

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-381 to 278-465

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-381	Craig Hornsey	<p>I have followed the commission's recommendations for the future foundations for giving contained in the draft report, with close interest.</p> <p>Clearly there are some good points raised in the report for change, however the proposed scrapping of DGR status for non-government schools, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, other religious organisations, is very concerning.</p> <p>My eldest child attends a non-government school, and I plan to send my second child to the same school - this school currently benefits under the existing DGR system, and no doubt this would significantly disincentivise giving to the school, reducing donations, and therefore increasing the school fees.</p> <p>With the pressure of cost of living expenses only increasing, I fear that I would have to send my children to a government school, which are already under the pump with high classroom numbers and stretched staff, that would have a direct negative impact on the educational & academic outcomes for my children.</p> <p>No doubt there are many hundreds or thousands of other households around the country in this situation, I would appreciate it if you consider my concerns seriously.</p>	21/01/2024
278-382	Ted Myhill	<p>I notice the draft support and wanted to express my strong concern around the potential intentions of scrapping the DGR for private education.</p> <p>As I hope you can imagine, this has a direct impact on me and my household relating to the ability to be supported with our current family's education plan. The effect of this change, in particular with school fees rising and coupled with the rising costs of living will make things very, very difficult.</p> <p>My children are getting a good education through a non-government school and I feel my wife and I will be forced to consider other options that will have direct impact on there future career</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>opportunities, I am sure many, many others would feel the same way and in time I feel that this will also be counter-productive for the government with regard to the level of education in the workforce.</p> <p>I trust you will give my concerns due consideration.</p>	
278-383	Scott Simmons	<p>We are writing regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report. We have read into the draft report in detail and are deeply concerned about what is being recommended.</p> <p>The report states "Religious organisations play an important role in many people's lives and communities across Australia. However, the Commission does not see a case for additional government support for the practice of religion through the DGR system ..."</p> <p>The statement above is completely contradictory in the two sentences and shows no support whatsoever. We are part of the 'many' and feel this is a direct attack on religious organisations.</p> <p>The report also states, "School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission's proposals."</p> <p>We are planning on putting our child into an independent school, which happens to be supported by DGR status. If the government is to proceed with the recommendations, the costs for putting our child through an independent school would significantly increase, and with the cost of living in Australia already higher than it has ever been, we cannot see how we would be able to pursue the private education we have been planning for our child.</p> <p>We would appreciate your consideration and understanding for the 'many' as the report states, that will be affected.</p>	21/01/2024
278-384	Graham Fisher	<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>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-385	Gordon May	<p>The recommendation that the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is to be removed from non-government schools is of particular concern to our family, and we believe it will have far reaching affects.</p> <p>Many parents make the choice of using non-government, faith-based schools because they are safer, students achieve better grades and are not hindered in any way from enjoying their faith.</p> <p>The United Nations document <u>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</u>¹ states in article 13 that parents may '<i>choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions</i>'.</p> <p>As Christians, we desire to teach our children to live by the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, self-control. Where such things are promoted, students go on to become hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens.</p> <p>If the DGR status is removed from non-government schools, many will be forced to send or return their children into the government public system, as fees will naturally increase.</p> <p>Australian parents and guardians should have the right to choose <i>fairly</i> where they want their children to be educated. We personally don't choose to send our children to government schools, where illicit drug usage and many other subversive influences work to ruin fine young minds.</p> <p>If private schools were to close due to lack of individuals/businesses tax-deductible donations, how could the already overcrowded government schools possibly cope with the student influx? The <u>Goulburn Catholic School Strike</u>² in 1962 where up to 2000 students from Catholic schools enrolled at public schools is an example of how this situation would play out, with the public system becoming overwhelmed.</p> <p>Whilst we recognise that there must be reviews for protocol over time, we see that there is an 'out with the old, in with the new' theme running in the draft report. Christianity is indeed as old as when our Lord Jesus walked this earth over 2000 years ago, but the laws of this country are founded on it. Hence, we believe Christianity to be a mainstay in this country – this great country that welcomes others seeking a haven where they can live the life they desire.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns. DGR status should not be removed from non-government schools.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights 2. https://www.robertmenziesinstitute.org.au/on-this-day/goulburn-catholic-school-strike 	
278-386	Ben Woodford	<p>I would have to say that while this report is lengthy and far too long for some of us to read, it is certainly bringing up some important subjects that are close to our emotional beings!</p> <p>I would have to say that there are some helpful considerations there, however I am very concerned about some of the proposed changes for DGR status to be removed for non-government primary/secondary/childcare/aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>My children go to an independent school that gets help from having DGR status.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to consider the cost of living pressures that are greater than they ever have been and I am in trepidation that school fees will go up much higher so as to compensate for reduced revenue from donors pulling back, due to the inability to obtain tax assistance be it from businesses, individuals and others that can give donations to the school.</p> <p>Most concerning is that should these changes that are being mooted come into legislation, our (large family) will be obligated to utilize the public schooling system which regularly rejects additional applicants at our local school due to its limited ability to cope. This will influence their ability to learn as not all schools are the same....and I believe this will reduce the outcomes I wish them to achieve academically.</p> <p>Whilst I am sure there would be many in the same situation as ourselves with a large family and a situation like this, I would entreat you to stop and realize 'there is a problem' with this.</p>	21/01/2024
278-387	Jeremy Mansley	<p>Having looked over this draft report, I am gravely concerned for the future of quality education provision for our children.</p> <p>Interfering with deductible gift recipient status, set up in 1954, for religious based schools and organisations, I feel it hits the heart of our country!</p> <p>We have proved the benefits of quality education facilities for our children under these DGR allowances.</p> <p>With the improved learning environment, we pave the way for our future generations, future leaders and educated members of society, who will go on to bring knowledge and help to our nation.</p> <p>As a parent I feel this will strangle a quality and benefit that has been available to us, forcing extra pressure onto the already stretched to capacity, public education system.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Therefore, I would plea with government to consider recommendations for this reform and the possible negative impact and repercussions this could have on our education system.</p>	
278-388	Richard Draffin	<p>I have had my attention drawn to this draft report and was alarmed that the Government would contemplate such a radical proposal relating to rulings and charitable provisions that have been used for over 60 years in this country. The suggestion of scrapping deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary schooling and also childcare, aged care and other religious organisations will have the effect of adding to the burden of government the responsibility of what these organisations provide in care for the various sections of the community.</p> <p>Our children and grandchildren have and are attending non-government schools and we can foresee a serious setback in the nation where this is thrown into confusion. The principle of donations and charitable giving has been a hallmark of this nation for where the need is and the principles of freedom of choice is a cherished right. The opportunity for businesses and individuals to support these causes is very important.</p> <p>It is important to note that continual improvements in facilities through donations and giving supports local tradespersons and small enterprises in the community. These upgrades support students increased learning experience, making for better prepared potential employees.</p> <p>The concern will be that added to the cost of living pressures we are experiencing currently we will be forced to send our children to our government schools which are often less equipped for the role they are intended to fill.</p> <p>I would strongly urge the Government to reject these recommendations for their own good and the future of our nation. The suggestion of transferring these benefits to animal activists etc who do not contribute to the economy in any way, only to break it down highlights the error of this ideas behind this proposal to the Government.</p>	21/01/2024
278-389	Matthew Pedersen	<p>I have read the draft report with keen interest. Whilst there are some beneficial conclusions, references and Ideas, 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 extremely concerning to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing horrendous cost of living pressure causing many households to struggle excessively to get through, I fear that school fees would be driven up considerably 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>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<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 suppress their academic potential significantly.</p> <p>Please take time to consider my request and understand how many will be impacted.</p>	
278-390	Priscilla Dowell	<p>I am contacting you with concern regarding the draft report. The recommendation to remove the DGR Status for non-government schools seems a very counter-productive idea.</p> <p>I cite my own case. I live in a small country town with my husband. We have had four children, the last of whom is in year 8. Whilst I have great respect for our public school, it has limitations. For example, it does not cater for students who wish to do their WACE in year 12; and the class sizes have been very big. We have a small non-government school locally and all three of my elder children have been able to obtain their WACE while studying there. Their system of schooling is excellent. The three eldest have all gone on to further education and are all earning good salaries – and paying tax accordingly. We hope the fourth can do likewise. We ourselves have always been low income earners (and low tax payers) but have sacrificed to give our children a chance to do better.</p> <p>We have only been able to afford to educate our children there because our school has been able to keep their fees low enough due to the generous donations of our church community. I can see that if the DGR Status is removed, the business donations will presumably halve at least. Our fees will go up substantially to cover the shortfall and we won't be able to keep our last child there. This will likely lead to a lower salaried person who will ultimately pay less tax – not a good outcome for him or the government!!</p> <p>One of our children was in the public school until grade 4. In grade 3 he was in a class of 28 children, totally lost, and learning nothing. He was very behind when he started grade 4, but in a much smaller class he picked up very quickly. This child would probably have dropped out of school early in the public system. Instead, he is now an engineer. This is only our personal situation, but there would be countless others in similar situations. And our children are our future!!!</p> <p>The public schools are already very crowded and this recommendation would have to make them more crowded. Does the government have a building plan to make provision for the extra students it will receive? May it be more economical to keep the gifts deductible? For of course it will have to affect the amount individuals give. Those in the top tax bracket will instead of donating \$1000 to the school, be donating \$550 to the school/children and \$450 to the government in tax. A lot will be deterred from giving at all. A huge loss for schools and children!!! Fees will go up, and especially with the current cost of living, non-government schools will become unaffordable. A lot of children will have to go to public schools instead, which will limit their potential. Also cause overcrowding.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I am also concerned that this is targeting religion as the majority of private schools are run by religious organisations. The donors are generous people who wish to help children. Our school is one of these. The school doesn't have any religious instruction at all, other than ethical teaching such as kindness, respect to all, etc. It doesn't advance religion. It is a truly charitable organisation. It seems such a shame to take this generosity away from helping the children and redirect it to the government's coffers. Christian groups do a lot of good and should be encouraged, not discouraged.</p> <p>We desperately want our last child to get a good education, but if this recommendation is accepted we won't be able to afford it. And it is to the community's good that he gets a good education, as well as his own. Same with all those countless other children in similar situations.</p>	
278-391	Brad Johnson	<p>I am writing as a concerned parent regarding the above report by the Labor Government.</p> <p>Removing charitable status tax deductible giving by an organization or individuals to private and independent based schooling has the potential to severely impact my children's education who attend such a school.</p> <p>It will limit the upkeep of the school due to reduced giving and affect local businesses who rely on construction and maintenance work.</p> <p>This will inevitably force school fees to be raised.</p> <p>At a time when cost of living pressure is already at a high level it could mean our children may have to attend an already stretched to capacity local government school and affect their learning capacity.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on my Christian beliefs and religious based schooling as the majority of private schools have such founding. Why should our children have to suffer the consequences of such an ill founded and malicious attack on religion and private education?</p> <p>I urge the government to abandon this endeavour and focus on the real issues affecting mankind.</p>	21/01/2024
278-392	Lester Rendell	<p>I have followed the recent review by the Productivity Commission into charitable institutions with keen interest and read with dismay Commission's Draft Report 'Future Foundations for Giving'</p> <p>My chief concern is the recommendation that deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary & secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Many of these organizations have played a defining role in the development of our nation since white settlement, particularly in regards education from the earliest colonial beginnings in this state where education was provided by the benevolence of churches and philanthropy of individuals</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>when there was no formal government provision, beginning with Mr Richard Johnson in 1798 who operated the first formal school, following the several governess's who educated within households. Similarly, care of the unfortunate was also relegated to the church and to charitable individuals based on self-sacrifice, prior to the development of the welfare system in the last century.</p> <p>These recommendation's will affect my household directly as my children attend a private school as would be affected by the changes if effected, which would mean significantly higher fees at time when every ounce of relief to the current cost-of-living pressures cannot be overstated.</p> <p>While this report looks at the 'cost of giving' and is admirable in its attempts redress areas of need, it fails to look at the true "cost of education' as a community endeavour, my community's endeavor. The immediate area in which we live has a shortage of government education options with enrolments already at record numbers due to the rapid growth of housing in our region, these same facilities would be at a loss to cater for the numbers that would suddenly no longer be able to afford the private schools they now can just manage to reach.</p> <p>By removing the DGR status of our schools all this well-meaning gesture will do is reduce our education system to the lowest denominator, which fails our future leaders rather than delivers for them.</p>	
