

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-054 to 278-103

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-054	Harvey Seeley	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report</p> <p>I have been researching and reading through the draft report on Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving'. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am deeply concerned in relation to the fact its proposing that the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a concern to me and my family as my children attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressures, 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>If Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overloaded local public school which will impact their learning experience and restrain their academic potential.</p> <p>I would appreciate if you could consider my concerns, I am sure there will be many impacted in a similar way.</p>	17/01/2024
278-055	Ron McAlpin	<p>Re: Productivity Commission</p> <p>I have read the report in draft form and have concerns about the recommended changes for deductible gift recipient status being scrapped for non-government primary, secondary schools, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>My grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. At a time when the cost of living is putting more pressure on households, to scrap the DGR will only put further pressure on household budgets</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>as school fees will rise to make up the lost income from reduced giving, which is driven by the tax benefits for business giving or individuals who donate to schools.</p> <p>The possibility of some religious charities eg: churches are of concern. Churches have enjoyed tax free status for many decades and so they should as they benefit the public. And would no doubt save government the costs that would evolve in social security benefits as churches aid persons in trouble socially.</p> <p>I submit this with a real desire that the recommendations are not taken up on these areas for the good of all persons.</p>	
278-056	Stephen Hansen	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	17/01/2024
278-057	Daryl McKay	<p>My note is in regards to the proposed The Future Foundations for Giving Report</p> <p>My children currently attend a private school that shares the same religious beliefs as my wife and I</p> <p>This school offers a level of protection from the filth of this world that my children do not need to know about yet in life.</p> <p>To cut the funding to private school would mean a big increase in school fees to a level that I would not be able to afford with the current cost of living pressures that we all are experiencing.</p> <p>I also see this as a direct attack on Christian values as the care for one and another stems from Christianity.</p> <p>My son has a major vision disability and the support he is given is second to none. When he was in a public school they really couldn't care he was just one of a number.</p> <p>If I was to send him back to a public school his level of education would drop a lot</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>I feel this bill to parliament should be overturned as a sham</p> <p>From a tax-paying concerned parent</p>	
278-058	Stella Hansen	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	17/01/2024
278-059	Greg Joyce	<p>RE: "FUTURE FOUNDATIONS OF GIVING" draft report from Productivity Commission</p> <p>After reading the above-mentioned draft report, I have become very concerned at the detrimental implications there could be on the future of our country and the young people coming up. There are some good and some bad, very short sighted things, take the recommendations to scrap the DGR status for religious organisations, as well as what runs along with them, the non-gov primary and secondary schools, child care, aged care etc.</p> <p>For some time past and even now with my grandchildren, we have sent them to an independent school. This school is very dependent on the DGR status for its continuance and advancement in view of giving the best chance for the oncoming generation. The learning environment is so important for the students as well as the ability to get and retain good teachers.</p> <p>Please do not take for granted the generous donations towards the things that are most likely to safeguard the future of Australia, religion and all that flows out of it, including education etc.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>Without the DGR status these donations would halve! This in turn would mean that the school can't afford to upgrade facilities, which in turn would mean students filling up the public schools, and apparently the government is finding it difficult to keep up with the numbers there!</p> <p>With the current financial climate, the horrifying cost of living crisis, it is making it increasingly difficult for young families as it stands. I would ask you, please be rational and Australian, consider my concerns and that of so many Australian right-minded people.</p>	
278-060	Clyde Mead	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>In the past few weeks, I read some news articles on this report which led me to reading the draft report. On completion of the report, I can see there are some findings and recommendations that have good merit, but my main concern is the recommendation to scrap the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As a parent of 2 secondary students that attend an independent School that benefits from DGR status, this is a huge concern to our family, with pressure already on us due to the burden of the large cost of living. Our fear is that the school will have no choice other than drive the school fees up to cover the lost income gap from reduced giving, due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If the Government were to take on the recommendations of the report our concern is that we will be forced to send our children to our local public school that is already overcrowded, which will affect their learning and suppress their potential.</p> <p>I thank you for taking your time to consider our concerns, I am sure there will be other families that will also be impacted.</p>	17/01/2024
278-061	Athol Fawkes	<p>In recent times, I have been made aware of some very important proposed changes relating to the "Future foundations for giving" in Government and have reviewed the draft report. The proposed changes have</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>significant implications and very little public collaboration with the general population seems to be taken into account.</p> <p>I am a parent with young children having just begun their education journey, and I'm concerned that if the government goes along with the Productivity Commission's intention, it will discourage donations from businesses and religious bodies, and therefore the reduce the standard of education.</p> <p>The education of Australia's children is our future, it is extremely important! We cannot risk any changes to the provision of it. The public school system would bear the brunt of any decrease in support for private school.</p> <p>Whilst I'm am not a religious person, I am also concerned about the effects on religious entities. The community relies on input from religious entities to support schools and other charity causes. Australia is constitutionally a Christian country which has resulted in the most successful and effective multicultural and diverse country in the world.</p> <p>I understand decisions are complex, but I hope you consider how these changes might affect families and our school community. As the father of a young family, I am currently faced financial challenges that I have never had to go through before. An increase in school fees would make things even tougher.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to listen to these concerns.</p>	
278-062	Craig Dowell	<p>RE: Draft report from the Productivity Commission titled 'Future Foundations for Giving</p> <p>I hope this submission finds you well.</p> <p>I am reaching out to you regarding the recently released draft report from the Productivity Commission titled 'Future Foundations for Giving.'</p> <p>I have thoroughly reviewed the draft report and found it to be quite intriguing. While it contains commendable findings and recommendations, there is a matter of great concern that I feel compelled to address.</p> <p>My apprehension centres around the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. Although there are positive aspects to the recommendations, the potential consequences of scrapping DGR status for these entities raise significant alarms.</p> <p>This issue hits close to home for me as my children are enrolled in an independent school that greatly benefits from its DGR status. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the prospect of increased school fees looms large if the income from reduced giving, coupled with the absence of tax benefits for donors, is not adequately addressed.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>I am genuinely concerned that, should the government adopt this recommendation, our family and others in similar situations will be compelled to send our children to local public schools. This decision, in turn, could have a detrimental impact on their learning experiences and potentially hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I am also a business owner looking to build a business so in the future I can become a donor to these important educational facilities which will in turn help school fees be more affordable for families like mine.</p> <p>I implore you to carefully consider these concerns, as I am confident that our family is not alone in facing these challenges.</p> <p>Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, and I trust that you will advocate for a fair and balanced resolution that considers the well-being of families and the broader community.</p>	
