

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-701 to 278-817

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-701	Daniel Davies	<p>Regarding the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report we as a young family are concerned as to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be cancelled for all non-government primary secondary childcare aged care & other religious organisations.</p> <p>This comes at a time when our family is already under financial pressure due to the ongoing increasing cost of living.</p> <p>We are concerned as our child attends an independent school that currently benefits from the current DGR status.</p> <p>These proposed changes to the DGR status would force us to put our child into public schooling system which I understand is currently under resourced leading to very large class sizes which would negatively impact his learning academic potential & education.</p> <p>Our school fees will be higher if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>I'm sure our family is not the only one concerned about DGR status. Please consider our letter of concerns</p>	22/02/2024
278-702	Joshua Pedersen	<p>I'm written with deep concern after reading that the recommendations for the DGR system are to be scrapped.</p> <p>As a young father it's a huge concern to me and the welfare of my children. Already struggling with the pressures in life with the costs of Living. Its quite clear that if business owners and individuals won't get any Tax benefits schooling fees are only going to increase putting the lack income back on us parents struggling with fees now.</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>I fear that if this proposal is to be accepted by Government the ACADEMIC potential of my children could be severely impacted due to the increasing numbers of our local public schools and their future in the workforce.</p>	
278-703	Michael Grace	<p>It came to my attention as to the proposed changes in the draft report that the Productivity Commission has put forward. I have thoroughly examined the draft report and find some commendable findings and recommendations. However I strongly object to the proposal suggesting the elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations. This recommendation is deeply troubling and warrants urgent reconsideration.</p> <p>I am deeply alarmed by the prospect that the diminished contributions could jeopardize our school's capacity to execute crucial building extension and upgrade projects. It is imperative to recognize that such initiatives play a vital role in sustaining numerous small family businesses within our local community. Immediate attention and rectification are imperative to avert potential setbacks to both our school and the local economy.</p> <p>This situation is extremely troubling to me especially considering that my children are enrolled in an independent school that greatly relies on its DGR status. At a time when the unprecedented burden of living costs is already weighing heavily on us I am genuinely apprehensive that school fees would inevitably skyrocket to compensate for the diminished contributions. This dire scenario is exacerbated by the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals willing to support the school through donations further intensifying the financial strain on parents and exacerbating the challenges faced by the institution. Immediate action is imperative to avert this looming crisis.</p> <p>I am concerned that should the Government implement this recommendation we will be compelled to enrol our children in the overcrowded local public school adversely affecting their learning environment and stifling their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to take my concerns seriously as I am confident that our family won't be the sole entity adversely affected by these issues.</p>	22/02/2024
278-704	Roddy Chastagnier	<p>I am writing to you regarding the drafted report mentioned above.</p> <p>The report suggests for deductible gift recipient {DGR} status to be scrapped for non-government primary & secondary schools along with other organisations such as religious organisations childcare & aged care.</p> <p>Reason for my concerns is because my son attends an independent school which currently benefits from DGR status. If the recommendations in the report were to be adopted the school fees will significantly increase to make up for the loss of existing tax-deductible gifts the school currently</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>receives from businesses and individuals because of the lack of tax benefit for these entities or people.</p> <p>At a time when our household is already under cost-of-living pressures this could force us to pull our son out of the school and send him to a local public school which I understand are already overcrowded which will significantly impact his learning experience.</p> <p>If you could please consider my concerns it would be very much appreciated.</p>	
278-705	John Archer	<p>I write as concerned that the Government is considering removing the charitable status from schools and churches.</p> <p>I feel that this will gravely affect the Australian economy crime rates and quality of life.</p> <p>The economy of our country has been able to profit from persons giving to charitable cause such as schools.</p> <p>A quality education is key for young people to become effective contributors to the economy and business and the professions such as healthcare and the police force.</p> <p>This current charitable funding may be the only way for some of us to ensure our children are given a quality education to enable this.</p> <p>I would not be able to sustain private schooling without the current support enabled by Government and I am certain many other parents would be in the same situation meaning the public system will be overwhelmed and our students will not be engaged in the way we need them to be for the good of Australia.</p> <p>Furthermore the principle of philanthropy to Education and religion is greatly helpful for Australia as it inspires and motivates persons to go above and beyond a mean existence. We know that the recipients will become valuable contributors to our economy and the donors receive satisfaction and sense of purpose in providing. This type of giving is “teaching them how to fish themselves” rather than just simply “feeding them hand to mouth”.</p> <p>What comes around goes around. I know for a fact that I have given personally to many charities for schools and church causes knowing that how it will benefit many worth recipients and confident it will come back to support me and my own. It is critical that the current funding and charitable support for Education and Churches is maintained by Government.</p>	22/02/2024
278-706	Charlie Gooden	<p>I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed changes to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools. As a parent with a child attending such a school I believe that these changes not only jeopardize the school's ability to provide a high-quality education and could lead to unwarranted increases in</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>school fees but also have the potential to negatively impact local businesses and our local community.</p> <p>The current DGR status is instrumental in attracting crucial financial support for non-government schools. The ability to receive tax-deductible donations has enabled the school to enhance its facilities invest in technology and continually improve the overall learning environment.</p> <p>Removing the DGR status for non-government schools not only undermines these advantages but also raises the possibility of such schools being unable to undertake essential building improvement works. These projects which often support contractors and businesses in our local community play a vital role in sustaining the economic health of the area. The potential reduction in such initiatives would adversely affect many small family businesses creating a ripple effect within the community.</p> <p>Additionally any reduction in the ability to undertake building improvement works could impact the safety and functionality of the school's facilities. This in turn affects the overall learning experience for our children and the entire student body.</p> <p>Beyond the immediate impact on educational quality I am concerned about the perceived implications of the proposed recommendations. Many non-government schools are affiliated with religious institutions providing students with an education grounded in values and beliefs. Any measures that compromise the financial stability of these institutions are an attack on religion potentially limiting the ability of schools to impart faith-based teachings and values to their students.</p> <p>Furthermore there is a genuine worry among parents including myself about the possibility of higher school fees resulting from changes to the DGR status. Independent schools often reliant on donations and philanthropy often face increased financial pressure leading to fee hikes. This could force our children into the local public schools putting more pressure on an already overcrowded learning environment. Fee hikes could disproportionately affect families who have chosen private education for their children potentially limiting access to the unique educational experiences and values-based education that non-government schools offer.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to DGR status for non-government schools taking into account the potential impact and unintended consequences for educational quality and potential fee increases. Our children's education shaped by the values instilled by religious-affiliated organisations is of paramount importance and any measures that may undermine these principles should be approached with extreme caution.</p> <p>I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will carefully consider the broader implications for both non-government schools and the families they serve</p>	
278-707	Carl Archer	As a parent who has committed myself at much sacrifice to put our children through the private school system seeking to give them a better learning environment better education and better chance at life than I had myself through the public system I am concerned at the recommendations	22/02/2024

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		<p>of the draft report to scrap the DGR (deductable gift receipt) status for non-government schools and other religious organisations spanning from childcare through to aged care.</p> <p>I feel (and fear) that this will result in an increase of fees and charges and limit and decrease the resources and infrastructure of the independent schooling system. This along with the skyrocketing cost of living will make it no longer viable for our household and no doubt many besides to send our children to non-public schools therefore putting pressure on the already overburdened public system producing a larger number of less capable young people entering the workforce. This is something that we certainly don't want for our children and I am sure many others would agree.</p> <p>This appears to be an attack targeting religion to the detriment of our country's future. My appeal is that this recommendation in the report is not acted upon for the good mankind for many generations to come.</p>	
278-708	Royce Dunn	<p>I became aware of the draft report through national media. My children currently attend a government-run primary school which has served us well to date. Our family however intends to enrol our children in a private school in order to better serve their interests as they grow and position them for further tertiary studies.</p> <p>After reviewing the report I make the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report appears to have DGR status of school building funds firmly in it's sights. I ask why this is as the report itself makes it clear the unquestioned benefit to the public that supporting the development of private schools over the past 70 years? 2. Further to 1. above I cannot help to sense an anti-religious sentiment throughout the report. Given a large majority of private schools are faith-based this is disturbing. 3. I am concerned that changes to the structural funding of private education institutions will have a flow on effect including decline in standards of school buildings and environments through to impacting academic results. 4. There is a suggestion in the report that there could be a nexus between the donation to a DGR and a personal benefit to the donor. I cannot see how this has any application to school building funds as the education institution itself charges school fees to cover operating expenses completely independent of the capital works requirements of the school. 5. It seems unwise to make a recommendation such as remove DGR status for school building funds without accompanying economic modelling. Such modelling must take into account a falling away of financial support for school building funds in absence of tax relief on donations an increase in fees for students at private schools a shift towards government run schools for children with parents unable to bear the increased costs of education and an increase in public education costs in the nations budget. 	22/02/2024

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		<p>6. I would appeal to the Commission to consult wider before preparing a final report. Consult with parents grandparents school management teams and P&F organisations. Find out how they feel about the proposed changes. Find our how they will be impacted by a structural change in the funding of the organisations that educate over one-third of the young people of Australia.</p>	
278-709	Lincoln Thrush	<p>The proposals that non-government primary secondary daycare aged care and other religious organizations have their deductible gift recipient (DGR) status removed greatly concern me.</p> <p>Should the government follow the Productivity Commission's recommendations our school fees will go up. This will occur as a result of our schools having to raise their fee revenue to offset the decrease in donations from organisations or individuals due to the absence of a tax incentive for these organisations or individuals.</p> <p>This is likely to also cause our children's education experience to decline lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment and impacting their academic potential.</p> <p>In addition our school will not be able to undertake building extension and upgrade works which I know support many small family businesses in our community.</p> <p>All of this comes at a time when our household is already under great pressure from rising costs of living.</p>	23/02/2024
278-710	Nelson Sanderson	<p>After reading the draft report I wish to register my deep concerns regarding the recommendations included relating to the removal of the DGR – deductible gift recipient status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a former parent and now a grandparent of children who are enrolled in an independent school which is currently receiving DGR status I fear the added financial burden that will be placed on any parents who choose this type of education due to the obvious need of increasing fees to maintain the school.</p> <p>Undoubtedly the children's education experience will suffer due to lack of funding for building works and other improvements that every school needs.</p> <p>As you would be aware this added burden on the family finances comes at a time that finds every family being stretched just in meeting normal living costs.</p> <p>Surely any monetary benefit the Government envisages receiving from implementing this report will be quickly swallowed up and more while increasing the pressure on already overstretched and overcrowded public schools.</p> <p>Finally it is no secret that the majority of independent school education is provided by 'Faith Based' organisations and I believe this is really an all-out assault on Religion in general.</p> <p>I trust you take the time to understand the far reaching implications of this report.</p>	23/02/2024

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278-711	Michale Bloomfield	<p>We have read through the draft report with interest and concern. As grandparents we have an obligation to provide for the oncoming generation as we have for our own children. Our six children attended a private school received a good education and are now all involved in loyal tax paying family businesses. We have been committed to making donations to support Private schools and many other charitable organizations for many years.</p> <p>It is with concern we note that it is recommended that for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations. Also noted the increased red-tape and reporting that will be required for almost 1 in 5 Australian charities including those that support schools and religious education.</p> <p>This would have a very detrimental effect on Australian society. It is well known that good education builds Australia's future potential. Why should any incentives to give to these important foundations be taken away? Without the support from giving private schools will have to increase their fees to the point it will be unaffordable in a time when the cost of living is escalating alarmingly.</p> <p>We are very concerned that the Australian government does not proceed with the above recommendations from the Draft report. Please keep supporting private schools or there will be an influx to the public schooling system you won't be able to sustain. We have an obligation to give our oncoming generations equal opportunity that we had.</p> <p>On your website you state :</p> <p>Religious organisations play an important and valued role in the lives of many Australians. Religious faith and values can provide inspiration for donating and undertaking a range of charitable activities.</p> <p>This statement is true and correct however it seems that what you are proposing is detrimental to this very statement. Please reconsider the changes proposed and continue to support private religious schooling and building funds.</p>	23/02/2024
278-712	Shane Sture	<p>In reading the draft report I'm very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>It's particularly concerning to me as one of my children attends an independent school that benefits from DGR status with my 2nd child due to attend within the next 12 months also. At an extremely challenging time where we're having to experience the pressure of a high cost of living I'm fearful that school fees will only increase further as a result of making up for the lost income from reduced giving. All of this driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>Whilst we know that over the course of a number of years schools need to be refurbished and/or extensions need to be built I strongly believe that these will not be able to be undertaken which in turn will also create a decline in the supporting of small family businesses locally.</p> <p>My deep concern is that if the Government does indeed take up this recommendation I feel it is an attack on religion as many private/independent places of education are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>We will then be forced to send our children to our local public school which we believe is already overcrowded and this will absolutely impact their learning experience and hold back their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns amongst those of many other families that I'm certain will be sharing the same concerns also.</p>	
278-713	Athol Davis	<p>I write as a firm believer in and practitioner of 'giving and philanthropy'. I have read with interest the draft report from the Productivity Commission relating to the 'Future foundations for giving' and while this report contains many good findings and recommendations it unfortunately also contains some very concerning recommendations in particular those relating to the scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a father of six children who currently attend an independent school that benefits significantly from it's DGR status my primary concern is that should this funding source be impacted it would inevitably result in significant increases to school fees. Such increases coming at a time when cost-of-living is already at an historic crisis point could only have a detrimental effect. The likelihood is that my children would be forced to leave their current school and move into the public system which is already overcrowded. This in turn would undoubtably affect their ability to realise their full academic potential.</p> <p>It appears to me that by adopting these DGR related recommendations the government would in fact be working against its own good. My simple logic for arriving at this conclusion is that it costs the government more to educate a child through the public schooling system than it does through independent schools albeit they receive government funding so why create a trend of increasing the public to private ratio at the governments expense ?.....not to mention the decline in the resulting education outcomes that will in turn affect the further of our community.....</p> <p>Taking a wholistic view of the current DGR arrangements and then considering what would be the inevitable effects of the government adopting these recommendations and the entities they would most severely impact one would have to be forgiven for thinking this constitutes an attack on religion given that the vast majority of independent education in Australia is provided by religious</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>organisations. Is this something the government really wants to be promoting ?.....it's nothing short of a retrograde step for society.....</p> <p>In conclusion I urge the government to take its responsibility of serving the interests of the people of Australia seriously and not to adopt legislation that is only going to have a demoralising effect on society. I'm quite sure I'm not the only member of the community who carries these concerns.</p>	
278-714	Wayne Vos	<p>I'm writing in response to the Treasurer Jim Chalmers commissioned draft report.</p> <p>As a law abiding and Australian taxpayer I'm deeply concerned about the recommendations as proposed although some good aspects. I make special mention around the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be done away with. Thus having a negative impact on non-government primary secondary childcare aged care along with other religious organisations.</p> <p>For the past 8 years my children have attended an independent school which benefits from the current DGR status for which we are very thankful.</p> <p>Never before have we experienced the ever-increasing cost of living pressure along with ever changing bank interest rate hikes. With this in mind and as a parent I have concern that school fees will be greatly increased in proportion to the lost income that comes with reduced giving.</p> <p>Furthermore the inherent lack of any tax benefits for both businesses and individuals who would normally be in apposition to donate to the school.</p> <p>It's imperative our schools need to grow and adopt to the ever-changing world we find ourselves in. Any negative or reduced DGR benefits will hamper the school to undertake building improvements extensions and/or upgrades. Other concerns include not only physical and material needs as mentioned but the potential impact this will have on the education of my children.</p> <p>I also feel this is a direct sleight on religion. As you well know the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations. In no way would I want to feel pressured or forced to place my children into a local government school which are already overcrowded and showing obvious decline in moral standards.</p> <p>The learning experience and academic potential of my children are my first and foremost priority. Why would they have to suffer the consequences should the Government adopt this absurd recommendation?</p> <p>Kindly consider my genuine concerns as outlined. Lastly I feel any changes to the contrary will not only affect our family but many other Australians benefiting from DGR status. The impact could be exponential with disastrous results.</p>	23/02/2024
278-715	Ricki Blake	<p>I am writing in response to the Draft Report which outlines Excluding DGR Status from the following Non-Government Organisations:</p>	23/02/2024

