

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-271 to 278-380

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-271	Raymond Millar	<p>I wish to express my deep concerns surrounding the Government's adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, as it will add serious financial burden to many families, as school fees must increase due to the diminished government support; positioning many to place their children into the already overcrowded public education system.</p> <p>The benefits of the Productivity Commission are immeasurable, and I wish to express my sincere concern that any change to such law will be of serious detriment to the future of Australia, for both young and old.</p>	19/01/2024
278-272	Colin Spencer	<p>I have great concern reading the Future Foundations Draft report. Not saying there aren't some good findings and recommendations, but my great concern lies with 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>This particular concern is that my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressures I have 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>This concern if it swung the other way could mean the quality of education in these schools could decline because of cost pressures on the schools resulting in impacting their academic potential.</p> <p>The domino impact on stifling this relief to these schools is reducing the opportunity for schools to undertake upgrades and development for the future generations, which is something I am very passionate about.</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 would very much appreciate it if you were able to consider my concerns, I'm sure there are plenty of others in similar positions.</p>	19/01/2024

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No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-273	Charles Hill	<p>I am very concerned about the recommendations in the draft report for the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I find this deeply concerning as I was brought up through an independent school and wish my children to be able to have the ability to receive the same level of education and benefits from DGR status, the independent schooling offers over against the public sector.</p> <p>Whilst 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 to maintain the level of support required.</p> <p>My concern is if the Government adopt this short-sighted recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our underperforming, overcrowded, immoral local public school which will severely impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>This will also put more pressure on an already overwhelmed public schooling system that cannot cope with the status quo.</p> <p>I appreciate the fact my viewpoint is only one in millions; however, I feel I need to speak out in order to prevent this short sighted approach by the Government progressing, and trust my concerns for my children's future and many others is given due consideration.</p>	19/01/2024
278-274	Owen Jurgens	<p>I am very concerned after reading the draft report about the Government wanting to scrap the DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, age care and other religious education. This country has always supported these essential areas.</p> <p>I am a grandfather and still have seven grandchildren at a private school. As it is, the fees for education at these schools are enormous and families at this stage are struggling to make ends meet. I feel it would be a backward step and would be detrimental to the present Government at this stage.</p> <p>This is obviously an attack on religion as most of these private or education centres are provided by religious organizations</p>	19/01/2024
278-275	Stephen Williams	<p>I have seen the proposed changes to the DGR status for non-government schools. I feel this will be a very backward step for education in Australia. Our children currently attend an independent school and the fees are high enough as it is. With the current cost of living pressures we feel we wouldn't be able to continue with this system if the fees were to increase as a result of the funding to these school being cut. To have to put them back in the public school where the classes are already at maximum capacity and the teachers under a lot of stress, would impact us very negatively and I'm sure many others would be in the same situation.</p>	19/01/2024

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		<p>It seems to me that this is an attack on religion and faith based institutions because majority of non-government school are run by religious groups.</p> <p>Our children have flourished since we started them in their private schools and we very much hope the running and maintenance costs of these will not increase to the extent that many have to close down due to parents not able to bear the financial burden.</p>	
278-276	Andy Wallis	<p>I am writing to you as a very concerned parent regarding the above matter.</p> <p>The recommendation to scrap the deductible gift recipient status for non-government childcare, primary, secondary, & other religious organisations comes as a great concern to me.</p> <p>The personal and business giving to the school will undoubtedly be seriously reduced if DGR status is removed.</p> <p>The reduction in giving will have a negative impact on any school developments & improvements which is bad for our children, bad for businesses who carry out the works & bad for the persons who these small businesses support.</p> <p>We are having to endure a serious cost of living crisis right now and this would make our situation even worse as school fees will no doubt increase following reduced giving, leaving the only solution to use the already overloaded public schools.</p> <p>It is frightening to consider how many other parents and children this affects and the negative impact this could have on so many children's development as well as the pressure this could bring to the public schools.</p>	19/01/2024
278-277	Oliver Brown	<p>I have noticed that the Government is looking into possible changes to funding/charitable status for organisations such as independent schools and aged care facilities.</p> <p>This is extremely concerning for my family and relatives on both fronts due to the crowded nature and lower quality of care we see in the already stretched Public system.</p> <p>When my children were starting school, we approached the most desirable Public School in our area and were advised that they were stretched to capacity already.</p> <p>We enrolled them into an independent religious school which has demonstrated an ability to work tirelessly over decades to build new schools in regional areas, foster local communities and comply with Curriculum and Government requirements.</p> <p>Now we hear that there is a possibility that this school could be stripped of certain charitable status, driving up our school fees and making it impossible to add new buildings, additional school equipment and grow. At a time of ever-increasing mortgage rates, high inflation and cost-of-living pressures, not to mention the disruption to our children, my family asks that the Government not proceed with these proposed changes.</p>	19/01/2024

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		<p>A similar trend applies in aged care. Last year, my grandmother was on a waiting list for months to try to get into an aged care facility, whilst my elderly parents were forced to provide at home care for her. This created enormous pressure in the home and pointed to a real constraint in the aged care sector.</p> <p>My view is that religions who are trying to do the right thing by encouraging charitable giving amongst their community and are doing important work like building new schools, new aged care centres, sports facilities, science labs and the like plus help bolster regional communities, health and education, should be given <i>more</i> support by the Government, not less.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to voice my views. I really hope you can consider the impact on our family and our regional community if this was to proceed.</p>	
278-278	Bill Murray	<p>I am very concerned about the recommendations for the DGR status to be removed for non-government primary and secondary schooling and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The timing of this proposal could not be worse. Living costs are hurting badly at the moment however we have worked extremely hard (and will continue to do so) to give our children a private education and help better their future and the future of Australia with onshore talent!</p> <p>Recommendations like this, if adopted by government, will only drive up the cost of private schooling as the cost of school fees will rise if we cannot support these entities (and the things we believe in) with our businesses.</p> <p>PLEASE review this suggested plan as it will impact our family and the families of many of us with the same vision for Australia and our children.</p>	19/01/2024
278-279	Deryck Henderson	<p>I am aware of this so-called Productivity Commission into philanthropic giving.</p> <p>I am a grandparent, and have had three children go through a private school. This was not cheap, and we would have struggled to afford it without the government funding. It was hard enough as it was.</p> <p>Is this “Productivity Commission” proposing that educational and religious funding currently available be removed? Seriously? Where is the benefit for our Australian society?</p> <p>Can government schools accommodate all types and tendencies of students? If they could have in the past, why do we have private schools today?</p> <p>If there is a danger of misappropriating funds, which sadly does happen, is not there sufficient intelligence in place already to bring the perpetrators to justice?</p>	19/01/2024

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		<p>The noisy minority get extended news coverage today. Is this government now proposing to give them extended financial backup? Are they too influenced by these groups? Philanthropic? Where is the benefit for our Australian society?</p> <p>Why don't we have a referendum on it?</p> <p>The suggestions put forward by the Productivity Commission, if I have understood them correctly, need to be dismissed out of hand immediately.</p>	
278-280	Brad Fulcher	<p>As a parent of school-aged Children, I would like to raise some concerns regarding the Draft Report of the Productivity Commission. This will affect me and the local community.</p> <p>Firstly, I am worried that school fees will increase due to the lack of local donations from businesses and individuals due to the changes in Tax breaks. Another side effect of this will be less expenditure on school asset upgrades, directly impacting the education experience of the students and impacting local businesses that supply these services.</p> <p>Secondly, it comes across as an attack on religion as the majority of private schools are privately owned by religious organizations. These schools benefit all Australians, either by having an opportunity to attend these schools or by the careers of well-educated individuals.</p> <p>Lastly, as a parent and a homeowner with a mortgage, the recent cost of living increases are having a major impact. I fear, with the increase of school fees caused by the report recommendations, I will be enrolling my children in a public school. The public schooling system is well known to be overcrowded already and is the Australian Government prepared to take on the extra students that this Productivity Commission report will cause?</p>	19/01/2024
278-281	Derek Pascoe	<p>I have looked over the draft report and I can see there is a recommendation to change the DGR status for non-government schools, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have three children who attend a good independent school which currently benefits from the DGR status.</p> <p>What concerns me is that if this DGR status is stopped the school will find it a lot harder to raise funds especially for things like capital works. As a result the school fees will go up.</p> <p>We are working hard to give our three children the education they require and I want to be able to afford this education moving forward.</p> <p>We are already finding it tough with cost of living, interest rate rises, electricity and Petrol etc. so increased school fees could be the straw to break the camels back.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns as I am sure there would be many other families in similar situations.</p>	19/01/2024

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278-282	David Williams	<p>I write as a concerned grandfather, as to the suggestion of removing the tax-deductable (DGR) status for Primary and Secondary Schools building Funds.</p> <p>This charitable provision has been in existence for 70 years and was established to encourage donations to schools to build new infrastructure, new classrooms and facilities in which to teach on-coming generations of young Australians for many many years to come.</p> <p>This has been a sensible system of public benefit that saves the Gov't and taxpayers from bearing the full cost of educating every student through the public school system; and the huge costs of providing suitable buildings, grounds and their maintenance for future years.</p> <p>Many beautiful heritage buildings are owned and maintained by faith-based schools which enhance our neighbourhoods; and have the public benefit of supporting local tradesmen and suppliers.</p> <p>My added worry is if the Government does adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our grandchildren to the overcrowded local public schools which will adversely impact their learning experience.</p> <p>The Albanese Government must reject these radical Productivity Commission proposals immediately.</p> <p>Please consider a concerned grandfather's advice.</p>	19/01/2024
278-283	Joseph Chesterfield	<p>We have been reading the draft report overview and noting the points set out in it.</p> <p>We believe it is commendable that the Productivity Commission has identified unfairness and complexity in the current DGR status system, and that there are charities that are deserving of DGR status but not currently eligible due to complex and archaic rules.</p> <p>Our concern though, is that the Commission has wrongly targeted non-governmental primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. We believe that this is a grave error, and the Commission has underestimated the negative impacts of withdrawing this status.</p> <p>We plan to send our children to a non-government school which currently has DGR status for building funds. If DGR status is removed, this will mean that it is more expensive for individuals and businesses to donate monies to the school building fund, and therefore donations will be reduced. In this case, school fees would have to be increased to cover the costs of necessary building work, which is a very unwelcome development, especially in the light of the current cost-of-living crisis. The worst-case scenario is that we would be forced to send our children to our local public school which is already overcrowded. We feel that the Government would have a rude shock if the majority of non-government school students suddenly enrolled in public schools due to such a policy backfire.</p> <p>We noted the point about turning a tax-deductible donation into a private benefit with bemusement... We are not aware of any such benefits arising from donations to our chosen non-government school and believe that an audit would prove this. We also firmly believe that there are undeniable broader community benefits from</p>	19/01/2024

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		<p>DGR status of non-government school building funds, including employment for locals, and use of local small businesses for building works. Our own chosen school has a proven track record of turning out well-rounded finishers who almost immediately enter the workforce and start paying taxes, and in the long term a good many become employers which is of great benefit to the community.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, I am sure there are many families currently in the same position as us.</p>	
278-284	Ron Grace	<p>I have read the draft report and I am somewhat concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed from “non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations”.</p> <p>I have a son who attends an independent school that has a DGR status, and as we live on a fairly tight budget, my fear is that if this status is removed the school will receive less in the way of gifts due to donors not being able to claim tax deductions on their giving, and the school will have to increase the school fees to meet the shortfall.</p> <p>If the government does take on this recommendation and the cost of schooling increases, I fear it will be unsustainable for us as a household to continue to send our son to this school and we will have to revert to the public system, which is already over-loaded in our area and it will have a significant negative affect on his learning.</p> <p>We are just one small family and I know many people who are in the same predicament as we are, so I would greatly appreciate it if you did what you could to make sure these recommendations are not adopted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-285	Trevor Christian	<p>I write with concern regarding the above mentioned report, especially noting the proposal to discard the DGR status of non-government primary and secondary education organisations.</p> <p>As grandparents of a number of children attending independent schools, this proposed reform is very concerning. Our concerns further extend to the reforms effecting child-care, aged-care, and other religion-based organisations.</p> <p>We are concerned that, without the incentive to give charitably to such, schools will be forced to increase fees. The extra financial burden, along with current cost of living pressures, could well result in families being forced to send students to the already over-full government run schools. I fear that this will not only impact the students learning experience, but also the overall declining academic results we’re seeing from this generation of students.</p> <p>We urge you to consider the detrimental impact these proposed reforms will have in the longer term.</p>	19/01/2024
278-286	J Denton	<p>I have read the draft report that has been submitted and I understand that there are some good recommendations. However, I am concerned about the recommendation for deductible gift recipients (DGR)</p>	19/01/2024