278-063	Jon and Rene Hungerford	<p>My wife and I write with concern regarding some points in the recently released draft report from the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving', specifically the recommendations that deductible gift recipient (DGR) status be removed for non-government schools and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As parents of a 10-year-old child we made the decision 2 years ago to remove our child from the public schooling system and enrol them in an independent school. This wasn't an easy move and required considerable personal sacrifice to fund the increased cost, however we both strongly felt we had no other option as our child was completing his 3rd year of schooling in the public system and was suffering from declining academic performance and poor mental health from consistent bullying, often related to our religious beliefs.</p> <p>To be clear, we don't hold anything against the teachers or principal at the public school he attended, however the overcrowded nature of the classrooms means the teachers are very stretched and can only focus on the most vocal or those most in need, and "middle of the road" students' needs and wellbeing are routinely overlooked.</p> <p>Our move was vindicated and 2 years into private education our child has never been happier and healthier when attending school. His grades have significantly improved, and school is an enjoyable experience for him, which is the way it should be.</p> <p>However, we feel our child's wellbeing and academic potential is at risk with these proposed changes in the Productivity Commission's draft report. The independent school he attends benefits from DGR status and if this was removed the school would be forced to increase their fees considerably to make up the lost income.</p> <p>We're in a time when cost of living pressures are already bordering on unsustainable for a lot of households, and we feel that for us personally this would cause significant financial stress or even force us to move our child back to the public school system with the risk that entails.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>We feel that the proposals mentioned earlier are an attack on religion in general and our personal freedoms in relation to the schooling and upbringing of our families. If all other schooling options are unaffordable for most then they aren't really options at all. We respectfully urge you to consider our concerns and those of others affected.</p>	
278-064	Andrew Gooden	<p>Re Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' report</p> <p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>I have observed progress of this proposal and as a grandparent of several school aged children in several states of Australia, my wife and I are acutely concerned.</p> <p>For decades, our children have been (and now our grandchildren are) attending religious-based non government primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>This deliberate 'Aussie' choice has been taken to provide them with the best possible education and grounding for responsible citizenry and productive community adulthood.</p> <p>It has come at significant personal financial cost.</p> <p>The ability provided by the well established DGR system has enabled improvements at the various schools from my various businesses over many years.</p> <p>These improvements have enhanced their educational environment as well as contributed to a sense of our charitable purpose, because I operate small, cohesive, inclusive family businesses.</p> <p>I would like my sons and daughters to continue this philanthropy in turn, through their own small businesses. If DGR giving is restricted, and with the current cost of living pressures, this will be threatened. This loss would be manifold, across educational outcomes, community spirit, employee engagement and general 'Aussie' values that make this country so great.</p> <p>It also appears that this is an attack on religion, because private or independent education is mainly provided by religious organisations. This is an outrage and unthinkable.</p>	17/01/2024
278-065	Mary Thomas	<p>I am writing to you to encourage continued support for philanthropic giving by providing tax deductions for Special Religious Education in schools.</p> <p>As a nation, we are reacting to declining number of volunteers, wholeness in family units and children growing up without the security, foundation and belonging that comes from learning from the Bible and its primary message to love God and love our neighbour.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>Philanthropic giving to support special religious education workers, are a huge anchor in the life of children by giving them truth from the Bible as they face the challenges of change while growing up and face life with its ups and downs. These truths help to mould a young life into a productive contributors to society. I have heard testimonies of students who go onto teach SRE in a St George area as they found they were impacted for good by their SRE teacher.</p> <p>The role of a scripture teacher provides care, friendship, belonging and wisdom while a student faces a number of teachers and changing social dynamics in a school.</p> <p>Scripture and its lessons also gathers students to consider the big questions in life and sets them on a good foundation for good values about identity, career, finance and being a part of community.</p> <p>A quick change to tax decuctions may provide short term credit to the government budget but the long term deterioration of character and good citizenship can be costly and irreplaceable. I would request that instead of focusing on spending large amounts for medical help, support for alcoholism, drug abuse and broken relationships, continuing the tax deductions for supporting SRE will go a long way in building our students and young people to live productive and responsible lives.</p> <p>Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts. I hope and pray that this will not be deceived by the claims for 'modernity' to discourage SRE funding in schools, when the foundations provided through SRE are time-tested programs that help to build the character of our young people. Kindly uphold the wonderful reputation that Australians have for being generous givers by continuing to provide tax benefits. May you be blessed by Almighty God for serving the nation and continuing to encourage policy that teaches care for vulnerable people and for the well being of our whole society.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	
278-066	Jim Strange	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>I have reviewed the draft report.</p> <p>As a grandparent I am very concerned about the recommendation to scrap DGRs for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>My parents and grandparents worked hard for my education and myself and my grandchildren's parents are doing the same. The removal of the deductible gift recipient status will cause a decrease in the quality of facilities and a decline in our future generation's education experience and academic potential.</p> <p>With the lack of tax benefit and thus the reduced incentivization to give I can see an increase in the school fees which will majorly impact considering many households are under pressure with the cost of living not experienced to date. These increases could mean our grandchildren will need to go into the public school system.</p> <p>It seems to me that this recommendation is move against religion as a majority of private or independent education and aged care is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I trust the government will consider my concern and not adopt this recommendation.</p>	
278-067	James Ovenden	<p>I write to you with great concern that the report may have missed the effectiveness of the DGR status to privately run schools, childcare, aged care and community organizations.</p> <p>As found in your report largely tax payers who invest in these organizations are persons of mid to high income. These persons have purpose and have obviously proved their effectiveness in results of monetary income, they invest in our future with the desire to give back to the things that they respect and have made them able to do so.</p> <p>To remove the DGR status for independent schools would be a disaster, I along with many others would face increased financial burden as the school increased fees to cover the short fall in DGR giving.</p> <p>Should the Government endorse this strategy to remove DGR Status from independent schools, we fear we will be forced to send our children to the public sector and we do not believe it will sustain the extra load.</p> <p>Please take my concerns seriously as a father it is hard to express the impact it will have on my family and if we can survive the additional pressure the recommended changes would cause.</p>	17/01/2024
278-068	Shayne & Breeana Lewis	<p>After reading the draft report I believe there is some valuable findings and recommendations however, I am concerned about the recommendation for the scrapping of the DGR status for nongovernment schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As I plan to enrol my children in an independent school that benefits from DGR status, I feel that if this status is scrapped it will mean a major increase in fees to offset the lost income from reduced giving because of the lack of tax benefit for people and businesses that are able to donate to the school. At a time where interest rates</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>rises and cost of living is creating immense pressure on most households, an increase in school fees will only inflame the pressures and likely have an adverse impact on mental health and family stability.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation I am concerned that we will have no option but to send our children to our local public school which will have a vast impact on their learning and indeed life experience. I hope you will listen to these concerns as I am sure there will be many families impacted by this recommendation.</p>	
278-069	Alastair Millott	<p>After reading the draft report I believe there is some valuable findings and recommendations however, I am concerned about the recommendation for the scrapping of the DGR status for nongovernment schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As I plan to enrol my children in an independent school that benefits from DGR status, I feel that if this status is scrapped it will mean a major increase in fees to offset the lost income from reduced giving because of the lack of tax benefit for people and businesses that are able to donate to the school. At a time where interest rates rises and cost of living is creating immense pressure on most households, an increase in school fees will only inflame the pressures and likely have an adverse impact on mental health and family stability.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation I am concerned that we will have no option but to send our children to our local public school which will have a vast impact on their learning and indeed life experience. I hope you will listen to these concerns as I am sure there will be many families impacted by this recommendation.</p>	17/01/2024
278-070	Ian Joyce	<p>I am a parent of children currently attending a non-government school and I note with considerable concern the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment secondary schools.</p> <p>As a family, we are experiencing cost of living expenses beyond anything previously experienced and fear that should the DGR status be removed from our children's school, the school fees will be increased beyond a level that we can afford.</p> <p>This will force us to enrol our children in a local public school that is already overcrowded, thus jeopardizing their academic results and ensuring a future whereby their true career potential cannot be realised. Whilst we agree that many of the recommendations within the report will be of benefit to the community, we would respectfully urge you to scrap the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed from non-government schools.</p>	17/01/2024

