best'. I am perplexed that the Government would even consider these changes as loss of income from reduced giving would put our schools bright future in jeopardy. As a business owner I understand the reciprocal tax benefits for us and the private school in able to donate when funds are available. This helps them to be able to not only maintain existing infrastructure but also importantly grow and upgrade for future generations.</p> <p>The current 'cost of living crisis' means our personal finances are totally stretched like never before and these changes will mean that school fees will increase. This simply can't happenti</p>	22/02/204

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		I say this to the government – please listen to our grave concerns and reconsider.	
278-564	David Bird	<p>It has come to our attention via the News that there is a recommendation to remove current Deductible Gifts to Private Schools and Religious organisations.</p> <p>As concerned Grandparents of eleven (11) grandchildren, who do and will go to Private Schools, it is obvious that school fees will rise due to our schools needing to increase their income from fees to make up for the reduced giving from businesses or persons because of the absence of tax benefits for these businesses or people if the Government accepts the Productivity Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>It is well known that many politicians send their families to Private Schools because of the quality and standard of education and ethos/principles they maintain.</p> <p>If accepted it will mean the removal of tax deductible gifts to Private Schools, therefore reducing the incentive to give. This would mean that they will not be able to undertake building extensions or upgrade works which we know support many small, local family businesses.</p> <p>This is likely to also cause the education capability of our children to drop, lowering their capacity to learn in a suitable atmosphere and impacting their academic competency. This is at a time when our families are already under cost-of-living pressures which we have not known before, which the government professedly is trying to address.</p> <p>Religion is clearly being targeted with this recommendation as almost all private or independent education is provided by religious organisations. As the local public schools are already overcrowded, acceptance of this recommendation could force our children into a schooling system busting at the seams.</p> <p>My assessment of this recommendation is that it is an attack on religion and only shifting sand.</p> <p>If the government implements this recommendation, it will lead to the deterioration of society and to the shame of the government of the day who executed it.</p> <p>As a government, who is answerable to God, you should not accept this recommendation.</p>	22/02/204
278-565	Adrian McAlphin	<p>I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the draft recommendations outlined in the Future Foundations for Giving Report, specifically challenging the proposals related to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities in primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>1. Scrapping DGR Status for Non-Government Institutions: The recommendation to eliminate DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations raises serious concerns. DGR status has played a pivotal role in fostering support for these institutions, particularly in the areas of education and aged care. Scrapping this status could</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>undermine the ability of these organizations to attract essential financial support, hindering their capacity to provide quality services and support to the communities they serve. I strongly challenge the proposed scrapping of DGR status for these vital sectors.</p> <p>2. Ending "Basic Religious Charity" Status and Increasing Red Tape: The suggestion to end "basic religious charity" status, thereby increasing red tape and reporting requirements for almost one in five Australian charities, is equally troubling. This move not only imposes burdensome administrative obligations but also adds unnecessary complexities to the operations of charities, including those supporting schools and religious education. Such increased red tape threatens to divert valuable resources away from the core missions of these organizations, hindering their ability to efficiently and effectively address the needs of their beneficiaries. I strongly challenge the proposal to end "basic religious charity" status and urge a reconsideration of its potential impact on charitable entities.</p> <p>3. Devastating Impact on Non-Government Schools: The potential consequences for non-government schools, which have enjoyed DGR support since 1954, cannot be understated. DGR support has been a crucial incentive for donations, particularly for building infrastructure in schools and supporting the education of future generations. Scrapping DGR support for nongovernment schools risks undermining decades of progress and investment in educational infrastructure. This change threatens to have a devastating impact on the quality of education provided by these institutions including the more than 1.4 Million students (35.6%) who attend private schools in Australia and may discourage philanthropic contributions that have historically played a vital role in enhancing educational facilities. I strongly challenge the proposed changes that jeopardize the continued growth and improvement of nongovernment schools.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge careful reconsideration of these draft recommendations, taking into account the potential adverse effects on essential sectors such as education, aged care, and charitable organizations. It is crucial to strike a balance that ensures continued support for these entities while addressing any legitimate concerns regarding accountability and transparency.</p>	
278-566	Ben and Josie Lockhart	<p>The potential impact of the government's proposed changes to charitable giving on independent & private schools has left us concerned. We are genuinely worried that a decrease in donations could result in higher school fees, a decline in the quality of education, and a lack of resources for essential building upgrades. The thought of these changes potentially forcing us to consider transferring our children to the already overcrowded public school system is alarming, as it would undoubtedly have a significant impact on our family's way of life.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>In addition to these worries, we feel that this proposed legislation is an attack on religion, as a high proportion of independent & private schools are run by religious organizations which play a vital role in providing education aligned with our beliefs and values.</p> <p>We earnestly hope that these proposed changes do not come to fruition, so there are no implications for our children's education.</p>	
