

Dear Karen,

Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving'.

I trust this message finds you well. I have reviewed the draft report and would like to share my apprehensions regarding the recommendations related to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, specifically its potential removal for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.

As a concerned business owner and employer, these proposed changes deeply trouble me. I understand the importance of supporting various institutions, including independent schools, that benefit from DGR status. Our local independent school, for instance, relies on such support to maintain educational standards and provide a conducive learning environment for our children.

In an era where the cost of living is reaching unprecedented levels, I fear that scrapping DGR status for these organizations will exacerbate the financial burden on families. The likely reduction in donations due to the absence of tax benefits may force these institutions to increase fees, which would only compound the financial strain on parents already grappling with rising living costs.

The potential consequences hit close to home, as children from within my own area of care (My Wife and I are guardians and carers for under-privileged children), and family attend an independent school that greatly benefits from DGR status. If the government adopts this recommendation, it could compel families like ours to reconsider our options. Sending our children to an overcrowded local public school could adversely affect their learning experience and limit their academic potential.

I urge you to consider the broader impact of these recommendations on businesses, families, and rural communities. The proposed changes could have far-reaching consequences, and I believe it is crucial to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and supporting the essential institutions that contribute to the growth and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that, as a representative, you will consider the concerns of businesses and employers like myself in shaping policies that affect our communities.

Yours sincerely,

Kelvin Dowell