278-393	Peter Davu	<p>Having read the report, I have become very concerned about the proposed scrapping of tax deductible giving to non-govt. schools etc and religious organisations.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with this proposed change as my children current attend a non-govt. independent school that benefits strongly from this status.</p> <p>This school is heavily dependent on local families and business and parents within the local communities to provide gifts and donations for upgrades, improvements and day to day running of the school. This school is genuinely delivering a fantastic education for my children, and I would be extremely disappointed if our school was to have to increase the fees further in this current cost of living crisis. The school fees are already difficult to afford but are our only option unless we send our children them to an overcrowded public school.</p> <p>If the government were to pursue this recommendation and this resulted, our children's education would suffer substantially.</p> <p>Please do genuinely take our concerns into consideration as this would be a really negative impact on our family.</p>	21/01/2024
278-394	Karl	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. My children attend such a school that benefits from this status.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Removing DGR status would lead to increased school fees, increasing the financial strain on families. This, in turn, may force families to reconsider their educational choices, potentially impacting the quality of education and hindering students' academic potential. Moreover, it appears that these changes would excessively affect religious and faith-based organizations.</p> <p>I am troubled by the potential impact on our ability to support our children's education within a faith-based environment. The proposed changes would carry consequences that adversely affect not only educational opportunities but also the freedom for families to choose an institution aligned with their religious beliefs.</p> <p>I urge you to consider these concerns seriously and advocate for the preservation of DGR status for non-government organizations, recognizing the broader implications for religious and faith-based institutions.</p>	
278-395	Melvin Hill	<p>I notice the draft support and wanted to express my strong concern around the potential intentions of scrapping the DGR for private education.</p> <p>As I hope you can imagine, this has a direct impact on me and my household relating to the ability to be supported with our current family's education plan. The effect of this change, in particular with school fees rising and coupled with the rising costs of living will make things very, very difficult.</p> <p>My children are getting a good education through a non-government school and I feel my wife and I will be forced to consider other options that will have direct impact on their future career opportunities, I am sure many, many others would feel the same way and in time I feel that this will also be counter-productive for the government with regard to the level of education in the workforce.</p> <p>I trust you will give my concerns due consideration.</p>	21/01/2024
278-396	Lyndon Yeo	<p>After reading the draft report we would have to acknowledge there are some great recommendations and findings and appreciate the difficulty in reviewing the qualification process for eligible entities. With dismay, we noted the recommendation for DGR status to be discontinued for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations:</p>	21/01/2024

Table 6.1 – Activities to be excluded from the DGR system by charity subtype

Charity subtype	Proposed exclusions
Health	No exclusions
Culture	No exclusions
Reconciliation	No exclusions
Human rights	No exclusions
Security	No exclusions
Animals	No exclusions
Environment	No exclusions
Health promotion charity	No exclusions
Public benevolent institution	No exclusions
Education	Exclusions for the activities of primary, secondary, religious and other forms of informal education, except for activities where charities have an explicit equity objective (for example, where charities are registered as public benevolent institutions (PBIs), or for scholarships or education programs for specific cohorts of students)
Social welfare	The activities of childcare and aged care are excluded (unless the charity is registered as a PBI)
Religion	All activities within this subtype are excluded
Other analogous purposes	Excluded if the charity has a purpose of promoting industry or a purpose analogous to an exclusion in another subtype
Law	Advocacy must be in relation to an activity that is not excluded under another subtype
Charity with no registered subtype	Excluded

Determining which classes of activity should be excluded (or included) is subject to a degree of judgement. Attempting to provide relatively bright lines about what activities are in or out of scope is important for making the DGR system clearer and simpler, but it means that some activities that remain in scope for DGR status may still have a material risk of substitution between donations and fees or generally enable donors to convert donations to a private benefit. For example, for cultural activities such as performing arts, audience members may be motivated to make donations, which could over time make ticket prices lower for all audience members. Similarly, some health charities (including not-for-profit private hospitals) charge fees to patients and raising revenue through donations could offset some of the need to charge fees.

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>This will particularly affect us. As concerned parents, we have pursued career and employment choices and made sacrifices to enable us to enrol our children with an independent school that enjoys DGR status.</p> <p>The intent of this education is that our children will be valuable future contributors to our community and broader society. With the current cost of living crisis and feeling inflationary pressure as never before, we are at a point that should school fees increase any more we would be placed in a compromised position to continue their current education pathway which will have long term affects in their contribution to society in years to come.</p> <p>The loss of income to the school through the reduction of giving by personal and business donations due to the tax-deductible nature will have immediate negative impact on the fees charged by the school.</p> <p>Should the government choose to adopt these recommendations we would inevitably be forced to enrol our children into our local public system which is at max capacity and suffers from degraded results in comparison with other developed countries. I feel that this would have a negative impact on our children's learning experience and their true capacity would not be fully reached, resulting in long term reduced impact in their value to society in general and our local community.</p> <p>We would be extremely grateful if our concerns were considered, as I am sure that our situation would be replicated by many others in the same position.</p>	
278-397	Norman Sharples	<p>I wish to raise my concerns as to the draft report of the Future Foundations of giving.</p> <p>As an ex-board member of a private school I have witnessed first hand the progress and uplifting of educational facilities which has resulted in higher learning outcomes as a result of generous business owners being able to donate under the DGR system</p> <p>For this to be removed will not only be discriminatory of th non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations but will add further cost and overcrowding to the public education system.</p> <p>With the current cost of living pressures and the increased cost incurred to the private education sector if the DGR status was removed the costs would not be sustainable to the average family.</p> <p>Please consider the impact and the cost to government to support and influx of students into the public system if the DGR status was removed</p>	21/01/2024
278-398	Mark Cunningham	<p>Having read the draft report I feel compelled to make this submission.</p> <p>Whilst there are good recommendations and findings, I write as a very concerned parent about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I have 6 children who have attended and are attending both private and public schooling. We start our children off at our local public school, but it is so overcrowded we send them to a private school from grade 3 onwards. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would 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 we know will drastically impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. It will not only be them but all children as the public schools get further overcrowded. Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-399	Benjamin Sealey	<p>I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recommendations proposed in the Productivity Commission's 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report, particularly those about the potential scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. As a concerned parent deeply invested in the well-being and education of my children, I find these recommendations troubling and foresee significant consequences if they are adopted by the government. I wish to address the potential repercussions that these changes may have on our schools and the broader community.</p> <p>Concerns and Implications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed changes have the potential to compromise the quality of education our children receive. With restricted resources for building extensions and upgrades, the overall learning environment will suffer. This decline in educational standards would hinder our children's academic potential, limiting their opportunities for growth and success. 2. These recommendations come at a time when many households are already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. The additional burden of increased school fees and potential decline in educational quality will place an undue strain on families, impacting their overall well-being. 3. The prospect of scrapping DGR status for non-government schools poses a direct threat to our community's educational institutions. If these recommendations are adopted, there is a real risk that our school fees will surge. This increase would be a direct response to the reduced financial support from businesses and individuals, who, without the associated tax benefits, will be less inclined to contribute to our schools. 4. The potential outcome of these changes might force families like mine to consider alternative educational options, such as local public schools. However, I am aware that public schools are 	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>already grappling with overcrowding issues, and this shift could further strain the capacity of these institutions, compromising the quality of education for all students.</p> <p>5. Beyond the immediate financial strain on parents, the reduced giving to schools may also impede building extension and upgrade works. This, in turn, negatively affects local small businesses that rely on such projects for their livelihood. The economic repercussions could be felt throughout our community, exacerbating the challenges faced by many small family enterprises.</p> <p>6. As a parent with children attending a private or independent school affiliated with a religious organization, I am deeply concerned about the perceived attack on religious education. The majority of such schools may face challenges in sustaining their operations, potentially leading to an erosion of religious educational options for families.</p> <p>In light of the potentially far-reaching consequences outlined above, I implore the government to reconsider adopting the recommendations proposed by the Productivity Commission. These changes threaten not only the financial stability of our schools but also the broader educational landscape and the well-being of countless families. I sincerely hope that the government considers the concerns of parents and the community at large before making any decisions that could significantly impact the future of education in Australia.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.</p>	
278-400	Lloyd Cox	<p>I write regarding the 'Future Foundation for Giving Draft Report' and wish to express deep concerns as to some of the recommendations contained therein.</p> <p>I fully agree with the stated intention of the Government, i.e. to understand trends in charitable giving, and to doing what it can to increase charitable giving. While I respect the Productivity Commission report as a part of that process, I am very concerned about recommendations to reduce or remove DGR status for "primary and secondary education, religious education, and other forms of informal education, including school building funds" (pg. 18 of report).</p> <p>I fully expect that if the Government adopts this part of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, this lack of tax benefit will reduce current charitable giving to independent schools. There is no certainty that this giving would be re-directed elsewhere; however, what would be certain is that school fees will increase, because schools will have to make up in increased fees for the reduction in DGR giving.</p> <p>Further, the proposed changes in DGR status of independent schools, and thus predictable changes in level of giving to such causes, can foreseeably mean that such schools are extremely likely to be forced to reduce or cancel upgrades to facilities, with resulting negative impacts on student education being all too certain.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Our children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, as do many students across many such schools, all around Australia. Many Australian families are already struggling with cost-of-living increases. For us, increases in school fees as mentioned above would be extremely hard, and could force us to put our children into our local public schools, which are already overcrowded and stretched for resources. I fear the impacts this move would have on our children's educational outcomes. I am sure that there are many families in Australia in a similar situation as ours.</p> <p>Unfortunately, these proposed changes have the hallmarks of a covert attack on the practical expression of religion, as the majority of independent education is provided by faith-based organizations. I sincerely hope the Government does not adopt this part of the recommendations. Please consider my concerns, which I am happy to discuss further should you wish.</p>	
278-401	Lindsay Stead	<p>On reading the draft report I felt compelled to respond for the following reasons:</p> <p>Although there are some good points and suggestions, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be 'expressly excluded' for non-government primary, secondary, and religious education, along with childcare, aged care, and advancement of religion.</p> <p>I feel that this is a clever and blatant attack on religion, as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations. Schools and churches are the backbone for care of the people and the prime responsibility of government is care of the people.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my daughter is employed by an independent school that benefits from DGR status. If DGR status is cut, there will be an immediate reduction in giving to the school caused by the lack of tax benefit for business gifts or individual gifts. There would be no doubt that my daughter's employment would be threatened as a result.</p> <p>I am also concerned that with this reduced giving, many schools will not be able to undertake building extension and upgrade works which support many small family businesses in our area including the business that I work for.</p> <p>School fees would have to be raised significantly to make up the lost income caused by reduced giving. Due to the already extremely high cost of living, this in turn would cause a large proportion of parents to take the students out and enrol them into nearby public schools which are already bursting at the seams.</p> <p>The Government is likely to immediately experience a sharp increase in demand for significant funds to provide all the additional resources needed including classrooms, furniture, IT, teachers, and even additional schools.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Please consider my concerns, as I am sure we won't be the only ones impacted. There is potential for major repercussions that could spiral out of control.</p>	
278-402	Ben Shirliff	<p>I was alarmed when recently reading the recommended changes to philanthropic giving and would like to make a submission in relation to The Productivity Commission's draft report "Future Foundation for Giving".</p> <p>I am a law-abiding Australian citizen who supports government and philanthropy. I am concerned with the Commission's recommendations that non-government primary and secondary schools and religious education organisations should no longer be eligible for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status under the Commission's proposals. Such status has led to a greater choice of education in this country for many years.</p> <p>I currently have children attending a private school and fear that these changes would lead to less giving to the school. This would lead to increased fees which would further exacerbate the current cost of living pressures we are facing in this country. It could also leave me with no option other than to send my children to the local public school which is overcrowded. This could have a detrimental effect on my children reaching their full potential.</p> <p>I am also very concerned about the recommendation that Religion be excluded from the DGR system. While the report acknowledges the important role Religion plays in many people's lives, I feel it also needs to see the public benefits. I see this as an attack on religion and should be reconsidered.</p> <p>I kindly request you consider my concerns and the implications these recommended changes would have on our education system. I'm sure my view on these matters would be strongly supported by many should these proposed changes be promulgated in a greater way to the public.</p>	21/01/2024