278-071	Tim Joyce	<p>Looking at the news regarding this recommendation that deductible gift recipient status should be scrapped for private schools etc, I am very concerned that this is seriously erroneous. This proposal would not only put major extra pressure on the public system, but would also result in a wholesale reduction in private investment into schooling and care systems by individuals who currently generously give to these causes.</p> <p>No doubt this would ultimately also result in a decline in the overall quality of education across the board of our Australian children, and the quality of care for our aged population.</p> <p>This proposal needs to be scrapped as it clearly works against the fabric of our country's proud heritage of support and care for our youth and our elders</p>	17/01/2024
278-072	Nigel Millott	<p>It with some concern that I am writing in regard to the proposed changes to the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. I have read the draft report and whilst some of the recommendations seem good, I'm worried these changes have the potential to devastate non-government schools which have enjoyed DGR support since for over 70 years! DGR support encourages donations for building infrastructure in schools and is aimed at supporting the education of future generations.</p> <p>Im a wage earner and have three children that attend a local independent school that benefits from DGR status. The current economic climate with higher interest rates and increase in living costs mean we are feel the cost of living like never before. Its my fear that, schools fees too will</p> <p>get a massive hike if to cover the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If the governments adopt the recommendation, I have no doubt we will be forced to send our children to the already over-full local public school which will in turn impact their learning and academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to consider my concerns, the proposed recommendations have potential to impact many 1000's of other families in the same way as I have mentioned.</p>	17/01/2024
278-073	David Faulkes	<p>I write as a concerned First Nations Dharug parent and grandparent and small business owner in relation to the Productivity Commission's 'Future Foundations for Giving' report, specifically in relation to its repercussions on private or independent educational institutions.</p> <p>The proposal to remove tax-deductible status for charitable donations to school building funds, as outlined in the recommendations, is a matter of significant concern.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>This will impact substantially on the capacity of privately owned educational facilities to undertake essential building upgrade works. These projects not only enhance the learning environment for our children but also relieve the pressure on public schools.</p> <p>I also perceive this as an indirect attack on the charitable and religious organizations that provide a significant portion of private or independent education. The majority of these institutions operate under the umbrella of religious bodies, and any negative financial implications will compromise their ability to deliver quality education.</p> <p>Considering these potential outcomes, we may be forced to reconsider our educational choices and transition our children into local public schools. However, we all know that that these public schools are already grappling with issues of overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, which would further compromise the quality of education for our children.</p> <p>As a practical example, it was recently my privilege to donate to the Rawa Indigenous School in the Pilbara region. The prospect of anything interfering with my ability to continue these contributions is a matter of serious concern for me. The positive impact that such contributions can make, especially in supporting educational infrastructure for Indigenous communities, is immeasurable.</p> <p>The Pilbara region has unique needs, and the ability to provide construction materials directly to Indigenous schools has proven to be an effective means of support. I understand the importance of regulatory frameworks, but I would like to bring to your attention the potential unintended consequences on grassroots charitable efforts such as mine. Any measures that might hinder or complicate these contributions could have lasting effects on the communities that benefit from such initiatives.</p> <p>I sincerely urge you to consider the broader implications of the recommendations in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' report, particularly in the context of their potential effects on families, and the quality of education provided to our children.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to any insights you can provide and hope for a positive resolution that prioritizes the well-being and educational prospects of our children.</p>	
278-074	David Steele	<p>I have been through the draft report and am concerned about the recommendation for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a big concern for me as all of my children, and now my grandchildren, attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The cancelling of this will have the effect of donations being reduced due to loss of tax benefits for businesses or individuals, which will mean increased school fees to make up the difference. This will be a disaster as many families are pressed to breaking point, at the moment, due to increased living costs.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>As you would know, charitable purpose has been around since 1954 and was introduced to encourage these donations for infrastructure etc.</p> <p>The ultimate outcome of a move like this is that more families will be forced to send their children to public schools which are already under pressure anyway. This would be a massive back wards step for both learning experiences and the future development of our children academically.</p> <p>I would ask you to seriously take note of my concerns as this will have a far-reaching effect on a lot of families</p>	
278-075	Peter Arkcoll	<p>The compilation of the report and the extensive research that has been undertaken is a credit to the Commission.</p> <p>It is also notable there is theme of positive advancement evident throughout the report to expand choice for charitable giving, and increase alignment with donor preferences.</p> <p>What is alarming is that a substantial segment of donors in Australia giving to educational and religious DGR organisations will be deprived of the tax system incentive under the recommendations of this report.</p> <p>This is directly opposed to the apparent intent and desired outcomes to provide policy that is fairer and more relevant to all Australians.</p> <p>Parents opting to send their children to independent schools is on the rise, as families are seeking increased quality of education for the next generation coming up the ranks. Non-public education institutions have been integral to the provision of quality education that is fundamental to the security and fabric of Australian society which has been recognised and supported by the Australian Government for 50 years with the provision of DGR status. Some 35% of our children educated in non-public institutions, would contribute substantially to the great rise of young talent for leadership, economic, and creative opportunities in all areas of society and enterprise.</p> <p>It would be a massive backward step for the Government to withdraw the DGR status of independent school entities. The ability of ordinary Australians to access education of choice will be jeopardised as fees increase due to the impact of this reports proposal.</p> <p>My children have progressed through the independent schooling system, and it would be my wish that our grandchildren too will have the same benefits in years to come, and I am sure many other responsible, concerned Australian parents would join me in this wish.</p> <p>I would be greatly relieved if these concerns could be considered and provided for.</p>	17/01/2024