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Childcare * Primary Education * Secondary Education * Aged Care Facilities * Religious Organisations <p>My Children attend an Independent School that currently benefits from DGR Status and we are very concerned about the damage this Report would cause if it was allowed to pass.</p> <p>Depriving Non-Govt. Schools and Organisations of DGR Status as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Report will create the following issues for a wide section of the Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased school fees due to the lack of funding for building upgrades, especially when cost of living expenses are at an all time high. - Non-Govt. Schools will become too expensive for many and these children may be forced back into the already overcrowded public education system. - Many of our Future Leaders would often come from a Non-Govt. School. Can the Public System create the same calibre of Future Leaders as the Non-Govt. Schools have done for many decades? - The lack of building projects would also impact many small businesses and tradespeople who rely on this work for their livelihoods. <p>Based on the above reasons, I would urge for the current Labor Government NOT to implement the DGR Exclusions as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Report.</p> <p>Besides being detrimental to Australia and Australian Citizens, it is a blatant attack on Christianity.</p>	
278-716	Philip Blake	<p>Whilst any government initiatives to perform regular reviews to build and improve on existing policy are appreciated I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gi□ recipient (DGR) status to be removed from non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Regardless of what other items may attract consideration continuing the DGR status for the above organisations will only help to ensure that the long-proved values lying behind them will be recognised and upheld for generations to come rather than removing them to make way for other items that will only increase in need if the underlying values of these organisations currently targeted are neglected.</p> <p>This year whatever stage of life we are at be it a grandfather like me or a baby just born I trust that the progress gained from the last seventy years of DGR support will continue as it has since 1954</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>for businesses and individuals alike to prosper in an economy that supports education employment and care.</p> <p>Therefore I strongly believe that the Government should not adopt these Productivity Commission recommendations as they undermine what nongovernment and religious organisations do towards maintaining these very values that help to hold the fabric of society together.</p> <p>Many Thanks for this opportunity to submit my concerns for your due consideration in the hope it can be used for the benefit of all.</p>	
278-717	Daniel Joyce	<p>I have felt compelled to reach out to you to share my thoughts upon reading of draft report.</p> <p>There have been some good discoveries that have been outlined but as a parent of three children what is most concerning is the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) to be removed for primary and secondary (non-government). In addition to childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>It hit me like a freight train that this has the potential to not only ruin my children's education and career but will have a dramatic impact on our household cost of living pressures and the local smaller businesses and family businesses near us.</p> <p>Why? You may ask...</p> <p>My children attend a non-government primary/secondary school and they are currently benefiting from the DGR status. If this is removed school fees would have to escalate the pressure is already getting too much from the cost-of-living crisis we now are in. We would have to change to going to a public school that couldn't support them and will affect them academically socially and technologically. The new buildings that were going to be built by local small and family-owned businesses would also have to be scrapped affecting them.</p> <p>Whilst family comes first and my children's education and vocation it is also heavy on my heart that this really is an attack on religion. As we all know the vast number of non-government schools are religious organisations.</p> <p>It would be very worrying if the Government would accept this and adopt this recommendation.</p> <p>I would ask that you would please hear listen and consider my thoughts. These concerns are not written lightly and if the recommendation is adopted it will have a far-reaching impact on many.</p>	23/02/2024
278-718	Damien Davies	<p>As a parent of two children who attend an independent school we are concerned about the proposed recommendation for the "Deductible Gift Recipient" status to be scrapped for the non government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>With the pressures of living costs rising we are concerned this will impact our school fees making it unattainable therefore forcing us to send our children to crowded local public schooling which will only cramp their learning experience and lower the academic mark.</p> <p>Please consider our above concerns I'm sure our family isn't alone with many families feeling the pinch and struggling with the costs of living but then wanting the best education in view of supporting the strong and successful future for our children and economy.</p>	
278-719	George Cowley	<p>After reading the draft report I am writing as a parent of children looking to attend school at a private school. I am very concerned about the recommendations to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children will be attending a private school that has benefited from DGR status. However without DGR status and less income from reduced giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school; I am concerned school fees will increase making it difficult for many parents to be able to send their children to private schools. This comes at a time when we are feeling the pressure of the cost of living more than ever which could force us to send our children to our overcrowded public school. I feel this would have a big impact on my children's academic performance and would not give them a suitable learning environment for them to reach their potential. As parents our main concern is that our children get the best education we can possibly afford.</p> <p>I feel like the recommendations to scrap the DGR status is an attack on religion as the majority of private or independent schools are run by religious organisations.</p> <p>I would like you to please consider our concerns and I believe we won't be the only family affected.</p>	23/02/2024
278-720	Ben Scott	<p>I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the draft recommendations presented in the "Future Foundations for Giving" Report commissioned by Treasurer Jim Chalmers. As a concerned parent and member of the community I strongly oppose the proposed changes particularly the scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>The impact of these recommendations if implemented would be felt acutely in our community and more specifically in our non-government schools. The proposed elimination of DGR status for these institutions threatens to increase school fees placing an additional burden on parents already grappling with the rising cost of living.</p> <p>The changes will result in reduced giving from businesses and individuals and will hinder our schools' ability to undertake vital building extension and upgrade works. These projects not only contribute to the growth and improvement of educational facilities but also support local businesses that rely on such contracts.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>Moreover the adverse effects on education infrastructure and experience could detrimentally impact the academic potential of our children. It is disheartening to consider the decline in the quality of their learning environment at a time when educational standards should be on the rise.</p> <p>At a personal level my household is already under significant cost-of-living pressure and any increase in school fees would exacerbate our financial challenges. These proposed changes feel like an attack on religion given that the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organizations. Such a shift could potentially force families like mine to reconsider and place our children in already overcrowded public schools.</p> <p>In conclusion I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes and recognize the vital role that non-government schools play in our community. The potential fallout from these recommendations poses a threat not only to the educational experience of our children but also to the fabric of our local businesses and the broader community. I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that you will take them into consideration when making decisions that will impact families and communities across Australia.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and understanding.</p>	
278-721	Nathan Sutton	<p>As a parent of three children who are currently enrolled in an independent private school I have read the draft report with utmost interest.</p> <p>Whilst there are very little positive findings and recommendations in this report my main concern within this report is the recommendations for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to be repudiated for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a major concern as my children currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are already experiencing immense cost of living pressures my main fear is that our existing school fees would be increased by a large percentage to make up the losses from reduced giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals being able to make donations to the school.</p> <p>If the Government adopts these changes our family along with many many other families would be forced to take our children out from their current enrolled independent school and enrol them into an overcrowded local public school which is already over full capacity. This will result in a huge impact on their learning experience and suppress their future academic potential.</p>	23/02/2024
278-722	James Garrett	<p>I have been through the draft report with interest and I must say with concern.</p> <p>My wife & I have 4 children that attend an independent school which benefits from the DGR status. With the current inflation rising interest rates and overall greatly increased cost of living in Australia the very last thing we can afford is for Education costs for our Children to be driven up through the</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>rise of fees which would be a necessity on the school's behalf to cover the loss from reduced giving driven by the removal of tax benefit for businesses and individuals giving to the school.</p> <p>The Albanese Labor Government has promised to reduce the pressure on the cost of living and this proposed recommendation will do exactly the opposite. It will increase the cost of living.</p> <p>Please take into consideration the thousands of Families across our Nation the people you have been elected to serve by rejecting this recommendation.</p>	
278-723	Marcus Woodman	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are a few good points 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 grandchildren will soon attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing increasing cost of living pressure undoubtedly 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>It is of my greatest concern if the Government adopts this recommendation we will be forced to send our grandchildren to an overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and greatly stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns I am sure many many families would share these same views.</p>	23/02/2024
278-724	Timothy Crutcher	<p>We are writing in relation to the 'Future Foundations of Giving' report drafted by the Productivity Commission. We are deeply concerned about the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be abandoned for independent & private education institutions childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This will have a serious impact on our household many other Australian households and the government itself.</p> <p>There is no question it will substantially increase the school fees add to the huge increases to the cost of living to the point that it could be unfordable for us to continue to send our son to the school of choice and we would have to transfer him to a public school. This would deprive our son of the quality of education and the learning environment that would provide the best learning outcome for him and add costs to the government.</p> <p>Has the commission considered the massive impact disruption and costs to state and federal governments if even a small percentage of the approximate 1ti240ti000 students currently attending non-government schools were forced to transfer to government schools? Governments would have to establish and staff more than 500 new schools if just 30% of students moved to government schools? Surely state and federal governments would not want to provoke a repeat of the event in</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>Goulburn on 16th July 1962 when the Catholic schools closed and 2000 students fronted up to the local public schools? Refer to:</p> <p>https://digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/government-aid-non-government-schools-introduced#:~:text=In%20what%20became%20known%20asthould%20take%20only%20640%20st%20students.</p> <p>Consider what governments would be faced with if this happened nationally today!</p> <p>If DGR is cancelled this will stifle private investment into the construction and renovation of school buildings aged care facilities and childcare facilities and premises for religious organisations and centres that provide support and care for the destitute homeless disadvantaged and vulnerable persons – located close to where these people need them. The true cost to a range of government departments would be massive as they attempt to manage the social fallout – students with lower learning outcomes domestic violence physical & mental & moral suffering and even the needless loss of lives.</p> <p>A reduction in construction and renovation of such facilities would result in a reduction in work for many small to medium-sized builders tradespersons and service providers – such businesses that make up the backbone of local state & and national economies. Less revenue less employment opportunities meaning less tax revenue for governments.</p> <p>We appeal to the commission & government to retain the current DGR provision for the benefit and prosperity of the people and the governments of Australia.</p>	
278-725	Jonathan Muller	<p>I have perused the draft report with keen interest and while there are commendable findings and recommendations within my apprehension centres around the proposed elimination of deductible gi recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and religious organizations.</p> <p>This issue is very concerning as my focus lies on the well-being and future of my grandchildren who are approaching the age which they are going to be enrolled in an independent school that is benefiting from DGR status.</p> <p>In the current economic climate where cost of living pressures is being felt I am concerned that the removal of DGR status will lead to an increase in school fees. This in turn could result in the reduction of donations and support from donors due to the absence of tax incentives which in turn will impact the financial stability of independent schools.</p> <p>My primary concern is that should the Government endorse this recommendation families like ours may have to enroll our children in the already over-crowded local public schools thus potentially affecting their educational experience and almost certainly stifling their academic potential.</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I write as an extremely concerned grandfather who was educated in the public system. Through the observation of those in my close circle who experienced private schooling my Wife and I made sacrifices to ensure that our own children received an education in a private school where they not only excelled but also had enhanced opportunities. It is our desire that this positive educational experience continue for our grandchildren and their peers.</p> <p>In addition to my concerns for our immediate family I am also genuinely troubled for about the well-being of families in the public system if a significant number of children are introduced to already burdened public schools.</p> <p>I earnestly request that you take into consideration these concerns as I believe our family won't be the only one adversely affected by such changes</p>	
278-726	David Heaney	<p>I have reviewed the draft report which I found very interesting. There is good content and suggestions however I am alarmed by the suggestion for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status to be excluded for aged care childcare non- government primary & secondary education and other religious organisations.</p> <p>It is a concern to me as my children and grandchildren attend independent schools that benefit from DGR status. School fees will increase and the facilities and provisions of these education establishments will deteriorate. My parents who are users of the aged care system and have been generous contributors over many years to entities with DGR status will also be come victims of what is proposed.</p> <p>The concern is if the Government take on the suggestions in this report many will be forced to move their children to local public schools which are already under pressure with numbers of students and ability to perform and will impact on my children and grandchildren's education. Also concerned the pressure it will put on aged care system and our parents who have for 50 years been philanthropic in their outlook towards fellow Australians will have a less than satisfactory experience.</p>	23/02/2024
278-727	Roy Hales	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As a parent of 2 children I am deeply concerned with respect to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status being eliminated for private schools childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I am sympathetic towards the ALP and the pressures on it both domestically and internationally. I also appreciate your efforts to curb the increasing cost of living. However upon review of the proposed DGR changes I can see this will have the immediate effect of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increasing the school fees of our children and over 1ti000ti000 other students across Australia thus increasing the cost of living that is already at an all time high. 2) Force parents and guardians to send their children to already over-crowded public schools and thus affect the academic potential of the oncoming generation. 	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		I sincerely and humbly request the government of our great country reconsider its approach and leave the DGR as it is.	
278-728	Ron Ovenden	<p>I have considered the recommendation of this report with interest but with great concern . Whilst it appears well intentioned there is recommendations that will be counter intuitive and very damaging to many charitable minded persons. I am alarmed that the submission recommends deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary and secondary school building funds.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from the current DGR status.</p> <p>By assisting with the funding we are providing quality education opportunities for our youth. Graduates from these quality institutions emerge as better contributors to society and public good providing leadership initiative and inspiration that brings prosperity to our nation and its people.</p> <p>We like most others are experiencing unprecedented cost of living expenses and the prospect of these independent schools who are already bearing many costs that should be provided by government funding being now faced with having to recover funds lost to this unfair loss of charitable status are to be cut adrift from the generous and unselfish giving of businesses and individuals.</p> <p>Independent schools such as those my children are attending will be forced to drive up school fees to even more unaffordable levels.</p> <p>Many like our family who are already struggling to afford these fees will be left with no choice but to return to the public system. Government funded schools in this country are already understaffed overcrowded and as is publicly known now generating declining performance levels and increasingly poor academic outcomes when compared to global standards.</p> <p>The Government by adopting this short-sighted recommendation is about to stifle the chances of advancement for the countries brightest and best academic potential persons who will be left stunted by poor policy setting up our country for a future of mediocrity and damaging our global competitiveness for generations.</p> <p>This clumsy and ham-fisted approach to restriction on charitable giving extends to childcare aged care and other religious organisations all of which perform immeasurable public benefit by propping up chronically underfunded and poorly resourced public facilities.</p> <p>By taking pressure off these government funded resources charitably funded organizations allow more access for poor and struggling families.</p> <p>Please consider my deep concerns I am one of many families impacted by this proposal and ungently request it by altered to address these valid issues.</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-729	Charles Taylor	<p>I'm writing in regards to the Productivity Commissions 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report specifically recommendations to DGR statuses.</p> <p>I personally feel this is an attack on religious faith as the majority of independent or private healthcare and education providers are religious organisations.</p> <p>My concern is this will contribute to a further weakening of Christianity in a time where it hasn't been needed more.</p> <p>Please consider my concern as my family would be one of many impacted by the changes proposed.</p>	23/02/2024
278-730	Dwayne Earl	<p>I am concerned as to the negative impact of the Government adopting the Productivity Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>If the Productivity Commission's recommendations are adopted there will be reduced giving from businesses & individuals to independent & private schools due to the lack of tax benefit for these entities. Schools will need to increase their fees which would add pressure to households that are already experiencing unprecedented pressures from higher cost-of-living. This could also force us to put our children into local public schools which are already at capacity.</p> <p>I am also concerned it will have an impact on building projects our schools will be able to undertake. Local trades benefit from such projects and the knock-on effect of these projects not going ahead will be detrimental for a lot of our communities.</p> <p>Additional to these points I feel this is an attack on religion as it is religious organizations that provide the majority of independent & private education.</p>	23/02/2024
278-731	Stephen Parker	<p>I have read the draft report.</p> <p>I am very worried about the possible changes for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government schools childcare and aged care along with other religious organisations.</p> <p>If the Government adopts this change we will be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded public schools which will then impact their learning experience and effect their academic results.</p> <p>Currently we are experiencing cost of living pressures like never before and I can see school fees will be increased if this change occurs which will make our times even harder.</p> <p>This is alarming for our family as my children are currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-732	Kelvin Morley	<p>I am writing as strongly concerned about some of the draft recommendations that have been put forward in the Future Foundations for Giving Report. As a parent with 4 children I feel the suggestion to scrap the deductible gift recipient status for non-government schools will affect the quality of education that my children receive and impact attendees with increased school fees impacting the ability for funds to be allocated to upgrade the learning environment and increasing the cost of providing the quality education they deserve. This will put further pressure on our family that is already struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>As a significant amount of non-government schools are run by religious organisations coupled with the suggestion to end the basic religious charity status I can't help feel that this is a thinly disguised attack on religious freedom. As someone that supports a number of a number of religious based charitable organisations that support the most vulnerable I am shocked that any changes would be suggested that would impact this important work.</p> <p>These changes would result in overloading the public schools impacting my children's learning experience and academic results. Both these suggested changes will have a significant financial cost to the government when they should be focused on providing additional support to the most venerable of our society.</p> <p>I trust these genuine concerns will help to illuminate the risks of these suggested changes.</p>	23/02/2024
278-733	Stephen Heaney	<p>Having looked over the draft report which covers the topic of giving in a very extensive way it does raise some very worrying recommendations as to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status . As a parent and grandparent the idea of abolishing this provision to non- government primary and secondary schooling aged care and other religion-based organizations is very concerning.</p> <p>The whole structure fibre and future of western societies such as Australia is the provision of excellent care and education of the oncoming generations and future leaders. Independent schools in Australia contribute in a large way in providing good education facilities and rely on their DGR status to provide this. I have concerns that not only will the standard of provision drop in the school our child attends but school fees will increase dramatically further increasing the economic pressures already being felt in many households.</p> <p>It also concerns me that this is an attack on religion as some of the best education and aged care Australia wide is provided by religious organisations. A decline in these private sectors organisations would place further pressure on an already overloaded public system.</p> <p>Trust this has been expressed suitably and would ask for your consideration of our concerns.</p>	23/02/2024
278-734	Cornelis Jan van Breda	Australian Government Productivity Commission on Philanthropy	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over many years we have donated our time and finances to religious charities and school building funds and we value the DGR system which allows our financial contributions be made more effective. • We value Special Religious Education within Government Schools (as a fundamental freedom of being an Australian) and understand that SRE is the largest weekly volunteer labour force in Australia that enables this to happen. • We request the DGR status be maintained for religious charities school building funds and special religious education in government schools to allow their work to continue. • We want to see faith communities – both their initiatives and their volunteers – continued to be valued and recognised within the DGR system so that they can continue to do their great work within the community. • SRE religious charities and volunteers perform the lion share of good work done within our communities and should be encouraged by continuing the DGR system. • We request the Australian Government maintain or increase their support for DRG not reduce it. 	
278-735	Jack Way	<p>As a parent and business owner I write to express my opposition to the recent Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' draft report particularly its proposal to eliminate DGR (deductible gift recipient) status for religious organisations non-government primary and secondary schools (inc childcare) and aged care. Please see page 18 of the report "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". I note page 8 of the overview "The Commission's proposed reforms aim to make the deductible gift recipient (DGR) system simpler fairer and more consistent" I would question how removing DGR status from private schools and religious groups is fair.</p> <p>I believe it is crucial to consider the significant positive impact that private schools and religious organisations have on our communities. These institutions play a vital role in providing education fostering community engagement and contributing to the overall well-being of society.</p> <p>Private schools bridge education gaps and provide essential resources. The proposed changes may further strain our public schools and hinder the ability of private schools often operated by religious groups to contribute to societal development.</p> <p>Many religious groups actively engage in charitable initiatives making significant contributions to social welfare disaster relief and community development. Stripping them of their charitable status would hinder their ability to continue these valuable contributions.</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>It is crucial to acknowledge that both private schools and religious groups inherently function as essential pillars of community support often bridging gaps that public services may not completely address. Removing their charity status would inadvertently limit their capacity to serve the public good.</p> <p>I urge the Government to consider the broader implications on individuals and communities benefiting from these services.</p>	
278-736	Steve V	<p>having become aware of and read though the draft report and recognised the dangerous recommendation for DGR Status to be scrapped for primary secondary schooling childcare and aged care and other religious organisations I want to implore the government not to go down this path of action.</p> <p>The recommendation goes to the core fabric of our nation and is an attack on religion and the greater number of independent schools where education is provided by religious organisations. With DGR Status revoked support for building programs and upgrading of facilities will be curtailed. Anything that impacts our children's learning experience is to be avoided.</p> <p>The inevitable increase in school fees will force student away from independent facilities of choice into an already stressed public education system.</p> <p>Please consider carefully the effect of scrapping DGR status and avoid the discrimination and upheaval that will ensure.</p>	23/02/2024
278-737	Brently Fisher	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the potential ramifications of adopting the recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's draft report specifically those related to scrapping Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Firstly I am apprehensive about the anticipated increase in our school fees should the government proceed with these recommendations. The need to compensate for reduced giving from businesses and individuals stemming from the elimination of tax benefits may necessitate such financial adjustments.</p> <p>Moreover the potential decline in donations poses a threat to crucial building extension and upgrade projects at our school which currently play a significant role in supporting many small family businesses in our area.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned about the adverse impact these changes may have on the education experience of our children. A decrease in financial support could lead to a suboptimal learning environment negatively affecting their academic potential.</p> <p>These apprehensions come at a time when our household is already facing unprecedented cost-of-living pressures making the potential fee increases an additional burden.</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Additionally I perceive these proposed changes as posing a challenge to religious organizations as a substantial portion of private or independent education is provided by such entities.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of these challenges may force families including mine to reconsider enrolment options potentially placing our children in local public schools which as I understand are already grappling with issues of overcrowding.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider these concerns as they reflect the worries of many families who may be profoundly impacted by the proposed changes.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
278-738	Cameron Shirliff	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Productivity Commission's "Future Foundations for Giving" draft report specifically the recommendation for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status to be excluded for non-government primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>As a parent of children currently attending an independent school I believe the recommended changes would discourage and reduce donations to schools to build infrastructure like new classrooms in which to teach the oncoming generations of young Australians due to the elimination of the tax benefit for donors.</p> <p>The reduced donations from businesses and individuals would cause independent schools to increase fees and cut back on infrastructure upgrades which would push me and many other parents to send our children to public schools which are already overloaded and not adequately resourced to take on additional students from independent schools.</p> <p>I am very worried that if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations thousands of young Australians will be deprived not only of the opportunity to succeed academically in the present but it will also build barriers that deprive them of success in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my concern. I hope for a thoughtful reconsideration of the draft recommendations so that DGR status is not excluded for non-government primary and secondary schools.</p>	23/02/2024
278-739	Garth Chippiindall	<p>In relation to the Productivity Commissions Future Foundations for Giving draft report I am very concerned about the intention to scrap DGR status for non-government childcare schooling and aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This would cause immense pressure on the cost of living to households from the resultant increase in school fees and also add pressure to the already overcrowded government schools as many families would no longer be able to afford to attend private schools.</p> <p>It seems imbalanced that less emphasis is being given to support the care of humans than the care of animals</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-740	Paul Kirkpatrick	<p>I have read the draft report and wish to make the following points regarding it.</p> <p>I note that there is a recommendation that the DGR status for donations to non -government Schools and religious organisations who carry out Charity work be scapped.This appears to me to be an attack on religion which is unjustifiable given the current alleged espousal of Inclusivity in policy. Due to the fact that potential Donors would no longer have the economic motivation If accepted it would have a significant negative effect on valuable charitable work and also potentially add significant stress to the already clearly struggling and under pressure Govt Education system.</p> <p>I would urge all stakeholders to consider these points rather than follow through what would appear to be an agenda to hamper “good faith” efforts of those who support the aforementioned positive elements of society that being the provision of organised charitable activity and provision of quality education.</p>	23/02/2024
278-741	John Gadsden	<p>We have had opportunity to read this report and while there are some excellent suggestions we are extremely concerned that the government will remain committed to the tax-deductible status of gifts to Schools and other religious initiatives.</p> <p>We have ten grandchildren who are currently of school age and we have supported the decision of their parents to send them to non-government schools.</p> <p>The main reason for this is the limited availability for educational opportunity and achievement in the overcrowded public system.</p> <p>We fully acknowledge and accept the increased costs associated with Private schooling but the recommendations of this report would further add to these costs especially in a time of extreme pressure on family budgets. It would also greatly reduce the amount of private and corporate giving as it relates to the provision of building facilities for current and future generations.</p> <p>This current report seems aimed at transferring the Tax deductibility status from worthwhile community endeavours such as the support of Education and Judeo-Christian religious values upon which our nation is built to non-productive measures loudly espoused by minority group activism.</p> <p>The three established pillars of charity (Poverty Education and Religion) have been recognised for over 400 years and these were recently confirmed in 2010 by the Productivity Commission in its Report Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector and also by the 2010 Senate Economics Legislation Committee report into the Tax Laws Amendment (Public Benefit Test) Bill 2010.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned that these long established and well recognised pillars of charity could now have their tax-deductible status removed.</p> <p>We hereby submit our concerns for your sympathetic consideration</p>	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-742	Roy McLerie	<p>I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere concerns about the proposed recommendations in the draft report specifically regarding the potential scrapping of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and religious organizations.</p> <p>Having carefully reviewed the draft report I acknowledge there are some good findings and recommendations. However I am deeply troubled by the implications of revoking DGR status for non-government organizations particularly independent schools. As a parent whose children attend an independent school benefiting from DGR status I am worried about the potential consequences this decision may have on our family and countless others.</p> <p>In a time where the cost of living is already placing unprecedented pressure on families the prospect of increased school fees is alarming. I fear that without the tax benefits associated with DGR status businesses and individuals will be less incentivized to donate resulting in a substantial reduction in funding for independent schools. Consequently schools may be forced to raise fees to compensate for this loss putting an additional financial burden on parents like myself.</p> <p>My concern is that if the government proceeds with scrapping DGR status it may inadvertently push families towards overcrowded local public schools. This scenario not only compromises the quality of education our children receive but also hampers their academic potential due to larger class sizes and limited resources.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that my concerns will be considered as I'm sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	23/02/2024
278-743	Trevor Sivewright	<p>Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry.</p> <p>It was with dismay that I read the above and understood its implications - surely a backward step for a great country such as Australia.</p> <p>I am a grandfather of several school children all of which attend a private school from year 3 onwards both to protect them from the rampant moral decline in the world today and to give them the best possible education available. It would seem the current government is intent on indoctrinating the youth with its wrong leftist agenda. They would prefer to remove the DGR from an important and extremely integral and necessary cause and instead support radical minority activist groups who are intent on disrupting hard working honest Australians – who are already battling the rising cost of living imposed by the current government.</p> <p>I trust the Government will consider the above points seriously</p>	23/02/2024
278-744	Rod Clarkson	<p>The recommendations by the Australian Government Productivity Commission in their draft report titled “Future foundations for giving” dated November 2023 are of concern. Particularly sections</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>6. & 7. in relation to the deductible gift recipient status (DGR) being renounced/excluded for non-government schools childcare aged care and faith-based organisations.</p> <p>The reason for concern being the segregation and removal of the aforementioned institutions/entities from DGR status undermines the fundamental principles of philanthropy. As individuals we are each responsible for the care of one another in our families communities and country. What is more important than quality education for our young care for the aged and support in our moral beings?</p> <p>What is philanthropy? Philanthropy is defined as a love for humankind the combined concept of “philos” (loving) and “anthrops” (humankind). Civilizations of old were built with the idea that empathy (caring for and understanding the needs of others) was critical to shared survival prosperity and growth.</p> <p>The intrinsic nature of love is giving. Promoting love in our lives communities and country will bring about the togetherness we are all striving to achieve.</p> <p>Please favourably reconsider the recommendation to exclude Charity Subtypes: Education Social Welfare and Religion from the DGR system.</p>	
278-745	Mark Braden	<p>My attention was drawn to this report in the news recently and it caused me to follow up the report and I have to say there are some interesting findings but I can't believe that the Government would ever consider changing deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations. From my reading of the report it appears in my view an attack on religion and religious organisations who provide great education for the young people and care for the older population in Aged Care.</p> <p>As a concerned person raising children it is not cheap and we are experiencing serious cost of living pressures like we have not know in our lifetime it is rather obvious that our independent school fees will be forced to go up due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>Aged Care providers as we know also have limited resource and always value the donation of any one able to help support and provide better care and security for our elders. Why would we take this long-standing tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to aged care the way that has proven so supportive for decades in our community and help assist the burden that Government carries and the objective to increase Philanthropy in Australia?</p> <p>We probably are not the only ones concerned with this draft and trust you will consider our concerns to keep our Great Nation together for the benefit of every one of its citizens as we all acknowledge that Philanthropy contributes to a better society.</p>	23/02/2024
278-746	Tom Dartnall	We are writing to you because of our interest in the Future Foundations for Giving Draft Report.	23/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>We respect the Government’s approach to research a range of economic issues in view of the welfare of all Australians.</p> <p>However the consideration of the removal of the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status is of great concern. As parents of 3 children we were able to give them the opportunity to attend an independent school. The smaller numbers excellent curriculums and respectful culture shaped our children (and many of these students) to secure good jobs with high incomes and become active members of the wider community.</p> <p>This is thanks to the benefits the school received from the DGR status. We could not have afforded the school fees if it was left to us alone; we could not be more thankful for the help of philanthropy.</p> <p>Unfortunately our non-government schools childcare aged care and other important organizations will suffer if the funding status is scrapped. It would have devastating effects to much of our Australian society. If businesses and individuals are able and willing to donate to these charitable causes to a) help the country raise generations of well doing citizens b) relieve families financially that want to secure their best possible futures why would this stop?</p> <p>As concerned parents we would appreciate our letter / plea to be considered.</p>	
278-747	Lloyd Hutchison	<p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>We are parents of four children who have attended an independent school over the past 20 years. During this time we have witnessed the evolution of our school's facilities from a converted house to the modern upgraded buildings we have today. The growth and improvement of our school has positively impacted our children's enthusiasm for learning ensuring they are active contributors to society upon completing their schooling.</p> <p>Having originated from lower-income households and attended public schools ourselves we are grateful for the opportunity to send our children to a school aligned with our values in Australia's diverse education system.</p> <p><u>Reason for Submission:</u></p> <p>After reviewing the draft report which contains sensible recommendations we express our concern regarding the proposed removal of Deductible Gift Recipient status which will directly affect our school.</p> <p>Apart from school fees one way our family and others in the community have been able to support the school's improvement has been through modest occasional donations to the building fund.</p> <p>The elimination of Deductible Gift Recipient status and the subsequent increase in school fees will impose additional financial pressure on our household and the school community especially during an already challenging period for managing household budgets. Moreover this change will</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>exacerbate socioeconomic disparities within our community limiting the freedom of lower-income families to choose education options and perpetuating inequality.</p> <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>We respectfully urge the Productivity Commission not to remove or alter the Deductible Gift Recipient provisions for non-government schools. Such a move would adversely affect our family our school and similar institutions with broader consequences for the communities they serve and the overall diversity of Australia's education landscape.</p>	
278-748	Richard Salisbury	<p>I have read Future Foundations for Giving draft report with interest and am very supportive of any initiative that encourages philanthropy.</p> <p>I note that a number of the recommendations are positive however I am very concerned about the proposal for deductible gift recipient status to be withdrawn for non-government schools childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>These findings overlook the fact that over one-third of students in Australia currently attend private school. This includes my own child who we have chosen to educate privately in part due to the already over-stretched capacity of government schools. This is already a very heavy financial burden for us and I can only see the proposal to remove private school's DGR status resulting in increased school fees that myself and no doubt many others will no longer be able to afford.</p> <p>I'm also concerned about the targeting of religious organisations. Australia is foundationally and nominally a Christian country with 43.9% of the population identifying as believers in Christianity. The very word Philanthropy is intrinsically connected with Christianity with one of the key teachings in the Bible being 'God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Corinthians 9 v 7. I can only see any effort to separate Philanthropy and Christianity resulting in an adverse outcome.</p> <p>I would ask that the points I have raised please be taken into consideration I'm very conscious of the financial pressures facing my family and many others. I applaud any initiative that can encourage Philanthropy in Australia and feel it's critical that this review doesn't result in a negative impact.</p>	23/02/2024
278-749	Colin Arkcoll	<p>After it was brought to my attention by concerned family and friends I have read this draft report with interest and there are a few points that are also of great concern to me so that is why I am taking the time to submit this letter outlining my concerns within this report.</p> <p>My concerns relate to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status if this DGR status was to be scrapped it would have a direct impact on the cost of living in our family and the families of all</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>Australian that attend these non-government schools. At a time when cost of living pressures is extremely high with inflation costs rising interest rates etc.... I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>If the Government was to adopt these recommendations it would force our family to send our children back to the public schooling system and I fear that this will impact their learning experience and suppress their potential. This will have an exponential affect as the public schooling system is already under pressure and the education of thousands of Australian children could be impacted.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns and the lives of all Australians that would be impacted.</p>	
278-750	Richard Clist	<p>I have become aware of the abovementioned report which appears to recommend that the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status be removed for non-government schools childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>If I have misinterpreted the report and the assumption made above is not correct then please disregard this letter.</p> <p>DGR status has benefitted Australians for many decades across numerous aspects including but not at all limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging private donations for the building of essential infrastructure. 2. Supporting the education and wellbeing of current and future generations. 3. Helping private education become more affordable for low-middle income families. 4. Preventing the Government from being forced to build and maintain a lot more facilities. 5. Assisting in the current cost of living crisis so many are facing. 6. Providing overall relief to essential provisions that make Australia a prosperous country. <p>Please consider the points above. I believe the collateral costs caused by removing DGR status would far exceed any supposed very short-term gain.</p>	23/02/2024
278-751	Daniel Morton	<p>I have spent time reading the draft report with great interest. I am writing to express my concerns about the recommendations in the draft report specifically those related to scrapping deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>Having carefully reviewed the draft report I acknowledge the positive findings and recommendations it contains. However the proposed elimination of DGR status for the mentioned organizations raises significant apprehension for me and I believe many others in similar situations.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>I sense that this is a careful surreptitious thrust against religion given that a substantial portion of private or independent education is administered by religious entities. As a parent with children for whom we are saving up and planning to send to an independent school benefiting from DGR status I worry about the potential consequences if this recommendation is implemented. In an era of unprecedented</p> <p>cost-of-living pressures removing the tax benefits associated with charitable donations could lead to a reduction in giving subsequently impacting the financial stability of these institutions.</p> <p>My primary concern is that the loss of DGR status could prompt independent schools to increase fees placing an additional burden on parents already grappling with rising living costs. The potential decrease in financial support from businesses and individuals could further exacerbate this situation potentially affecting the quality of education provided.</p> <p>In my specific case if the Government were to adopt this recommendation the financial strain could force our family to consider sending our children to the local public school. Unfortunately this option will not provide the same level of educational experience and could potentially hinder our children's academic potential due to overcrowded classrooms and limited resources. We are worried that this is likely to lead to a degradation of our children's educational experience reducing their capacity to learn in an optimal environment and affecting their academic potential.</p> <p>I also worry that with this decrease in contributions our school may be unable to proceed with building extensions and upgrades which I understand play a vital role in supporting numerous small family businesses in our area.</p> <p>I implore you to carefully consider the broader implications of this recommendation on families like mine and numerous others who rely on DGR status to support the education and well-being of our children. I understand the importance of reviewing and refining policies but it is crucial to strike a balance that ensures the continued viability of essential institutions without unduly burdening families.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter and I trust that you will consider the potential impact on families and students when finalizing the recommendations</p>	
278-752	Roy Pridham	<p>I have read the draft report and whilst there are some good findings and recommendations I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of 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>	23/02/2024