278-403	Gerrard Scott	<p>As parents and grandparents of students that have been educated and are currently being educated in independent schools, we are very concerned by the proposed changes that have been included in the draft report of the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving'.</p> <p>Faith based independent schools provide excellent education opportunities for millions of students, and the benefits of these well-educated, innovative and productive past students to the nation is immense. Many go on to be business owners or professionals who serve to provide for multiple public needs. Having had a public education ourselves, we can see the benefits of the better education our children have had, and how it has stretched them to become more independent and proactive people.</p> <p>Private and business donations towards education and facilities especially, are of wide benefit, as these facilities are used by generations of students as they move through the schooling system. Discouraging funding (by taking away the tax benefit) to these schools will force them to put up their</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>fees and exacerbate the cost-of-living pressures on already stretched families, making it unaffordable. If thousands of students were forced back into public schools, this would put tremendous pressure on the schooling system and the net result would be a lesser or mediocre education for the majority of students which would be detrimental to the nation as a whole.</p> <p>We appreciate your time and would be glad if you would consider our concerns.</p>	
278-404	John Pritchard	<p>As semi-retired grandparents of six children and 16 grandchildren, my wife and I are concerned regarding the enquiry into the recommendations of the Draught Report by the Commission into Tax Deductable giving.</p> <p>Our worry is that if the deductible gift recipient (herein referred to as DGR) status is to be scrapped, particularly for primary or secondary schooling (along with child care and aged care and religious organisations) this will be reduce much philanthropic giving that keeps these activities operating, all being beneficial for society. It also reduces the burden on Government finances as some students may need to cease attending such schools. This will increase the numbers attending Government ones. Overcrowded Public Schools is not congenial to a good learning experience.</p> <p>We have been thankful for the benefits of the DGR status as 13 of our grandchildren have attended an independent school which has allowed my wife and myself to donate over the years. With cost-of-living pressures only worsening, this would be increasingly difficult if the DGR status is scrapped.</p> <p>We would also include other Tax Deductable arrangements in our concern, such as Churches and Charity funds. We both have been contributors to funding on a Tax Deductable basis to Ukraine for some considerable time. If this advantage is removed, it could curtail our generosity to such matters.</p>	21/01/2024
278-405	Craig Currie	<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>At 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, a lot of children will be forced to go to our already overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>This would also add a lot of extra expense to the government, both short term and long term. There are approximately 1.4m students in private schools, which takes enormous pressure off the off the government, hence my belief that the scrapping of the DGR would be backwards step for this nation.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-406	Ross Paulsen	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding certain recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's 'Future Foundations for Giving' draf report.</p> <p>Having thoroughly reviewed the report, I find myself particularly troubled by the proposal to eliminate deductible gi□ recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This recommendation is of great concern to me, especially as a parent with children a□ending an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. In a □me when the cost of living is reaching unprecedented levels, the prospect of scrapping DGR status raises fears that school fees may escalate to compensate for the potential reduction in charitable giving, driven by the absence of tax benefits for donors.</p> <p>The implications of this change could have a profound impact on the affordability of independent education. It is my sincere worry that, without the tax incentive, businesses and individuals may be less inclined to contribute, resulting in a financial shortfall for schools like the one my children a□end.</p> <p>In the face of such a financial challenge, there is a legitimate concern that independent schools may be compelled to raise fees to offset the lost income. For families already grappling with the rising cost of living, this could become an added burden, potentially limiting educational choices for children across the na□on.</p> <p>Personally, the prospect of increased school fees raises the unsettling possibility that my family might be forced to reconsider our educational options. The local public school, while undoubtedly serving a vital role, may not offer the same tailored educational experience as the independent school my children currently a□end. This, in turn, could impact their overall learning experience and potentially stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I understand that policy decisions are complex and require careful consideration of various factors. However, I urge you to take into account the broader implications of the proposed changes on families like mine, who value the educational opportunities provided by independent schools.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I hope my concerns resonate with you, and I implore you to consider the potential consequences of these recommendations on families across our community.</p>	
278-407	Greg Chugg	<p>My wife and I have grandchildren attending an independent school, and having seen first-hand the noticeable rapidity of learning, and the high standard of achievement of students in that schooling system, we are extremely concerned as to the negative effect that the above proposed legislation, especially the proposal to remove the DGR status of many charitable organisations including non-government schools, could have on both the students themselves, and their parents who are already trying to cope with the ongoing steep increases in the cost of living.</p> <p>It would be inevitable that the removal of DGR status would drive up the school fees to make up for the reduced giving to the schools from both individuals and businesses to the point where parents will be forced to send their children to the already overcrowded public schools. This would have a negative impact on their academic potential as well as their learning experience.</p> <p>Additional to the above, we are concerned that the intention to include churches, aged care, child care and other religious organisations could have a very detrimental effect on the established Christian values that prevail in our favoured country, values that underpin the whole society in which we live, and that are under increasing attack at the present time. These values need to be energetically defended by government.</p>	21/01/2024
278-408	Philip Way	<p>I recently read the draft report and found some of the suggestions and ideas quite interesting and would agree there is a need for reform in several areas.</p> <p>I am somewhat concerned though as to the notion of removing DGR eligibility for private schools, aged care, and religious bodies etc.</p> <p>This appears in some ways to be an attack on religion as many independent/private schools are run by religious bodies.</p> <p>As several of my connections have children at private schools adopting this recommendation to me seems a backward step as I believe there would be negative results as far as education goes.</p> <p>The first obvious result would be parents having to place their children in overcrowded public schools due to increases in school fees and the second consequence of this would be losses to local businesses that are supported by upgrade works they do for these schools.</p> <p>I also believe that a reduction in private schooling could lead to reduced academic achievements by students which as you are aware has a long-term effect on Australia's success as a nation.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I appreciate your consideration of my concerns as I am sure there would be many other Australians who would be feeling the same way.</p>	
278-409	Andrew Gaal	<p>I trust this message finds you well. I've recently reviewed the Productivity Commission's draft report, 'Future Foundations for Giving,' and while I appreciate there are some positive findings and recommendations, I want to express my reservations about the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities, specifically in primary and secondary education, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>My concern is particularly significant as my children attend an independent school benefiting from DGR status. In a time of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the potential removal of DGR status may lead to increased school fees due to reduced charitable contributions without tax benefits. This could place additional financial strain on families like mine.</p> <p>If the government adopts this recommendation, there's a genuine fear we may be compelled to enrol our children in the local public school, already facing issues of overcrowding. Such a decision could significantly impact the quality of their learning experience and potentially hinder their learned potential.</p> <p>In addition to the points raised above, I sense this is an attack on religion as the greater part of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I kindly urge you to consider these concerns, as I believe our family may not be the only one adversely affected by this potential change in policy. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.</p>	21/01/2024
278-410	David Urquhart	<p>Having read the draft report, I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status (DGR) to be withdrawn for non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We have previously enrolled our children in an independent school where we can be assured of the provision of an environment, culture and resources to facilitate a quality education for our children so they can become founders of and effective contributors to organisations where the surpluses that enable philanthropic giving spring from.</p> <p>This school clearly benefits from ongoing DGR status and if tax benefits for businesses or individuals to donate are taken away then surely the school will need to increase fees to unsustainable levels to cover the lost income from reduced giving. This is at a time when the costs of living are being felt like no time previous.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>If Schools do not have the funds to improve and maintain facilities, then the ongoing upgrades and extensions will likely cease, which not only depreciates the school facilities but takes away many projects that small businesses depend on in our local area.</p> <p>I worry that the academic potential of our young people is being threatened with restrictions and deterioration, particularly if the attendance costs become unsustainable for households and we are forced to send the children into the unsatisfactory and crowded public school system.</p> <p>I am also concerned that these recommendations imply an attack on religion, given that most private and independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Please consider what's at stake for our children and reject these unnecessary recommendations – there are so many families that will be impacted from changing a system that's been effectively helping provide quality education for generations and will continue to do so for generations to come.</p>	
278-411	Calvin Ruddman	<p>After reviewing the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report, I must share the concerns I have around restrictions to DGR status particularly for education.</p> <p>This will affect the school that my children attend. And wont this also impact the local schooling system?</p> <p>The school that my children attend benefits from DGR status. Reduced support would only inflate school fees in an already tough financial situation. As a consequence, this will eventually stifle the economy on the back of the SME trades and support industries that depend on maintenance and improvements to support future generations.</p> <p>The reason my children attend a private school, is local public schools are becoming overcrowded and the quality of education appears to be suffering in some respects. This school supports the values that I share. This is important to me and many other parents I that I have spoken to.</p> <p>I can appreciate the objectives of this report however, it concerns me where philanthropic funding will flow if there's no incentives towards institutions that actually help people.</p>	21/01/2024
278-412	Phil Brown	<p>Has this draft been sent out to all charities, so that they can be alerted to proposed changes and have the opportunity of having some input ?</p> <p>The opportunity for comment should be extended beyond 9 February 2024.</p> <p>I have read with interest the Productivity Commission inquiry into philanthropy – draft report.</p> <p>The Government has done what it could do for Primary schools, secondary Schools, Nursing Homes etc and has rewarded Faith based charities to compliment the governments ideals for society in this regard. Taken together, look at what has been achieved since 1954 !!</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The deductible gift recipient (DGR) support has incentivised people to keep up the good work !</p> <p>Why offend Charities by removing their DGR status, when the Productivity Commission estimates that total giving to all existing registered charities will go from \$13 billion in 2021 to about \$ 26.5 billion in 2029-30 ?</p> <p>I would say that the formula is working !</p> <p>(I have been an unpaid charity worker for over 50 years now, and have also made donations to the Red Cross the Heart Foundation, Care Flight, Jump Rope for Heart as well as to Faith based charities, with DGR status.)</p> <p>I agree with the changes being expanded to include many more charitable entities, however, I am very much against denying DGR status to existing entities that have worked so hard, with the help of their volunteer staff, and have complied with all the existing “red tape” so to speak ... recommendations that the draft suggests could now be eased.</p> <p>What is going on in the minds of some people to draft such a proposal to the Government (the removal of DGR status to Faith based charities). Not only is it beyond belief it is very discriminatory.</p> <p>Also, while there are commendable recommendations in the report, some will be counter productive – see 9.3</p> <p>In passing, I would like to see the government increase the number of government Public Schools by 10%.</p> <p>The current way of expanding existing schools is to add transportable buildings to the existing sites and this unfortunately is causing very real and hazardous traffic congestion in the area. Governments should also purchase the houses around the existing schools, to increase the school’s footprint.</p> <p>There was a very real exodus from Private Schools into the public schooling system during the GFC and whilst this was due to a worldwide crisis it could happen again due to internal changes, including the implementing of some of these draft report recommendations.</p> <p>We should remember that families are under extreme financial stress now and conditions are not likely to change in the foreseeable future.</p>	
278-413	Steve Craig	<p>After reading with interest the above draft report, I am very concerned about the recommendations made in the report to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>My family attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, which is the basis for my specific concern. To reduce the tax benefit for businesses and individuals who can donate to the school, I am afraid, will surely lead to the school fees being driven up substantially further, to make up for the lost income caused by a reduction in giving. For the Government to adopt this recommendation at a time when households are already reeling from unprecedented cost of living pressures, would be unconscionable.</p> <p>If my family are forced to send our grandchildren to our overcrowded local public school in the future, my big worry is that this will negatively impact their learning experience and as a result stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider seriously my concerns raised above in the final report, as this will impact many families like our own.</p>	
278-414	Luke Doven	<p>I am writing concerning the “Future foundations for giving” draft report.</p> <p>Having read some news articles in the last few days I dug a little deeper & felt compelled to write to you as a concerned member of the public. While there are some great ideas and findings in the draft report, I am deeply concerned regarding the recommendations around deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Having had the benefit of private schooling that benefited from DGR status that my parents scraped together to provide for, I am now 35 years old and understand how helpful this has been – given I now own and run a small family business.</p> <p>I now have children attending private schools which also benefit from DGR status. Now with the ever-growing cost of living felt like never before, I worry 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>As noted above, I have only recently started a small business supporting the local community & every dollar counts. It is greatly concerning to me that if the Government adopts 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 potential, something I feel deeply concerning and something I would feel I have failed being able to do for my children that my parents have done for me.</p> <p>Lastly, I personally feel this is a personal attack on religion, as most private schools and independent education is provided by religious organizations – which long has stood as a force for good in the wider community.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking this, please consider my concerns as above.	