278-076	Anthony Firth	<p>I write from a concerned citizens viewpoint of the draft report mentioned above. I have reviewed the draft and while there are positive findings and recommendations, it is of great concern that DGR status will be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare and other organisations of religious background.</p> <p>Members of my extended family are enrolled in an independent school that benefits from DGR status, which means that should this be implemented, school fees will be driven up to account from loss of income from businesses or individuals being able to donate to the school – impacting citizens in our community already experiencing an unprecedented, increased cost of living pressure.</p> <p>Should Government proceed with adopting this recommendation, a large proportion of this community will be forced to send our children to overcrowded local public schools, impacting their learning experience and academic achievement. Additionally, many local family businesses relying on school building extensions and upgrades for income, will experience hardship.</p> <p>I honestly feel that this recommendation is an attack on the freedom of religion as the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Please take account of my concerns as I am convinced that the impact of this will be widespread.</p>	17/01/2024
278-077	Kevin Dunlop	<p>Your draft Productivity Commission Report has been brought to my attention as being a regular donor to DGRs. Whilst there are some needed changes, I am concerned about changing the DGR status for non-government schools. This status was established nearly 70 years ago, and you are recommending withdrawing something that is established in the culture of this country.</p> <p>It appears that the recommendation is to withdraw school building funds DGR status and replace with DGR status for animal welfare amongst other charitable objects. Whilst animal welfare has a place, aren't our children, the hope of the nation, more important?</p> <p>I am particularly concerned as my grandchildren attend independent schools that could not maintain the excellent learning and teaching atmosphere they now provide, without this assistance.</p> <p>With increased school fees, that this move will bring, along with the increased pressures from interest and living costs, private education will become unsustainable. Children will be going back to the government system, where only the most highly intelligent achieve their academic potential.</p> <p>I look to you to consider these concerns which are no doubt the concerns of all parents of children attending non-government schools.</p>	17/01/2024