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		<p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>We also feel this is an attack on religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted</p>	
278-753	Ross Wakefield	<p>I have just completed reading this detailed draft report to gain a better understanding of what the reports suggestions may involve and their impact on our family and local community. I did note there are some good suggestions in the report but I am very concerned about the recommendation for the Deductible gift recipient status to be taken away for non-government primary secondary schools childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>It is of particular concern to me as I have 3 children who attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>Our Household is currently experiencing financial pressure like never before stemming from a massive increase in basic living expenses. I fear that this recommendation will drive up school fees as they will need to be increased to cover the lost income from reduced giving from businesses and individuals driven by the lack of tax benefit to the donors able to give to the school.</p> <p>If this recommendation is acted on by the government my concern is we will be forced to send our 3 children to attend a local understaffed and overcrowded public school which will have a negative impact on their learning and academic potential.</p> <p>It will also reduce funding for equipment buildings and other requirements needed for our childrens school to provide a quality education and a healthy environment for our children.</p> <p>These ripples then spread further into the local community businesses who provide equipment services and building support for our school.</p> <p>On another note with most independent and private schools run by religious organisations I feel this is an attack on Religion.</p>	23/02/2024
278-754	M Wilson	<p>Good to see the work gone into reviewing the foundation for giving and basis for organizations to qualify for DGR Status but I have some serious concerns as to what this is really about. I like to think I fit much into the role and represent the views of the average Australian. There are some things in the current report and recommendations that are way off balance and do not align with what the report is set to do.</p> <p>Charitable giving in general is excellent be it to all and not just school building funds public or private. The recommendation of the Productivity Commission in the Not-For -Profit report of 2010 was to extend DGR to all charities giving greater support to wider groups of NFP. So why prejudice</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>against private school buildings or any charity for that matter if the current Future Foundations For Giving draft report recommends to refocus donations for the “community as a whole”. So let individuals and communities decide what charity they believe in and would like to support. It’s not for government to decide and meddle creating an uneven playing field.</p> <p>This is all about having more funds available for innovation lifting the living standard on average and the flow on long term benefits to other schools and buildings are enormous both to the Australian economy and the wider communities. It’s well know that giving for public benefit with a tax deduction incentive draws out extra giving and puts more money in circulation. The stats show that most of the extra money comes from high income families because they have more to give so let’s give them a carrot and draw out those funds since they are aware of an immediate need in their community.</p> <p>I urge the government to reject the recommendations and prejudice against private school building funds in removing their DGR status.</p>	
278-755	Dean McCulloch	<p>I’m writing as a very concerned parent if the government is to make any changes to the funding to religious groups such as churches and schools.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This will put extra pressures on an already high cost of living to properly educate my children to give them what they need to succeed and have a quality of life. 2. I would have to consider sending them to a public school which a lot of public schools are already at capacity which will be to the detriment of my children’s learning. 3. independent schools will suffer to be able to provide any upgrades and keep the learning spaces at a level where the children can do well and exceed and be a healthy contributor to society and the economy. 4. It will even effect pre schools which don’t only provide education and occupation for children but gives them that head start in life to mix with different children with different cultures from all walks of life and any changes to this would be harming to the development of the race. 5. I feel like this is a raid on religion as a majority on private and independent education is provided by religious groups. <p>I appeal to overthrow any changes and please see the harm this would cause to quality education in this country.</p>	23/02/2024
278-756	Stephen Sargeant	<p>I respond to request for submissions for the current Federal Government Productivity Commission ‘Future Foundations for Giving - Philanthropy review.</p> <p>I support the concept of giving I fully endorse the Governments Guiding principles of this review in order to stimulate “donations towards activities that provide the greatest net benefit to the community as a whole” I have personally been involved within my measure of giving to charities</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>and organizations over many years and I have awareness of the importance of the continuation of the principle of giving in order to provide additional necessary support in many area's where Government support is limited. I am also acutely aware of the responsibility and current need of the Government to unreservedly support this principle and provide community stimulation for it to continue.</p> <p>I write foremost as a concerned Grandparent in dismay at the consideration of the possibility of reduction of available philanthropy funding for support of schools and the schooling infrastructure which if the recommendations are adopted will certainly result in the increase of school fee's in private run schools.</p> <p>We placed our children into private secondary education without regret to provide the best possible start for them in mature life. My concern now is in relation primarily to my grandchildren. Increased costs of Private based Schooling could well prevent enrolment. At a time of almost unprecedented out of control increases in costs of living increased schooling cost presents a daunting prospect.</p> <p>The current government High School in our region is already over crowded with approx. 1200 students. The School is becoming notorious for misbehavior there is compromised teaching conditions and thereby compromised student outcomes. Furthermore the increased cost for provision of additional Government funded Schools for an increase in Students numbers would surely be enormous.</p> <p>Positive outcomes in School age Children (tomorrows Leaders / Entrepreneurs Medical personnel Carers etc etc) in these formative years when the potential is most realized will "provide the Greatest Net Benefit to the Community as a Whole" If the Government removes the stimulation of DGR for Small to Med businesses for School Philanthropic</p> <p>giving this can only result in reduction of crucial private funding and will be <i>a move against the most important and venerable sector of community that they have been placed into office to protect.</i></p> <p>I note also the moves against recognition of DGR for religious charities. The Government surely recognizes that these institutions exist for the benefit of the community as a whole and that they provide a vital mostly unseen role in the recognition of Authority and in the restraint of evil. The indication is that this move is rather an effort against religion as a whole. In closing at a time when philanthropy is generally in decline the Government must rather act responsibly and with clarity of vision to provide increased stimulation to giving which will result in the benefit for all.</p>	
278-757	Paul Garrett	<p>I write this as a concerned parent and grandparent about the proposed changes to deductible gift recipient status for non- government children learning facilities.</p> <p>It is well known that non- government schools provide excellent education facilities for development of young people in preparation for the workforce.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>We live in times of huge labour shortages and the need for training programmes is a recognised concern.</p> <p>Why then would the Government put additional pressure on the schooling system by potentially removing additional financial support the public gives to the schooling system?</p> <p>It is well known that many of the private schools are church based organisations and I see this as an attack on religion.</p> <p>I have a grand child who needs special care at school and to put additional pressure on the public school system by taking away support from private education is incomprehensible.</p>	
278-758	William Dartnall	<p>I am writing to you as a concerned Parent of children that attend an independent school. After reading the draft report while there are some good outcomes the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status of non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations to be removed is alarming.</p> <p>Apart from the fact that the independent school that my children attend has an exceptional level of education it also benefits from DGR status. If the government adopts the Productivity Commission's recommendations our school fees will need to increase significantly due to the reduction in valuable giving from businesses and individuals that have previously been generous in support due to the tax benefit.</p> <p>My wife and I are worried if the Government adopt this recommendation we will be forced to send our children to a local public school. In our opinion this will impact their learning journey and effectively damage their potential to excel in academic performance and future lifelong opportunities.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns and appreciate you taking this matter seriously.</p>	23/02/2024
278-759	Lloyd Beer	<p>I am writing concerning 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 particularly affects us as a family as our children attend a religious school that the DGR status applies too. At this particular time when cost of living is the highest it's been in my lifetime this concerns us greatly as I'm sure our school would be forced to increase school fees due to the reduced support from those seeking to support the school through donations which up until now had a tax deductible benefit.</p> <p>Our only option in this case would be to send our children to an already overcrowded local public school which I feel would limit our children academically and also go against our personal moral beliefs.</p>	23/02/2024