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		<p>status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organizations</p> <p>These changes have serious potential to disrupt non-government schools which have enjoyed DGR support since 1954. This would result in increased school fees and add pressure to families that are already experiencing increased household costs.</p> <p>I strongly feel that we should leave the Productivity Commission as it is.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns as I am sure we will not be the only family affected.</p>	
278-287	John Tchappat	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good 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 three grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are personally and our married families 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 concern is if the Government adopt this recommendation, our married children will be forced to send their 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 ones who share great concern as to the impacts this will have.</p>	19/01/2024
278-288	Rowen Kingon	<p>I am very concerned about the recommendations for the DGR status to be removed for non-government primary and secondary schooling and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The timing of this proposal could not be worse. Living costs are hurting badly at the moment however we have worked extremely hard (and will continue to do so) to give our children a private education and help better their future and the future of Australia with onshore talent!</p> <p>Recommendations like this, if adopted by government, will only drive up the cost of private schooling as the cost of school fees will rise if we cannot support these entities (and the things we believe in) with our businesses.</p> <p>PLEASE review this suggested plan as it will impact our family and the families of many of us with the same vision for Australia and our children.</p>	19/01/2024

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278-289	Glen Pudney	<p>I have been following the Productivity Commission’s recommendations with interest, as a parent, I agree with some of the findings and recommendations, however the recommendation on deductible gift recipient (DGR) status being scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations really concerns me as my children attend a non-government school.</p> <p>I believe these recommendations will have significant implications on the current cost of living crisis by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in school fees to cover the decrease in giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for business or individuals able to donate to the school. • The maintenance of their buildings and new construction will be stopped affecting the income of local tradesmen. • We’ll have to move our children to an overcrowded public school where the education standard will be reduced due to the teacher not been able to spend time with the individual student. <p>Please consider my submission favourably and reject the recommendations.</p>	20/1/2024
278-290	Terry Fawkes	<p>The draft report for the Future Foundations for Giving by the Productivity Commission is of concern for my household. I respect that there may be some realignment necessary in some areas but changing the DGR status of faith based schools will have a negative impact on their ability to receive giving.</p> <p>I have chosen to send our children to a faith based school that benefits from being a Deductible Gift Recipient. I believe the impact of the removing this status will hamper the ability of the school to continue to raise funds to maintain and expand the facilities. Unfortunately, this will lead to a further increase in school fees, which is not something easily supported with the current rising costs of living.</p> <p>I feel that returning to public schooling is not an option, I have proved that the current private schooling positively contributes to their success both academically and on a personal level. Would it not be in the government’s best interest to support private schooling to somewhat take the load off an overcrowded public schooling system?</p> <p>Finally, I fear this is an attack on religion as religious organisations involved with independent schooling will suffer the most from these changes.</p> <p>I’m sure many parents echo our concerns, we ask you please consider the impact this will have on our families.</p>	20/01/2024
278-291	MC	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to change the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status of non-government education organizations. As a parent of children who attend a private school, I am deeply concerned about the impact of this proposal on the education of my children, and the education of countless others.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>It is evident that this proposal would significantly increase the cost of living, which is already at a level not seen in decades. Furthermore, the closure of independent schools would result in an influx of up to 1,460,000 students into public schools, which are already struggling to provide adequate resources and support to students.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider this proposal and retain the DGR status for non-government education organizations. Families like mine rely on non-government schools for their children's education, and we should not be punished for our choice.</p> <p>I urge you to take immediate action and ensure that this proposal does not proceed any further. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
278-292	Jon Buggins	<p>I have read through the draft report and my initial thought that this was positively encouraging philanthropic giving, quickly turned to deep concern as I noted two key areas where it has been recommended that the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status be removed.</p> <p>It is noted that 'Religious organisations play an important and valued role in the lives of many Australians' and yet the draft report recommends that these same organisations have their DGR status removed. Any organisation that promotes and teaches sound moral values is of great value in our community. In fact, strong moral values such as equity, fairness, kindness, and compassion are not only woven into the very fabric of our constitution, but also our legal and governmental systems. Breakdown of the family setting and promotion of immorality has caused confusion and come at a great cost to society and the government, and any institution that is teaching sound principles that support society should be supported in turn.</p> <p>The second point of concern was the recommendation to remove deductible gift recipient (DGR) status from school building funds. Government schools are overcrowded and under resourced. The public school my child attends had to limit the intake due to insufficient facilities and staffing, and at the orientation day, many teachers advised they were leaving with no replacement announced at the time. Undoubtedly, the public system is under pressure. Any private school seeking to raise their own funds and provide facilities (in many cases supported by religious organisation) should be supported. Clearly, this is taking pressure off the public system, which is already strained, not to mention the jobs these school building projects provide for many small business owners locally.</p> <p>Private schools have benefitted from DGR support since 1954. I hope to send my children to a private school in future years and I am prepared to pay significant fees to give my child the best level of education. If these fees were increased due to the scrapping of DGR status, I would be forced to rely on the public system for my child's education. I wouldn't be alone, there would a ground swell of parents doing the same thing. The end result is more pressure and cost to the public system, a poor quality of education and Australians who are poorly equipped to enter society.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>These two recommendations appear to have an insidious undertone that they are designed to undermine and erode Australia's Judeo-Christian values. At best, they point to a very shortsighted plan and will most certainly result in the downward spiral of society instead of elevating people and making them better Australians.</p> <p>I ask that the Commission reconsider their recommendations and maintain the DGR status for religious organisations and school building funds for the benefit of society</p>	
278-293	James Woolston	<p>Looking through the draft report, I find some good findings and recommendations however I am seriously concerned as a parent and past finance officer at an independent school in Launceston, Tasmania.</p> <p>My children have all attended an independent school that has and still does benefit from DGR status. Two of my children have now finished school but I still have 2 children currently studying.</p> <p>My concern is that if the DGR status changes, this school will cease to be as private tax deductible giving will slow considerably or disappear altogether and we will need to find alternate schooling in an overcrowded public school.</p> <p>I have firsthand knowledge of this as I was the finance director for 8 years up until last year. Many of the funds needed to the running of the school or to fund the shortfall from government funding and school fees is made up of DGR donations. These situations are probably not understood by the majority of the population nor the people wanting to change the current position.</p> <p>Please consider the above concerns as this will have enormous ramifications to the whole schooling situation in Australia.</p>	20/01/2024
278-294	Lennie Shemilt	<p>About the Productivity Commission Future Foundations for giving proposed legislation</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about this proposal and would like to ask that it be cancelled, for the following reasons.</p> <p>I am a parent of 4 young children that depend heavily on the government support for their future, as we all do. However, the cancelling of the DGR status for non government schools is a terrible idea and shouldn't be allowed to come up at all. It erodes what we as Australians are.</p> <p>Schooling is critical to the wellbeing and future prosperity of our country, in an increasingly hostile world, where we are all facing unprecedented challenges – from hostile nations, from hostile competition, and from persons hostile to our tolerant culture that permits them to be hostile!</p> <p>So to cripple education, the prime weapon we have in our arsenal against these hostilities, is malicious madness and it is clearly non-government schools that are the success stories in this education advantage we have. Government schools have their place, but the success stories come from the private sector. The intent to cripple the success sector, to blunt the main weapon we have in this nation, is a terrible expose of</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>the dark forces that we are struggling with, that even now are infiltrating the corridors of power of our nation, eroding and attacking the very institutions themselves, while men sleep the dulled sleep of the seduced.</p> <p>Clearly private schools would need to replace the missing funding by increasing the fees, meaning that many will be forced out and into the already overloaded government schools, resulting in a massive increase and rebuild, and huge costs in doing so, yet a known success sector is reduced in favour of a known low yield sector.</p> <p>Current critical cost of living crises are only exacerbated by ideologies that worsen the situation with zero gain.</p> <p>Please consider the legacy we leave to our children – we don't want to ruin the country for them.</p> <p>Abandon the weakening of private education – as below, private attracts less government funding than government schools do in any case. So if this happened it this will actually cost the government more, once the impact kicks in and more students are forced into government schools, which cost the government more per student each year, plus more capital expenditure to build more schools to house them.</p> <p>Please make the right decision for the future of Australia and keep the DGR status of our non government schools</p> <p>According to data from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, the government provides about \$14,000 in funding per public school student.</p> <p>Private schools receive less government funding per student – about \$12,000 for Catholic school students and \$10,000 for Independent (or other non-government) schools.</p>	
278-295	Harland Reoch	<p>As a parent of 2 high school children, I am writing to express my grave concerns about the potential adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, particularly with regards to the substantial impact this will have on their education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced access to resources would undoubtedly hinder their ability to learn in a suitable environment, significantly impacting their academic potential. As a parent, this potential setback in their educational journey is distressing. • A reduction in funding would cripple our schools' ability to undertake crucial building extensions and upgrades, which, in turn, have been vital in supporting numerous small family businesses in our local community. <p>Adding to the strain, my household is already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. These financial challenges make it even more difficult to absorb any further cuts to essential services and educational resources.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>This seems to me as an indirect attack on religious organizations. A substantial number of private and independent educational institutions are affiliated with religious entities, and such cuts could jeopardize the invaluable contribution these organizations make to our education system.</p> <p>For almost 50 years Australian Governments have been generously supporting nongovernment Private Schools, and I feel strongly that the current Government should not adopt these changes.</p>	
278-296	Timothy Worcester	<p>I am writing a submission, as I do not agree with some of the recommendations included in the referenced report. In particular, the recommendation that the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status be removed from Non-Government Primary and Secondary Schools, Childcare, Aged Care and other Religious Organisations, is very concerning.</p> <p>I have three children who attend an independent school that is run by a church organization & provides excellent education and facilities. A substantial part of the funding of the school is made up from generous community and business giving that helps keep the school fees down. Many of the donors only give because the recipient school or building fund aligns with their own personal values. As a result, the school fees are significantly subsidised and helps keep them at a level where most families are still able to afford. I am already struggling with the living expense rises in recent years and if the fees increase, I won't be able to send my children to the school of our choice.</p> <p>The provision of building works, upgrades and extensions in particular are made possible through the generous donations that would diminish without the incentive of the Tax Benefit currently available.. If these recommendations were adopted, there would be thousands of school children, just like mine, that would be forced to enter the public school system. This would in turn require the Government to fund extra facilities and upgrades over time at accost that would probably be in excess of the extra tax income they would receive.</p> <p>I feel as though this recommendation is really about having a shot at people who only want the best for their children, and be able to maintain their religious beliefs by sending them to a school that relies on 'basic religious charity' to help educate the next generation.</p> <p>I appeal to the Government to consider the impact it will have on thousands of families for only a small gain.</p> <p>Please do not adopt this recommendation!</p>	20/01/2024
278-297	Drew Thomas	<p>As a father of 2 children at a private school with current DGR status I am writing to share my concerns re the draft report Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving', especially 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>Our childrens private school currently benefits from the DGR provision, and although we pay high school fees but are very happy with the high standard of education and facilities our children have now. If this funding is</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>removed in future I fear the quality of education will be lowered and overall standard will be far less than Australian private schools are renown for.</p> <p>I trust this request is received favourably and the existing greater good legislation is not changed for the worse</p>	
278-298	Chris Grace	<p>In relation to the draft report recently released, I have some real concerns. Particularly with the recommendation for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-govt primary, secondary, childcare and aged care .</p> <p>We sent our children to an Independent School that had DGR status, and now our grandchildren have started attending similar type of schools. Currently we are experiencing unprecedented cost of living pressures, even at our age, and my sons and daughters even more so. Consequentially with the possibility of reduced giving to these schools with removal of DGR, fees will increase, and the upgrading of buildings and facilities will suffer.</p> <p>Also local businesses that get work from these private schools, will suffer reduction, due to the loss of giving to schools resulting in less capital works proceeding.</p> <p>Local Govt schools are generally overcrowded and are not able to provide all that is needed to fully develop academic potential.</p> <p>I trust the Government rejects this recommendation, as it will have far reaching bad effects, across many levels of society.</p>	20/01/2024
278-299	Peter Nason	<p>I write to you as a concerned grandparent with 8 grandchildren either attending or about to attend a "Private, Faith Based" school. Further to that my wife and I have had 6 children educated in the same "Private, Faith Based School".</p> <p>We understand that there is a move afoot by the Productivity Commission the remove the Charitable Status of donations to the Building Fund of Private Schools. I respectfully ask that the Federal Government rebuff this idea with the full force of it authority.</p> <p>The impacts of this notion will be many, far reaching, and are all negative, and I list them below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A dramatic increase in School Fees to supplement the loss of income from Business and private tax deductible donations. 2) Our Faith Based School employed all it teachers from outside our Faith Group, and the joy they got from witnessing constant, cutting-edge facilities being provided for the students and teachers was inspiring both to them and the providers. Should the tax deductible status of these trusts be removed this constant improvement would slow and student academic outcomes and teacher job satisfaction would decline markedly, both of which would have a negative impact on society. 	20/01/2024