278-415	Nicholas Cruickshank	<p>As a concerned parent and citizen of Australia this report is extremely concerning. As former British statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke said 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing', hence I write.</p> <p>We are talking about institutions that have been the stability of western society now for a thousand years and more and will be long past our lifetime. Is it extreme to draw a sobering parallel to Henry the Eighth and his infamous dissolution of religious foundations, 1535 and suppression of Colleges, 1546?</p> <p>Let us take but one institution that survived the political intrigues of 1546 and study it and ask ourselves a question. Cambridge University is a pillar of past, present and future education upon the global scene and possibly the brightest educational light of England whose existence has now spanned centuries. In 1545-1546 that existence was in serious jeopardy, and I quote...</p> <p>'Even if established for secular scholars rather than clergy, the colleges were nonetheless religious foundations, and were regarded as such for the purposes of taxation in 1535. When the King began surveying colleges and collegiate churches in late 1545 with a view to their suppression, for eight anxious weeks the university's existence was genuinely called into question'</p> <p>Let us reflect soberly; that great institution nearly fell victim to the lunacy of political whims that prevailed for a short period of time. It escaped, others didn't, and half of all English heritage was lost. Do we want to risk repeating that folly however heavily disguised or eloquently worded a report? I trust not.</p> <p>It may be claimed that the 157 references to schools, in particular private schools is not an attack on schooling... it's hard to see how it's not. The opinion of a small handful of people, whatever their title, that 5000 school building funds that are Deductable Gift Recipients are no longer socially appropriate or serve the interest of the wider community is ludicrous. Over a third of all Australian children benefit from these schools and this provision each year, over time that's a third of all society excluding immigrants... I wonder what the commissioners think would serve the country better?</p> <p>Education is the basis of developed society however it is obtained and, in all honesty the stronger the education the better, public or private. There is nothing new in the constant pull between state and private schooling, the facts are that neither the government nor the community at large can afford the collapse of the private schooling sector so let's leave them alone.</p> <p>Like thousands of parents across our great free country of Australia my wife and I decided to make sacrifices and send our children to private school. We both had public school education but decided to do what we could for their future our children and Australia. It has been by no means easy to put</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>five children through the expense of private schooling and we are not finished yet; but it has been rewarding and the children have flourished beyond our expectations and obtained a far superior education to ourselves. I look around and find not only a few wealthy families sending their children to private education but many many like ourselves from very ordinary backgrounds. I even see hard working immigrant families that have come from destitution doing the same and I know that our country has a bright future. Please don't put that candle out.</p> <p>King Henry the Eighth had a change of heart and founded Trinity College within the University of Cambridge as one of the very last acts of his life and gave it a rich endowment. Let's trust our current government learns something from the pages of history.</p>	
278-416	Roger Bryan-Brown	<p>I feel compelled to write to you as a matter of urgency regarding some of the details contained in the above draft report.</p> <p>I am primarily concerned about the possibility of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status being scrapped for non-government schooling. As a parent and grandparent who places what I believe to be a correct evaluation on quality education, I genuinely find this alarming.</p> <p>I feel certain that this move will result in an increased cost of independent schooling through the reduced capacity of private donors to offer financial support. If capital expenditure were to be drawn exclusively from school fees without being supplemented private contribution, fees will inevitably rise. That is a disturbing consideration, especially during this current cost of living crises. The generous donations made by small businesses and successful individuals to the private schools that educates their children should be encouraged and appreciated by the Government.</p> <p>Like many others who choose to help fund their children's learning, my financial circumstances are not affluent. Despite this I chose to sacrifice much to ensure that my children received a quality education. I have no regrets about investing so heavily in my children's future but truly doubt that I could have done so, if the cosy had been any higher. I will add that I feel that their employers and the wider community in general are now also benefiting from this investment.</p> <p>I still have one child at school and have always hoped that my grandchildren would enjoy the same opportunities that come from a private education. My married daughter has a small child and is currently struggling under the current rise in the cost of living. I am afraid that price increases resulting from these recommendations would place this aspiration beyond her reach and many others like her.</p> <p>We know that the public system is struggling, and we don't want it further strained by adding a large proportion of the country's 1.4 million private students to it. We know that no one will benefit from a scenario like this.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>My concerns are sincere, and I am confident that I am speaking on behalf of many. I would appreciate it if what I have attempted to convey is shown due respect.</p>	
278-417	Philip Thomas	<p>I write as a concerned Grandparent of children who attend a small faith based independent school. After looking through the Draft report, I hold deep concerns about the recommendation for DGR status to be scrapped for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non Government primary and secondary schools • Childcare • Aged Care • Etc <p>The current DGR status of the above organizations, allows us to contribute to building better facilities etc for the future of the young people in Australia. We are very grateful for the current DGR status, which encourages us to give back for the good of the greater community.</p> <p>Any changes to this, will be hurtful and indeed discourage philanthropic giving at all levels, which in turn will increase the pressure on Governments to fund more schools etc out of the public purse.</p> <p>Please consider the above and understand the hurtful (and unpopular) nature of changing the DGR status of organizations who currently enjoy it.</p> <p>I would also take this opportunity to thank the Australian government for the funding provisions made to the private schools, it is extremely appreciated, and the current funding model (based on parent income) is very fair.</p>	21/01/2024
278-418	Duncan Wallace	<p>I have read the report and agree in principle with the attempt to make charitable contributions open for more people and to a greater number of causes. However, reading it in the context of parents who aspire to sending our children to private school, there are a couple of concerning recommendations put forward.</p> <p>Firstly, withdrawing DGR status for charities such as school building funds. As most private schools have a fund of this type, it will have the effect of increasing our future school's fees. Many are in a similar situation to us, and at a time where cost of living is high and a public school system is stretched for resources, retaining the DGR status for these funds is a cost-effective way for the government to contribute and assure education for all, as I can't see it making up any shortfall from removing it.</p> <p>Secondly, the broader assault on religious organisations and advancing religion. Many private schools are backed by religious groups: Catholic, Anglican, Jewish, Muslim to name a few, and</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>seek to advance faith in their schools yet the report deems they don't provide "net community-wide benefits". In a time where there is increasing numbers of younger people feeling hopeless or fearful of their future, faith provides an avenue where they can find direction and a network of supportive people. To adopt any changes to status for religious organisations is to weaken community well-being.</p> <p>In summary, I believe removing DGR status for the above will be detrimental to society.</p>	
278-419	Henry Whitehead	<p>I have read the draft report and have certainly found it interesting. I fully support the government of this country and I am thankful for the good principles currently in place in relation to education and healthcare.</p> <p>However, I wish to express concern about some findings in this report. Particularly, in relation to deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As an Australian citizen, we believe firmly in the best education for children and youth. I believe this proposal, along with the current cost of living pressure, would have a significantly negative impact on the standard of education for our children, especially for children in regional communities.</p> <p>Our fear is that, if this policy were to be adopted, students in current independent schooling would be forced into the already crowded public system, impacting their learning experience and hence the future of our country.</p> <p>Along with that, the current education related infrastructure spending that is funded by donations would have to be replaced by government spending, negatively impacting the position of our federal budget and hindering Australia's external stability.</p> <p>We would appreciate you considering the validity of our concerns and re-thinking your recommendations for the good of our country.</p>	21/01/2024
278-420	Wayne Clark	<p>The draft report is of much interest as it covers a wide range of possible findings.</p> <p>I am very concerned about some of the recommendations for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This will directly affect me as a father of 8 children, and grandfather of children who attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>The business I own and operate donates to an independent school and other charities (e.g. PCYC, hospitals, etc) regularly. The suggested recommendations are highly likely to impact our donations to these entities, as the inability to claim tax deductions is a deciding factor. It could also mean a cessation of charitable donations and labour afforded to another charity which we support as a</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>family and business. This charity in question involves support and catering for emergency services across NSW.</p> <p>If the Government adopt the recommendation it will impact a lot of lives, businesses and end up costing the Government themselves more in the long run.</p>	
278-421	Scott Pridham	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. As a 32-year-old concerned parent based in Thirlmere NSW, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential removal of tax-deductible giving status from faith-based schools in Australia.</p> <p>I have read the draft report “Future foundations for giving” released in November last year and to be frank I was appalled at the blatant anti-religious bias in the report. Regardless of your personal faith, i find it difficult to believe you do not see the greater public benefit of a religious lifestyle/education restraining the innate natural inclinations of man, limiting anti-social behaviour. Notwithstanding the aforementioned issue, in relation to reduction of incentivised giving for schooling this holds significant importance to me as someone deeply invested in my child's education and the well-being of our faith-based community.</p> <p>The tax-deductible giving status afforded to faith-based schools plays a crucial role in sustaining these institutions and ensuring they can provide quality education to students that aligns with their specific values. Many parents, like myself, could lose the ability to make the choice of a faith-based education due to rises in the cost of education from lost charitable giving.</p> <p>There is significant pressure as it stands on the public schooling system and I find it both ironic and short sighted that your report failed to address or propose a government plan for funding the schooling for 1.4million children in private education. If your policy proposals go ahead it could lead to the collapse of private education in Australia. Hypothetically it is a possible to see a 30% reduction based on average taxation. In turn we could see a possible 30% reduction in private schooling capacity and a 30% increase in private tuition. Based on the current economic climate is this a risk worth taking, I doubt it!</p> <p>I urge you to consider the broader implications of this decision on families, communities, and the education landscape in Australia. Preserving the tax-deductible giving status for faith-based schools is not just an investment in education but also an investment in the values and principles that contribute to the overall well-being of our society.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective as a concerned parent. I trust that you will weigh the potential consequences of this decision carefully and consider the volatile economic and educational landscape and continue the DGR system for all Faith based institutions.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-422	Tim Beer	<p>After reading the draft report, I found some valid points and recommendations. However, I am very concerned about 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 have two children who currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. As interest rates have doubled over the last two years, my general cost of living has increased substantially. I predict that a loss of DGR funding would drive my schooling fees even higher and the extra load on my finances would force me to send my children to an already overcrowded and understaffed public school.</p> <p>Furthermore, the school has a plan of maintenance and upgrades that will greatly improve the learning environment and educational tools to equip the students for the workforce. I predict that with reduced giving, our school will not be able to perform these upgrade works, which I know would have supported many small family businesses, as it has in the past.</p> <p>I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust you will take action for the good of our country.</p>	21/01/2024
278-423	Curtis Dormer	<p>I would like to make representation regarding the report. Whilst some of it is very good, relevant content I am hugely 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 concerns me massively as my son and soon my daughter attend an independent school. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure in a way we have not experienced before as a family; I fear that school fees would highly likely be driven up further to make up the lost income as which would be felt through reduced giving...this would be driven by the lost tax benefit for businesses or individuals being able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If this is adopted by the Government, we will likely be forced to send our children to our already overcrowded local public school which will very much impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please may I request you seriously consider my concerns; I am very sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	21/01/2024
278-424	Lester Way	<p>We have reviewed your draft report for the Future foundations for giving, and this has raised serious concerns in our household.</p> <p>Our main concern is for the proposal of the DGR status to be scrapped as our children attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR Status.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Our fear is that our children’s school fees will have to increase substantially to cover lost donor income from current tax-deductible giving status, which will put us in a position where we will be forced to put our children through government schooling, which is already very much overcrowded.</p> <p>Being from a Christian background, we very much feel the report recommendations are a attack on religion as to our understanding the vast majority of independent education in this country is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I would ask that you strongly consider our objection to the draft report.</p>	