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		I trust that you can consider our concerns as I'm sure that many like-minded families will be affected also.	
278-760	Craig Anderson	<p>As a parent of 3 children, business owner and active member and volunteer of our local, school and church communities, I am deeply concerned as to the above-mentioned report's draft recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Since the 1950's non-government schools have enjoyed DGR support which has encouraged donations for building infrastructure in schools, ultimately providing better learning environments for students to thrive, as well as supporting the education of future generations.</p> <p>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 my children's school.</p> <p>If the Government adopts this recommendation, we will have no option but to send our children to overcrowded local public schools which will greatly impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge the Government to consider my concerns and reject these radical recommendations.</p>	23/02/2024
278-761	David Trimmer	<p>I have read the draft report and appreciate the effort and volume of work that has gone into it.</p> <p>A concern that I have is in relation to a phrase on the bottom of page 18 –</p> <p>“School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGS status under the Commission's proposals”.</p> <p>The current DGR system has provided incentive to parents (and grandparents) to contribute to the cost of the necessary requirements in the private schools - over and above fees - to in turn provide the needed support of education for the oncoming generations in this ever more challenging world.</p> <p>Having put 6 of my own children through both the public and private systems and now with grandchildren going through the same my concern is that the quality of schooling will be affected and the already overburdened public system may be further affected as well.</p> <p>I would be very thankful for your consideration of this concern in your review of the report.</p>	23/02/2024
278-762	Vince Grace	<p>Recently I read the draft report which is of great interest and importance to me as I feel its outcome will greatly affect the future of Australia. My children like many here in Australia attend a private school which benefits from its DGR status. The DGR status has made it possible for many private schools to exist especially like those where my children attend which is not an “elite” school which charges very high fees but one that provides an extremely high level of education for a fair fee.</p>	23/02/2024