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		<p>3) The above reduction would also have a marked negative impact on the many local businesses and families involved the works programmes, causing financial hardship and burden and harming the social and economic cohesion of the areas that the schools are in, and very likely causing more pressure on the Social Security System due to retrenchments.</p> <p>4) As it is well reported in the media, and publicly recognised by all levels of Government, families are doing it unprecedentedly tough and any increase in school fees would be catastrophic to many family budgets. As you know, financial pressure is a large cause of DV and breakdown of the family unit.</p> <p>5) This proposed change smell very much like an attack on Religion per se as most of the Private Schools are Faith Based and their positive contribution to society is far reaching and well documented.</p> <p>6) The very likely outcome of this proposal is that the already physically and financially overloaded public school system will receive an influx of previously Private School educated kids. As the Government knows, but would probably prefer that the public doesn't, the cost per student in the public system is far more than the funding per student that the Government provides to Private Schools, so this little thought through proposal will have far reaching negative impacts, all the way to the Federal Government's Budget</p> <p>In Closing, please rebuff and totally refuse this proposal from the Productivity Commission with the full Authority vested in you by God, who you all recognise daily at the beginning of each sitting of Parliament.</p>	
278-300	Blake Beaton	<p>I have been going over the draft report and found it to be interesting. There are some very good points in it, but I am very concerned about the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities such as primary and secondary schools, childcare facilities, aged care centres, and religious organizations.</p> <p>This affects me and my Household directly with our children currently attending an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. As we all know currently cost-of-living pressures are very significant and the potential impact this could have is worrying and likely to lead to an increase in school fees due to the Tax saving incentive for many businesses to contribute to the schools no longer being available.</p> <p>Should the government endorse this recommendation it is likely we and many others will not be able to afford the increase in school fees and have to enrol our children into public schools which as is known are already under significant pressure with overcrowding and will likely result in a less than favourable education for many, many children, effecting their learning journey and be detrimental to their academic achievements.</p> <p>I trust you will consider these concerns carefully, not only from my perspective but bearing in mind the many that will be affected in these decisions.</p>	20/01/2024
278-301	Sidney Samuel	It is with concern and anxiety that I write to you in regards to the above mentioned report.	20/01/2024

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		<p>The report seems to have some good points and a right basis, however some of the recommendations concern me greatly.</p> <p>In particular, the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have 3 children that are about to start a private School and my concerns are that the impact of the above will result in such substantial fee increases that I could no longer afford to send them there. With cost increases with almost everything at the moment, the cost of living is really impacting our family. This would almost certainly add an additional huge burden to the finances.</p> <p>The alternative if the above happened, would have to be to send them to public schooling, which is already full, and I feel would impact detrimentally my children’s future growth and learning.</p> <p>Quality Education to our young in its many forms cannot be considered a ‘cost’ . It is a long term strategic investment in people which will have a far reaching and wide ranging positive effect of helping the community in future generations.</p> <p>I trust you see the devastating impact this will have on so many people , and listen to my concerns.</p>	
278-302	Ronald Schott	<p>I have become aware of a draft report that will greatly affect deductible gift recipient status. As a Christian parent who has put my three children through a private Christian school, I find the scrapping of this status of concern. I believe most non-government schools in Australia are faith based, and the proposed recommendations would impact them negatively.</p> <p>Public schools are already overcrowded, and I do not see how this will improve the situation for them. Also, changing of that tax benefits for individuals and businesses, would only add to the current unprecedented cost of living pressures currently.</p> <p>I trust that my concerns will be taken note of.</p>	20/01/2024
278-303	Hayden Humber	<p>I have looked through the report and my wife and I feel the need to raise our concerns about this.</p> <p>There might be some good points identified but we’re particularly concerned about the recommendation for the deductible gift recipient (DGR) to be removed from non-government primary & secondary schools, religious organizations, childcare etc.</p> <p>This would devastate many, many communities, it has not been thought through. It certainly won’t bring anyone together at all. There are many different people in society but that’s how it should be, it needs to be diverse for there to be respect for everyone.</p> <p>Our children attend a primary and secondary independent school that benefits from the DGR program (which has been around a long time). This should not change. We took our children from a public school to an independent school a few years ago and can see a big increase in their potential, learning and commitment.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>This is not found in local public schools because they are overcrowded, often with children from damaging backgrounds. We value education as such that we don't wish our children to come under these influences. Whilst it comes with a higher cost through the school fees, our children are much better educated and are not subject to unwanted views.</p> <p>If the DGR program is removed, this would drive up school fees and with current cost of living pressure this would be too much. However we shouldn't be forced to send our children back to a local public school. We believe it would destroy their academic achievements and severely impact their learning.</p> <p>We sincerely ask that that you consider our opinion and without doubt there would be many others as well.</p>	
278-304	John Yeomans	<p>After reading the draft report and its recommendations, I was concerned specifically regarding the recommendations about deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be excluded from any non- government education facilities, aged care or childcare, or any activity that would advance religion.as per Draft 6.1</p> <p>This seems to me the wrong step to take, especially when the cost of living pressures are of concern in nearly every family at the moment. Our children were the fortunate recipients of an education at an independent school, which had DGR status, which helped with our school costs. Without it, it would drive up school fees, because of the inability to offer tax benefits to any who donate to such institutions.</p> <p>Hopefully these concerns will be listened to, and this draft remains a recommendation only, and we retain DGR status in its current form. We don't want to do anything that would be derogatory or harmful to our nations quality of care in education, childcare or aged care, and religious freedom that we have enjoyed up till now.</p>	20/01/2024
278-305	Brian Lee	<p>With great interest I have reviewed the above-mentioned report. I acknowledge that there are some good findings and recommendations, however the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is of deep concern.</p> <p>As a parent of children that attend an independent school that benefits from DGR, these recommendations, if implemented, school fees will significantly increase due to lost income from reduced giving, as a result of lack of tax benefit for business or individuals able to donate to the school, therefore impacting our family directly. This in a time of unprecedented cost of living increases is of utmost alarm.</p> <p>Should the Government adopt this recommendation, we will have no choice but to send our children to public schools, which will negatively impact their overall academic potential, learning experience and mental health.</p> <p>The government also needs to consider that more pressure will be applied to public schools, which are already overcrowded, creating substantial increase in demand on government funding for public schools. Where are these funds going to come from?</p>	20/01/2024

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		Your considerations of my concerns would be greatly appreciated. I have no doubt that many other Australian families will be impacted in the same way.	
278-306	Ross Parker	<p>I have read the report as I was concerned about the contents and intentions of the report, either apparent or inferred.</p> <p>Religion has long since been the backbone of our society and has contributed significantly to the economic growth which has been especially focused in the huge investment in private schools, aged care and such like institutions.</p> <p>The recommendation to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is of grave concern and will have disastrous effects on individuals, families, society and the future of institutions that have become dependent on this form of revenue raising.</p> <p>It is of particular concern to me, as my children attended an independent school and now my grandchildren do likewise</p> <p>School fees will be driven up to supplement the shortfall at a time when the cost of living is under pressure with the additional lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>The deep concern is that if the government accepts this recommendation, the families impacted will be forced to send their children to a public school which will affect their learning and future potential in life.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, as I am sure there will others, individuals, and families, that will be impacted.</p>	20/01/2024
278-307	Jacob Colledge	<p>I am writing as concerned about the draft report, 'Future foundations for giving' by the Productivity Commission. Upon analysing this report, I feel compelled to express my distress particularly regarding 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 personally went to a religious private secondary school and looking back can clearly see the benefits that this provided me with. It appears to me that this is a clear attack on religion considering that the majority of private education is provided by religious organisations. Furthermore, in a public system, my concern would be that our children would not be able to practice their faith the way we were able to in a private school.</p> <p>I see it as simple as this; due to the lack of tax deductions, businesses and individual donations will decline, therefore reducing the quality of facilities, and driving up school fees. With the cost of living as high as it is currently, I'm concerned I will be forced to send my children to a local public school, which already seem overcrowded, resulting in a lesser quality education for them.</p> <p>I would appreciate it if you would consider my concerns, as I know I'm one of many feeling this way.</p>	20/01/2024