278-567	Chester Sprigg	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns after reviewing the draft report for the Productivity Commission's "Future Foundations." This matter is of particular significance to me as a parent whose children attend an independent school benefiting from Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.</p> <p>The swift increase in the cost of living has become a considerable source of pressure, and I am apprehensive that school fees may rise even further to compensate for the potential loss of income resulting from reduced giving. This reduction in donations could be driven by the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to private sector schools.</p> <p>My primary concern is that if the government adopts the recommendations outlined in the report, we may be compelled to send our children to an overcrowded local public school. Such a shift would undoubtedly impact my child's learning experience and hinder their ability to explore and expand their academic pathway—recognizing that there is only one opportunity in life for such critical developmental experiences.</p> <p>Additionally, I am troubled by the potential implications of this proposal on religious institutions, as the majority of private or independent education is provided by organizations with religious affiliations. It seems as though the proposed changes could disproportionately affect these institutions, further jeopardizing the diversity and choice available to parents seeking a values-based education for their children.</p> <p>I kindly request that you carefully consider these concerns and advocate for policies that ensure continued support for independent schools, preserving the diversity and quality of education available to families.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your commitment to fostering an educational environment that prioritizes the well-being and future prospects of our children.</p>	22/02/204
278-568	Andrew Arnott	<p>My attention was brought to this draft report, which I have just read, and I felt the urgent need of replying to it as I can clearly see what effect it will have on my grandchildren's education. As they become of age, they will be attending an independent school that benefits from the DGR status. As you are aware the cost of living is truly a deep concern for all Australians right at this current time</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>and I know my own children will experience financial pressures in the schooling of their young if the fees go up.</p> <p>Please consider this and stop the government from adopting this recommendation as it certainly will affect thousands of families.</p>	
278-569	Darin and Elizabeth Neilson	<p>After reading the report we are worried about the about the possibility of the deductible gift recipient status (DGR) being removed for non-government aged care, schools, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We feel like this is an attack on religious organisations as most non-government schools are run by religion-based organisations and removing this status directly impacts these organisations.</p> <p>This also comes at a time where the school that our children attend is planning to undertake upgrades and an extension to better our children’s education experience with many families and small businesses in the area committed to supporting this in a financial way if the DGR were to be removed it would likely mean that this would no longer be able to go ahead thus disadvantaging our children’s education.</p> <p>Please consider our Children education experience and future when making decisions on the deductible gift recipient status in a time where there is so much pressure on teachers and educators in the public system.</p>	22/02/204
278-570	Stanley Eagle	<p>I am writing with regards the Federal Government Productivity Commission’s ‘Future foundations for giving’ draft report. I am in full support of increased philanthropy in our society, where those more fortunate are encouraged to make meaningful contributions to organisations that they consider will support those less fortunate or improve society. Much of this generosity is motivated by their selected beneficiaries having DGR status.</p> <p>I am a grandparent concerned about the quality of education for my grandchildren</p> <p>It is clear that if the ‘Future foundations for giving’ draft report is implemented it will have serious negative impacts on the funding sources for many private schools which are owned and/or managed by religious organisations and who currently have DGR status.</p> <p>Like all private schools, the foundation of their funding model is dependent upon the generous and farsighted philanthropy of individuals and organisations who give to this worthy cause because they receive the tax benefit of the recipients’ DGR status. Indeed, presumed access to DGR status is embedded into many large estates that are willed to benefit specific organisations many years after the philanthropists passing.</p> <p>Just as Treasurer Jim Chalmers’s parents supported him in attending the ‘Clairvaux Mackillop College’ (which I note is a Catholic based organisation), my children have also decided to work hard, save hard and sacrifice normal niceties to fund my grandchildren in attending a private school.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My concern is for my grandchildren:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their parents' commitment to provide the best possible education for them will maybe one day provide an avenue for them to be federal treasurer of our great country. • If the DGR status of their private school is removed this will inevitably knock-through as a direct increase on their fees structure, which will directly exacerbate the already ever-increasing cost of raising a young family and providing them with the best opportunity in life. <p>I live in a regional area of NSW where I have a business and employ ~200 people. It is noticeable that most of our leadership team have come out of our local private school, 'Trinity College' which is also a Catholic based school.</p> <p>This makes me conclude that the motive of this whole exercise is a scheme to destabilize and strike down private education that is provided by various religious denominations that have so successfully contributed most of the successful leaders in our society today.</p> <p>Like any organisation, private schools spend money with spreads right throughout the business community and economy, including teaching staff who have elected to work in a private school environment rather than a public school, and who will most likely leave the teaching fraternity if there is reduced demand from the private sector, this will simply reduce the number of teachers in total.</p> <p>My recommendation is that the Federal Government reverse this destabilizing agenda and instead look at ways of improving and supporting education in private schools and faith-based organisations which has been so successful for past and present generations, and ensures that our leaders of tomorrow had every possible opportunity to succeed.</p>	
278-571	Doug Voss	<p>I write to express deep concerns about the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools and aged care. As a parent invested in the well-being of my family and community, I fear these changes will adversely impact our households, education quality and ultimately our economy.</p> <p>Having personally being involved in support and recruiting support for a non-government school, I understand how important DGR status is for support of community and maintaining high education standards in Vic, Australia. Any reduction in support may compromise the development of our children and jeopardize the education of our beloved country.</p> <p>This approach is also going cause an increase in school fees which will negatively impact our households when the cost-of-living pressures are higher than ever before. This was a matter that the Labour Government promised to address, but no tangible relief has been seen to date.</p> <p>While fiscal responsibility is your crucial focus, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that address budgetary concerns without compromising essential services. Your attention to this matter</p>	22/02/204

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		is greatly appreciated, and I trust you will prioritise the future welfare of our families and communities and support better education in Victoria.	