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		<p>With the cost of living pressures at an all time high I fear that a loss of DGR status will make it impossible for my children's school to exist due to a big reduction in donations from businesses that currently benefit from the tax deduction this currently affords.</p> <p>This would force us to send our children into the public schools which is overcrowded and would have a massive negative affect on their learning ability and future aspirations.</p> <p>One only has to compare private vs public school academic results to see that this is correct.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns and engage with those affected and don't force private schools and religious organizations to give up their DGR status.</p>	
278-763	Michael Slack	<p>As a parent of two children who attend an independent school we are concerned about the proposed recommendation for the "Deductible Gift Recipient" status to be scrapped for the non government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>With the pressures of living costs rising we are concerned this will impact our school fees making it unattainable therefore forcing us to send our children to crowded local public schooling which will only cramp their learning experience and lower the academic mark.</p> <p>Please consider our above concerns I'm sure our family isn't alone with many families feeling the pinch and struggling with the costs of living but then wanting the best education in view of supporting the strong and successful future for our children and economy.</p>	23/02/2024
278-764	Ian Rendell	<p>I have personally read through the draft report with keen interest.</p> <p>There appears to be some good findings and recommendations, however, I am greatly concerned about the recommendations for the DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of great concern to me as my children will soon be attending an independent school that benefits from the DGR status.</p> <p>In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure like we've never felt before, I fear that school fees will be driven up higher to make up for the lost income from 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 adopts this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our already overcrowded local public school, which will greatly impact their learning experience and suppress their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, and I am sure there will be many other families impacted by this</p>	24/02/2024
278-765	Neil Muller	<p>Have recently read the Government recommendation report regarding the DGR status currently under review for non Government organizations .</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>I am very concerned as to the outcome of this as we have a family of four with two married with children and with the rising cost of living ongoing ti</p> <p>Education is a big issue as we consider independent schooling is more beneficial than the overcrowded public system.</p> <p>My main concern is that the private school's will be impacted by loss of income and therefore the fee's will become un-affordable for many young families.</p>	
278-766	Matthw Kennedy	<p>Dra% recommendation 6.1 encourages the government to amend the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth) to reform the DGR system to focus it on activities with greater community-wide benefits. The first principle outlined for shaping the scope of the reformed system is: "There is a rationale for Australian Government support because the activity has net community-wide benefits and would otherwise be undersupplied."</p> <p>The recommendation then states that in applying the principles the Government should "expressly exclude the following classes of charitable activities or subtypes: primary secondary religious and other informal education activities with an exception for activities that have a specific equity objective (such as activities undertaken by a public benevolent institution)" and "all activities in the subtype of advancing religion."</p> <p>These application recommendations would I believe result in donations towards charitable organisations facilitating Special Religious Education (SRE) classes in public schools no longer being tax deductible. This would be a great loss for the community as a whole with a number of negative outcomes. And more to the point is in tension with the first stated principle. It has been well established that making available consistent quality and well-run SRE classes has significant benefits community-wide. Those who donate to these charities are not doing so out of self-interest but in the conviction that well-run SRE programs are of great benefit to the communities they are part of. Zehavit Gross and Suzanne D. Rutland have outlined the findings of their study which support these convictions – summarised in the aTached supporting document.</p> <p>Tax deductibility however enables people to donate more than they would otherwise be able to. Removing incentive for donations to these charities will there inevitably see less donations with a weakening of the programs. In the words of the first stated principle this area of activity would then be 'undersupplied'. This will result in less consistent more poorly resourced classes.</p> <p>If giving towards teaching SRE classes is excluded it will not result in greater amounts of money being given towards other charitable causes deemed more 'broadly beneficial'. It will simply result in less philanthropy overall undermining the ultimate purpose of this review.</p>	24/02/2024

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		Please rethink these recommendations and ensure that donations towards SRE classes are not excluded from tax deductibility.	
278-767	Arthur Elliott	<p>The government's commitment to double the amount of philanthropic giving by 2030 is encouraging and to be commended.</p> <p>The report contains some good recommendations especially regarding the reduction of complexity in the legislation affecting charitable giving in Australia and the number of statutory bodies currently overseeing it.</p> <p>However I am very concerned about the recommendation that deductible gift recipient (DGR) status be removed for non-government primary secondary childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The proposal contradicts the Commission's own finding that 'a personal income tax deduction is likely to be an effective way of encouraging giving'. (4.2) and (on p 147) "the Commission's position is that a personal income tax deduction is likely to be the most cost-effective way to encourage giving and the Australian Government should not change the incentive to give...."</p> <p>This finding confirms what has proved very effective over many years. Why then recommend its removal from a large sector that contributes so significantly to the public good? As your own calculations show if DGR for schools were to be abolished the savings for the government would be far less than the expense of providing the same. If government had to provide or maintain these buildings it would reduce the amount of money available for its other social responsibilities e.g. provision of hospitals disability and aged pensions etc. This is of personal concern to me because my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. At present families are experiencing unprecedented cost of living pressures and if the tax benefit for businesses or individuals were removed school fees would obviously have to increase to make up for the lost income from reduced giving. Higher fees could force our grandchildren to attend an overcrowded local public school which we know does not achieve the same academic results (ATAR) as where they currently are. This would negatively impact their opportunity for further studies and their future careers. In addition our school would no longer be able to afford upgrades to their facilities and therefore deprive local builders and tradesmen of work opportunities. It would almost appear that the proposals are targeting religion as most independent or private schooling is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>As a member of a small church congregation I am also concerned about your recommendation for the withdrawal of basic charitable status from religious organisations.</p> <p>This proposal is strange given that charitable giving is a fundamental tenet of most of them certainly those of the Judeo/Christian faith.</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>If this proposal was accepted apart from the onerous red tape it would create it could open the door for future legislation imposing taxes rates etc. on properties used as places of worship by religious bodies.</p> <p>I believe there would be many others with the same concerns and I trust the Commission will exclude from their final report these negative recommendations regarding DGR for schools and the removal of basic charitable status from religious groups.</p>	
278-768	Martin Rowland	<p>I am writing to express deep concerns about the proposed recommendations in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report.</p> <p>The suggested changes will lead to increased school fees, placing an additional financial burden on families like mine, already facing unprecedented cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Moreover, reduced financial support will impede independent school's crucial building projects, leading to unmaintained and downgraded school facilities and impacting local business earnings and limiting our children's access to quality learning environments.</p> <p>These changes will force families, including ours, to enrol our children in overcrowded local public schools, adversely affecting the schools resourcing needs, their learning experience and suppress their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider these recommendations, considering their broader impact on families, local businesses, and the overall quality of education. Your thoughtful reassessment is crucial for preserving the well-being and educational future of our children.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to our concerns and your attention to this matter, as it will not only be my family that is affected.</p>	24/02/2024
278-769	Irene Roberts	<p>SRE Teachers significantly support close to 100,000 students across NSW providing invaluable mentoring and support. I have personally known Pastors and Youth Workers over the years engaged in this ministry and the positive impact on students [and their families] has been immense. It is imperative that the Government continue to recognise and value the contribution that faith communities make to our Australian society therefore I ask for your continued support in maintaining DGR Status for SRE and School Building Funds.</p>	24/02/2024
278-770	Daniel Pridham	<p>My wife and I are deeply concerned as to the report produced by the Productivity commission (Future foundations for giving' draft report) and in impact it will have on family's and small business I would plead that you consider the benefits of giving and the affect that the DGR status will have on the community if removed.</p> <p>I have noted some points below for you to consider.</p>	24/02/2024