278-425	Tristan Anderson	<p>As an Australian citizen, I write to express my concern for the future viability of independent schools in Australia if the Government are to adopt the recommendations from the Productivity Commission.</p> <p>I am concerned about the recommendations for the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>DGR status is needed to ensure long-term viability of private school education and projects in this country.</p> <p>With two children that will be entering private schools now and in the coming years, this is important for me as school fees will increase to unreasonable levels should the DGR status be removed. Living costs are already at a barely sustainable level.</p> <p>The system has worked and supported generations since 1954 and there is no good reason to modify 70 years later.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, this will affect many and it will have a negative impact on future generations of Australian children.</p>	21/01/2024
278-426	Chester Mead	<p>I am writing as to our concern as to the Productivity commission recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We have two children attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status and we have long planned & saved hard to make this possible. If these recommendations are adopted we know school fees will sky-rocket. Your decision will dramatically reduce the charitable giving schools like ours rely on, leaving them with no choice but to transfer these costs to parents. This would force us to forgo our life-long goal of sending our children to the non-government school we have chosen for them, as the far greater expense - at a time when we are experiencing harsh cost of living pressures which shows no sign of relief - would be untenable.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Our anxiety is that if the Government does adopt these recommendations, we will be unable to give our children the education we had hoped. Instead, we will be forced to send them to a local overcrowded public school. We fear this will degrade their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Furthermore, this arbitrary recommendation is a serious attack on religion, and on our right in Australia to the freedom to practice our religion - as the vast majority of private education is provided by religious groups.</p> <p>We ask that you genuinely consider not only our concerns for our family and the many in our situation but also for the prosperity of all.</p>	
278-427	Kevin Grace	<p>I am a very 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. Why and how does this change benefit anyone?</p> <p>All my children have attended an independent school, that benefits from DGR status. With the cost of living pressure like never before, this proposed change will force school fees to be increased to make up the lost income from reduced donations, if there is no tax benefit for businesses or individuals to donate to the school.</p> <p>As parents and speaking to other parents we may be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential and cost the government a lot more than what they will gain by this change.</p> <p>Please do not make these proposed changes in the draft report.</p>	21/01/2024
278-428	Rod Gooden	<p>I have read the above draft report with interest. Thank you for the thorough research, investigations and work that has been undertaken.</p> <p>However, the recommendations for DGR- deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government schools and childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations does concern me greatly.</p> <p>My son and my grandchildren attend an independent school that currently has DGR status.</p> <p>The cost of this private education for my son and grandchildren is already high, and with the current increase in cost of living is requiring extensive family budgeting to get through. We can only imagine that school fees will need to increase further to make up the lost income from reduced giving/donations, driven by the lack of tax advantage for businesses and individuals able to donate to the school.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>We are committed to providing this private education so that our children have a quality education and are able and ready to move forward into the next stage of their work life when finished school with great ATAR results.</p> <p>If the Government accept this draft report, we will be required to move our children to overcrowded public schools which will suppress their academic potential. (and further increase education expense for State Govt)</p> <p>I support many other charitable organisations, and I ask- would an organisation like Salvation Army be impacted similarly? For our SA residents, this would be a frightening outcome, especially when Salvation Army are feeding the Country Fire Service during SA bushfires!</p> <p>Any Commissioners that reside in rural areas of SA will certainly appreciate this while Salvo's they are feeding CFS during bushfires in that Commissioner's resident area!</p> <p>Thank you for reading these notes, please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted by these changes.</p>	
278-429	Nathan Kearley	<p>The draft report has come to our attention. While it has interesting findings we are concerned about the part where deductible gift recipient status could be removed for private primary and secondary schools, and other private organisations.</p> <p>We are concerned parents that have two children attending a school that is getting this funding. Without government funding the fees would become unaffordable for us during this time of pressure due to other increases in cost of living.</p> <p>This could make us have to put our two children into the local public schools which I believe are already overcrowded. This is then likely to lessen the quality of their education experience, therefore lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment. We feel this would also impact their academic potential.</p> <p>We would be grateful if you could please make consideration for our concerns.</p>	21/01/2024
278-430	Rod Greenfield`	<p>I write to you as a Christian, a concerned parent, an active member of the small business community, and as an Australian citizen supportive of government and thankful for the great country we are privileged to live in.</p> <p>I was alerted to some very worrisome content in the Draft Report through some articles in the news and have since read the report.</p> <p>As a whole, I am thankful for the government's stance on philanthropy and much of the report is very commendable and good for our country.</p>	21/01/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received																																
		<p>However, I feel that the underlying socialist direction that the government seems to be bent on taking the country is blatantly obvious when it comes to their DGR recommendations. For me this table that is included on page 187 of the draft report provides a stark insight into the current government's agenda:</p> <p>Table 6.1 – Activities to be excluded from the DGR system by charity subtype</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Charity subtype</th> <th>Proposed exclusions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Culture</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reconciliation</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Human rights</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Security</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Animals</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health promotion charity</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public benevolent institution</td> <td>No exclusions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Exclusions for the activities of primary, secondary, religious and other forms of informal education, except for activities where charities have an explicit equity objective (for example, where charities are registered as public benevolent institutions (PBIs), or for scholarships or education programs for specific cohorts of students)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social welfare</td> <td>The activities of childcare and aged care are excluded (unless the charity is registered as a PBI)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion</td> <td>All activities within this subtype are excluded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other analogous purposes</td> <td>Excluded if the charity has a purpose of promoting industry or a purpose analogous to an exclusion in another subtype</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Law</td> <td>Advocacy must be in relation to an activity that is not excluded under another subtype</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charity with no registered subtype</td> <td>Excluded</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>While there are clearly 'no exclusions' for a long list of honourable causes including health, culture, animals, the environment, etc. it is clear that the government has zeroed in on ripping out DGR status for donations that further education and religion in our country. This is what concerns me greatly as the trajectory of this course will destroy the peace, prosperity and moral fabric of our Australian society.</p> <p>Let's look at it rationally under the banner of 'productivity'.</p>	Charity subtype	Proposed exclusions	Health	No exclusions	Culture	No exclusions	Reconciliation	No exclusions	Human rights	No exclusions	Security	No exclusions	Animals	No exclusions	Environment	No exclusions	Health promotion charity	No exclusions	Public benevolent institution	No exclusions	Education	Exclusions for the activities of primary, secondary, religious and other forms of informal education, except for activities where charities have an explicit equity objective (for example, where charities are registered as public benevolent institutions (PBIs), or for scholarships or education programs for specific cohorts of students)	Social welfare	The activities of childcare and aged care are excluded (unless the charity is registered as a PBI)	Religion	All activities within this subtype are excluded	Other analogous purposes	Excluded if the charity has a purpose of promoting industry or a purpose analogous to an exclusion in another subtype	Law	Advocacy must be in relation to an activity that is not excluded under another subtype	Charity with no registered subtype	Excluded	
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OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As a parent I have been committed to sacrificing to invest in the education of my children in view of setting them up to survive and thrive in their lives and to add to the progress and prosperity of Australia. However I am now facing a stark reality as the government pushes its agenda.</p> <p>It is a no-brainer to realise that if DGR status is indeed removed from giving to non-government primary and secondary schools, school fees will have to go up significantly. In my case I am already struggling to afford the cost of sending my kids to a medium tier private school. Fee increases, especially with the current cost of living crisis, could force hundreds of thousands of current independent school students into already overcrowded government schools.</p> <p>According to ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority) there were 4,042,512 students were enrolled in Australian schools in 2022. Of these, 64.5% were enrolled in government schools and 35.5% in Catholic and Independent Schools. That's over 1.4 million students in non-government schools.</p> <p>I used the MySchool website, https://www.myschool.edu.au/, (which is a great tool), to compare what it costs the government (federal and state) to fund a state school student (at my local secondary college) and at the independent school I currently send my children to. I found that it costs the government at least \$3,000 per student per year more to provide education to a student in a state school compared to a private school. Now extrapolate that for the 1,400,000 students currently being educated in private schools and it is evident that the government would be 4.2 billion dollars worse off if it continues on its drive to make religious and independent education out of reach of Australian parents. That does not make productivity sense to me?</p> <p>Personally I don't think it's about productivity. As a Christian I feel that the government is attacking my beliefs. According to Deakin University, 94% of independent schools are faith-based. So is this recommendation by the government to cut DGR status from non-government schools not a fairly obvious assault on religion in our country?</p> <p>Because, just move down two categories in the table and my suspicion is confirmed... ALL activities under the category RELIGION are excluded from DGR status.</p> <p>Keep going through the list on the above table and it seems other basic provisions for Australian families are also in the firing line – childcare and aged care? Surely the government wants to continue to promote philanthropic giving to these essential services of care in our society. What's going on?</p> <p>In conclusion, I would simply like to appeal to the Productivity Commission to do the right thing by all Australians, by Christians, Muslims, Jews and all faiths, and retain the current DGR provisions for schools, religion, childcare and aged care. For the sake of productivity, prosperity and moral values we are depending on your right recommendations to continue to underpin our heritage and future in this wonderful country.</p>	

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-431	John Pridham	<p>My wife and I write as concerned grandparents in relation to the referenced proposal, particularly the amended DGR (Deductible gift recipient) provisions.</p> <p>We have used these consistently for about 30 years, and currently have 15 grandchildren either at school or to commence school. A substantial part of their schooling has been in private school institutions that rely on private giving.</p> <p>These provisions having been in place for about 60 years, and we respectfully suggest need to remain in place, to avoid declining educational standards both environmentally and academically. Without these provisions schooling fees will inevitably rise placing an increasing burden on parents and families in these times of cost pressures.</p> <p>Many private schools and aged /healthcare institutions are founded and maintained by church organisations...how is this not to be construed as an attack on religion?</p> <p>On behalf of all likeminded and similarly placed persons we would appeal that this provision be maintained untouched...</p>	21/01/2024
278-432	Graham Tregenza	<p>It is with great concern, indeed alarm that I write to you in relation to the proposed/ recommendation found in the draft recommendations for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government schools, child care and aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I'm a grandparent that has grandchildren attending an independent school and know full well that these recommendations will result in increased school fees because of the lack of funding through these DGR donations not being received by the school. The net result of this in my grandchildren's case, will be that they have to return to public schools because the family will no longer be able to afford the fees to send them to the private school. I'm assured that the circumstances in which my children find themselves would not be an isolated case.</p> <p>Public schools are already overcrowded and if inundated with additional students from parents in the same predicament their learning experiences and opportunities will indeed be impacted on.</p> <p>I would urge the government to reconsider these draft proposals So that private schools can continue to receive DGR donations in the way in which they have done since 1954.</p>	21/01/2024