278-572	Kurt Jensen	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Productivity Commission's recommendations to remove the tax deductibility of donations to private schools. I believe that this policy would have serious negative consequences for our school, our community, and our children's education.</p> <p>Our school fees will increase if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations. This will come about due to our schools needing to increase their income from fees to make up for the reduced giving from businesses or individuals because of the lack of tax benefit for these entities or people. This will put a significant financial burden on many families, including our family, as we are already struggling with the rising cost of living.</p> <p>I am also concerned that with this reduced giving our school will not be able to undertake building extension and upgrade works, this is especially important as the works not only support many small family businesses in our area, but it also allows us to provide a world class teaching environment for the Teaching Staff, also something that is not found in public schools. Our school has a long history of providing quality education in a safe and modern environment, and we need to maintain and improve our facilities to meet the needs of our growing student population.</p> <p>This is likely to also cause the education experience of our children to decline, lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment and impacting their academic potential. Our school offers a diverse and rich curriculum that caters to the interests and abilities of each child, and we have a dedicated and professional staff who are committed to excellence. We also value the role of religion in our school, as it fosters a sense of community, morality, and spirituality among our students and families.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations. I believe that parents have the right to choose the type of education that best suits their children's needs and values, and that the Government should respect and support this choice. Removing the tax deductibility of donations to private schools would undermine the diversity and pluralism of our education system and discriminate against those who prefer a faith-based education.</p> <p>I have nothing against public schools, but I am concerned that they may not be a viable option for us, as they may not have the capacity or the resources to accommodate them. I hope you understand my concerns and reconsider the Productivity Commission's recommendations. Thank you for your time and attention.</p>	22/02/204

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278-573	David Fysh	<p>I write to express my strong concern regarding the Federal Government Productivity Commission's current Draft Report on Philanthropy.</p> <p>I am an Australian citizen, of simple Christian faith, a regular donor to worthy charitable causes, a small business owner, and a Grandparent.</p> <p>I fear that the said Report's recommendations will have the effect of harming two key pillars of our society: Education and Religion.</p> <p>I believe that restricting an existing income stream for Independent and faith-based Educational Facilities and Organisations who presently benefit from deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, concurrent with bestowing this status upon other fringe organisations whose actual benefit to humankind may reasonably be questioned in some cases, will lead to less choice, greater strain on the public school system, greater drain on Government funds, lowered educational outcomes and reduced socio-economic outcomes.</p> <p>At a time when cost of living is hurting us more than at any time in most of our living memories, the last thing struggling parents need is for their children's education fees to increase; and that at the same time as seeing their grades decline through over-sized/under-resourced classes, and their facilities and equipment deteriorate rather than being upgraded.</p> <p>I fear the proposed changes will stifle donor activity rather than encouraging and enabling it through benefit and choice; I believe that a significant percentage of my fellow donors hold definite opinion about what causes they want their philanthropy to benefit – this is a right which Government should continue to facilitate rather than impede. Any Government overreach in dictating what greatest net benefits look like will not be regarded favorably by generous donors. I fear that a bold experimental move in a field as sensitive and subjective as Philanthropy risks stakes too high; if this wonderful source of funding is injured it may never recover to the same level.</p> <p>Surely government should be enabling the function and prosperity of faith-based organisations, which the history of our Nation and the Western world has proven to benefit human community, rather than imposing restriction on them in view of redirecting support for the enabling, benefit, and expansion of minority groups. Good government rules for the good of all; this necessarily requires proportionate consideration be given to majority opinion and what has historically proven benefit and value.</p> <p>The concept of treating all charities equally (Dra# Report p.224) seems exceptionally ill-founded; much in history could be drawn upon to demonstrate the degrees of positive community benefit of some causes over others; likewise, it is not plausible that charitable organisations which have been worthy for many years could suddenly become unworthy.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Surely we remember so recent a lesson as the resounding 'NO' vote defeat of The Voice Referendum; this Nation spoke clearly on that day: it is not the will of the most for this great country to move sharply away from traditional, common sense government.</p> <p>If the Productivity Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament, and its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole, and if the Commission's goal is to help Government make better policies in the long-term interest of the Australian community, then I appeal for deep consideration to be given to these concerns.</p>	