278-078	Anthony Best	<p>After reading the Future Foundations for Giving draft report, I fully support the statement of “philanthropic giving underpins the crucial efforts of charities, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to support vulnerable Australians and build social capital and connectedness in Australian communities.”</p> <p>Overall, there is positive comments and suggestions for improvement in the review of philanthropic giving within Australia.</p> <p>However, as a father of three school age children who attend a private school which relies on generous giving from philanthropic donors, I am very, very worried about the suggestion that donors to private schools and other religious (or non-religious) private organisations may have the deductible nature of their donation removed as part of the suggested reform.</p> <p>I do not wish for my children to attend a government provided school in our regional area, which is the subject of multiple reports of violence, drugs, regular police intervention and overcrowding of classes, meaning an environment where our children may not be able to reach their full potential to learn, excel and return to the local economy in the future.</p> <p>If the DGR status is removed, we will be forced to pay increased school fees, which we would not be able to afford at the current time with the current cost of living pressure we are currently noticing on a day-to-day basis. Our children, (and I'm sure there are many families in our situation) would be forced to attend the already overcrowded public high school, (of which there is only one) in our regional city. We rely on the generous donations of local businesses and families to enable our children to attend an independent school.</p> <p>The government must recognise that independent schools and other religious organisations contribute without bias far more to local society than appreciated. The removal of DGR status in our area would be at tremendous cost to the local community and would also have negative impact to government-run institutions, which rely on the support from many of these not-for-profit organisations.</p> <p>We regularly see religious and independent organisations in our community feeding the homeless, providing support, care and compassion to those in greater need than ourselves. We are very thankful for their support.</p> <p>In Australia, we work together, for everyone. Please consider our concerns as a small family, and we trust that this letter may be considered seriously</p>	17/01/2024
278-079	Daniel Lindsay	<p>I have read the draft report with initial interest and am now genuinely alarmed as to the impacts of such recommendations on the nation.</p> <p>As is widely acknowledged, the public schools are overcrowded, the schools are struggling with teacher shortages, the quality of education is being degraded and student absenteeism is increasing.</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>Non-government schools play a major role in the education sector of Australia’s children and the proposed changes have the potential to devastate this in ways that are unprecedented.</p> <p>The Prime Minister acknowledges that cost-of-living is the biggest issue that Australia faces, but these recommendations will adversely affect 100,000’s of households through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inflationary policy – the proposed changes will force significant increase in the cost of schooling which will in turn drive inflation up in a vicious cycle. - Increased school fees – the increased cost of schooling will have to be passed on to the households and will directly affect families already struggling with cost of living. - Increased fees will force children into already overcrowded schools, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Greater burden on the government education budget o Lower academic outcomes resulting in lower incomes earnt o Increased burden on government social welfare services such as centrelink o Lower incomes linked to increase in crime and the cycle continues to spiral downwards <p>In addition to this, we have an immigration boom that will add further pressure to an education system that is already at breaking point.</p> <p>Education is the foundation of society and the proposed changes to defund the non-government schools would seriously and adversely impact every Australian.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns genuinely.</p>	
278-080	Junior Samuel	<p>I have read this report and whilst I find some of it good, the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations has left myself and my family deeply concerned!</p> <p>Many of us freely enjoy religion in this country, and I feel that this report is a direct attack against it, as a majority of private and independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>This proposal, if implemented, will greatly affect my family and I’m sure countless others. Please put yourself in our shoes and consider my concerns as if they were to apply to your own circumstances.</p> <p>My main worries are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. 	17/01/2024

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a married parent with a single working income, I have never experienced the cost-of-living pressures that we are currently facing! If the DGR status is removed, the school fees will increase drastically and add to this burden. ➤ The current lack of tax benefit for donations from local businesses and individuals, makes the DGR status critical to the furtherance of affordable private schooling! ➤ One of the “charitable exclusions” proposed is removing the tax-deductable status for school building funds. This has existed since 1954! Why stop it now? Continued improvements are essential for teaching the next generations of young Australians! This also creates work for local businesses and thus improves the whole economy. ➤ Forcing 1.4 million students (35% of total student population) into the public system will cost the federal government a lot more money than the small amount they will save by implementing this status. The public system is clearly already overcrowded and as parents, we feel that placing our children there would be detrimental to their learning and development. The lack of financial gain for the govt also supports my feelings that this is a direct attack on Christianity. <p>I understand your time is valuable and appreciate you reading and considering these concerns.</p>	
278-081	Jeremy Williams	<p>Whilst reading the draft report I have been very concerned about some of the recommendations put forward – namely for deductible gift recipient status (DGR) to be removed for non-government primary, secondary and other religious organisation.</p> <p>My children are about to attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The pressure of the increased cost of living is being felt intensely by all, especially in young families such as mine, and we are anxious that our school fees will be caused to increase significantly to make up for income that will be lost due to reduced giving by businesses and other entities, brought about by losing DGR status, as there will be less benefit for such to contribute.</p> <p>A significant increase in school fees will result in us having to send our children to our zoned local public school, which in our area is already bursting at the seams – something that will no doubt have an impact on the quality of learning for our children – this concern has been shared by other young families in my area that are facing similar situations.</p> <p>I also find it alarming that in a country where freedom of religion has been fostered in general, that such an attack on religion is being considered – as in my view it amounts to such, since the majority of independent/private schools are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I would urge you to consider my concerns, that are no doubt shared by many others in this country currently.</p>	17/01/2024