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278-308	Rick Dalziel	<p>I have read the Draft Report and watched the Productivity Commissions webinar that was held on 4 Dec 2023.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned by the proposal to remove Deductible Gift Recipient Status from non-government schools and other activities for the advancement of religion.</p> <p>Removal of Basic Religious Charities will also involve extra work and expense for those working in those charities, many of whom are unpaid.</p> <p>I cannot fathom how the Commission does not seem to appreciate that works undertaken by religious charities benefits the community at large.</p> <p>These proposals are an attack on social services provided by faith-based communities and would be viewed by many as a direct attack on religion.</p> <p>My family has supported giving to school building funds for several years, enabling better learning facilities and resulting in better education for our children.</p> <p>This giving has also contributed to the prosperity of local small businesses involved in building works, creating a follow on effect.</p> <p>In regards school infrastructure, Alex Robson, the Presiding Commissioner, in the 4/12/24 Webinar acknowledges " it is a very important part of providing education services.."</p> <p>Removal of DGR status would remove a large incentive for many to contribute putting huge financial pressure on non-government schools if they are to continue improving teaching facilities, leading to an increase in fees. This would result in more children being but into the public system.</p> <p>Is the government going to increase contributions to non-government schools to cover the shortfall ? I think not.</p> <p>One would think that the Commission would realize that anything which relieved the load on government schools should be looked on favourably.</p> <p>I would urge that these proposals be scrapped.</p>	20/01/2024
278-309	Daniel Barker	<p>I write with concern as to the Productivity Commissions proposal as this draft report seems like an attempt to undermine the influence of religion in this country.</p> <p>You don't have to look too far to see how private schools that have been established by various religious organisations have benefited this country over the past 70+ years.</p> <p>As a Christian and parent with two young children, my wife and I intend to send our children to a private high school. Along with many other fellow Australians, we are planning to send our children to a private school as these institutions often provide a better learning environment and improved academic outcomes; however the</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>recommendations by the Productivity Commission to remove DGR status for non-government primary and secondary schools, will result in higher private school fees, which coupled with increased cost-of living will make this aspiration out of reach for many parents.</p> <p>Approx. 1.4 million students (35 percent of the total population) are enrolled in private schools. Private schools provide numerous net benefits to the community by educating our future leaders, supporting the local economy with the construction of school buildings, etc. and places less of a burden on the government to educate our children through the public system.</p> <p>I urge the commission and Government to reconsider its proposals.</p> <p>From a concerned parent.</p>	
278-310	David Firth	<p>I came across this report from the Productivity Commission and after reading it I am very concerned it will have a detrimental impact on my family. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am very concerned about the recommendations that the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status should be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As a grandfather, this is of particular concern to me as my grandson attends an independent school that benefits from DGR status and my other grandchildren hope to attend in the next few years. At a time when my sons and daughters are experiencing cost of living pressures like never before, I fear that school fees would be driven up further as the schools will have to make up the lost income from consequential reduced giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school. This would put excessive additional financial pressure on my family.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopts this recommendation, they will be forced to send our grandchildren to overcrowded local public schools 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>	20/01/2024
278-311	Jeremy Jensen	<p>We are writing to you as concerned parents and residents of Australia in regards to the current draft report of the future foundations for giving, productivity commission. We have read the draft report with keen interest and although we appreciate the findings and recommendations, we are greatly concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary/secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Our children have been in attendance at an independent private school for 6 years after having moved them out of a public school due to these being overcrowded which was impacting and limiting their learning experience and academic results. Their current school and most if not all independent/private schools benefit from DGR status, therefore if DGR is scrapped these schools will suffer greatly due to decreased donations from individuals and businesses which support. Inturn this means school fees will be increased to right the</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>lack of income. This in a time where we are experiencing like never before cost of living pressure, is a serious oversight and if the Government take on this recommendation it will not only impact fellow parents but also the wider community which rely on benefit from infrastructure improvements and supplies which support local trades.</p> <p>Also, our household income is supported by supply of medical equipment into aged care which is directly assisted by DGR and sometimes wholly dependent on donations to provide equipment they lack in support of the aged and a system which is under great pressure.</p> <p>Therefore in conclusion DGR has a clear impact and in many ways supports directly or indirectly the public sphere, furthermore compliments Government funding and initiatives.</p>	
278-312	Lloyd Morren	<p>Following reading through the aforementioned report, which is of particular consequence to my child as well as many friends and family, I would like to express my concerns in relation to the recommendations for deductible gifting status that is proposed to be removed for many organisations that directly benefit the public, including non-government schools.</p> <p>The consequences of such policy, will dramatically impact my family and child, given the current economic conditions in Australia, inflation and indeed the ever-rising cost of living. Impacts in my view will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drastically reduced private and business donations to these organisations such as nongovernment schools that currently have (DGR) status. • Increased school fees for such schools, forcing many children to be sent to public schools, which are overpopulated and understaffed, potentially putting my child's academic carrier in jeopardy. • In general, reducing available funds for all the organisations that will have their (DGR) status removed, putting undue pressure on them, in the light of all the good they do for the Australian community. <p>In closing, I would plead with you and the department to consider the above and look to change the draft to maintain (DGR) status for the potentially impacted organisations, especially those that affect the oncoming generation and potential of this country.</p>	20/01/2024
278-313	Trevor Dartnall	<p>I write this letter with concern after having read the draft report "Future Foundations for Giving". I note there are some good recommendations but am greatly concerned about the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children, like many Australian children, attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. My concern is, this move could result in a reduction of donations from businesses and individuals, due to the lack of tax benefit, forcing the schools to substantially increase the fees. With the 'cost of living' crisis continually upon us I don't like to think what this could mean for so many families. It could also mean reduction in building</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>projects or upgrades, which could have a long lasting affect on not only the children and families of these schools but also the local trades that would carry out the works on these projects.</p> <p>If these recommendations are adopted, I further worry, of the need to send our children to our already overcrowded local public schools. This could have a devastating impact on their learning experience and academic potential, seriously upsetting their foundation of learning and affecting their ability to go on and become positive contributors to society, something I do not wish on any child.</p> <p>I ask that you please carefully consider my concerns and the impact this could have on our families and society.</p>	
278-314	Damian Vos	<p>We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the recommendations that have been put forward in this draft report regarding the possibility of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status being scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Quality education is paramount to our children who attend an independent school that benefits from having DGR status, if the government adopts the Commission’s recommendations to scrap the DGR status it’s highly likely that school fee’s will increase considerably due to 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>Furthermore, we see this as a subtle and direct attack on religion, as many private and independent institutions in the education and primary care sectors are provided for by religious organisations.</p> <p>As responsible parents of 3 school aged children and active contributors to our local community, it’s unthinkable that such provisions as the DGR could be undermined, our children are not only our, but this country’s future, it’s imperative we provide & support them in the best possible way.</p> <p>Please consider for our genuine concern, at a time when many families are already impacted by rising costs and ever-increasing instability in many areas of our community.</p>	20/01/2024
278-315	Graham White	<p>I have had the opportunity to read the draft report and have been somewhat shocked at the proposal to scrape the (DGR) Status for non government primary/secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a concerned grandparent living in a Christian nation, surely the government will have the vision to continue to respect and support the challenging task of bringing our children through to a successful academic level.</p> <p>The removal of the (DGR) Status will bring increased pressure on non government schools in regional areas where generous donations have helped and supported building extensions and upgrades to provide suitable environment for our students to learn. It has been proven that children thrive in a atmosphere where the facilities are clean and safe.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>The removal of tax deductions benefits will no doubt contribute to a rise in school fees, which could force some parents to take their children out of private schools, which will cause an increased pressure on the public system.</p> <p>I appreciate what the government has provided up to today, however it's alarming to me, that this is targeting religious organisations and schools which will have serious consequences as the majority of the funding is provided by businesses and grandparents like myself.</p> <p>I plead with you to be sympathetic and seriously consider my anxiety over this proposed draft, that it may never come to fruition.</p>	
278-316	Roy Trimmer	<p>The decision by Treasurer Jim Chalmers to commission an inquiry into the charitable status of schools and religion in Australia, particularly against the backdrop of the escalating cost of living under the Labor government, raises valid concerns about the allocation of resources. Families already face financial pressures, and this inquiry could further strain those seeking the best for their children, not only in education but also in fostering a Christian way of life and the knowledge of God. Rather than investing time and taxpayer money in scrutinizing well-established systems that have operated effectively for decades, the government would be better served by addressing the broader issues affecting Australian families.</p>	20/01/2024
278-317	Paul Gage	<p>I am writing to express my strong objections to recommendations made by the productivity commission to remove the deductible gift recipient (DGR) provision which provides tax deductions for donation to school building funds, a provision which has been in place for 70 years.</p> <p>As a Christian, small business owner and concerned parent, we feel that this is a direct attack on faith communities and that the proposed changes unfairly target faith communities.</p> <p>These changes would add further cost of living pressures to the 1.4 million children (35% of all children) enrolled in Australian non-government schools.</p> <p>We urge you to reject these unfair and discriminatory recommendations for the good of this country, and all Australians.</p>	20/01/2024
278-318	Michael Dowell	<p>I have read the Future foundations for giving draft report. I can see there are some good findings and recommendations and the intention of the report seems to be good. I am however very concerned about the recommendation for the DGR status to be scrapped for private primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and religious organisations.</p> <p>My children currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, and in a time of severe cost of living pressures, school fees will be further drive up as a result of reduced donations. Donations will be greatly reduced from businesses and individuals if there is a lack of a tax benefit for them.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>If the Government proceeds in adopting this recommendation, many people(including us) will be forced to send their children to government schools – which are already overcrowded. Private schools will struggle financially and be forced cut costs which will result in a lower standard of education. The academic potential and achievement of the whole nation will be impacted in <input type="checkbox"/> me. It is a well known fact that good education is the foundation of a successful nation and private schools are an integral part in this.</p> <p>I trust you consider these concerns, and whilst this may only impact schooling for me at the moment, it will have a similar impact in aged care, etc. And I'm sure many families will be impacted.</p>	
278-319	Peter Craig	<p>The draft report has been read in detail and I hold some very real concerns about the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status and the recommendation to scrap this for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As a parent and a grandparent this is a genuinely serious concern to me as our children and now our grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. As we are all acutely aware we are going through tough times, where the costs of living pressures are much greater than we have ever experienced before. Troubling me is that a manifold increase in school fees is sure to follow such a move, being driven up by the absence of any tax benefit from both businesses and individual persons who are at liberty to make donations to the school.</p> <p>Should the government adopt this recommendation, we will without any doubt, be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded local public school which will directly impact the learning experiences we desire for them and limit their full academic potential.</p> <p>I really appreciate the opportunity you have provided to voice my concerns and trust they will be given due consideration as I am aware there are many other families that will be affected.</p>	20/01/2024
278-320	Rodney Pagden	<p>I have become aware of this commission and have looked over the draft report, and I'm immediately concerned.</p> <p>I am a grandparent in a regional area, and intensely interested in the advancement of good education & opportunity for children, with the long term view of building up the productivity and quality of life in Australia, including in the regional areas.</p> <p>Quality schooling is paramount as any developed & growing nation can testify in results.</p> <p>I am concerned that parts of the draft recommendation are a backward step.</p> <p>Some recommendations in this report could be taken as a discriminatory attack on types of education.</p> <p>For the Australian Government to accept this report as it is, will certainly result in a reduction of quality of education – not only in the schools targeted by this report, but resulting in impact on all schools.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>If this report is accepted as it is, future generations will look back and decry the poor judgement that led to this action; and wonder at the (hidden?) motive in withdrawing support for all types of schools.</p> <p>A few specific points I can see will result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School fees will increase as non-government schools seek to make up for reduced giving from businesses and individuals • This will increase the pressure on the (already stretched) local Government schools as enrolments decrease with (then) unaffordable non-government schools, and increase in government schools, also demanding more funding • Non-government schools will reduce their upgrades to learning environments, lowering the educational experience, <i>and potential</i>, for our children & grandchildren on whom we depend for advancement of the nation & culture • This will also have a flow-on effect in reduced works & projects which support family businesses in our regional areas (and no doubt all areas) – which also are the significant contributor to Government income. • Already enormous pressure from the unprecedented (at least for many years) current increase in cost-of-living – does this not simply exacerbate the problem?? • How is any reduction in support for education a good thing for a country seeking to be a forward example on the global stage?? <p>The more I consider the detail of the report, I cant help thinking that if this recommendation is accepted it will be seen as a reflection of the Government’s (albeit indirect) discrimination against independent schools, including religion which I guess many non-Government schools originate from.</p> <p>I remain extremely thankful for Government, and trust you will take into account this genuine and heartfelt concern that it makes the right choice at this time for the good of our children, the future, our country, and all the people in it.</p>	
278-321	Bernard Kingon	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. I believe the Australian financial position is among the strongest in the world, and I’d like to thank the Government for taking good care of it.</p> <p>It’s a great blessing to all Australians, of all faiths, nationalities and backgrounds.</p> <p>I was rather alarmed when I heard of the recommendations for changes, recently , and particularly worried about the suggestion to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Our kids attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. I’m committed to giving them a quality education, and am confirmed in this decision due to the overstretched student numbers in public schools.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>Being in the position you're in I am sure you're very familiar with the grim reality of the current cost of living crisis.</p> <p>The DGR is a brilliant initiative to encourage private funding of schools, and has proven its own value since the 1950s. I am sure you're well aware of its benefits to Australians, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better schools driving higher education standards • Reducing pressure on Govt expense of building more schools • Boosting construction market <p>Cancelling this initiative will badly impact progress, due to lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, for the good of this Nation, the education of our children, for generations to come.</p>	
278-322	John Woolston	<p>I am writing regarding the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>Having 2 children enrolled in a non-government school, I am concerned that the removal of the Deductible Gift Recipient status for non-government schools will negatively impact their school, resulting in a decline in educational outcomes and facility upgrades, due to the school's inability to raise sufficient funds.</p> <p>My first grandson is also starting at a non-government school this year. Knowing the financial position of his parents (when cost of living is at an all-time high), I fear that they will not be able to continue with the choice that they have made for his education, due to fee increases that the school will undoubtedly be forced to make because of shortfalls in funding.</p> <p>I'm sure this affects many other parents across the country, who may be at their financial limits, because of what they sacrifice for their children's academic development and benefit.</p> <p>Please make my concerns known to persons responsible for decisions relating to this.</p>	20/01/2024
278-323	Lester Selby	<p>I am writing regarding the draft recommendations from the Future Foundations for Giving Report. I am very alarmed to see that the draft recommendations include the proposal to remove DGR status from private schools, aged care and religious organizations.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the impact this will have on my family and broader society.</p> <p>Like any parent wanting the best educational outcomes for their children we send our children to a private Christian school. Private schools supplement the work of government schools by reducing the burden on the public system and give tax paying parents the freedom of choice which is a normal right in western society.</p> <p>The school we send our children to is a lovely school with great teachers and modern buildings. My understanding is that construction of these buildings, gymnasium and improvements has been made possible</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>by contributions from local businesses who have been able to make donations to the school because the has deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.</p> <p>I understand that the committee has called into question that businesses giving to Christian schools is a public benefit? Please consider that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) My wife & I opted to send our students to a private school because the local primary & high schools in our area are overcrowded and we felt that the private school would result in better learning outcomes for our children. b) We are already struggling with the cost of school fees. If DGR status is taken away the school will struggle to afford the cost of classrooms & building improvements. The only way they will be able to pay for these upgrades will be to increase our fees. c) The government should be aware that we are living through a cost-of-living crisis like we have never seen before. If fees increase any further, we will have no option other than to take our children out of the private school and re-enroll them back at the local public school. d) From some quick checks, we believe that there are around 1.4 million students going to private schools in Australia. If the government removes DGR status from private schools, what proportion of parents will be in the same position as us. e) Is the public system ready to receive a large influx of students and will the public system be able to deliver the educational outcomes required in the competitive world we live in today? <p>As a large proportion of private education is provided by faith-based schools, I feel that this is an attack on religion, and we sincerely hope that the government will firmly reject the suggestion to remove DGR status for non-government schools, aged care and other religious organizations.</p>	
278-324	Simon Morley	<p>I am deeply concerned as to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-Government schooling, childcare & aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I feel compelled to write to you as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>Firstly, I feel strongly that this is an attack on religion, given many private and/or independent schooling is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Secondly, with cost-of-living pressure in our household being felt like never before, if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations undoubtedly our children's school fees will be increased due to the lost income from reduced giving because of the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school, causing even more pressure on our household living.</p> <p>Please recognise my concerns, no doubt many families will be adversely impacted by the recommendation of the Productivity Commission.</p>	20/01/2024

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278-325	Greg Thorncroft	<p>I have been alarmed after seeing a news article re the reports from the Productivity commission.</p> <p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some findings and recommendations may be applicable, I am concerned about 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>This is of particular concern to me, as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time when we are experiencing rising costs and higher living cost pressure like never felt before.</p> <p>I fear that school fees will be only 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 concern and worry is, if Federal/state Governments adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and limit their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	20/01/2024
278-326	Brendan Hickson	<p>I am writing to you to express my concern about the recommendations contained in this report for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a parent of children who attend an independent school, to remove the tax-deductible status for primary and secondary school building funds can only result in businesses or individuals stopping donations when there is no tax benefit. This will then result in increased school fees at a time when cost of living pressure is at an all-time high.</p> <p>I also write on behalf of all parents of children who attend independent schools, as the negative impacts of these recommended changes will be felt by all.</p> <p>Any move to take away this charitable purpose that has existed in this country since 1954 (70 years) with overall outstanding results, does not deliver a community-wide benefit but will negatively impact households and will negatively impact the academic learning opportunities for our students who will go on to be hard working citizens in our community and some will be our future leaders.</p> <p>I am asking the current Government to consider my concerns and the consider the negative impact these recommendations will have for all such parents and importantly, the academic opportunity for our students, who are the future of this great country.</p> <p>May I kindly ask that in consideration of The Draft Report, Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' that the following be also given serious consideration:</p>	20/01/2024