278-574	Charlie Gooden	<p>I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed changes to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools. As a parent with a child attending such a school, I believe that these changes not only jeopardize the school's ability to provide a high-quality education and could lead to unwarranted increases in school fees but also have the potential to negatively impact local businesses and our local community.</p> <p>The current DGR status is instrumental in attracting crucial financial support for non-government schools. The ability to receive tax-deductible donations has enabled the school to enhance its facilities, invest in technology, and continually improve the overall learning environment.</p> <p>Removing the DGR status for non-government schools not only undermines these advantages but also raises the possibility of such schools being unable to undertake essential building improvement works. These projects, which often support contractors and businesses in our local community, play a vital role in sustaining the economic health of the area. The potential reduction in such initiatives would adversely affect many small family businesses, creating a ripple effect within the community.</p> <p>Additionally, any reduction in the ability to undertake building improvement works could impact the safety and functionality of the school's facilities. This, in turn, affects the overall learning experience for our children and the entire student body.</p> <p>Beyond the immediate impact on educational quality, I am concerned about the perceived implications of the proposed recommendations. Many non-government schools are affiliated with religious institutions, providing students with an education grounded in values and beliefs. Any measures that compromise the financial stability of these institutions are an attack on religion, potentially limiting the ability of schools to impart faith-based teachings and values to their students.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is a genuine worry among parents, including myself, about the possibility of higher school fees resulting from changes to the DGR status. Independent schools, often reliant on donations and philanthropy, often face increased financial pressure, leading to fee hikes. This could force our children into the local public schools putting more pressure on an already overcrowded learning environment. Fee hikes could disproportionately affect families who have chosen private</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>education for their children, potentially limiting access to the unique educational experiences and values-based education that non-government schools offer.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to DGR status for non-government schools, taking into account the potential impact and unintended consequences for educational quality and potential fee increases. Our children's education, shaped by the values instilled by religious-affiliated organisations, is of paramount importance, and any measures that may undermine these principles should be approached with extreme caution.</p> <p>I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will carefully consider the broader implications for both non-government schools and the families they serve.</p>	
278-575	Hilton Davy	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the potential impact of the Future Foundations for Giving Report on school fees. The proposed reduction in tax benefits for businesses and individuals could have a devastating effect on private and religious schools and may lead to decreased philanthropic giving, prompting schools to increase fees.</p> <p>At a time when many households, including mine, are facing unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, any rise in school fees would add an additional financial burden. I urge the Commission to carefully consider the consequences of its recommendations on the affordability of education for families across Australia.</p> <p>I recommend exploring alternative strategies that sustain philanthropy without compromising the accessibility of education. It is essential to strike a balance that encourages giving while ensuring families can still afford quality education for their children.</p>	22/02/204
278-576	Steve Strange	<p>I have read the draft report of the productivity commission, whilst some recommendations could have merit, as a parent of three children I am deeply concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. This has been in place for decades and I feel has provided immeasurable benefit to so many Australians.</p> <p>I can only conclude that this is an attack on religion as so many private or independent schools are run by religious organisations, how can this be justified? It cannot. My children attend an independent school that receives a benefit from having a DGR status, this in turn saves the government money. My children's school provides a quality education at a cost I can only just afford, the cost of living has skyrocketed in recent years, and should this benefit be removed, it would become simply unaffordable. Can the government guarantee a public school can provide the same level of education for my children? I don't believe so. How will these schools continue to invest in cutting edge facilities. I don't think they will be able to.</p> <p>If this goes ahead so many were forced to send children to a public school, how could they cope with the increase? Especially considering the overstretched education sector. Independent and</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>religious schools provide a huge benefit to the government of Australia and have educated for so long and continue to provide a quality education to our children for the future of our country.</p> <p>This proposal is simply a mistake and I urge you to consider mine and others concerns and reject these recommendations.</p>	