278-082	Terrence Mann	<p>After reviewing the preliminary report, I found it to be quite engaging. Although it contains several valuable insights and suggestions, I have reservations about the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>My children are enrolled in an independent school that benefits from DGR status, so as you can appreciate any recommendation which would reduce donations and in turn increase school fees, is a great concern. This would add to the unprecedented cost of living challenges we are already facing in regional Australia.</p> <p>As a parent that has strived to provide the best for the next generation, I worry that should the Government adopt this recommendation we will be forced to return my children to the over-crowded local public school. Doing this would be certain to cause mental anxiety and a feeling of failure.</p> <p>I trust you will consider my concern and the negative impacts this recommendation (if adopted) would have on many regional families.</p>	17/01/2024
278-083	Jeremy Teiffel	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned parent deeply invested in the education and well-being of our future generations, I felt compelled to express my apprehensions regarding the draft recommendations outlined in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' report. These proposals, particularly those related to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status and the potential repercussions on our educational institutions, have raised significant concerns within the community.</p> <p>First and foremost, I am troubled by the suggestion to scrap DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. If these recommendations are adopted, it is clear that our school fees will inevitably rise. This added financial burden on families is especially concerning, given the current economic challenges many households are already facing. The increased fees may hinder access to quality education for some families and could force parents to reconsider their children's educational paths.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed changes may severely impact our schools' ability to undertake essential building extension and upgrade works. These projects not only contribute to the improvement of educational facilities but also support numerous small family businesses in our local area. A reduction in giving due to the loss of tax benefits for donors may lead to a decline in the overall quality of education and the learning environment our children deserve.</p> <p>As a community member, I am deeply troubled by the potential consequences of these recommendations. The majority of private or independent education in our region is provided by religious organizations. I perceive these</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>proposals as an unwarranted attack on the values and principles that guide our educational institutions, which have long played a vital role in shaping the character and values of our youth.</p> <p>Additionally, the idea that these changes could force families to enrol their children in already overcrowded public schools is disconcerting. Overcrowded classrooms may compromise the quality of education our children receive, impacting their academic potential and overall well-being.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge the Productivity Commission to reconsider these recommendations with a thorough understanding of the far-reaching implications they may have on families, businesses, and the overall educational landscape. I appreciate your dedication to fostering a vibrant philanthropic environment and trust that you will carefully weigh the potential consequences of these proposed changes.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
278-084	Ross Devenish	<p>I have read the draft report, & I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary & secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My concerns are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel this is an attack on religion, as the vast majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations; • That school fees will increase, due to reduced government, business & individual support, at a time when cost-of-living is at an all-time high; • If the higher school fees become unsustainable, we will be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded & under-resourced local government schools, thus negatively impacting our children's learning experience & academic potential. <p>Please consider my concerns, for the good of all young families.</p>	17/01/2024
278-085	James Monks	<p>I have read the available information on this topic and found it interesting.</p> <p>I have concerns around the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be discontinued for non-government schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have grandchildren that will be affected by such changes and am genuinely concerned that a change to donations will impact on the quality of their education. The proposed changes to an important part of funding for</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>non-government schools will, in my opinion, result in two outcomes. Firstly any capital works/improved facility upgrades will be curtailed, and secondly fees will be increased.</p> <p>Combine the above situation of increased fees with increased cost of living pressures on parents and the effects will be widespread. This will likely impact on many families and will force many to return to the government provided schooling system. All the government schools in my area are already struggling with overcrowding and don't have sufficient capacity for an influx of enrolments. Surely this will be costly to address for the government and would have thought a 'false economy' rather than leaving the DGR status as it currently is. I do urge those responsible in further considering the proposed changes to think seriously about the impact this will bring on many students lives and the decline in learning experience and academic achievements.</p> <p>It would be greatly appreciated if the concerns raised could be seriously considered as the impact will be widespread and significant if the proposed changes are implemented.</p>	
278-086	Joel	<p>I wish to write regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>I have read the draft report a few times now and was alarmed to read about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. For those of us with family currently attending independent schooling that current benefit from DGR status– it comes as a huge shock with the already climbing cost of living such as we have never seen, the last thing we need is climbing school fees!</p> <p>The benefits received have often assisted with upgrades and/or extensions to improve the learning environment for our Children. I am very concerned that the donations from businesses and individuals will be greatly reduced due to the lack of tax benefit -this will not only directly impact the academic potential of the children that attend but will force our children into already overcrowded public learning systems. Furthermore, the works carried out on these premises are often done by local businesses, they also will be affected.</p> <p>I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my concerns, I'm sure there will be thousands of families directly affected.</p>	17/01/2024
278-087	Daniel Hungerford	<p>I have read with great interest the "Future Foundations for Giving" draft report by the Productivity Commission. While I see some good recommendations, I am concerned about the proposals to cut or eliminate the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary and secondary schooling, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, and the removal of such status would likely lead to an increase in school fees to cover the lost contributions from individuals and corporations</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>supporting these causes in the community. If the government were to implement this recommendation, educational organizations would have to seek funding through other means, potentially resulting in higher school fees. This comes at a time of increasing tightening of household budgets, making it difficult to sustain our shared contribution to our children's education. This could force us to move our children to the government schooling system, adding strain to the already struggling public school system.</p> <p>The proposed restrictions on schooling (as well as childcare, aged care, and religious organizations) would impede capital expenditure within these entities, affecting community businesses that support them, such as builders, plumbers, and tradespeople.</p> <p>I trust that you will consider the listed concerns, as these issues are likely to impact many families across the country.</p>	
278-088	William Dowell	<p>I would like to make a submission regarding the Future Foundations for Giving draft report. I note with concern the recommendation to remove DGR Status from school building funds or to religious education provisions in government schools (Figure 6 in the Overview).</p> <p>School building funds have long been an excellent way for business donors to ensure their charitable donations don't end up being diverted into frivolous causes, or frittered away in administration costs.</p> <p>These projects provide facilities such as gyms, science and manual arts facilities, and sporting areas that greatly enhance the learning experience of student.</p> <p>I am also concerned of the bias in the report towards advocacy and prevention, and animal welfare charities. While these are in many cases worthy causes, the education of our children should take precedence.</p> <p>Education is a traditional and long respected charitable cause, and Australians should not be subject to influence by the government of the day as to where they donate their own money.</p> <p>Given the already high school fees private schools need to charge just to cover costs, by removing the DGR Status, fees will need to rise, further impacting the cost of living on households like mine.</p> <p>On a further point, providing religious education (or advancing religion as the report likes to call it) to school children, and indeed all mankind, is more important than ever, given the continuing erosion of morals in our many parts of our society.</p>	17/01/2024
278-089	Nathan Baker	<p>I am writing to you in response to the "Future foundations for giving" draft report. Of particular concern is the recommendation to strip non-government education and religious organisations of their deductible gift recipient status. Many private schools rely on funding from businesses and other organisations who have taken advantage of the deductible gift recipient status for 70 years. If the government implements this</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>recommendation, this will cause great upheaval for private schools as many income sources will reduce. Private schools will be forced to make a decision to hike school fees, putting additional pressure on hardworking Australian families, or have insufficient funding to maintain their facilities.</p> <p>Like many Australian families who have young children about to enter their schooling years, I am very concerned that my child is able to attend a school that represents the values I have grown up with and wish to instil into my child. After careful consideration, we identified that the best school that aligns with our values is a local private school, and we have been making sacrifices now in order to build up sufficient funds to pay for school fees. With high inflation driving up cost of living, this places enormous stress and financial pressure on our family.</p> <p>If many families like ours become unable to afford a private school and have to send children into the public school system, this will place increased pressure on already overcrowded public schools which can only have a detrimental impact on the children.</p> <p>The ripple-effect of this decision on the economy cannot be understated. Many customers at the company I am employed at are tradies who rely on the local private schools for ongoing construction work. As private school funding diminishes, this will reduce the work these tradies have and will have a direct negative impact on them and their families.</p> <p>Many private schools are faith-based institutions, integral to the diverse education system we enjoy. The changes proposed will disproportionately affect these institutions and will effectively be an attack on religion.</p> <p>I would urge you to consider the consequences that such a major change in policy will have on the education system we have, and advocate for these recommendations to be rejected.</p>	
278-090	Ashley Brewer	<p>I am writing to you with deep concern after reviewing the Productivity Commission's draft Future foundations for giving report.</p> <p>While I appreciate the positive findings and recommendations in the draft report, I am profoundly worried about the suggestion to eliminate deductible gift recipient status for non-government primary, secondary, aged care, childcare, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This recommendation is particularly distressing for me as my children attend an independent school that greatly relies on DGR status. In the current climate of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the thought of scrapping DGR status raises serious concerns as it will undoubtedly cause the escalation of school fees, driven by a decrease in giving without the accompanying tax benefit for businesses or individuals. If the government adopts this recommendation, families like mine will be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded public</p>	17/01/2024