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The stress and mental trauma inflicted on children & parents of children, that will be forced to try and integrate into overcrowded Public Government Schools, to save school fees. 2. The additional cost to government. How will this measured & what will it be? 	
278-327	Priscilla Earl	<p>My main concern regarding this is the suggestion that deductible gift recipient (DGR) status be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This particularly concerns me as my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from this very status. As the cost of everyday living continues to rise like never before, the school fees will also have to rise dramatically to make up for the lost income from lack of donations.</p> <p>We need to consider that currently 36% of Australian children are going to private schools; so important to give our children the best possible start in life.</p> <p>The generations this will affect will have their academic potential unrealised if they are forced to return to the public schooling system. This obviously will have an extremely negative impact on businesses in years to come.</p> <p>Please consider this urgently; it is imperative to have a long-range view of such a serious decision.</p>	20/01/2024
278-328	Michael Horsfall	<p>I have noticed and read the draft report referred to above, which is of great interest but also of great concern to myself. As a parent and a grandparent, I am concerned about the draft report recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children and grandchildren attend an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status, so it is a key concern to myself. We are witnessing already overcrowded local public schools and these changes could force us to put them into these unwarranted circumstances.</p> <p>We are in a time of experiencing unprecedented cost of living pressure in our households and it will be a given that our school fees will increase, driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for generous individuals or businesses able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I also fear the decline in the education experience for our children, lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment and impacting their academic potential. I am also concerned that, with this reduced giving, our school will not be able to undertake building extensions and upgrade works which I know support many small family businesses in our area.</p> <p>I feel that this is an attack on religion as religious organisations provide the majority of private or independent education.</p>	20/01/2024

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		I would appreciate your consideration of my concerns as this will impact our household and many oncoming generations.	
278-329	Davod Scott	<p>I am writing to express my major concern in relation to the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>In this draft report there are recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Non-government schools have had DGR support since 1954, this has proven to be a great support and success in establishing non-government schools and helping government schools that are currently overcrowded with students.</p> <p>Scrapping DGR will mean school fees will need to increase to provide facility upgrades that are constantly required to facilitate quality education, businesses will dramatically decrease their financial support, putting the financial burden on householders. This will result in an educational decline.</p> <p>Cost of living is skyrocketing, therefore affordable school fees from parents must be maintained.</p> <p>The opportunity to learn and to acquire quality academic achievement is of utmost importance for all students.</p> <p>Never has it been so important for all students to realize their potential in their schooling years to be lifelong achievers in an ever-increasing world of competition.</p> <p>We cannot tolerate the thought of educational decline. Students must be provided with quality education, including quality facilities and quality teachers for the students' learning experience.</p> <p>Furthermore, a large amount of private and independent education is provided by religious organizations, this scrapping of DGR, I get the impression is an attack on religion.</p> <p>I deeply appreciate it, if you take full account of my concerns, thousands of students will be adversely affected.</p>	20/01/2024
278-330	Graeme Shemilt	<p>We have had a look at this draft report, and we have some concerns. There are excellent points, however the idea of scrapping the gift recipient status of donations to independent schools, childcare, aged care and religious organizations is a big red light. Our society is measured by how we care and provide for the young, the sick and the aged. (consider the plans in Germany in the 1930's)</p> <p>Independent schools exist because parent want them, they want them to the point of paying for them because of the benefits of an independent education. My parents, our children and now our grandchildren have used independent schools, these institutions have been supported by having DGR status. If DGR was scrapped where would the needed funds come from? With the cost-of-living crises hurting families at the present time, school fee rises are impossible for many. DGR giving allows businesses and others not paying fees to contribute effectively.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>If independent schools were to be impacted by this report, would the public school system collapse with the burden of funding all the education of this generation? Public education is 100% funded, private education is not fully funded by the Government. Would any new arrangement provide equal or better support for our youth?</p> <p>Obviously, all families are impacted by this, please consider the outcomes of it all.</p> <p>Democracy is for the people...</p>	
278-331	Tony McKay	<p>We have read the draft report with both interest and concern. While we agree that some of the findings in the report are good, we are concerned about some of the recommendations in relation to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. In particular the proposal to abolish this status for non government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We are concerned that the adoption of this proposal will reduce giving to our school which will mean that the school will not be able to undertake future building extension and upgrade works which I know support many local businesses in our area. This in turn will likely cause an adverse effect on the education experience of our children, due to a lack of funds being available to the school. This will negatively impact the schools' ability to be able to provide an up to date learning environment that will fully realise the academic potential of our children.</p> <p>Further, we feel that this is a strong attack on religion as most private and independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>We would value your consideration of our concerns as we feel our views on this will be shared by many.</p>	20/01/2024
278-332	Brad Thomas	<p>I am writing as a business owner, representing my dedicated staff and my own household. Our organization employs numerous individuals who prioritize investing in private education for their children, seeking to provide them with the best possible academic foundation for successful futures.</p> <p>Over recent times, a growing concern has emerged among my employees, focusing on two critical issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Escalating living costs are creating financial strain for families committed to private education. 2. Public schools are reportedly grappling with overcrowding issues, prompting some parents to withdraw their children due to concerns about inadequate learning conditions. <p>Upon reviewing the news coverage and delving into the specifics of the draft report from the Productivity Commission, my primary apprehension centers around the proposed removal of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools.</p> <p>I strongly believe that implementing such a change will yield the following consequences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Escalation of school fees, exacerbating financial pressures on families and contributing to the rising cost of living. 	20/01/2024

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		<p>2. Broad economic and political ramifications, considering that 35% of Australians opt for private education.</p> <p>3. Detrimental effects on the remaining 65% attending government schools, which will likely experience heightened overcrowding, leading to a compromised academic environment.</p> <p>4. Adverse impacts on all Australian parents, irrespective of their choice between private or public schooling, as the repercussions will be felt across the entire education sector.</p> <p>I earnestly urge you to reconsider these recommendations, as their implementation is poised to significantly and adversely effect everyday Australians far beyond the scope portrayed in the report.</p>	
278-333	Anthony Sanderson	<p>I have examined with some care this report and as a concerned parent(s) of a privately educated child wish to express great concern with certain aspects. Briefly;</p> <p>chool fees. Privately operated schools are funded in part by donations made with tax benefits for the donating party. If this tax advantage were to decrease or cease altogether our school fees will increase accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a flow on effect, maintenance works and potential school improvements would be impacted and therefore many local service providers will be deprived of a source of business and turnover. - This will also affect the learning experience of our child, depriving a young Australian their best chance at education at what we as parents deem a suitable environment for our child. - This comes at an ill-timed juncture with cost of living at unprecedented levels. Our child and his sibling that has yet to enter the private school system would potentially need to attend the public school system, which from observation is stretched to capacity and beyond at the current time. - Lastly, Mr Treasurer, I understand you and your children were baptised into the Catholic faith. Is it not ironic that possibly the largest private school provider in Australia would be the biggest impacted by the implementation of this report? <p>I would respectfully request our concerns be considered with due regard in view of continued education of choice for parents of the next generation(s) of this great country.</p>	20/01/2024
278-334	David Elford	<p>I am writing this submission as a concerned resident of Australia, and also as a concerned grandparent.</p> <p>Firstly, the recommended scrapping of the deductable gift recipient (DGR) status, which has been effective for almost 70 years, for non-government primary, secondary, childcare institutions, will have an enormous impact to Australians in the future. Most of the leaders currently, whether in politics, business, or other professional occupations, have benefited from these institutions. By scrapping the (DGR) status it will make it almost impossible to continue to run some of these institutions due to increased fees, and the lack of funds for continual improvements, from businesses and individuals because of the lack of tax benefit for these entities or people. Where will the next generations of leaders come from?</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>Secondly, I feel that this is a direct attack on religion, as most of the private and independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Thirdly, as a grandparent, I am concerned as to the pressure it will put onto my children's young families, with cost-of-living expenses exploding as we have never seen before. If the government adopt this recommendation, my grandchildren may be forced to go to already overcrowded public schools, which will have an enormous effect on their learning experiences, and their academic potential will be stifled.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, there would be hundreds of thousands of concerned residents, parents, and grandparents with similar views. If the Australian government adopt these recommendations from the "Future foundations for giving" draft report, and scrap the (DGR) status, it will be a very sad day for Australia.</p>	
278-335	Gareth Small	<p>I have looked over the draft report and I am concerned about the recommendation for the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care & other religious charities.</p> <p>As a concerned parent with children who attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR status, I am worried how this will impact our family and many other families.</p> <p>At a time when the rising costs of living is already causing great pressure this will only add to the pressure if school fees need to rise to meet the needs of the running costs of the schools.</p> <p>If the government takes on this recommendation it may also cause a decline in the quality of education and affect our children reaching their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, as this won't only affect my family but many other families.</p>	20/01/2024
278-336	John Ovenden	<p>I wish to express my anxiety as to the draft recommendation that puts an end to the deductible status for non-government, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations. The independent school sector in NSW is a diverse group of about 500 schools.</p> <p>The concern is that as a grandfather with children at several independent schools, there will be added financial pressure due to increase of school fees impacting their families. Sources of gifting will also be impacted if DGR is removed.</p> <p>Infrastructure costs have long been helped with DGR which in turn contributes to the maintenance of education standards. The removal of DGR would have a very negative impact and result in overcrowding of local public schools.</p> <p>Also the Daft recommendation 7.1 suggests "the removal of the concept of basic religious charity and associated exemptions," I feel that this is an attack on religion.</p> <p>I would appreciate your consideration of these concerns.</p>	20/01/2024

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278-337	Dean Coote	<p>I am writing with concern regarding the Productivity Commission "Future foundations for giving" draft report.</p> <p>Removing DGR status from non-government schools will mean reduced donations from businesses & individuals because of the lack of tax benefits. I am concerned about the negative impact this will have on our children's education experience as reduced donations may mean the school can not afford to undertake building improvements required for a suitable learning environment.</p> <p>The decrease in donations will also mean the school will have to increase their fees to make up the required funding, adding further pressure to the cost of living in our household.</p> <p>I feel that the inquiry is a direct attack on religion as a majority of private education institutions are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our concerns.</p>	
278-338	Howard Cowell	<p>As a concerned parent with three (3) sons, I find the draft report regarding Philanthropy very concerning and worrying. Whilst reading through this report I am aghast to note the suggestion for "Deductible Gift Recipient" status to be scrapped in relation to</p> <p>non-government education, aged care, as well as also other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is especially a concern due to our children attending an independent private school that is a recipient and relies significantly on having DGR status to continue to grow and keep up with modern trends. Our children are favoured to enjoy the benefit of the accumulation of DGR giving over many previous decades to achieve a high standard of education, mostly achieving results above those achieved in other nearby public schools. As we experience this benefit passed on from previous generations before us, we need to ensure this balance is maintained not only for our own children but also for oncoming generations in the decades ahead.</p> <p>With the uncertainty of the current economic situation, increases in cost-of-living expenses, and job insecurity, I am concerned that if the school was to experience a drop in philanthropy giving through a lack of tax incentives for businesses and individuals to donate, this would in turn necessitate the school to increase fees and pass more expenses onto us parents.</p> <p>Our local public schools are overcrowded, and it is widely recognised they do not reach the same level of academic achievement realized and enjoyed through private schools. Australia needs academic talent and skills to be realised in the potential within the upcoming generations.</p> <p>Further, Private school building expansion and improvement programs will either be reduced or cut out altogether, further restricting development in this essential and critical infrastructure. This would also flow on to a loss of construction industry job and project opportunities especially affecting trades persons in relevant local areas.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>Above all I see this as an attack on religion, seeing as most Private Schools, Hospitals and Aged Care providers are religion-based organisations.</p> <p>I trust you will consider my genuine concerns and that these concerns will also impact a huge number of other families also in the same circumstances.</p>	
278-339	Graham Mascull	<p>I write to you today not just as a citizen but as a profoundly concerned parent and employer troubled by the potential repercussions of the recommendations in the Future Foundations for Giving Report. These recommendations, if adopted, will profoundly impact non-government schools, including the one my child attends and, by extension, our local community and workforce.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased Financial Burden on Families: As a parent with a child enrolled in a non-government school, I am alarmed by the prospect of escalating school fees. Removing the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status will inevitably diminish donations, compelling schools to increase fees to compensate for this financial shortfall. This change comes when families like mine are already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. The additional financial burden could limit our educational choices, forcing us to consider overcrowded public schools, which may not align with our educational preferences or values. 2. Adverse Impact on School Infrastructure and Local Economy: The reduction in philanthropic giving could significantly hinder our schools' ability to undertake necessary infrastructure upgrades and expansions. Such projects are not only vital for an enriched educational experience but also support many local, family-run businesses. The cessation of these projects would have a ripple effect, harming the quality of education and the local economy. 3. Decline in Educational Experience and Academic Potential: An underfunded and under-resourced educational environment directly affects the quality of education our children receive. Given that we are already well into Industry 4.0, our talent pool requires creative learning atmospheres. The lack of modern facilities and resources will impede this learning, potentially diminishing their academic and future career prospects. Our children must have access to learning environments that foster their intellectual and personal growth. 4. Potential Discrimination against Religious Education: The targeting of religious organizations, which provide a substantial portion of private and independent education in Australia, seems to attack the freedom to choose religious-based education. Such changes could penalize these institutions and the families who choose them for their values and educational approach. 5. Implications for Workforce Development: As an employer with over 20 staff members in Australia, I am concerned about the broader implications for our future workforce. The ability to attract and retain accredited professionals is already challenging. Limiting the diversity and quality of our educational institutions, particularly faith-based schools, will only exacerbate this issue. We need to nurture a diverse and well-educated workforce, not hinder our educational institutions from contributing to this goal. 	20/01/2024