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Government implements the recommendations of the Productivity Commission our school fees are expected to rise. This is due to the necessity for schools to boost their income from fees compensating for decreased contributions from businesses or individuals as they no longer receive tax benefits. • I am also worried that the diminished support from donors will hinder our school's ability to carry out necessary building extensions and upgrades which in turn benefit various small family businesses in our community. • The potential consequences include a decline in the educational experience for our children as it may lead to an inadequate learning environment adversely affecting their academic outcomes. • This challenge arises at a time when our household is already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. • I perceive this situation as an assault on religious education since a significant portion of private or independent education is delivered by religious organizations. • Such circumstances may compel us to enrol our children in local public schools which I understand are already facing issues of overcrowding and under staffed. <p>We feel very concerned as to the recommendations from the Productivity commission and hope you consider the benefits of the DGR and the effect it has on the wider community</p>	
278-771	Matthew Lindqvist	<p>I'm writing as having read the Productivity Commission's draft report which has been released in response to the Federal Government's request for an inquiry into philanthropy. The Terms of Reference correctly notes that such giving "underpins the crucial effort of charities not-for-profit organisations and community groups" in supporting others and thereby strengthening Australian communities.</p> <p>Encouragement to further the principle of giving is to be suitably acknowledged and the report contains interesting insights and helpful recommendations. Simplifying the DGR system which has grown in terms of eligibility at many amendments over time is a good movement forward. It must be appreciated however that an individual's giving will be directed largely by their convictions interests and what they determine as being of benefit. Enlarged and amended scope of eligible DGRs won't necessarily induce redirection of charity but may result in new giving from persons whose specific interests have not been previously included.</p> <p>A noticeable recommendation in the draft is the excision of DGA eligible contributions towards schools (both public and private) through such entities as a recognised Building Fund. It is well known and understood that school entities in the private sector charge fees to meet the shortfall in recurrent government funding in respect of the operational costs of educating students. Most would recognise the individual's choice in respect of private education as a fundamental liberty enjoyed by all</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>Australians irrespective of background; and the cost of doing so is accepted. The Draft Report seems to suggest a nexus of benefit between school fees that may be relaxed and taxation benefits to donors to the building fund. Private giving in this respect is widely used in the maintenance and development of existing infrastructure and access to discretionary giving otherwise is minimal. In respect of capital requirements for new infrastructure the funding from the Block Grants Program is rightly acknowledged but this is issued through a rigorous needs-based assessment process.</p> <p>Private schools in Australia play an uncontested and vital part in our education system and will continue to do so. These are recurrently funded by what presents as an outdated arrangement of both respective combined State and Federal funding; the sum of which per student is significantly less than the known cost of educating through the public systems. Many Australians have and will continue to do so elect to support their choice of education both by enrolment and support. Approximately 35% of students nationally are enrolled with private systems. It is not denied that many are established with a connection to a faith-based entity but the appreciation of such reflects the Australian social diversity as embraced in the concept of “Many Faiths One Nation”. (A publication that was supported by the then Hawke Government in 1988).</p> <p>As a grandparent who benefited from the provision of sound public education personally but made the choice to school my family through a low-cost private schooling system. I believe that the recommendation of removing DGR status from both public and private school Building Funds should be withdrawn. It is simplistic to expect that philanthropic giving in this defined domain will be redirected to alternative recipients and can only work against the desired outcomes of the enquiry.</p>	
278-772	Terence Eade	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential impact of the Productivity Commission's recommendations outlined in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' Draft Report. As a parent with children in private schooling I believe these changes could have significant repercussions for our family and the broader community.</p> <p>Firstly I am troubled by the prospect of increased school fees. If the Government adopts these recommendations our schools will likely need to hike their fees to compensate for the diminished contributions from businesses and individuals. The loss of tax incentives for these entities will inevitably lead to reduced giving directly affecting the financial stability of our educational institutions.</p> <p>Additionally this reduction in charitable donations could hinder our school's ability to undertake essential building extensions and upgrade works. Such projects are not just vital for maintaining a high standard of education; they also support many small family businesses in our area. The potential decline in this support network is alarming.</p> <p>The ripple effects of these changes could extend to the quality of education our children receive. Without the necessary funds to maintain and improve school facilities there is a real risk that the</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>learning environment will deteriorate. This decline could directly impact the academic potential and overall experience of our children something no parent takes lightly.</p> <p>These concerns come at a time when many households including ours are grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. The additional financial burden of higher school fees would be a significant strain making it increasingly challenging to provide our children with the quality education they deserve.</p> <p>Furthermore I cannot help but feel that these recommendations inadvertently target religious institutions. Given that the majority of private and independent schools are run by religious organisations the proposed changes seem to disproportionately affect these entities. This aspect of the report is particularly concerning as it feels like an indirect attack on our freedom to choose religious-based education for our children.</p> <p>Lastly the potential overflow effect of these recommendations could force many families to enroll their children in public schools. I understand that our local public schools are already operating at full capacity and a sudden influx of students could strain these institutions beyond their limits.</p> <p>In conclusion while I appreciate the need for a thorough review of charitable giving frameworks I strongly urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The well-being of our children's education the support of local businesses and the financial stability of many families are at stake.</p>	
278-773	David Westerman	<p>As parents with children in independent schools in Toowoomba, we are alarmed by the Productivity Commission's draft report on the charitable sector. We strongly oppose the recommendation to scrap the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government education and religious organisations.</p> <p>This recommendation would hurt our family and many others who are already struggling with the cost of living. It would force us to pay higher school fees or send our children to public schools, many of which are overcrowded. It would also affect the quality of education and the local economy, as our school relies on donations to fund building projects and support small businesses.</p> <p>This recommendation also seems like an attack on religion, as religious organisations run most independent schools. We believe we have the right to choose the best education for our children, and the Government should respect and support our choice.</p> <p>Please reject this recommendation and keep the current system that recognises the value and contribution of non-government education and religious organisations to our society</p>	24/02/2024
278-774	Peter Draper	I refer in particular to Religious Instruction in all schools including those who teach in Public Schools.	24/02/2024

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		<p>I am now 74 years old have supported SRE teaching for more than 30 years and as a Christian I am distressed and disheartened by the deliberate down grading of the importance of SRE teachers and their role in the education of children within Australian schools in particular.</p> <p>Whether you are a Christian or not I believe that Children should be education in whatever religion their parents follow and would remind our Politicians that this country was founded on Christian Values and Morals and whilst there has been some terrible behaviour my some of faith both to young children of both white and indigenous background overall the Christian Faith has delivered so much to the Australian way of life.</p> <p>The largest and most Charitable Organisations are Christian although we are fortunate to have other Faith based organisations reaching out to our poor the sick the elderly. Where would we be if not for these organisations.</p> <p>The Faith based organisation primarily live or die on the donations of those who acknowledge the work that they do and have a philanthropic heart for such organizations.</p> <p>How do we perpetuate such philanthropic attitudes if our children have no Faith based teaching. They will be lead away from the Faith based organisation by those who are ignorant to the huge amount of work that the Faith based groups provide.</p> <p>If these groups weren't there then the Governments both Federal and State would have to fund the work that is currently funded through Tax Deductable donations. SRE teachers in my view through their teaching of faith hope and Charity to our children and equipping them to understand the role of the Faith based groups in our community and provide them with a choice that they can make as they mature knowing that they are other option to those who would continue to try to bury our churches and deny the role of spiritual moral and psychological support that SRE teachers provide to students.</p> <p>I request that those reviewing the Tax Deductable support that philanthropist current receive remove any bias that they may have and look closely at the good that comes from the SRE teachers to the students they support and educate.</p>	
278-775	Scott White	<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 organizations.</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 a 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 reduction in donations received in the sector driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>My first and prime thought is if the Government adopts this recommendation we and many many others will be forced to consider sending our children to our overcrowded local public school which will have huge implications & unnecessary costs on government resources.</p> <p>Our school fees will increase if the Government adopts the Productivity Commission's Recommendations due to our schools needing to increase their income from fees to make up for the reduced giving from businesses or individuals because of the lack of tax benefits for these entities or people. At a time when the cost of living is already a daily reality issue this extra increase in housing costs would heavily influence many households to reconsider their options.</p> <p>I am also concerned that with this reduced giving from donors many independent schools will not be able to undertake building extension and upgrade works which I know in turn also support many small family & local businesses in school areas. This private sector managing their own building maintenance is a huge support for the government indirectly and a change to the DGR status would hugely compromise this advantage to the government.</p> <p>An increase in children changing to public school systems would place increased pressure on the government in both providing facilities and staff. These added costs would further challenge the government debt issue.</p> <p>There was an article ABC News provided on 17.01.2024 projecting that it costs more than \$92000 for a child to be schooled in the public system. Is this really what the government wants to have this expense extra per child if parents who are funding a huge proportion of their child's education through independent schools decide to opt-out from providing and change their children over to a public education thus putting a huge increase strain on government money.</p> <p>Most private and independent schools place a strong emphasis on creating and maintaining an environment that reflects certain values and provides students with a deeper understanding of a family's chosen faith.</p> <p>This culture is not catered for in a public-school setting to the same extent and therefore by making this feature a huge financial cost for parents to give their children this type of schooling environment is I feel a very strong assault against those that emphasise religion and values for their children and hence the impact of this will be spread later through the wider community.</p> <p>I trust that from the points briefed above the reader can see the huge impacts of a change in funding and the DGR from those generous enough to sacrifice their wealth to provide services in our community for the benefit of others this element is reconsidered and opposed in its entirety as it is only in short going to restrict people from donating and place a bigger strain on government budgets and shortfalls hereafter.</p>	
278-776	Charles & Ruth Baker	<p>My wife and I have three grandchildren enrolled at an independent school which has DGR status. We have followed their education with great interest and have seen how much they enjoy their days</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>at the school they attend. They also speak enthusiastically as to improvements to their classroom and facilities which benefit both the students and their teachers.</p> <p>We have no doubt that all Australians appreciate that quality education of children is vital for their future and the future of our country. School upgrades and new facilities are essential to this and also help to create a stronger economy which governments rely on to provide for the good of all.</p> <p>We are seriously concerned that withdrawing DGR status from the non-government school building funds will be detrimental and have adverse consequences. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatly limiting donations from businesses and individuals by removing tax incentives. • Schools having to defer or abandon essential building improvements and new projects. • Neglecting and denying the rights and opportunities for children and their teachers to work and prosper in upgraded environments. • Holding back of building projects which are so vital for Australian contractors businesses and the economy. • Private school fees having to be raised adding to monetary pressure on families. • Financial hardship causing some parents the pain of taking their children out of the schooling system of their choice. • Putting additional and needless pressure on government school expenditure as a result of increased student enrolments. <p>To all involved in this draft report we urgently appeal against the removing of Deductible Gift Recipient Status for non-government schooling childcare aged care and other religious organisations.</p>	
278-777	Colin Stead	<p>I am somewhat dismayed by some suggestions that flow out of this draft report. I do not comment as an economist, but my background includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some 12 years practical work experience in the legal field • Day to day work currently with both religious and educational trusts • Hands-on experience in the running of a non-State school • Education of children and grandchildren in both State and independent schools. <p>It is well known that the public school system provides at best an average education, struggling with the distractions of disciplinary requirements of the school room. To choke the supply of funding for independent schools that aim at better education and pupil management cannot be a public benefit.</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>Ordinary taxpayers invest what they can into the capital expenditure of independent schools, and this source of funding must suffer if donations are not tax-deductible. It is counterproductive to force more children into the State systems that are already overcrowded and under-funded.</p> <p>Executive management of many independent schools involves the service of volunteers. This kind of purpose-driven commitment is an irreplaceable asset for the welfare of the on-coming generation. On another front, the report suggests the removal of the status of Basic Religious Charity. Such a move would greatly increase the workload of many volunteers and provide no real benefit to the Government; indeed, the added administrative requirements would increase Government expenditure which in turn will fall on the taxpayers.</p> <p>My submission is that the proposals be reviewed and brought into line with the real needs of the community, and especially our great potential in the younger generation.</p>	
278-778	Wendy Cox	<p>I wish to register my concern for the recommendation of the Productivity Commission that charities that provide for school building funds and religious education in government schools should have their DGR status withdrawn.</p> <p>As a retired teacher in NSW public schools I strongly endorse the continuation of DGR status for Special Religious Education having seen first-hand the benefits for students.</p> <p>These benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing the core values of public education in NSW schools • Giving students the opportunity to explore and question these values • Providing opportunity for students to investigate some of life's big questions such as purpose and identity and worldview in a supportive environment • Motivating ethical behaviour • Helping build resilience and self-worth • Exploring how faith can help in time of crisis • Examining the founding principles of Australia's cultural heritage • Providing a context for studies in history and literature • Respecting students' freedom to make up their own minds <p>At a time when schools are struggling with student behaviour and engagement it is hard to imagine how a program with a proven record of these benefits over 100+ years could now be thought to be unworthy of DGR status.</p> <p>I submit therefore that the Commission should reverse its recommendation to withdraw DGR status for charities that provide funds for religious education in government schools.</p>	24/02/2024

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278-779	Ben Ohlmeyer	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current Productivity Commission review.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission's report is alarming, coinciding with households already being under cost-of-living pressure. It seems to both work against what the current Australian Government is saying they are trying to do in this regard and clearly lacks compassion for those that need it most.</p> <p>This paper also shows little or no awareness of many of religious based communities that show care and compassion made possible through generous unbiased giving. People give money and time within many churches daily which benefits the broader community, and the government must recognise this respect this through right legislation.</p> <p>Throughout Australia faith-based institutions seek to provide for the community by contributing to real life needs, however alarmingly the Productivity Commissions papers portray spite and angst against religion for their hand of charity.</p> <p>God gives to all freely and reproaches not, sending his rain on the just and unjust. Believers in Jesus seek do the same, so why can't tax-deductible gifts be available for all education bodies and care centres that provide for our young and old people alike?</p> <p>The apparent unfairness towards the works of church-based institutions that offer works of philanthropy within the report is bizarre and appears totally counterintuitive to what the productivity commission are suggesting they wish to do. Religious organisations have always and continue to play a vital role across Australia, and the Commission must provide ongoing government support for their help to humanity.</p> <p>The suggestion to end basic religious charity status is (to say the least) anti-social and works against the fabric of our society. Deductible gift recipient status MUST therefore be maintained for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>On a personal note, and as a resident within a rural community, reduced charitable giving to our private schools the townsfolk will not be able to provide ongoing upgrade works which I know support many small family businesses and young tradespersons in our region.</p> <p>Please respect those that help, by preserving charitable giving and related tax relief to those that care.</p>	24/02/2024
278-780	Elinor Annesley	<p>Thank you for considering my submission expressing my extreme concern about the draft report from Productivity Commission to the Federal Government on Philanthropy in Australia. In summary I am apprehensive about the potential effects of these recommendations upon churches and religious organisations, were they to be adopted.</p> <p>As you know, there is compelling evidence (good evidence) that Special Religious Education (SRE) delivers psychological benefits to students, promotes thick multiculturalism and social acceptance and reduces the risk of student radicalisation. In addition, independent schools are vital in rural</p>	24/02/2024