		<p>schools. Such a shift would undoubtedly impact their learning experience and, more distressingly, hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>The majority of independent education in Australia is provided by religious organisations. Organisations that care about the development of the youth, that care about the marginal, care about the disadvantaged, and often reach areas that government can't. It seems it's just an attack on religion.</p> <p>I implore you to consider these heartfelt concerns as you deliberate on the recommendations in the report. I genuinely believe that our family won't be the only one affected by the potential consequences of this decision.</p>	
278-091	Jerry Wibberley	<p>I am writing to express my deep concerns about the potential impact of the Productivity Commission's draft report, 'Future Foundations for Giving,' particularly on private or independent schools. As a parent with children attending one such institution, I want to highlight the potential consequences that adopting these recommendations may have on our community.</p> <p>The proposed changes could force us to reconsider our children's education, potentially leading us to enroll them in local public schools, which, as I understand, are already grappling with issues of overcrowding. My concerns extend beyond the financial burden on families to the potential adverse effects on the quality of education our children receive. The decline in the overall educational experience could hinder their ability to learn in a conducive environment, ultimately impacting their academic potential.</p> <p>Additionally, I fear that these policy changes may be perceived as a lack of governmental support for faith-values-based education, which plays a crucial role in our diverse educational landscape. Such a perception could undermine the contributions of religious organizations to our society and further strain the overall educational system.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider the broader implications of these recommendations on Australian families. Your attention to these concerns is greatly appreciated, and I trust that you advocate for the dismissal of the recommendations that will have a negative impact on these institutions to preserve the vitality of educational institutions and the choices available to families.</p>	18/01/2024
278-092	Marshall Crick	<p>It has come to my attention, and I have read the draft report with keen interest. Whilst there are some positive findings and good recommendations in this report, as a parent and donor, I am concerned about the proposed change and recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious and charitable organisations.</p> <p>This is of extreme and particular concern to me as my children have attended an independent school that benefits from DGR status. This concerns me greatly, as currently all are experiencing cost of living pressure that</p>	18/01/2024

		<p>has never been felt at this magnitude before, and I fear that future school fees would only be further driven up, to make up the lost income from any reduced giving, driven by the planned regrettable lack of taxable benefit for businesses or individuals, that are currently able to donate to schools.</p> <p>It is of great concern, that if the Government adopts this recommendation, we will end up having no option than being forced to send children or grandchildren like mine, to overcrowded local public schools, which will greatly impact their learning experience and stifle academic potential.</p> <p>I request you to please consider my concerns, as I am sure our extended family will not be the only ones impacted by this decision.</p>	
278-093	Joseph Crisp	<p>I have had a good read of the report, and I must admit I am very concerned about the deductible gift recipient status being scrapped for non-government schools and also aged care and religious organisations.</p> <p>I have spoken with friends and family widely and I can confirm that there is a common concern that if this was to proceed then</p> <p>a) Cost of living is only going to increase at a time when they are extremely high. The tax benefit from donations means giving will largely dry up I assume.</p> <p>b) We would have to send our children to the local public school which I happen to know would not be good for stretching them academically or good for the mental and moral health.</p> <p>I feel this suggestion really tears at the fabric that has helped build up Australia to be this great country we all enjoy.</p> <p>On behalf of many friends and family I trust my concerns will be fairly considered.</p>	18/01/2024
278-094	Roger Bulloch and all family members	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I'm 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 attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing high cost of living pressure, like we've 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 the businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p>	18/01/2024

		Please urgently consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.	
278-095	Alan Gray	As a Christian and having been blessed by the teaching of SRE while in school (as were my children) I am so thankful for the positive impact it had and continues to have on young lives. The message of Christianity to love one another, look after the less fortunate and be generous are all great life lessons that we need more of in our society. I willing give money and time to this and value the tax deductibility (DGR status) of this. Keeping the DGR status for SRE (and school building funds) are important for the continued valuable contributions that faith communities make to our society.	18/01/2024
278-096	Nigel Grimshaw	<p>As a parent and fellow Australian, I write today with great concern and make the following submission.</p> <p>After reading the above-mentioned draft report, dated November 2023. I acknowledge there is some relevant findings and suggestions that are good, however the crux of the draft report is radical to say the least and the impact this will have on private organisations and many children, including my own if the Government chooses to adopt these changes.</p> <p>Areas of concern are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed scrapping of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) for non-government sectors such as aged care, childcare, private schooling, and further religious organisations. • Financial impact this proposes to many families, as country is going through one of most challenging cost of living crisis it has faced. • Proposed reduced giving due to the lack of tax benefits for business and individuals to contribute or donate to my child's school will simply point to "hiked" school fees and cost of education. • The ability to give the best education to many children, including my own at an independent or private school in Australia will become burdensome and force many parents to go back to congested public schools and starve a student's higher academic results and potential. <p>I'm sure we're not the only concerned parents in Australia that have read this report and feel the same way and understand the proposed changes will impact for many years to come.</p>	18/01/2024