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		<p>In conclusion, the recommendations proposed by the Productivity Commission pose significant risks to the quality of education, the financial stability of families, the local economy, and the broader societal value of diverse educational choices. I urge the Commission to reconsider these recommendations, considering their far-reaching implications for families, communities, and the future of education in Australia.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my concerns.</p>	
278-340	Edward Judd	<p>I write as a father of two sons that are beginning their schooling. My wife and I have begun to be interested in learning about schooling and education so as to plan the next 15 years of our children’s education journey, and we have decided that our children will have the best education outcomes attending one of the many private Christian schools close to our home in Perth.</p> <p>I came across the future foundations for giving report and some sections of the report were concerning to us. I specifically am referring to the deductive gift recipient status to be scrapped for private and faith based schools. I am concerned this will increase our costs of schooling and also contribute to lower education outcomes for my children as funds and investment in schools will be lower.</p> <p>I’m sure some of these sections of this productivity commission report will cause considerable concern to many other families, who I consider to be the ‘silent majority’ in Australia.</p>	20/01/2024
278-341	Roger Cox	<p>I write as a concerned parent, having read the Future Foundations for Giving report.</p> <p>We have put all our six children through a small, private Christian school. We are neither poor nor wealthy and run a small family business where some of our children, who have now completed their schooling, are employed.</p> <p>Our primary motive for sending our children to a private Christian school has always been to give them the best education we can accord, in the most protective and stimulating environment possible so that they can contribute positively to society. We have never been motivated to foster elitism in our children, nor did we want them to come up without purpose or sound moral values. According this type of education has never been easy for us financially.</p> <p>Having read the report and having discussed it with others in a similar situation to ourselves, I am worried that the recommendation to withdraw DGR status from school building funds will make it very prohibitive for smaller private schools to function effectively.</p> <p>I have never been part of the school board or management of our childrens’ school but I have always been aware of the financial burden involved in keeping the school running. Their school is motivated to provide both students and stadd with an environment in which they can flourish. However, this can only be possible with acceptable facilities such as buildings and classrooms.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>I firmly believe that Christian and most other faiths are the bedrock of a well-functioning, benevolent society. Governments that acknowledge this fact and allow them to flourish, always seem to prosper.</p> <p>I was also heartened to learn that the greatest givers in our society are the highest earners. I see this to mean that to encourage the best education possible for the most students possible, is to create the most amount of generous, high achieving members of society possible!</p> <p>Although in a narrow sense, maintaining DGR status for small, private school building funds may seem to benefit only those employed and educated at the schools, it does in fact benefit broader society in the long term. I'm sure our government predecessors acknowledged this, and I exhort our current Government to continue doing so by maintaining DGR status for private school building funds.</p> <p>Otherwise, I fear that families like ours will no longer be able to afford the education to which we aspire, and our children will have to be absorbed back into already strained public schooling to the benefit of no-one at all.</p>	
278-342	Matthew Sutherland	<p>I have read through the draft report mentioned above. Although there are some good 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 concern to me as my children have attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. We are in a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, and I fear that school fees would have to be raised further to make up the lost income from reduced income from giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>It is a worry if the Government adopt this recommendation, as 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. It is also a direct attack on religion as a majority of private and independent schools are provided by religious organizations</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	20/01/2024
278-343	Timothy Goodsell	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and disagreement with the recent Productivity Commission findings regarding basic religious charity. While I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, I believe the proposed changes will have unintended consequences, particularly for private schools.</p> <p>Private schools, including religious institutions, play a crucial role in our education system. The Australian government's reliance on these schools is not only about choice but also stems from funding considerations. Reducing support to private schools will compromise the quality of education they provide.</p> <p>As a parent, my top priority is ensuring the best possible education for my children. However, as fees at private schools increase due to decreased government funding, many families, including mine, will find it</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>challenging to afford this option. Private schools contribute significantly to educational diversity and excellence, and their accessibility should not be limited based on financial constraints.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes and explore alternative solutions that prioritize the educational needs of our children. A balanced approach that values both public and private education is essential for fostering a well-rounded and competitive future generation.</p>	
278-344	Lionel Duffield	<p>It is good that the above draft report has identified some positive findings and recommendations.</p> <p>However, there is something very threatening in the proposed recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations which is deeply concerning.</p> <p>The school where our children have been enrolled has benefited from this provision in the past, enabling our children to enjoy a quality furnished education facility where the teaching and influence also provides for our family values and our choice of religion.</p> <p>With the current inflation rates pushing up the cost of everyday living, putting additional burden on families like ours, this recommendation threatens to deteriorate the sustainability and quality of our children's education facilities as it would directly influence the tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school. This could also lead to higher school fees and force families like ours to send our children to a public school against our wishes.</p> <p>With over 35% of students nationally attending private schools, this could have a massive impact on many, many families. I would plead on behalf of all those who will be affected, that this recommendation be struck out.</p>	20/01/2024
278-345	Stewart Wallace	<p>I am writing to you in response to the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>I'm extremely concerned regarding 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>As a parent of 3 adults, who have been educated at a private school in our local area, and are now in the workforce, it is of particular concern to me as we give regular donations to this private school and other charitable organisations each year through our family business.</p> <p>As a long-term business owner, and cashflow is tight due to rising supply chain costs, we feel very responsible to give as much as we can to charitable organisations, so if the DGR status was removed, this would greatly limit how much money we would be able to give to these charitable organizations as it would no longer be a tax deductible. Im sure there are many other businesses that would feel the same way.</p> <p>As you know, we are experiencing very high cost of living and this is clearly a lot of pressure on a lot of families, and with removal of DGR status I have genuine concerns that school fees for the oncoming</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>generations would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, which will be driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the schools.</p> <p>If the Government looks to adopt this recommendation, persons who have children who attend private schools will be forced to send their children to our overcrowded public schools which will greatly impact their learning experience, stifle their academic potential and put a lot of pressure on Government resources .</p> <p>The impact on the private school system and the industries that support it will be immense and I don't feel adequate review has been done to take this into account.</p> <p>Please consider my genuine concerns as to this matter</p>	
278-346	Leslie Moody	<p>I am reaching out to you regarding the above draft report.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the recommendations for Deductible Gift Recipient status to be scrapped for non-government schooling, aged care, childcare and any other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is particularly of concern to me as my children currently attend an independent school that benefits from the above mentioned DGR status. In a time where we're experiencing higher than ever cost of living pressure, I believe that our school fees would be driven up further to make up for any income lost from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for individuals and / or businesses able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My concern is if your government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to remove our children from their current school and put them into our already overcrowded local public school. In being forced to do this, I strongly believe it will impact not only their learning experience but could hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I truly hope that you will please consider my concerns outlined above, I am sure that our family won't be the only ones impacted.</p>	20/01/2024
278-347	Brendon Grosse	<p>I am writing to you with considerable concern as a parent of a child at a private school. My concern lies with the recent recommendations that were made by the Productivity Commission, regarding deductible giving recipient status being removed for non-government schools. I am convinced that if the Government were to adopt these recommendations, our family school fees will increase. Businesses, who are sponsoring or supporting school facility and building projects at our school will stop giving, due to the tax concessions being removed. Our schools will have reduced income and will in turn make up the balance with fee raises.</p> <p>I am also quite sure that as well as fee increases, the reduction in giving from business entities and trusts will lead to a fall in improvements at the school. The improvements themselves are seriously important for the welfare and productive growth opportunities of these children. This will inevitably lead to reduced potential in academic, social and wellbeing of the next generation of school children.</p> <p>On top of that, there are a lot of small construction and trade businesses in the area, who all enjoy working at these schools. These businesses will lose income from this recommendation.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>I shouldn't need to remind you that at this time, we are struggling to pay for the fees etc, due to increases in our day-to-day cost of living. Our mortgage is through the roof, and fuel and power and gas bills are out of control. What if all the children at this school were to leave due to financial pressure and arrive at the nearest public school. I know the public schools in my local area are already overcrowded. I don't see how this would be helpful.</p> <p>I am quite certain that this recommendation is a deliberate attack by the woke left on religion. They have an agenda to control the narrative, and this is limited in private religious schools. This will regain an element of control and power for such people, which is totally unacceptable. We left the public school system to get away from this ideology.</p> <p>Please reconsider the recommendations by the Productivity Commission and the devastating impact it will have on our children's education and the community at large.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	
278-348	Stephen Doven	<p>After reading about this draft report, I have grave concerns about the damage it would do to this nation. The recommendation for '<i>deductible gift recipient</i>' (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is very concerning. I have eight grandchildren at school this year and the implications of this proposal are very real to me.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>The removal of DGR status for education would mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased school fees to cover decreased donations. • Less capex spends on the private schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resulting in poorer education • A challenge to the whole private sector financially. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resulting in the need for Governments to put more money into the schooling system. • Upending a good system that was set up seventy years ago (1954) and has benefited all Australians. <p><u><i>Economically, this proposal is very counterproductive.</i></u></p> <p>In the electorate in which I live, the last Government High School to be built was in 1973. Since then, there has been four (4) independent/faith based High schools built. This has been a massive saving to the government but would be threatened under the new proposal.</p> <p><u><i>Educationally this idea spells out disaster.</i></u></p> <p>Australia wide we are hearing how the student outcome results are falling behind in the last few years. Removing financial assistance of any form to the education system would further undermine the learning ability of our children, and in turn threaten Australia's society.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>Good education of children is the secret and backbone of a successful society. We as a nation should be aware of this and be doing everything in our power to assist it, not undermine it.</p> <p>Churches</p> <p>Regarding the concept of removing DGR for Christian churches, this is also fraught with danger. Western nations around the world have benefited from the Judeo-Christian principles that society has been built on. While not everyone believes in a faith, many non-believers will admit to the good basic principles that it brings our nation: financially, socially and from a safe and happy lifestyle. We have long been called the 'lucky country' but it is being eroded from many angles. Sadly, this proposal (if actioned) would erode our nation faster than many would realize.</p> <p>This is a very dangerous proposal. Please see the big picture of this agenda and vote against it.</p>	
278-349	Arne and Bonnie Teiffel	<p>We have read the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report. As parents of children who are soon to attend an independent school, this majorly concerns us. In particular the idea to get rid of DGR.</p> <p>We are currently experiencing extremely difficult financial pressures as I'm sure many other Australian families are and therefor worry that these schools will in turn have to increase school fees without this much needed government funding. This would no doubt force many more to send their children to public schools that are already well overcrowded and potentially mean downgrading in children's learning and academic opportunities.</p>	20/01/2024
278-350	James Taylor	<p>We have read the above report with interest, and also with deep concern about the DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status being scrapped for non-government schools, aged care, and other religious entities.</p> <p>We would be only one of many who would be directly affected, and with the cost-of-living already causing much pressure, this would certainly exacerbate the burden on each household, and our current schools.</p> <p>It also appears to be a direct attack on religion, as the majority of these organisations are religiously based.</p> <p>We would appeal to you FERVENTLY to consider our concerns, as we would not like it to impact on our children's education, and the quality of facilities available to them.</p> <p>Surely a philanthropic government would have the country's future potential first and foremost in their hearts.</p>	20/01/2024
278-351	Richard Sanderson	<p>I am a father of 5 children (one still in a private Christian school) and a grandfather, and also a Christian.</p> <p>I'm reaching out to express my concerns regarding the potential impact of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on the funding for the private school my son attends and which my grandchild will also attend in the future.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>Many Christians feel it's very important for our children to attend a private school which supports our values such as compassion, honesty, unselfishness, and living a clean life (values which will benefit the entire community as these children become adults).</p> <p>The idea that our school may have to raise fees due to a reduction in support from businesses and individuals is very troubling. If tax benefits are eliminated for these contributors, it could place an additional financial burden on families already grappling with rising living costs. As a small business owner, with 45 employees, many of whom have families, I really understand the impact this will have. I have donated substantially to various charities with DGR status over many years, and the new proposals will force me to rethink my giving as my donations just won't have the value they previously did without the tax deductions.</p> <p>Beyond the financial implications, there's the worry about the impact on crucial building projects at our school. These initiatives not only enhance our children's learning environment but also contribute to the livelihood of small family businesses in our community. A reduction in funding may jeopardize these projects, affecting both education quality and local businesses.</p> <p>I'm also troubled by the potential consequences for religious organizations that play a significant role in providing private education. The unintended consequence of undermining their contribution to our education system is concerning.</p> <p>If the cost of private education becomes unmanageable, there will be a sudden influx of transfers from the lower-income families who find the struggle too much, into the local public school, creating a huge problem in educating and caring for these vulnerable children, which will impact not only the children who have had to transfer but also the children already in the public school. There's a real concern that the proposed changes could lead to a decline in the overall quality of education for all the children in our community.</p> <p>I urge you to thoroughly consider the broader implications of these recommendations on families, local businesses, and the community as a whole. Striking a balance that supports education while considering the economic well-being of families is crucial.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that your considerations will reflect the best interests of our children and the sustainability of our community.</p>	
278-352	Phil Bartlett	<p>I am concerned currently with the recommendations for DGR Status to be scrapped in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report.</p> <p>As a parent of children that attend a private school, I am concerned that school fees will increase further, due to the fact that businesses and people who donate to the school will reduce their giving, because their tax benefit will be removed.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>In a time when most families are already pressured by the high cost of living, an increase in fees may force many to send children to already overcrowded public schools which would unfavourably impact their learning potential.</p> <p>I would appreciate it if you could consider my concern.</p>	
278-353	Monique Fooks	<p>As a parent of children who currently attend a private school I am most concerned about the proposed scrapping of the DGR status for non-government organisations which is recommended in the above mentioned report. I feel that its going to affect us and many other young families around us in many negative ways.</p> <p>Without the benefit of DGR status, in order for the private or independent schools to be able to operate, all of our school fees will have to increase - this is at a time when there is already a cost-of-living crisis on in our country. With expenses so dramatically increased, I will be forced to consider putting my children back into our local public school which is already totally overcrowded and it will have a negative impact on my childrens future, both academically and their overall education experience.</p> <p>I feel that the above mentioned recommendation is discrimination against religion, as a majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration of my concerns , as my young family wont be the only one affected.</p>	20/01/2024
278-354	Craig Suggate	<p>As a concerned parent, I am writing to express my apprehensions regarding the potential adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations by the government. These changes, if implemented, have the potential to adversely affect our children's education and the overall well-being of our community.</p> <p>Firstly, the prospect of increased school fees looms large if the government adopts the proposed recommendations. It is my understanding that schools may need to augment their income from fees due to reduced contributions from businesses and individuals, stemming from the elimination of tax benefits for these entities. This financial burden on parents like me is especially worrisome, considering the current strain on household budgets due to unprecedented cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed changes could hinder our school's ability to undertake crucial building extensions and upgrades. These projects not only contribute to the improvement of our children's learning environment but also support many small family businesses in our local area. The ripple effect of diminished support for these enterprises would undoubtedly be felt within our community.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about the potential decline in the overall education experience for our children. A reduction in resources and facilities could compromise the conducive learning environment they currently enjoy, impacting their academic potential. As a parent, I am sure you share my commitment to providing the best possible education for our children, and any hindrance to this goal is disheartening.</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>I emphasize the substantial impact on religious organizations in private education. The proposed changes would be a threat to these crucial institutions, integral to our education system, with broader consequences on foundational values and diversity that must not be overlooked.</p> <p>Finally, the possible overflow of students into local public schools due to increased financial burdens on parents could exacerbate existing issues of overcrowding. This is a worrying prospect, as quality education relies on manageable class sizes and adequate resources for effective learning.</p> <p>In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of adopting the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The well-being of our children's education and the stability of our community are at stake. I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that you will take them into consideration during the decision-making process</p>	
278-355	Joy Hutchison	<p>I have read an overview of the draft report with concern. I am worried that my giving to the Building Fund of the private school my grand children attend, will not be considered for a Tax Deduction.</p> <p>If the Government adopts these recommendations, the school fees will have to rise and the building fund, which benefits from our donations, will have to allow the buildings to fall into disrepair.</p> <p>I am a widowed grandmother of 15 children. Those still in school attend an independent school. I am continuing to work, even though I could draw a pension, so as to provide for the care of my family and to be able to give donations, to assist their school and other areas of need.</p> <p>I am anxious that the grandkids will no longer be able to attend this great school and the standard of their education will be reduced by having to enter the overcrowded public schooling system. I'm sure many other parents will be in the same situation. Surely the small amount the Government will save by axing tax-deductible donations to school building funds, will hardly be enough to improve the local public schools to the standards required.</p> <p>I urge you to please take measures to ensure that these recommendations are not implemented.</p>	20/01/2024
278-356	Brad Rowland	<p>I recently read the draft report and whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned in relation to the proposed changes to scrap the deductible gift recipient (DGR) for non-government Schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Cost of living pressure is as I have never seen before and I fear that school fees would be driven up to cover the lost income due to reduced giving and lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals who currently donate to</p>	20/01/2024