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		<p>communities, such as the one in which I live, where students can feel safe, if they are neurodiverse and we've found teacher retention is better, meaning a better quality of education for students. The proposed change to charity rules in this Productivity Commission Draft Report could make it harder to raise support for SRE teachers and to be able to build and upgrade buildings in independent schools (i.e. they can retain DGR status for building funds).</p> <p>I've found that advancement of religion benefits students by giving them hope for the future. I would counter, then, that charities that exist for the advancement of religion should no longer be excluded from DGR status, if the range of eligible charities is to be significantly expanded. Furthermore, charities that exist to provide religious education must continue to have DGR status — this would include support for SRE teachers. Finally the changes would significantly increase the compliance and reporting burden on larger churches and other religious organisations.</p> <p>In summary, it is true that religion and religious education give community-wide benefits. Religion, especially Christianity, makes very significant positive contributions to Australian society. Religious organisations form the largest sector of charities in Australia and attract a proportionately larger number of volunteers than other charities. Thus, I respectfully propose that the recommendations from the draft report from the Productivity Commission to the Federal Government on Philanthropy in Australia in relation to churches and religious organisations not be adopted.</p>	
278-781	Simon Tsang	<p>It is of great importance and beneficial to the wider Australian society to continue allowing for SRE to receive funding through gifts.</p> <p>SRE was an essential and key part of my growth development and maturity into adulthood and grew me to be a committed member of Australian society giving back and living in a way that seeks to care for others. SRE helped me to develop a faith which saw the love of Jesus shape how I seek to love and dignify others. Without SRE this would not have been the case. SRE depends on giving and to add barriers to this giving would severely hamper the beneficial influence that SRE has on young people and our wider society.</p> <p>This argument underscores the importance of allowing SRE to receive giving in order to develop and shape our younger people in order to be a committed and loving member of society. It is my firm belief that SRE is beneficial towards our greater society and my own personal experience speaks to this.</p> <p>I trust that you will give due consideration to the points raised herein. Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.</p>	24/02/2024
278-782	Esther Jang	<p>It's commendable the Government's desire is to double philanthropic giving by 2030. However this should done be done at the expense of removing Deductible Gift Recipients status to organizations who support SRE in public schools.</p>	27/02/2024

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		<p>I've been and still am a Christian SRE teaching in the public primary school system for 20 years. During this time as a result of prayers for my students and teaching them God's true Word from the Holy Bible I've seen children's behaviour change from being restless disinterested un-cooperative disruptive to attentive well-behaved interested and co-operative. It's not due to my teaching but rather the Holy Spirit working in the childrens' lives through their hearing and understanding of Biblical truths taught each week.</p> <p>Christian SRE teaches students to believe in Jesus the Son of the living God and to follow His example of a life characterized by love goodness righteousness compassion mercy forgiveness and grace. To live God's intended way is only possible by the empowering work of God's Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Children these days need guidance direction and motivation to choose ways that are pleasing to God and beneficial to the whole of society. Even at a young age they face pressure to conform with worldly values which tend to promote self first and others last. Jesus Christ practised self-sacrificial love when He willingly died on the cross for the sins of the world so that whoever believes in who He is and what He has done on their behalf has eternal life (John 3:16).</p> <p>In today's world there is ever increasing incidences of youth suicide youth violence youth crime disrespect for authority gender confusion etc. The solution to these forms of dysfunction are found in the Holy Bible which deals with the heart of all problems – a sinful human heart which needs the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Children can experience unconditional love security and self worth from knowing they are loved by Almighty God who created the heavens and earth and all therein. Christian SRE teaching is from the Bible the only true and good manual for living a purposeful and meaningful life to the glory of God and a blessing to others. Children are taught to love God with all their heart soul mind and strength (Mark 12:30) and to love others as they would love themselves (Mark 12:31).</p> <p>SRE addresses the spiritual nature of children – their relationship with God and His standards of ethics and morality. Children need both academic and spiritual input for a balanced life which makes a positive contribution to Australian society. Therefore I implore you to maintain the existing Deductible Gift Recipients for SRE in public schools and private school building funds.</p>	
278-783	Cameron Sangster	<p>I am writing to you with a deep sense of concern regarding the implications of the Productivity Commission's draft report titled 'Future foundations for giving' and its potential impact on our community, particularly on the private schooling system, where my child is currently enrolled.</p> <p>First and foremost, I am worried about the inevitable increase in school fees should the Government adopt the recommendations laid out in the report. It's evident that such a move would force schools to augment their income through raised fees to compensate for the reduced contributions from businesses and individuals, deprived of tax benefits. This financial burden would undeniably fall on</p>	27/02/2024

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		<p>the shoulders of parents like myself, placing an additional strain on already stretched household budgets.</p> <p>Moreover, the diminished philanthropic support for our school would directly impede crucial building extension and upgrade projects. These endeavours not only enhance the educational environment for our children but, the ripple effects of such deprivation would undoubtedly be felt across various sectors, compounding the economic challenges faced by many families.</p> <p>Equally distressing is the potential deterioration of the education experience for our children. With constrained resources, schools may struggle to maintain adequate facilities and resources, consequently compromising the quality of education and hindering our children's academic potential. As parents, we strive to provide the best possible learning environment for our children, and any obstacles to this are deeply troubling.</p> <p>Furthermore, I perceive this as not just a financial issue but also an affront to the principles of religious freedom. A significant portion of private or independent education in Australia is facilitated by religious organisations. By curtailing tax benefits for entities supporting these schools, the Government risks undermining the autonomy and diversity within the education sector, which is integral to our society.</p> <p>In addition, the potential influx of students from private schools into already overcrowded public schools is a further concern. This could exacerbate existing strain on resources and compromise the quality of education for all students, including those currently enrolled in public schools.</p> <p>While the Government may argue that these measures are necessary for fiscal responsibility and equitable distribution of resources, it's crucial to acknowledge the broader ramifications of such policies. By constraining support for private schools, the Government risks exacerbating socioeconomic disparities and undermining the freedom of choice in education, a fundamental right cherished by many Australians.</p> <p>Whilst fiscal responsibility is undoubtedly important, it should not come at the expense of jeopardising the educational opportunities and well-being of our children. It is incumbent upon the Government to explore alternative avenues for revenue generation and resource allocation that do not disproportionately burden families or compromise the quality of education.</p> <p>Moreover, preserving the autonomy and diversity within the education sector is paramount in upholding the principles of freedom of faith and beliefs and ensuring a robust, inclusive education system that caters to the diverse needs of our society.</p> <p>In conclusion, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on our community, particularly on the education of our children. It is my fervent hope that the Government will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of these</p>	

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		proposals, considering the concerns of all stakeholders and safeguarding the principles of fairness, choice, and religious freedom in education.	
278-784	Mike & Chris Mary Woodburn	<p>We think the SRE programme gives young lives a moral compass, enabling them to value right over wrong. This can only have a great benefit to our society. Withdrawal of the tax benefits will reduce the amount of funding available, and reduce the support and encouragement young people need.</p> <p>We have seen the benefit for our grandson who has been attending SRE classes for the last 12 months</p>	27/02/2024
278-785	Roy & Jess	<p>We are writing as concerned parents in regards to the draft report and are concerned our school will increase the school fees if there is a change to the Future Foundations for giving if introduced. With the current cost of living increasing and extra costs we as a household have incurred since covid 19 this may get to a point of us sending our kids back to a public school which we are sure would cost the government more in the long run.</p> <p>This would be a blow as a family as we believe that private schools offer a better and more focused teaching to our kids.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns before making any changes to the funding of private schools.</p>	27/02/2024
278-786	Brendan White	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted</p>	29/02/2024
278-787	John Parker	<p>Following a recent read of the proposed draft for the productivity commission I am deeply concerned what the future will provide for my children and grandchildren in being able to attend non-public schools.</p> <p>The recommendations in removing the status for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary/secondary as well as other religious organisations is concerning given that the school fees of private independent schools will increase significantly with this suggested change.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>Personally I can see this draft being an attack on religion given that majority of independent schools are provided by church organisations.</p> <p>Don't underestimate the extra pressure this will place on the public education system when thousands of other parents will need to remove their children from independent schools and enrol them into government schools not to mention the decline in the quality of education.</p> <p>Please urgently consider my concerns in relation to the effect this will have on society in general.</p>	
278-788	Rodney Hutcheon	<p>I wish to comment about the recommendation to remove the tax-deductible status for Religious Education in public schools as per the current Federal Productivity Commission Draft Report.</p> <p>I find it incredulous that a report designed to increase philanthropy in Australia attacks one of the best working systems that we have. The whole thrust of the Draft Report seems that the Government wants to increase opportunities for philanthropic giving within Australia. The question must therefore be when this program is working so well to support our children why would the Government want to interfere with the program and potentially destroy it.</p> <p>We know that the Governments (both Federal and State) underfund the schools as they are. The NSW Education Minister Prue Car reported that almost 10,000 lessons are unsupervised each week in NSW public schools because of lack of funding and lack of teachers as a result.</p> <p>SRE teachers are Australia's largest year-round volunteer army providing close to 10,000 lessons each week. If the Federal Government were to remove the tax-deductible status for such programs then the situation with unsupervised children in schools would become critical.</p> <p>For the Government to say that they want to increase philanthropic giving but then turn around and remove tax deductibility for one of the programs working exceptionally well to support our children just makes no sense. It questions their underlying intentions.</p> <p>We know that people of faith are much more likely to give of their resources and of their time to support programs in this area – particularly programs supporting our children. Our education system would collapse if faith-based education in Australia were removed and all children returned to the public system. As we can see the current public school system is underfunded as it is.</p> <p>More parents choose to send their children to private schools each year in Australia due to the ever-increasing inadequacies in the public school system. The Government needs to be doing substantially more in both the public schools as well as the private/faith-based schools in Australia.</p> <p>We supposedly live in a democracy and growing numbers of parents are exiting the public system so the Government needs to recognise this and support the wishes of the parents.</p> <p>The Greens survey from October 2023 found:</p>	29/02/2024

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly two-thirds of all parents including 46% of private school parents think that public schools are underfunded • 7 in 10 parents agreed that public school teachers are overworked <p>Instead of addressing the very clear problem the Government wants to apply its ideology as a priority even if it means destroying the education system.</p> <p>The recommendation to remove tax deductible status for this program when the focus is to increase giving within the community makes no sense unless of course it's a deliberate ideological attack on people of faith. I would like to hear what the real reason behind this move is.</p>	
278-789	Ronald Dartnall	<p>I write as a parent and grandparent of children currently attending private schooling in Sydney. All our children have attended private schooling in various locations, with the youngest completing final year now.</p> <p>Those who have already completed schooling have benefitted from good education and succeeded in their chosen vocations.</p> <p>For over 30 years I have gifted funds to private school Building and Facility needs, to supplement these Organisations funding. This gifting has been maintained through goodtimes and tough, as I believe the education of our young potential, to the highest standard, is an investment in the future of Australia.</p> <p>It is of great concern I read in the draft report a proposal to remove the Deductible Gift Recipient status of these (mostly) Religious Organisations. From my research it appears this status has been relied upon for 6 decades or more and has encouraged many persons like myself to gift funds regularly, and in some cases specifically for a dedicated school improvement project, with deliverable outcomes benefitting the Students and Staff.</p> <p>In my view this can only lead to a shortfall of funding, to be made up I assume by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase in school charges and fees, this has obvious implications for many parents/carers in today's "high cost of living" environment. • a reduction in capital investment in facilities. Leading to a reduction in quality of education in future generations. <p>Why is this fundamental and long established status now under threat?</p> <p><i>One would not want to think this is part of a broader attack on Religion and the principles on which our Commonwealth was founded.</i></p> <p>These educational facilities, many of which are Religious Organisations which have served our Nation so well, are the backbone of high quality, resultful training for our future citizens.</p>	29/02/2024