278-433	Gregory Joyce	<p>Firstly, I am thankful for the provision to make a submission regarding proposed changes in the report, 'Future foundations for giving'.</p> <p>I am writing to express my real concern as to the devastating effect on non-government schools and other religious organisations if DGR status is abolished.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>These facilities heavily rely on donations to upgrade and maintain their buildings, essential in promoting best practice education to match progressive changes globally, for the prosperity of our current and future generations.</p> <p>You may recall photos of manufacturing facilities with production workers sitting in rows at individual desks, and school building classrooms with matched layouts. Easy to see this doesn't apply now, but also demonstrates school building upgrades are essential to provide cutting-edge environments to suit us now and into the future, to develop and train students to be most effective for when they finally graduate.</p> <p>For 25 years, my wife and I have volunteered substantial time at our children and grandchildren's non-government schools. But we have seen that financial donations are more needed to meet substantial shortfalls, and the DGR tax benefit has greatly incentivised donations and thankfully enabled more generous giving.</p> <p>This has encouraged us to donate, plus the fact that we know 100% of our donation goes to the intended recipient.</p> <p>One of our grandchildren's schools has recently borrowed to complete a major building upgrade never expecting the DGR status, that commenced in the 1950's, to be axed!</p> <p>Removing DGR status will dampen donations and substantially increase school fees, and if unaffordable, potentially many non-government schools will close. Govt primary and secondary schools don't provide for the needs of our grandchildren, plus some already have limited capacity. Last year my granddaughter was initially declined enrolling at a Government infant school, due to numbers.</p> <p>This draft report also seriously discriminates against religious organisations, being most Independent Schools and Aged Care facilities are Christian or faith-based entities. In addition, the bold suggestion to end basic religious charity status is alarming.</p> <p>I respect and pray for Government daily, and humbly request you highlight the needed dismissal of these recommendations as mentioned in this report, as it would have long term negative ramifications on these organisations and indeed many Australians.</p>	
278-434	Malcolm Wilson	<p>After reading the draft report 'Future foundations for giving' I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a householder with 3 school aged children , two areas of impact are;</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>A quality education – As we strive to uphold Christian Values , the private school where my 3 children are enrolled, are benefiting by being out of the main stream public schooling. The standards and quality of learning is essential to achieve academic results.</p> <p>Financial help – This is a main consideration for being able to support my Childrens education. That the School has government funding to help subsidise school fees.</p> <p>Without a DGR status the provision to donate to a tax deductible entity would be scrapped, immediately ceasing much needed giving to the School Building fund. This will then impact the building of infrastructure leaving private schools unable to accommodate the standards of learning the children are dependant on.</p> <p>Instead the school fees would be hiked to make up this gap , making an unmanageable impact on cost of living , already at a noticeably high level.</p> <p>My message to the commission is the DGR status be retained . It is a proven policy since 1954 that ensures the affordability and continuance of high standard education for a significant proportion of Australians.</p>	
278-435	Terry Slack	<p>I have been made aware of, and reviewed, the above-mentioned draft report. No doubt there has been a significant amount of work put into its preparation by the department, and I give credit to those efforts.</p> <p>However, like many Australian parents, the freedom to send our children to a school of our choice is not only cherished, but I believe, a basic right. This choice involves financial sacrifice by those who want the best for their children and the next generation of Australians.</p> <p>I am very concerned that some of the recommendations, if adopted, will mean that the independent school my children attend will lose the benefits of DGR status. The potential ramifications of this for us, and likely many other families are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Donations to building funds etc will decrease. 2) Private schools will be forced to raise fees to cover costs due to reduced donations. 3) We, and other families, may be forced to shift our children to public education if fees become out of reach financially (especially given current interest rates and general increased cost of living). 4) My children would likely experience a reduction in academic outcomes, especially part-way through their schooling – a bad thing for future productivity. 	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>When I pay school fees, I am very conscious that I am shouldering the cost of a reasonable percentage of my children’s education. If we were forced to go to the public system, we will be offloading that burden onto the government and ultimately other taxpayers.</p> <p>For context, my children attend a medium-range independent school – it is <i>not</i> a luxury, <i>nor</i> full of educational benefits that are out of reach of most Australian children. It is simply the school where I feel my children can be their best.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns – the removal of this valued Government support of private education would be a lose-lose for government and Australian families alike.</p>	
278-436	David Larsen	<p>I am a father of three children part way through our family’s journey of education. Our children have attended a small non-government religious school for which we have been enthusiastically involved in fundraising and supporting.</p> <p>The current draft report has a recommendation that the DGR status should be discontinued for non-government schools and religious organisations. This is concerning to me as I feel the private giving to these schools is of immense benefit to the whole nation.</p> <p>In my own personal experience our children have had a better education through the tax deductible donations allowing new buildings at their school. Surely every improvement to this generations education is an improvement to the whole community in which they will become adult participants.</p> <p>Small private schools will no doubt have to increase fees because many donations from businesses will cease due to DGR status being removed. With the current cost of living issues, many families will have to put their children back into the public system which is overcrowded now. If the government had to pay for the full education of all students currently educated in the private system it would be a huge expense for the nation.</p> <p>I feel that the report’s recommendations are a backward step for Australia at this time. We need to support these schools and churches. They are supporting our struggling society, please don’t remove that support at such a time of struggle and instability.</p>	21/01/2024
278-437	Steve Nuthall	<p>As a parent of a child in Christian private schooling, I read the Productivity Commission’s draft report “Future Foundations for Giving” with considerable concern, noting the intention to end deductible gift recipient status for several charity types including religious groups.</p> <p>In the current climate of increasing cost of living, I feel the new guidelines, if adopted, will add stress to parents and have a flow down effect of added pressure to the whole education system.</p> <p>School fees will rise as independent schools are unable to afford necessary capital improvements, and education quality will decline.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The effect of this will be students leaving independent schools to pursue education in public schools that are already stretched for resources.</p> <p>I feel that the draft report fails to acknowledge the contribution of faith-based charities to the variety of education currently available in Australia, and its adoption will result in an education system that is devoid of the diversity currently provided.</p> <p>I urge you to reject the draft report and the recommendations contained in it, in order to safeguard the diversity and quality of education in this country</p>	
278-438	Clinton Lindqvist	<p>I have read the draft report closely and whilst it contains some helpful recommendations, I am particularly concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is of great 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 unable to afford the increased fees and be forced to send their children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. I'm sure many other Australian families would be in the same situation and will be similarly impacted by this misguided proposal.</p> <p>I am also concerned by the anti-religious sentiment that seems to permeate the report, including a recommendation for the removal of Basic Religious Charity status which appears to be completely beyond the terms of reference for the report and would increase the red-tape for almost one in five Australian charities.</p> <p>Religious faith is fundamental to the lives of many Australian families and it brings many benefits to the Australian society. Religious organizations play a significant role in the delivery of education, aged care and welfare support to the community. The work of religious organizations is an essential part of Australian society and should be supported by the government, rather than undermined.</p> <p>It ought to be obvious to even the simplest observer that removing DGR status for the second largest group of deductible recipients is a surefire way to reduce, rather than increase philanthropic giving among the community.</p> <p>If the government is genuinely committed to doubling philanthropic giving in Australia by 2030, then they should adopt the recommendation of the 2010 Productivity Commission report to progressively extend DGR status to all charitable organizations.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Implementing the 2010 Productivity Commission recommendation would be a truly significant step towards doubling philanthropy by 2030 and a legacy that will deliver benefit to Australians both now and long into the future.</p>	
278-439	Peter Way	<p>I have read the draft report and noted there are some good findings and recommendations.</p> <p>I am concerned that DGR support which has proved to be beneficial for wellnigh 70 years for all stakeholders including the wider community, could be drastically changed.</p> <p>I feel this could be to be discriminatory in regard of many different religions as a majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>In a time where we are experiencing the rising cost of living expenses, school fees would substantially rise to cover the reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>A particular concern is with reduced giving, our school will not be able to undertake building extensions and upgrade works which support suppliers, builders and tradesmen in the area.</p> <p>This is likely to also cause the education experience of our children to decline, lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment and impacting their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, in regard of our own extended family being impacted and the fabric of the wider society.</p>	21/01/2024
278-440	Douglas Reddel	<p>My grandchildren all attend non-government independent schools and after looking through the recommendations in the draft report I am particularly concerned about the proposal to remove DGR status from school building funds.</p> <p>Many of the parents of the more than one-third of all NSW students who attend non-government schools aren't wealthy and are experiencing the increase in cost-of-living pressures like never before.</p> <p>They often both work, sometimes in more than one job, to afford the school fees which will undoubtedly increase due to a reduction in individual and company donations to school building funds as a result of the removal of tax benefits for the same if the recommendations of this report are implemented.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The State Government relies on independent schools which in turn rely on donations to school building funds to finance their capital projects and facility maintenance to ensure there are enough places for all NSW school students.</p> <p>Removing DGR status will shift more of the financial burden of providing the necessary classroom places for our children onto the government, who will be forced to build new capacity in their schools at a higher cost to taxpayers than the current DGR-based system.</p> <p>Many government schools are already overcrowded, and I fear that the potential influx of students from independent schools will negatively impact the learning experience and stifle the academic growth of all.</p> <p>Likewise scrapping DGR status for childcare, aged care, and other seNices run by religious organisations will increase charges in those areas, and while many of the report's findings are good it does appear to be an attack on religion.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission's consideration of the above would be appreciated as adopting the draft report's recommendations stand to negatively affect not just my own family, but a substantial percentage of the population.</p>	
278-441	Adrian Trimmer	<p>I felt compelled to write after reading the draft report on the trends of Philanthropic giving in Australia.</p> <p>Whilst the catalyst for the report is, I would assume, well-intentioned I have to say that I am seriously concerned about some of the changes that are proposed.</p> <p>The basis of charity which is well accepted in the society in which we live, and enshrined in Australian law, is for the furtherance of the good of the wider community in advancing learning, care, and religion – based on the Elizabethan statute of 1601, with the heads of charity written into English law in 1891 (Pemsel case) and has existed in Australia for over 70 years.</p> <p>The suggestion in the draft recommending that deductible gift recipient status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations be scrapped is alarming and attacks the very foundation of what we are as a nation.</p> <p>In the very attempt at inclusivity, the changes contemplate excluding opportunities for millions of Australians. Is the government seriously proposing to burden the Australian taxpayer with the extra funds needed to absorb the millions of students educated in the non-government system into the public system and remove the obvious public benefit of associated non-government school construction supporting a host of local small businesses?</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>What about the education and development of the future leaders of our country, many of whom currently have had the benefit of non-government and faith-based education – surely this is a substantial public benefit?</p> <p>I urge the Government to reconsider and reject these radical proposed changes.</p>	
278-442	Nicholas Slater	<p>My grandchildren all attend non-government independent schools and after looking through the recommendations in the draft report I am particularly concerned about the proposal to remove DGR status from school building funds.</p> <p>Many of the parents of the more than one-third of all NSW students who attend non-government schools aren't wealthy and are experiencing the increase in cost-of-living pressures like never before.</p> <p>They often both work, sometimes in more than one job, to afford the school fees which will undoubtedly increase due to a reduction in individual and company donations to school building funds as a result of the removal of tax benefits for the same if the recommendations of this report are implemented.</p> <p>The State Government relies on independent schools which in turn rely on donations to school building funds to finance their capital projects and facility maintenance to ensure there are enough places for all NSW school students.</p> <p>Removing DGR status will shift more of the financial burden of providing the necessary classroom places for our children onto the government, who will be forced to build new capacity in their schools at a higher cost to taxpayers than the current DGR-based system.</p> <p>Many government schools are already overcrowded, and I fear that the potential influx of students from independent schools will negatively impact the learning experience and stifle the academic growth of all.</p> <p>Likewise scrapping DGR status for childcare, aged care, and other services run by religious organisations will increase charges in those areas, and while many of the report's findings are good it does appear to be an attack on religion.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission's consideration of the above would be appreciated as adopting the draft report's recommendations stand to negatively affect not just my own family, but a substantial percentage of the population.</p>	21/01/2024