		Please consider my concerns, for the past 70 years we've strived to ensure the future of this country, our children, are well educated and not physically and mentally impacted by the decisions of this nature.	
278-097	John Steen	<p>Re: Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for Giving' Draft Report</p> <p>Having carefully reviewed the draft report, I find some reasonable findings and recommendations. However, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to remove Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>It is particularly troubling to me that the government would target such institutions. Such a move could significantly and, likely catastrophically, impact them. Consequently, the government would be left to bear the entire burden of education costs for students currently enrolled in the private schooling system. The government would need to allocate considerably more funds to educate these "extra" students than the relatively small amount saved by discontinuing tax-deductible donations to school building funds.</p> <p>The notion of the government adopting the draft's recommendations is extraordinary, especially considering the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the unprecedented pressure on government finances during this period of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>I interpret the draft's findings as a direct assault on religion, considering that the majority of private or independent education is administered by religious organisations.</p>	18/01/2024
278-098	Stephen Pugh	I have serious concerns about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) to be removed for non-government, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations. I have grandchildren and family members that attend an independent school that benefits from DGR funding. The state-of-art facilities and tertiary excellence that is provided in these private institutions is producing quality students that are benefiting society in many ways. To remove this funding would greatly impact many families throughout Australia, both financially and morally, who depend on independent education for their children.	18/01/2024

		I trust you will consider the concerns of many Australians that would share these views and continue DGR status to non-government, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations as it is being currently provided by the Australian Government.	
278-099	Doug Reynolds	<p>RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report</p> <p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	18/01/2024
278-100	Mark Hornsey	<p>Having three children in the education system currently I am concerned by this proposal.</p> <p>We as increasing number of parents do - choose to educate our children in a faith-based school for the simple reasons that the values held and the education provided is better than a public school.</p> <p>I know many parents from a wide range of faiths that make significant sacrifices to give their kids the best education. One family I know of went without air conditioning for years so they could afford to send their kids to a private high school. My point is that these aren't the playground of the rich and famous - they are populated largely by people prepared to go the extra mile for the betterment of their children and ultimately the community.</p> <p>The concern with this proposal will result in two things – both of which are negative. Firstly, that quality of facilities will be impacted. Secondly cost to parents will be increased.</p> <p>Given the impact of ongoing inflation to households this will be yet another burden for households to bear. Keep in mind nearly all these households are motivated by love for their children and will simply make more life sacrifices to make this possible.</p> <p>I am also worried that this is an attack on Religion in Australia – it is a fundamental error not to realize that religion - whether you agree with it or not - is a motivation for good and the care for others. Look at many</p>	18/01/2024

		organizations such as Lifeline, The Salvation Army and high level of faith-based organizations in private hospitals and nursing homes.	
278-101	Martin Thomas	<p>I am writing to you to express my concerns with regards to the recently released Productivities Commission Draft Report on philanthropy. The government's adoption of these recommendations will unquestionably lead to higher school fees. Clearly, Schools will need to increase fees to make up for reduced contributions from businesses and individuals, who no longer receive tax benefits. This financial strain will impact the ability of schools to fund building projects that support local businesses.</p> <p>The decrease in funding would also affect the overall educational experience of our children. Schools will struggle to maintain a positive learning environment, unquestionably hindering academic performance. This situation is particularly challenging for our household, which is already facing significant cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Furthermore, this will clearly have impacts on religious education, as many private schools are affiliated with religious organisations. The potential rise in fees, combined with reduced financial support, pose a challenge to these organisations' ability to provide education.</p> <p>As a result, we will be forced to consider enrolling our children in local public schools. However, public schools whose moral standards are rapidly deteriorating, already face issues with overcrowding which raises concerns about the quality of education in an already stretched environment.</p> <p>I urge you to consider my concerns as this will have an untold impact on countless families who are the backbone of our society.</p>	18/01/2024
278-102	Harvey D Horsfall	<p>Regarding the above draft report, it is with great unease to find this report and what it means for philanthropy to religious charities and their eligibility for deductible gift recipient status (DGR).</p> <p>Our endeavour over many years as parents, and now grandparents, has been to provide for the oncoming generations a suitable environment for the furthering of education; this has been possible for many in the community through DGR. This has been to help provide what has been required, maintain and add to independent schooling facilities, which, in turn, is helping take pressure off the already crowded public school system.</p> <p>It is with great concern that what appears to have merit in some areas, that this draft report is a thrust against basic religious charity, which when all is said and done, is a major force for the good of the Australian people.</p> <p>We trust that this draft report dos not proceed as it is.</p>	18/01/2024
278-103	Alvin Sprigg	RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.	18/01/2024

I have read the draft report, noting a range of interesting points. Whilst a lot of the recommendations raised seem logical and relevant, the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary & secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is of great concern to me.

As a parent of 2 young children, the oldest of whom has attended an independent school which benefits from DGR status for the past 2 years, I feel particularly concerned by this. The effect this is likely to have on the private schooling system across Australia is very significant, as independent schools scramble to find alternate funding sources to maintain and improve their facilities to an adequate standard. 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.

I urge the Productivity Commission to broaden its thinking to recognise the immense public benefit that this country's private schools provide in providing quality education outcomes to over 1/3 of the nation's Schoolchildren (Per ACARA website). Undermining the established giving patterns which underpin the building of infrastructure to house these private schools would have catastrophic consequences for this country's education system. My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to one of our overcrowded local public schools, which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.

Furthermore, the seeming focus of the PC on extending DGR status to fringe groups whilst simultaneously singling out religious school building funds and charities involved in the teaching of religion in schools for removal of DGR status is a blatant disregard of the PC's own so-called focus on generating net community wide benefits.

Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.