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		<p>the school. Personally I feel that this is an attack on religion as the majority of private or independent education is in fact provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>If the Government adopts this recommendation, our children could be forced to attend already overcrowded local public schools which I worry would impact their learning experience and dampen their academic potential.</p> <p>I am sure that my concern as to this matter would be widely felt and that our family wouldn't be the only ones impacted by these decisions.</p>	
278-357	Nick Stead	<p>This letter is in regards to the 'Future foundations for giving draft report'</p> <p>I have reviewed the report carefully and I am worried about the deductible gift recipient status being scrapped for non-government primary schools, secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This has caught my attention due to the fact that my children attend an independent school that I believe benefits from DGR status. With the school fees at the rate they are at currently we can only just afford to enroll our kids, and I worry that if these changes were to take place, these school fees will increase to make up for the loss of income from reduced giving, due to the decreased tax benefit for businesses or individuals to be able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I don't feel it is an option to send our kids to a public school, as I know they are already at maximum capacity as it is, hence the reason we send them to a independent school.</p> <p>I would appreciate if you could consider our position and concerns on this matter.</p>	20/01/2024
278-358	Bernard Smith	<p>I have read the draft report and surprised and very concerned by some of its content. I am very concerned as a parent about the Government adopting the recommendations.</p> <p>I feel strongly that this is an attack on religion as a lot if not most private educational institutes are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>If the Government adopt the Productivity Commission's recommendations it is clear that our school fees will be increased due to the need for our schools to increase income with reduced giving from business and individual due to the lack of tax benefits for these entities/people.</p> <p>There is enough pressure, like never before, on households and families as it is, and this could force us to put our children into local public schools which from what I understand are already overcrowded. This would be decline in my children's educational experience and in a suitable and safe learning environment for them to grow and make the most of their academic potential.</p>	20/01/2024

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		Please consider my concerns seriously, there will be many families like mine impacted.	
278-359	Kelvin Lindsay	<p>Thankyou for the opportunity to express myself regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>I note the interesting background and analytical work done to back this draft up.</p> <p>My concern as a young father, saving for the already high school fees due to start shortly for our 2 children, is that if the schools funding is cut, the fees will go up and that will greatly increase our financial pressure. Already the pressure is high.</p> <p>The facilities in regional areas need all the help they can get, and any reduction in available funds to spend on these will impact education for many years. The quality of education in developed countries sets us apart from emerging countries and even some dilution of the quality will have effects. The local public schools are quite full and in large crowds only the very brightest pupils can ever rise to be recognised and nurtured. A structure that allows individual student monitoring seems very advantageous.</p> <p>As a Christian, living in the best country in the world (in my current opinion), I believe the core of what makes this country great is its grounding at least in Christian principles. Any reduction in support for this would take us in the wrong direction.</p> <p>Thankyou for hearing my concerns. I trust you will consider this wide ranging and impactful report with all the wisdom available & steer it back in the right direction.</p>	20/01/2024
278-360	Paul Beattie	<p>I write in response to the recently released draft report. I am particularly concerned about the recommendation that DGR-status be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My concern is that this proposed recommendation will hinder the ability to effectively invest in the education of young Australians at a time when the overall education facilities in Australia have never been under more pressure. Where we live we have witnessed a consistent under-investment in public education facilities over many years that continues to fall further and further behind local population needs.</p> <p>As a parent of children who attend a private school I am concerned the proposed recommendation will result in reduced donations towards building infrastructure, with the very real possibility that the school will be forced to increase fees to compensate, and that some families may no longer be able to afford to keep their children enrolled but will need to send them to public schools which are already stretched and overcrowded.</p> <p>The proposed recommendation will likely negatively impact the overall quality of education provided to Australian's future wage earners. The more skilled and trained persons are the greater their ability to contribute to the economy and the nation's productivity. With Australia's productivity already embarrassingly lower than contemporary OECD nations, why implement changes that would increase the cost of education to</p>	21/01/2024

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		the government, reduce quality of learning available to our children, and forgo the opportunity for our country to get ahead on the global stage.	
278-361	Bruce Weeks	<p>I am concerned as to the possibility of the DGR status for non-government schools being removed.</p> <p>This will result in significantly increased school fees, (because we wont be able to give as much) and along with cost of living spirally upward, the education of future students will be restricted.</p> <p>The public school system is over taxed in some areas and adding to these pressures by forcing students out of private schools will degrade the education of many.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the current DGR status that has been in place for decades is not altered.</p>	21/01/2024
278-362	David McAlphin	<p>As a grandparent concerned for the future education of my families I write concerning the recommendation to delete DGR status for charitable giving to non government schools.</p> <p>My concern is that , if the tax benefits for charitable giving from businesses and individuals is removed, then incoming funds to independent education institutions will be reduced resulting in education fees needing to be increased at a time of high cost of living pressures and also necessary building infrastructure for enhanced teaching will not proceed.</p> <p>This would all detrimentally impact on the excellent level of education that both my present and oncoming generations currently enjoy.</p> <p>Please consider my genuine concerns in any proposed legislation.</p>	21/01/2024
278-363	Warren Earl	<p>After reading the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report, I am deeply concerned that if the Government were to adopt these ideas, our school fees would increase dramatically which wouldn't be sustainable for us with the already rising cost of living pressures currently. We would have to consider sending our kids to an already stressed public school which would stretch resources thinner, and the quality of education they receive to decline.</p> <p>Our education facilities are where our children learn and develop, and they need the best education to become tomorrow's leaders and to be able to face the challenges of what life after school throws at them.</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>Taking away the DGR status from non-government schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations would be devastating and have a massive negative impact on these avenues of care.</p> <p>Please, as a parent who will have children in the education system for the next 15 years, consider the repercussions that this would have on families like us, and generations to come.</p>	
278-364	Jon Arnot	<p>I have read the draft report with great interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, 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>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 main concern 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 that could be invested into the nation and economy. Education of our nation's children is critical for this nation to prosper both financially and socially. This is likely to cause the education experience to decline and may result lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment. This comes at a time when households cost of living is under pressure. I am sure there is many families that would be impacted.</p>	21/01/2024
278-365	Craig Parker	<p>I have been drawn attention to the Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' draft report and am very concerned.</p> <p>Their recommendations to scrap the deductible gift receipt status for non-government schools will prevent me from directing my money to a cause that I believe in.</p> <p>The future for a strong Australia, economically and socially, is going to be driven by the next generations and their ability to share and build upon their knowledge and education.</p> <p>Education drives the nation. As a parent, I want to be a part of that. I want to be able to direct money to a cause that I believe in, knowing that it will have an empowering effect on my child and the nation.</p> <p>I am not a moneyed person by any means, but with this current economic crisis I would hope that this government would allow me to give what I can knowing that I can make a difference to education whilst benefitting from the tax deduction this giving offers.</p>	21/01/2024

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		Please reject any proposal to make changes to the DGR status of non-government schools and you will ensure this country will go from strength to strength!	
278-366	Gary Dent	<p>I have read the above draft report and wish to highlight a point of concern about 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>As a professional accountant in public practice for nearly fifty years, and as associated with a non-government school, I have been at the 'coal-face' of funding requirements for such schools, and in particular building capital works.</p> <p>I am sure you would appreciate how hard it is to raise funds in the first instance, let alone without the incentive of DGR status. Non-government schools take the pressure on government to provide school buildings and resources that would be necessary without such. This in turn saves the taxpayer. It should be a logical extension that, at the very least, some tax concession should be given to the non-government/private sector to continue to maintain the status quo. By removing the DGR status there could be unintended consequences and more pressure placed on government to provide additional public schools and resources.</p> <p>I trust that the government will not take up this particular recommendation from the Productivity Commission.</p>	21/01/2024
278-367	Richard Bass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am concerned because I have seven grandchildren who attend private faith-based schools in Victoria. • These schools are strongly supported by tax-assisted giving which would be withdrawn if the Productivity Commission's proposals were to be adopted by the Government, necessitating a corresponding increase in school fees. • Any such increases in school fees would come at a very inconvenient time for households which are facing unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. • Essential modernization plans for our campuses would also be jeopardized, adversely affecting the excellent standard of education that my grandchildren are receiving. • I think the Government should recognize the benefit to the wider community eventuating from the existence of faith-based private schools, particularly in contributing to the reduction of overcrowding in local public schools. • I see in the Commission's proposals an attack on the faiths that do so much beneficial charitable work, not only in providing education, but also in disaster relief, helping the homeless and supporting hospitals, to name a few such activities! • Taking all this into account, I would like to make an appeal that the Commission's proposals should be reconsidered and certainly not be adopted by the Government in their present form. 	21/01/2024