278-443	Anthony Tindal	<p>In relation to the draft report for the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft:</p> <p>I'm deeply concerned on the recommendations made to dismiss the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools, childcare, aged care and religious organisations.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As a parent of three children attending an independent school which benefits from the DGR status, I am concerned that this decision would have many repercussions, some of which I would like to point out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase of school fees significantly which puts further pressure on the cost of living. 2. Due to the cut-back giving, it will hinder our schools providing for special needs, skilled staff, infrastructure, maintenance, up to date equipment and technology. This would also result in downturn in local business opportunities. 3. I feel this is going against religious values, as in the main, private and independent schools are established by these bodies. <p>I would sincerely appeal to your department to consider the millions of Australians that this action would have a negative impact on.</p>	
278-444	Dwayne Coote	<p>I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as a concerned parent to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Productivity Commission inquiry into philanthropy and the potential ramifications it may have on the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations. As a concerned citizen, I believe it is crucial to bring to your attention the serious implications that such a decision could have on the broader community and the vital services provided by these organizations.</p> <p>Firstly, it is essential to acknowledge the invaluable role played by non-government entities in addressing various social and community needs. Primary and secondary educational institutions, childcare centers, aged care facilities, and religious organizations contribute significantly to the well-being and development of individuals across the nation. These organizations often rely on philanthropic support and the DGR status to fund essential programs, infrastructure projects, and community initiatives.</p> <p>Scrapping the DGR status for non-government entities could have severe consequences, hindering their ability to secure the necessary financial support to maintain and enhance their services. This, in turn, might lead to a decline in the quality of education, childcare, and aged care services, as well as limit the resources available for religious organizations to carry out their community outreach programs.</p> <p>Moreover, many philanthropic individuals and foundations may be discouraged from contributing to these organizations if the DGR status is revoked. This could result in a reduction in the overall funding available for crucial community services, exacerbating social issues and negatively impacting vulnerable populations.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I understand the need for periodic reviews and inquiries to ensure the efficient use of public resources. However, I urge you to consider the broader social impact of any potential changes to the DGR status for non-government entities. It is crucial to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and the continued provision of essential services that contribute to the well-being and development of our society.</p> <p>I kindly request that you take these concerns into consideration during the decision making process and ensure that any recommendations or changes arising from the Productivity Commission inquiry are thoroughly evaluated for their potential impact on the community.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will approach this issue with the utmost consideration for the well-being of our society.</p>	
278-445	Gordon Painter	<p>Having read the above-mentioned draft report, it raises my concerns regarding the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is to be scrapped for non-government organisations.</p> <p>As a grandparent, it deeply concerns me that the scrapping of DGR status of the independent school that our grandchildren attend would have drastic impact on the cost-of-living pressure because there would have to be major increases in school fees. This being because of the lost income from reduced giving due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses and individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My concern is that if the Government adopt this recommendation, my grandchildren will be unable to afford to attend a private school and will thus be forced to go to an overcrowded local public school, which will impact their learning experience and have major impacts on their academic potential.</p> <p>I greatly appreciate if you would consider my concerns.</p>	21/01/2024
278-446	Brett Shedden	<p>I am writing in regard of the recently released Productivity Commission's Draft Report 'Future Foundations for Giving'.</p> <p>The report has some good points, my concern is in relation to the proposed removal of deductible gift recipient status for non-government schools, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>We in Australia are remarkably privileged that middle class, middle income earners like myself have access to some excellent private schools; Catholic, Christian and many others. It is of great concern to me that with our household budget already feeling great stress from the</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>cost of living crisis, we would have no choice but to send our children to a public school if school fees rise, which is predicted if this deductible gift recipient status was removed.</p> <p>Of note here is that Deakin University found 94% of Australian Private schools are affiliated with a religion. This shows that we are fortunate to have a great range of values-based options for schooling our children, the future of this nation.</p> <p>Much of the infrastructure and capital works these schools undertake would be reliant on the deducible gift recipient status they currently enjoy. The continuation of these upgrade and new build works also greatly benefit local trades and businesses.</p> <p>In summary I feel that religious organisations are being ostracised and this is a further subtle attack on persons of faith. We are law abiding, hard working, tax-paying contributors to society who deserve a continuation of the excellent living conditions in this country.</p>	
278-447	David Simpson	<p>I have read the draft report with interest and concern. There are some good recommendations and findings in it, but what concerns me is the proposal to scrap 'deductible gift status' (DGR) for education, aged care and charitable religious organisations.</p> <p>My children have attended, and one still does attend, an independent school that benefits from DGR status. We have at much personal sacrifice put our children through what we see as an education system that gains them a better opportunity at succeeding in their future employment and life generally, rather than through an overloaded public system that could impact their potential.</p> <p>I am concerned that the removal of DGR status will force the school my children attend to increase fees to cover costs due to the unavailability of funds from tax deductible donations, possibly making it financially impossible for us to continue this path of education to the detriment of their future. As a parent and grandparent, I am concerned that the overloading of the public system due to this path will lead to a negative impact on a majority of students in that system as well.</p> <p>It also appears to me that as a majority of the organisations that would be impacted by this are religious based it is an attack on the religions that have been a mainstay of our society for many years.</p> <p>I ask you to consider my concerns as I'm sure there are a lot of others impacted as well.</p>	21/01/2024
278-448	Trevor Nason	<p>I am writing with concern re the recommendations in the report for removal of DGR status for non government organisations including religious organisations and faith based educational institutions.</p> <p>I have personally been involved in non government schools in regional Australia in governance and also having children and now grandchildren presently attending the same. I am concerned the adopting of this recommendation by the Govt would have a serious negative impact on the development and operation of these schools who rely on incentivised donation/giving and would</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>consequently drive up the costs of school fees at a time when Parents can least afford with the current cost of living pressures. These schools are a vibrant and valuable part of our community and require full support in all areas to be able to provide the standard of education needed.</p> <p>It is also a concern that religious status is subject of review as religious organisations would be responsible for the provision of the majority of independent schooling.</p> <p>I would ask that these concerns are given careful consideration as I am confident that they would be shared by many other persons and organisations currently.</p>	
278-449	James Stead	<p>A recent media article brought to my attention the Draft Report on 'Future foundations of Giving' by the Productivity Commission.</p> <p>I have read the overview of the Draft Report on 'Future foundations of Giving' by the Productivity Commission and I am concerned about the Commission's recommendations to scrap DGR status for certain organisations including non-government primary & secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>In particular, I am concerned about the proposal to change the status of independent school building funds, which have had DGR status since 1954. As a parent of school age students, I regularly contribute to various fundraising activities from schools for the purpose of raising funds for school building & development projects, which include multi-purpose halls & libraries etc that are wonderful provisions for the students now and into the future. The DGR provision encourages me & many other donors to contribute directly & constructively to meet needs within our community that we individually care about.</p> <p>A change in the DGR status would remove the main source of funding for these projects as donors, including oneself, would no longer have any tax advantage when donating.</p> <p>The reduced funding would see less school building projects happen, which in turn mean less construction jobs, less building materials, less fittings & furniture, less staff opportunities, less development of our community infrastructure but ultimately will have the most impact on the students who are the next generation of our society & communities.</p> <p>Why should the current & future generations of students be subject to this disadvantage?</p> <p>Please review the above concerns and I sincerely hope that the government will reject the recommendation to change the DGR status of the school building funds.</p>	21/01/2024
278-450	Colin Grace	<p>As an interested grandparent I have read the Draft Report and although there are some good recommendations, I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>DGR status to abolished for Non-Government Primary, Secondary, Childcare, Aged Care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from the DGR Status, it is of deep concern that this could impact on their quality education. At this time we're experiencing rising costs of living pressure that is unprecedented. If the DGR Status is abolished it will in effect substantially impact on the affordability of this quality education because businesses and individuals will not donate to this cause due to the lack of tax benefit. Hence school fees will substantially increase.</p> <p>My concern is that if the government adopts this recommendation, we will be forced to send my grandchildren to public schools, which are currently understaffed and overcrowded. This will impact on their ability to learn and achieve stifling their academic potential.</p> <p>I would ask you to please consider my concerns as I am sure that my grandchildren will not be the only ones affected.</p>	
278-451	John Braden	<p>I was alerted to this report by the recent article by Nicole Flint on Sky New and as a father of 6 children and potentially grandchildren in the future, I am concerned as to the apparent determination of the Productivity Commission to remove the tax deductible status of independent and faith-based schools that all my children have been privileged, like yourself, to attend.</p> <p>I would like to include the following paragraph from her article as she articulates this issue very succinctly. <i>"They justify removing the school building fund deductible gift recipient status because "there is a material risk that donors could convert a tax-deductible donation into a private benefit" and that this forms "a substantial risk for primary and secondary education, religious education, and other forms of informal education, including school building funds".</i> (Nicole Flint – Sky News)</p> <p>My concern is that if the Government decides to adopt these recommendations it will make sending my children to these schools unaffordable. It will force them to increase their school fees to make up for reduced giving from individuals and businesses. The additional cost of education will make it extremely difficult for many families, like mine, who aspire to provide our children with the best possible education to maximise their potential in later life, when we are already experiencing increasing household costs and mortgage interest rates.</p> <p>I have been privileged to work with many schools over the last 8 years supplying school furniture and learning aids to both private and public schools. One of the observations I made during this period was the difference in the way private schools managed funding and community contributions to their building and capital expenditure budgets. The private schools were a lot more diligent to ensure monies spent achieved measurable outcomes, particularly around student academic achievements and were managed closely. In contrast, many of the public schools that I dealt with,</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>there wasn't the same appreciation of the money, as it was Government money that was there to be spent. There were exceptions to this, but there was a disappointing level of waste and lack of fiscal oversight, and it was generally the students who missed out.</p> <p>Mr Chalmers, thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. For the sake of my family and many other families who are potentially impacted by the Productivity Commissions suggestions, I hope will agree that these are illogical, and that the government won't implement these changes.</p>	
278-452	Brendan Quinsey	<p>I recently reviewed the draft report and found it to be quite insightful. While there are commendable findings and recommendations, I am particularly apprehensive about the suggestion to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Although I currently don't have children old enough to attend a private school benefiting from DGR status, I am concerned as I was planning to send my children to a private school in the future. With the cost-of-living pressure we are already having to deal with, I am worried that school fees would only be driven up to make up for the lost income because of the reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My concern is that if the government embraces this recommendation, families like mine might be compelled to opt for our local public school, which is already contending with overcrowding. Such a decision could adversely affect the quality of our children's learning experience and hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to take into account these concerns as you consider the implications of the proposed changes. I believe our family won't be the only one affected, and preserving DGR status could prove vital for maintaining the accessibility and quality of independent education.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	21/01/2024
278-453	Daniel Eade	<p>Upon hearing about the review of the future foundations for giving report I was excited about the concept of possible changes that would promote giving to worthy causes, this strongly resonates with me. After reading the report I acknowledge there are some good findings and recommendations, however I am very concerned about the recommendation for deductible gift recipient status to be removed from private school, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. As majority of these are related to religious organisations, I feel that this recommendation is an attack on religion.</p> <p>As someone who has managed to send our children to an independent school it is deeply concerning to me. I fear, that should this recommendation be implemented, there will be a massive reduction in the giving that their school receives because individuals and Businesses would no longer be motivated by the tax benefit of giving. Any reduction in giving as a result would need to be</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>made up from increasing School fees resulting in an exponential increase in the fees that we would need to pay.</p> <p>With the current cost of living pressure, if our school fees were to increase in this way, then we would be forced to send our children to public schools which would impact their learning experience and affect their ability to develop to their full potential. The impact of a significant number of families such as ours needing to join the public school system will be a worsening of overcrowding issues affecting many public schools, this in turn would affect the learning of all students.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns which would be shared by many others and ensure that this recommendation is not implemented.</p>	