278-577	Samuel Wiggins	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status of non-government schools and religious organisations, as outlined in the Productivity Commission's draft report on Future foundations for giving. I believe that these changes would have a negative impact on the quality and diversity of education and faith-based services in Australia and would undermine the rights and preferences of donors and beneficiaries.</p> <p>Non-government schools and religious organisations play a vital role in providing education and social services that meet the needs and values of their communities. They offer choice and diversity to parents and students, and cater to a range of religious, cultural, and educational backgrounds. They also contribute to the social cohesion and well-being of society, by fostering civic engagement, moral development, and interfaith dialogue.</p> <p>Non-government schools and religious organisations rely on donations from their supporters to fund their activities and projects, which often go beyond the scope of government funding and regulation. These donations are motivated by a genuine desire to support the causes and missions of these organisations, and to make a difference in the lives of their beneficiaries. Donors should have the freedom and incentive to direct their donations to the organisations that reflect their beliefs and values, and that they trust to use their donations effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>The proposed changes to the DGR status of non-government schools and religious organisations would jeopardise their financial sustainability and independence, and would reduce the amount and diversity of donations they receive. The changes would also create additional administrative and compliance burdens for these organisations, which would divert their resources and attention away from their core purposes and activities. Furthermore, the changes would disregard the views and interests of the donors and beneficiaries of these organisations, who would have less say and influence over how their donations are used and who benefits from them.</p> <p>For these reasons, I would urge you to reject the proposed changes to the DGR status of non-government schools and religious organisations, and to maintain the current system that recognises and supports their valuable contributions to society. I also encourage you to consult with the representatives and stakeholders of these organisations, and to listen to their concerns and feedback.</p>	22/02/204
278-578	Samuel Sprigg	<p>I, like many religious parents in this country, take the education of my children very seriously and in particular ensuring that their education is aligned with my beliefs and values. This means that my children go to an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>I am seriously concerned that if these radical proposals are adopted it will reduce the giving to my children's school which will likely result in upgrade works and extensions not being carried out which will lower their education experience and ability to learn in a world leading environment.</p> <p>Any upgrades and extensions necessary without DGR status, allowing deductible giving, could make the school unviable by pushing up our school fees making it unaffordable, in a time when the costs of living are already higher than they should be.</p> <p>Also, considering that most independent schools are run by religious organisations I feel that this is discriminating and an attack against the very bedrock of what has built our country to be one of the most upright and peaceful nations in the world.</p> <p>For the continued prosperity of the country through right moral education of our children in independent schools the government must not adopt these recommendations.</p>	
278-579	Cameron Ausseil	<p>I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to express my thoughts on the recently reviewed draft report by the Productivity Commission, titled 'Future Foundations for Giving.' While I appreciate the positive findings and recommendations within the report, I am particularly apprehensive about the suggestion to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities such as primary schools, secondary schools, childcare facilities, aged care organizations, and religious institutions.</p> <p>This matter is of considerable concern to me, as my children will be enrolled in an independent school that significantly relies on its DGR status for support. In a time when the cost of living is placing unprecedented pressure on families, I am worried that the removal of DGR status would inevitably lead to an increase in school fees. This potential rise in fees, resulting from a reduction in charitable contributions due to the lack of associated tax benefits, would pose additional financial strain on families like mine.</p> <p>My primary concern is that should the government decide to adopt this recommendation, our family may be compelled to enroll our children in the local public school. This shift could impact their overall learning experience and potentially hinder their academic progress. I believe that such a change may not only affect our family but could have broader implications for others facing similar circumstances.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you to carefully consider the potential consequences of these suggested changes. I am confident that our family is not the only one grappling with the difficulties presented by the elimination of DGR status for educational institutions and other essential organizations. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-580	Peter Phillips	<p>Upon perusal of the draft report, I submit that I have particular concerns with respect to the recommendations for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I am a grandparent of children that attend an independent school, and my concern is that, were the government to adopt some of the key recommendations, there would be a detrimental impact on the quality of the facilities that they are now enjoying and also will lead to an increase in school fees due to the reduction in donations. Giving that has to date, provided a tax benefit for businesses and individual that have previously donated generously.</p> <p>The Government needs to act and guarantee that none of the proposed radical changes that are proposed are implemented, and that the Government is to be seen as acting in the best interests of all Australians, not just diverse causes and groups that only advocate for policy changes.</p> <p>My expectation is that the concerns expressed are considered and that the implications to the wider community of any changes be taken into account.</p>	22/02/204