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278-368	Terry Reynolds	<p>Having perused the Draft Report, there are some concerns I have, regarding recommendations for deductible gift recipient {DGR} Status being discontinued, for non-government Primary, Secondary Schools, Aged Care, Childcare and various Religious Institutions.</p> <p>In this unprecedented time, when cost of living is increasing constantly, my concern is that school fees will be increased, to cover the loss of income, due to the lack of giving by Businesses and Individuals, who are in a position to donate to the school. Therefore, if the Government takes on the recommendations, it will leave us no choice, but to send our children to an overpopulated Local Public School, and therefore affecting their Educational Potential.</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate your consideration in regard to these concerns, and there are many families who are in the same circumstances.</p>	21/01/2024
278-369	Daniel Baker	<p>I have heard some comment in the media regarding the above report and made it my business to read through this document on the weekend. It is very comprehensive and touches on a number of issues which I do believe need to be addressed. Whilst there are some critical points that would be worth overhauling there is a significant issue with removing DGR status for schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Religious schools teach around 35% of Australia's children at a lower cost to the taxpayer than the public school taught child. The current DGR status ensures there is the incentive for individuals to continue investing in development of new facilities and the ongoing broader economic benefit these investments generate. By removing the DGR status the cost for these investments will be substantially increased and the ensuing increase in school fees will mean a significant swing from private to public school participation.</p> <p>As a father of 3 with children in a private school that would be substantially impacted by the proposed changes I think it is a very poor decision to change to this model. It would massively increase the cost of sending our children to school to the point where we would likely be forced to send our children through the public school system. Given this impact would be replicated across over a million students across the nation I can only see</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>a vast new investment the government would have to make in new public schools and the higher ongoing cost to the taxpayer.</p> <p>I would plead with you to be circumspect about this aspect of the reform and abandon it as a dangerous experiment that is bound to have to be reversed if it is pushed through.</p>	
278-370	Andrew Gillies	<p>Thank you for the invitation to respond to the above - it is and should be of great concern to society in general as it seeks to disrupt what is known and established as the 'four pillars of charity' and as established by Lord Macnaghten, namely, the relief of the poor, aged or impotent; the advancement of education; the advancement of religion; and 'other purposes beneficial to the community'.</p> <p>To scrap the 'deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is to imperil these four foundational pillars of society.</p> <p>As grandparents, we have grandchildren attending independent schools and if the benefits of DGR are removed, fees would obviously increase (contributions as a result of tax savings would be lost to these schools) and that in a time of increased cost of living expenses would impact my grand children's education.</p> <p>Again, I thank you for the opportunity afforded in this letter and trust that the DGR status for schools, aged care, religion etc is maintained.</p>	21/01/2024
278-371	Anthony Grace		21/01/2024
278-372	Anthony Martin	<p>Having privately schooled our children for the last 20 years, I write with concern about the current recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non government primary & secondary schooling, and other organisations.</p> <p>I feel the ever increasing cost of living will cause unbearable pressure on this area without such funding, which has been in place beneficially since 1954. Educational facilities will become downgraded and our students learning potential will suffer greatly.</p> <p>Also, as religious educational organisations are supported this way, I see this is as an unjustifiable attack on religion.</p> <p>My wife and I appreciate your work and would urge you to move to reject this recommendation.</p>	21/01/2024
278-373	John Reoch	<p>I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report on "Future foundations for giving" by the Productivity Commission, and while I appreciate some of the positive findings and recommendations, I am writing to</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>express my apprehension about the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>My concern stems from the potential impact on my children's independent school, which currently benefits from DGR status. In these times of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, I am worried that the removal of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to the school may increase school fees. This could pose a significant financial burden on families like mine.</p> <p>If the government adopts this recommendation, there is a genuine fear that we might be compelled to enrol our children in the overcrowded local public school. Such a shift could adversely affect their learning experience and hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to consider these concerns seriously, as our family is not the only one who can be impacted by these potential changes.</p>	
278-374	Tim Little	<p>This draft report has recently been drawn to my attention from a Sky News article about it.</p> <p>It was obviously a very detailed report, however, there are some points that I am very concerned about.</p> <p>For the last 25 years, I have sent my children and now grandchildren to Religious Based Private Schools, saving governments thousands of dollars, and we were prepared to pay the school fees.</p> <p>I see this draft report as a direct attack on Christianity, which would have been the basis of these entities being granted charitable status in 1954 - longer than most of us have been alive!</p> <p>Currently we are experiencing the greatest pressure of cost of living that I have ever experienced, and increased school fees would be exacerbated by this proposal.</p> <p>Another concern is the removal of tax deductible donations to School Building Funds. Our schools need to continue to expand and give my grandchildren the best education possible. Without this deduction being possible, this money will have to come out of my "after tax income", which I don't believe is right. I believe the decision made regarding charitable status in 1954 still stands!</p> <p>If this proposal goes ahead, we will have to consider moving our grandchildren to Public Schools, that are already overcrowded and understaffed.</p> <p>I am astounded, that the current government - the Labour Party - in Australia, which is universally known as a Christian country, would entertain the thought of removing religion from being a charitable status.</p> <p>I would appreciate if my concerns would be considered and would expect a reply to this submission.</p>	21/01/2024
278-375	Stephen Joyce	<p>I am making a submission regarding the proposed changes to recipients of DGR status outlined in the above-mentioned report.</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>As a parent of children who are enrolled in one of the nearly 3000 independent schools in Australia, I am directly concerned about the impact that removing DGR status from our organisation may have on the many generous citizens that support the school facilities. Securing funding to provide and maintain facilities and services can be difficult and removing this incentive for donors will further add unnecessary load on independent school systems.</p> <p>While it is a privilege to be able to afford to send my child to an independent school, a privilege many Australians do not have, it is not without immense personal sacrifice. As a family we forfeit many personal pleasures simply so our children can get the best education possible, with the view to contributing to society with maximum impact later in life.</p> <p>A majority of children educated in private schools go on to become leaders in the Australian economy. The facilities to educate these children need to be of the highest standard in order for the country to be passed into the hands of a generation equipped with what is necessary to lead at the highest level.</p> <p>My concern is that support for schools by donation will decrease without DGR status incentive, thus forcing schools to increase fees and other income streams while cutting back on spending on facilities. This will put extra strain on families that are already feeling the pressure of current cost-of-living crisis, forcing a good percentage to place their children into the already overstrained public schooling system.</p> <p>The long-term impact of this proposal will be a decrease in standards of education for the 1.4 million privately educated children. Also, a potential decrease in standards of education for any children in the public schooling system due to families that can no longer afford private schooling moving their children into the public system. Teachers are already pushed to their limits with low pay and high teacher:student ratio. Further pressure will see an increase in teacher strikes and union involvement. This is disruptive to a child's education and will affect their overall academic performance, which will in turn have a tremendous impact on the Australian economy in years to come.</p> <p>The notion that independently operated primary and secondary schools, childcare and aged care do not benefit all of society is very short sighted. The very crux of our society is based on and benefits from these organisations. Removing this will have devastating impacts on society as whole over the next 2 or 3 generations. If anything, more should be done to support these organisations.</p> <p>I recommend that DGR status should be extended to include the public schooling system. This would ease financial pressure on the government for the provision of facilities.</p> <p>My concern is for all Australians that would be affected by these changes. I ask you to seriously consider my point of view. It is absolutely necessary that these organisations retain their current status.</p>	
278-376	Ken Raikes	I write with concern regarding the draft recommendations regarding the Future Foundations for giving draft report.	21/01/2024

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		<p>I am a grandparent of children who attend private, non-government schools as also their parents, my own children did before them.</p> <p>Over the years I have contributed both by way of school fees, and additional donations to the school building funds, to the costs involved in running & maintaining such schools, which in turn has saved the government in providing alternative state-based education for these students.</p> <p>Parents of school-aged children today are particularly feeling the cost-of-living crisis as never before, and removing the tax benefits for donors like myself will undoubtedly flow through to increased school fees.</p> <p>I urge the government to reject the recommendations as, at best, shortsighted and, at worst an undercover attack on religion, and maintain the Deductible Giving Recipient (DGR) status of faith-based schools, and similar entities.</p>	
278-377	Andrew Dunlop	<p>It is with interest that I read the draft report.</p> <p>The recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) being scrapped, has raised serious concern with me. I have grandchildren attending a non-government Independent Christian School that clearly benefit from DGR status.</p> <p>Presently, there is much pressure on families due to the cost living and for this provision to be scrapped would only amplify the pressure already being experienced and would only drive-up school fees to make up for lost income.</p> <p>Should the Government implement this recommendation, it will force parents to send their children to the overcrowded public schools and this will definitely have a great impact on their learning and reduce them academically.</p> <p>Please take on my concerns as there would be other families impacted by this recommendation that will not help and only hinder moving forward.</p>	21/01/2024
278-378	Matthew Joyce	<p>I am writing in response to the proposed draft report with concern about the recommendation for the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) to be scrapped for non-government, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The provision of the DGR support for so many years, i.e since 1954 is really, I believe, a proof of Gods infinite goodness in provision to this nation.</p> <p>As a parent of children who attend an independent school, in a time where living costs are at a height never experienced before, I am worried, that the inevitable rise in school fees, if the DGR support is taken away from us, will have a negative impact on our children's education experience and academic potential. This</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>could mean we will be forced to put our children into the public schools which I understand are already overcrowded.</p> <p>Further to this, with over 90% of independent education in Australia being religion based, I feel deeply that this proposal is an attack on religion as a whole. We are predominantly a Christian country but have a great diversity of religions which, will they not all be affected by this proposal?</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, as I am sure there would be other families who will be affected by this proposal.</p> <p>May God provide wisdom to those who lead that their decisions will be governed by fundamental truths that have and will continue to benefit so many for so long.</p>	
278-379	Charlies Collins	<p>The draft report has come to my notice. Reading through the report I'm concerned with the intent to cancel the DGR status that is currently in place for non-government schools (primary, secondary, and childcare). This would also include other religious organizations.</p> <p>My prime concern is my grandchildren attend an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. Should the DRG status be cancelled it would mean that school fees would increase dramatically and therefore impact their households with the current cost of living as the school would not benefit from the giving of individuals or businesses who currently make donations.</p> <p>Should this change be passed by the Government our grandchildren would have to go to a government school which impact their learning and their future careers.</p> <p>The government needs to also consider that should this DGR status be removed, they will need to provide many new schools in all cities and towns of Australia.</p> <p>As a grandparent I ask that you would please consider my concern on behalf of my family and many other families that would be impacted.</p>	21/01/2024
278-380	Bradley Mauger	<p>I am making a submission regarding the proposed changes to recipients of DGR status outlined in the above-mentioned report.</p> <p>As a parent of children who are enrolled in one of the nearly 3000 independent schools in Australia, I am directly concerned about the impact that removing DGR status from our organisation may have on the many generous citizens that support the school facilities. Securing funding to provide and maintain facilities and services can be difficult and removing this incentive for donors will further add unnecessary load on independent school systems.</p> <p>While it is a privilege to be able to afford to send my child to an independent school, a privilege many Australians do not have, it is not without immense personal sacrifice. As a family we forfeit many personal</p>	21/01/2024

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		<p>pleasures simply so our children can get the best education possible, with the view to contributing to society with maximum impact later in life.</p> <p>A majority of children educated in private schools go on to become leaders in the Australian economy. The facilities to educate these children need to be of the highest standard in order for the country to be passed into the hands of a generation equipped with what is necessary to lead at the highest level.</p> <p>My concern is that support for schools by donation will decrease without DGR status incentive, thus forcing schools to increase fees and other income streams while cutting back on spending on facilities. This will put extra strain on families that are already feeling the pressure of current cost-of-living crisis, forcing a good percentage to place their children into the already overstrained public schooling system.</p> <p>The long-term impact of this proposal will be a decrease in standards of education for the 1.4 million privately educated children. Also, a potential decrease in standards of education for any children in the public schooling system due to families that can no longer afford private schooling moving their children into the public system. Teachers are already pushed to their limits with low pay and high teacher:student ratio. Further pressure will see an increase in teacher strikes and union involvement. This is disruptive to a child's education and will affect their overall academic performance, which will in turn have a tremendous impact on the Australian economy in years to come.</p> <p>The notion that independently operated primary and secondary schools, childcare and aged care do not benefit all of society is very short sighted. The very crux of our society is based on and benefits from these organisations. Removing this will have devastating impacts on society as whole over the next 2 or 3 generations. If anything, more should be done to support these organisations.</p> <p>I recommend that DGR status should be extended to include the public schooling system. This would ease financial pressure on the government for the provision of facilities.</p> <p>My concern is for all Australians that would be affected by these changes. I ask you to seriously consider my point of view. It is absolutely necessary that these organisations retain their current status.</p>	