278-454	Jason Fooks	<p>I am writing as a concerned Citizen and Parent regarding the recent recommendations of the Productivity Commission regarding policy changes on DGR status for non-government schools.</p> <p>With children's education principally taking place at physical locations (provided by an educational institution) it remains rational logic to consider support for school building funds as support for the advancement and furtherance of education.</p> <p>Any gift that advances education in this country should be encouraged – not discouraged.</p> <p>We would urge that the recommendations of the Productivity Commission in removing DGR status from non-government school building funds are NOT adopted.</p>	21/01/2024
278-455	Greg Allbut	<p>I have recently 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>My children attend an independent school and I have been actively involved in supporting the operations of the school especially in regard to the buildings and grounds there. During this time I have witnessed the direct benefits of the DGR status and how this supports the community and education of students. Removing this would be grave consequences for independent schools nationally, decreasing available funds from donations and thus increasing fees. At a time when the cost of living is increasing rapidly this will force us, along with many parents I know, to send our students to public schools.</p> <p>I am also aware that the independent schools sector is taking a considerable percentage of new students which is a big support to the government. This proposal will add further pressure to already overcrowded public schools reducing the quality of education provided to our children.</p> <p>I would plead to the government to change this proposal for the good of all students in Australia.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-456	Stuart Murray	<p>After reading "The Future Foundations for Giving" Report, I feel compelled to voice my concerns.</p> <p>The report does outline some good findings, and it is excellent to see giving extended to a broader range.</p> <p>However, my concerns relate particularly to the recommendation to ditch DGR Status for private schools, care facilities and religious organisations.</p> <p>If people can't easily give to the causes they care about, they don't stop caring, but they may stop giving.</p> <p>Take a long-term look at this, and how it will impact society over the next 10 years or more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private schooling fees are bound to increase, forcing more children into the already crowded and under-resourced public schools, directly impacting academic results and widening the gap between the wealthy and the less privileged. • More families will be forced to care for their children or aged parents at home, reducing the amount of people available for work. • I can't find any examples in history where attacking religion has produced positive results, yet this seems like an attack to me. <p>I could go on; in a nutshell, it is faulty economics. If people have the heart to give, let them give.</p>	21/01/2024
278-457	Daniel Wright	<p>I have perused the draft report with keen interest due to the negative personal ramifications this will have should it proceed in its proposed form. While there are commendable findings and recommendations, my apprehension is directed towards the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This matter is of particular concern to me due to several of my children attending an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. In a time marked by unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, I am apprehensive that school fees will escalate further to compensate for the reduction in donations, stemming from the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals supporting the school.</p> <p>If the government was to adopt this recommendation it will likely necessitate sending our children to our already overcrowded local public school. This potential move will adversely impact their learning experience and greatly impede their academic potential.</p> <p>I implore you to consider these concerns, recognizing that our family will not be the only one affected.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		Thank you for your attention to this matter.	
278-458	Daniel Brown	<p>I write to you as having read the draft report about Future Foundations for giving.</p> <p>As a parent, I would please ask the Australian Government to seriously consider the future if changes were made to the current Deductible Gift Recipient status.</p> <p>If the government were to change or remove the DGR status, it will result in reduced giving from businesses or persons who would normally contribute to our children's school through deductible gifts. Schools will need to increase their fees to cover this difference. With an already extremely high time of financial pressure and the ever-increasing cost of living & rising interest rates I would be forced to take my 2 children from Private education and enrol them both into the state's public schooling system, that I understand is already over capacity.</p> <p>By all reports, children that have had education through private schooling benefit academically and are of greater value to the society. Making private education less affordable would be seriously detrimental to Australia's society.</p> <p>I am sure there will be many other concerned parents, many of which well may not be aware of this draft report.</p>	21/01/2024
278-459	Martin Baker	<p>The aforementioned "draft report" has been recently drawn to my attention.</p> <p>I note many beneficial findings & recommendations but I must voice my deep concerns in relation to the following insertion; "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>Legislation of this type would seem to undermine the very foundations upon which a prosperous & well educated society is founded.</p> <p>I personally have a number of grand children enjoying a quality education in private schooling & I find it somewhat alarming that misguided legislation could potentially make it unsustainable to continue the stability they enjoy within the current framework.</p> <p>It is well known that the public schools are over capacity & I am seriously concerned about the likelihood of destabilising & demotivating a generation of young people by forcing them into the already over loaded public school system & hence stifling aspiration & academic potential.</p> <p>I would respectfully ask that you consider my appeal in relation to this very concerning issue & would humbly suggest that legislation of this character this would detrimentally impact many of my friends & colleagues also.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-460	Andrew King	<p>I have read the draft recommendation and appreciate it has a number of worthy objectives. However, I am quite concerned about the suggestion to remove DGR status from non-government schools and charities.</p> <p>This appears to be an attack on religion as the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Having many decades of experience with the Education system in Australia, my own, my older siblings and parents, my children, and now my grandchildren, I am gravely concerned by declining outcomes from the Education system.</p> <p>Firstly, I acknowledge and believe, as a foundation stone of a prosperous society, the primary responsibility lies with the parents.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the loss of focus on basic literacy and numeracy has resulted in many persons entering into parenting lacking the ability or disciplines to manage a personal or household budget.</p> <p>Over the last decade a very sad consequence of dysfunctional family situations, along with other distractions from core education, is the increasing number of children afflicted by depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide and youth crime.</p> <p>Studies of this alarming trend show these issues are predominately occurring where traditional and conservative values are set aside.</p> <p>By contrast, children attending faith-based schools are far less affected by this tragic trend.</p> <p>Many parents already grappling with significant increases in the cost of living, who are very concerned as to their children’s education, will be deprived of the benefits of philanthropical giving by persons whose desire is to support educational standards that have long term benefit to the national prosperity.</p>	21/01/2024
278-461	Stephen Whiffin	<p>We are writing as concerned grandparents regarding the above report. We have read the draft report with interest, and some of the points included cause us significant anxiety. The recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non- Government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations concerns us greatly.</p> <p>We have grandchildren attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status, and currently we have cost of living pressure such as never felt before. Our particular concern is that</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>this move would only drive up school fees further, to make up for lost income caused by reduced giving due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>The building of new infrastructure in the schools is of obvious benefit to the general public in the provision of work for the building industry and building tradespersons. Our worry is that if the government adopts this recommendation, our grandchildren may be forced to be sent to overcrowded local public schools (with all their inherent problems), which will greatly reduce their learning ability and academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider our concern as it is obvious that our family's situation will not be the only one that is disadvantaged.</p>	
278-462	Andrew Doven	<p>I am writing to express my concern at the <i>Future Foundations for Giving Report</i> draft recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Man has an innate ability to improve his circumstances and surely the <i>raison d'etre</i> of the Productivity Commission is to leverage that capacity. Education is probably the single most important factor in achieving this, and history shows a distinct connection between high quality universal education and national prosperity. Government funding is, of course, limited, which is why DGR status for school buildings, leveraging limited government funding has for decades in this country underpinned the golden years of substantial Australian GDP improvements. I respectfully submit that the continuation of this DGR provision is critical to the continuation of the pre-eminence Australia currently has, consistently ranking among the top 15 nations in per capita GDP.</p> <p>The proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will directly worsen the current “cost-of-living” crisis. • Reduce building works and hence negatively affect the building industry across a broad geographic range. • Will reduce private school capacity and further impact the strained capacity of the government education systems. • Will reduce education outcomes and impact the academic potential of our children, negatively affecting many individually, and the whole country collectively. • Seem a direct attack on religious institutions, as most private schools are run by religious institutions. <p>The Report statement “<i>there is a material risk that donors could convert a tax-deductible donation into a private benefit</i>” does not justify removing this provision as said private benefit is already illegal. It is removing a massive public benefit to deny a supposed, possible, private benefit which is already illegal and controlled through law enforcement.</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The Report proposes removing DGR status from worthy causes that have had objectively proven substantial Public Benefit outcomes and giving DGR status to causes that have minor subjective and mainly personal benefits. This should not happen.</p> <p>Significantly, the current schools and aged care DGR benefit is directly spent on beneficial outcomes which directly improve productivity. This is real, objective, demonstrable, and measurable. I submit Australia should not spend money in the form of DGR benefits on organisations whose only function is to advocate for policy change, and there is no leveraging for the benefit of the country.</p>	
278-463	Ben Earl	<p>We have read the above mentioned draft report. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, we are 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 our eldest child attends (and we hope to be able to afford to send our other 4 children) an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing the rising cost of living pressure never felt before, we 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>Our foremost concern is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our already overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, we are sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	21/01/2024
278-464	Derek Attwood	<p>With consideration to the future of families, our children, future careers for our children, our beliefs and quality standard of living, I find the "Future foundations for giving" draft report distressing.</p> <p>For my family and no doubt many others who have carefully selected where our children are to be educated, with their future in mind and plans of becoming well trained and mature citizens that bring value to our country in their future careers, the contemplation of what the Government is considering doing to the Deductible Gift Recipient status majorly reduces my confidence in our current Albanese Government and the impact this decision could have in many areas well into our future.</p> <p>We all know that the cost of living has dramatically increased in recent times and there is no significant sign of relief in this area currently. If school fees had to increase substantially due to poor government decisions this would cause huge unsettlement with families having to change where</p>	21/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>their children are educated just to be able to make ends meet, and would impact our children's learning. It would be discrimination to many if this decision was to force people to choose schools that don't align with their religious beliefs or quality of education.</p> <p>I plead with the current government to hear our concerns and not cause further pressure to Australian families and consider the future of the many people this decision could negatively impact.</p>	
278-465	Simon Menzies	<p>I am writing now as having grave concerns regarding the proposed changes around the Deductible gift recipient status for Primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>With ongoing rising cost of living surpassing all previous years, it seems like we about to encounter another hit to our hard-earned income by way of increased school fees.</p> <p>With the removal of the DGR status, which has been a Australian way of life for so many years, there will be very little incentive for many to make donations to private schools to help with building works and facility upgrades, and as a result these funds are going to have to come from somewhere, i.e. the parents paying higher school fees, or worse still, face the dilemma of having to enrol our children into, as I understand it, the overcrowded public school system.</p> <p>As you are aware, this would increase the strain on a system that is already struggling as well as reducing our children's education experience by removing them from an atmosphere where high achievers are supported to reach their full potential.</p> <p>From my understanding a high proportion of private schools are underpinned by specific religious organisations, and in considering the current proposal I feel that this current proposal is an attack on religion.</p> <p>I am assured of your attention to my concerns, which I feel are not unreasonable.</p>	22/1/2024