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		I would appeal to the Commission to consider the generational benefits of the existing successful regime and not touch the “underlying drivers” of this aspect of philanthropic giving and DO NOT REMOVE the Deductible Recipient Status of such Religious Organisations.	
278-790	Rick & Leonie Ohlmeyer	<p>Since reading the productivity commission’s draft report into the philanthropic giving across our nation, we have felt compelled to write in to voice serious concern regarding some of the proposed changes.</p> <p>One of the major recommendations that causes us great concern is the removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for various educational, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Having both been brought up in Christian families, we have known first hand what it was for our parents to sacrifice so much to ensure we had a quality education at an independent school that benefited from DGR status. Having now started our own family, we will also be sacrificing personally and financially to give our family the best possible education, at an institution that not only offers high academic standards but instils our core moral beliefs.</p> <p>This recommendation affects millions of Australians, children which are the hope of our very future. According to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, of all 4,042,512 students in 2021 enrolled in an Australian Schools, over 35% were enrolled in non-government schools (Catholic or Independent).¹ And the number of enrolled students in non-government schools is increasing. Since 2002, there has been a 4.1% increase in students attending non-government schools². What this proves is that more and more parents are sacrificing personally and financially in their lives to put their children through an educational facility of their own choice.</p> <p>To say that the removing of the deductible gift recipient status from independent schools would be devastating, would be an understatement. At a time where everyone across the country is experiencing the pain of cost-of-living pressure like never before, the potential of higher school fees will become a reality. This will be a direct result of the need to make up the lost income through reduced giving, there being no tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>This will then have a major flow on effect in our town as our school will not be able to undertake renovations and building works which help so many local family businesses.</p> <p>Should the government proceed with this recommendation, we could be forced to send our family to already overcrowded local public schools (and we can well imagine how many more thousands would be in the same situation), which will massively increase the financial strain on existing public institutions, both financially, and infrastructurally.</p> <p>While we acknowledge that there may be some good findings from this report, the suggested change to the DGR status of various organisations is completely flawed. We feel this is an attack on religion (it is well known that a majority of private or independent education is provided by religious</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>organisations), and it will cause immense pressure on families and the educational institutions (both government and independent) across this great country we're privileged to live in, and should not proceed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/student-numbers 2. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/2022#key-statistics 	
278-791	Gordon Shore	<p>I hold concerns surrounding the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report which I believe is under review in Australia at the moment.</p> <p>Regarding deductible gift recipient status, I understand that the government would view this as untaxed monies being used for the gain of individuals which I don't quiet agree with. I have children in a private school like many families around Australia, I believe that getting the best education will benefit these individuals and Australia providing better career opportunities, wealth creation and give this country the cutting edge it needs in the future to sustain Australia's position on the world stage just to name three, there are many more.</p> <p>The schools in them selves are not generating massive profits from their activities so a change to legislation would in turn limit these education bodies to invest in the needed facilities to provide cutting edge education to their students. They would be faced with increasing school fees and losing business or not investing in cutting edge facilities and technologies, this would mean that some schools would be forced to close and would then put pressure back on the public schooling sector which is already stretched meaning that students in the schools would receive less than they currently have. Students in any school needs more and not less as they are the engine of society for the next ~40 years, in turn these students would leave school with less skills, less esteem and a lower expectation of life resulting in a burden on society increasing cost of social security (government benefits so on), police forces, the list goes on.</p> <p>Governments really don't make any money of their own but are rather taking and distributing taxes, I believe in allowing society to spend or allocate these funds is only fair, people know how to spend their own money best.</p> <p>I am recommending that these DGR statuses remain as is as the consequences could damage the country for years to come.</p>	29/02/2024
278-792	Jill Dickson	<p>The invaluable contribution of philanthropy in Australia is recognised in The Draft Report. It is good that it signals the government's desire to double philanthropic giving by 2030. However, the only Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) the Draft Report recommends removing are for SRE in public schools, and school building funds.</p> <p>Significant community benefits are provided by SRE and there is wide community support for SRE programs. SRE:</p>	29/02/2024

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivers key psychological benefits to students 2. Promotes multiculturalism and social acceptance 3. Reduces the risk of student radicalisation <p>It is interesting to note that people of faith are 25% more likely than their secular counterparts to donate money and 23% more likely to volunteer time.</p> <p>The idea the Commission seems to have that if you close down one tax deductible giving opportunity that people will redirect their giving to a different tax-deductible cause is misguided at best.</p> <p>Therefore, I urge that the Draft Report not be accepted in its present form. The discrimination against SRE should be removed.</p>	
278-793	Gail Morgan	<p>My faith motivates my giving habits in money and time, and I donate both to what I am passionate about – that is, SRE in our schools.</p> <p>People who donate money to SRE are cause-and-relationship-driven and to remove tax deductions for donations made to religious charities in support of SRE would have a negative domino effect on SRE in public schools and on school building funds. Why do that?</p> <p>This is despite the fact that SRE provides significant community benefits and has wide community support!</p>	29/02/2024
278-794	Laurie College	<p>I Refer to the Productivity Commission ‘Future Foundations for giving” draft report as a concerned parent who will have 2 Children attending a private school in the coming year/s. Whilst there are recommendations that have merit, I question the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government Primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This concerns me deeply as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. At a time when we are experiencing very high cost of living pressures, I fear that school fees would only be driven up higher to make up the lost income from reduced giving that is derived from tax deductible donations from businesses and individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My concern is if the Government takes onboard this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded public school which in turn will affect their learning experience and hinder their academic progress.</p> <p>Infrastructure and upgrade works will not be able to be affordable which supports a vast number of local businesses and trades and will not provide the learning environment the teachers and children deserve.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>I feel this is a targeted attack on Christianity in this country as a large number of private schools are provided by religious organizations.</p> <p>Thankyou for taking the time to consider this concern, I am sure this will impact many of our local community indeed communities nationally.</p>	
278-795	Brent Calow	<p>I have examined the draft report in detail and with interest. I understand there is several sensible conclusions and recommendations however I am extremely concerned and worried about the recommendations for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status to be taken away or removed from the following non-government and/or independent organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools • Secondary schools • Childcare • Aged Care • Other religious organisations <p>As a parent of 4 children, of whom 3 of these currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, this recommendation is particularly concerning. We are living in a time when cost of living has never been higher and household budgets ever under more strain. This change in the long standing DGR status (in place since 1954 in Australia and held in British/Commonwealth law since 19th century) will result in increased education school fees due to reduced giving from local communities (driven by removal of tax benefit for individuals and businesses donating to the school).</p> <p>The immediate flow-on effect if the Government adopts this recommendation will mean that we will be forced to push our children into our overcrowded local public school which will not only affect their learning experience but furthermore cause their academic potential to atrophy.</p> <p>In conclusion, this proposed removal of DGR status as outlined above is an attack on religion (most independent and private schools are provided by religious organization) and erodes the respected secularity of Government in the nation of Australia.</p> <p>I would value your consideration of my concerns.</p>	29/02/2024
278-796	John Donal	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the draft report on “Future foundations for giving draft report”, having read this I wish to point out how changes to the “deductable Gift Recipient” will devastate charities in the following areas,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aged Care – many aged care facilities are run by religious organisations and without building fund recognition they will no longer build or maintain facilities putting extra burdens on state and federal funds. Also, rural communities have had to raise funds to build facilities that should 	29/02/2024

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		<p>have been provided by the state such as Carramar in Leeton which we raised funds for many years ago and we would not have been able to do this if companies could not claim donations as tax deductible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Then we have education, having worked as a supplier to schools across the eastern seaboard I have seen how they have benefited from been able to get donations from businesses, having been involved in helping Parkes East Public School to fund raise for a MPC long before the BER program, again this would not be possible under the new draft plan. 3. Whilst on education with over 1 million students in private schools, if the draft plan was to be put into action, school fees would increase, and more students would move to the already stretched public schools adding to the governments burden. Having seen thousands of school building projects across the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist and other religious groups such as MPC's, Art Centres, Library's, Science centres etc and then seen the quality of education and the resulting quality of students that finish school and go onto to become top doctors, lawyers, business leaders and so on, it is the responsibility of government to continue to make this happen 4. I am also concerned about the possibility of other charities close to my heart, who I have supported for many years such as Can Teen, the biggest morning tea, Westpac Rescue helicopter, September, St Johns Ambulance and so on who will not be able to continue to function if they cannot receive tax deductible donations. <p>My understanding is that the school building funds set up in 1954 has resulted in an education system that is envied around the world, based on parents having a choice as to where they could send their children for an education that would set them up for life, this was based on the Pemsels case of 1890 but is still recognised globally, which states</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE FOUR HEADS OF CHARITY RESULTING FROM PEMSEL'S CASE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The relief of poverty. 2. The advancement of education. 3. The advancement of religion. 4. Other purposes beneficial to the community not falling under any of the preceding heads. <p>As a concerned citizen, parent and grandparent, I would appeal to the government to reject the proposed changes in the "Future foundations for giving draft report".</p>	
278-797	John Lamplough	I am a volunteer helper for Special Religious Education. at Faulconbridge Public School, NSW. This is a wonderful opportunity to influence children to become students with good moral values and to help mould their characters to become future citizens.	29/02/2024

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		<p>I also give money to help support Scripture Union NSW runs lunchtime groups in Government Schools, impacting 2,000 students weekly. These groups are a vital part of Scripture Union's ministry programs.</p> <p>I am highly concerned by the draft report and reforms to the DGR system. It is good that you are considering expanding the system to cover more initiatives, such as animal welfare. Still, to achieve this, you are removing DGR status from religious charities like Scripture Union NSW, which will significantly impact the health and well-being of current and future students engaged in religious education and lunchtime groups.</p> <p>Australia is the most multicultural nation; approximately 60% of Australians identify with a religion. Yet, your report seems to be based on an ideology that religion is of no community-wide benefit. Research shows that one of the best ways to promote social cohesion is through religious education in schools – putting extra pressure on this education and its teachers is not a quality decision for Australia and will have long-term ramifications.</p> <p>The Religious Education teachers in Australia represent our nation's largest weekly group of volunteers. In a report where, on the one hand, you are articulating the government's goal to double giving (financial and volunteering) by 2030, on the other hand, you are removing privileges and help from faith communities that represent a huge proportion of the people who will help you, and are helping you right now, achieve that goal. This is not a wise decision.</p> <p>On top of that, school building funds are to have their DGR status removed. Faith-based education is Australia's fastest-growing education sector – which tells us that this is what our communities want and are actively using. So why make it harder for this to happen and be successful? In short, you are penalising both the fastest-growing sector of education – predominantly privately funded by citizens – and putting undue pressure on the largest weekly group of volunteers in Australia, risking a lower level of social cohesion as a result.</p> <p>I think you and I can do a lot better than this. In light of everything I have stated above, I completely reject your presumption that these initiatives are of little “community-wide benefit” and would encourage you, even if you don't have a religious belief yourself, to understand that your report is discriminatory and minimising in its ideology – and that this will damage a Multicultural Australia as a result.</p>	
278-798	Penny Holt	<p>Please find my letter expressing my experience as a Special Religious Educator with Scripture Union, containing my concern on the potential removal of the DGR status from Special Religion Education/Christian Religious Instruction programs in government schools.</p> <p>From my experience teaching at both a public primary school, years 1 to 5, and central school with Years 7 to 9 and the special education class, I have encountered positive student wellbeing benefits that have contributed positively to the school community.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>Advancing religion based on the curriculums we teach from, promotes the values of the Christian Bible, how to become a peacemaker, develop the virtues of faith, hope and love, and learn how to display the values of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.</p> <p>The students' responses to these class lessons have developed an attitude of wanting to better themselves and striving to achieve these values. Feedback from teaching and support staff is that this has flowed into the mainstream classes, and they see a change in the students advocating for these values.</p> <p>Religious studies are inclusive; every student is given the opportunity to join my class; it is their free will to be excluded; this is another principle from the Bible that God gave us free will to make choices, and I respect their choices. I have been collaborating with teachers who take the NON-SRE classes to develop ideas on how we can encourage the students who choose not to attend SRE to be included by providing lunch activities through Scripture Union and encouraging the above values in games and activities.</p> <p>I believe there is a strong link between formative religious instruction in my childhood years and religious service in my adult years; I have fond memories of attending Scripture in my school days, instilling in me life-long skills that I now am imparting to the next generation.</p> <p>A year one student regularly informs me that when she grows up, she wants to become a Scripture teacher because she enjoys our classes. Attitudes grown from this teaching will only benefit the community because of this Christian service.</p> <p>The removal of DGR status for giving religious instruction in government schools will significantly impact organisations such as Scripture Union, which is responsible for delivering quality SRE/CRI programs. I currently am supported by five Christian churches, providing finances to fund wages for high school teaching and resources for both high school and primary schools. The standard of service is high due to this financial support.</p> <p>I agree that the faith of donors is what primarily drives their giving (money and time) to religious instruction in government schools, not any private benefit received. However, sadly, the world's view is that of "what is in it for me." Retaining the DGR status will encourage everyone to donate. Similarly, the value of tax deductibility for these financial contributions benefits companies who wish to donate and receive a tax deduction for business purposes, not private benefits.</p> <p>I strongly support maintaining DGR status for giving to religious instruction in government schools; I speak from the front line, seeing the program's impact on the students, teachers and communities of my schools.</p>	

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		<p>Faith communities positively contribute to Australian society, and I urge you to consider this in this policy decision-making. Embracing a proactive approach to well-being in schools can minimise later homelessness and mental health concerns.</p> <p>Thank you for your time in reading my submission, I pray you will make a decision that will include and support Special Religion Education/Christian Religious Instruction programs in government schools.</p>	
278-799	Arthur Elliott	<p>I am deeply concerned by the Commission’s Draft recommendation 7.1 in your report:</p> <p>“The Australian Government should amend the <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012</i> (Cth) to remove the concept of ‘basic religious charity’ and associated exemptions ..”</p> <p>As a practising Christian, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I see this as an insidious attack on religion which, if accepted, would open the way for future legislation to impose rates and taxes on churches and indeed, as we already see in autocratic countries, prescribe what may be taught in them.</p> <p>In its effort to get rid of the concept of a basic religious charity, the Commission seems to have forgotten its Terms of Reference, one of which was to enquire into Philanthropy and how giving could be doubled by 2030. Removing religion from charitable status will reduce giving, not increase it. This will increase the pressure on the government budget.</p> <p>In your “Future foundations for giving”, much of the draft report is devoted to expanding DGR status to new entities, but paradoxically removing it from church and independent schools or faith based Aged Care institutions despite admitting that ‘a personal income tax deduction is likely to be an effective way of encouraging giving’. (4.2)</p> <p>On page 147 - “the Commission’s position is that a personal income tax deduction is likely to be the most cost-effective way to encourage giving and the Australian Government should not change the incentive to give....”</p> <p>Why then remove DGR status from a very large proportion of the schools that produce future citizens, thereby reducing the funds available for charity? Similarly, how can it possibly help government finances to prevent faith based aged care institution from receiving it?</p> <p>With all due respect, it seems a somewhat unproductive proposal from the Productivity Commission!!</p> <p>Especially when it is a known fact that Government schools produce much lower average ATAR scores due to pupil/teacher ratios that are way above the recommended 15 to 1.</p> <p>This reduces the likelihood that public school students will qualify for entry into higher education institutions. How is this beneficial to the public good?</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>As we know, the word Philanthropy comes from the Greek, meaning “Love to, or for man”.</p> <p>It was used in Ancient Greece to describe acts of kindness and giving to others and, long before that, kind treatment of the less privileged was highly regarded in older civilisations like Babylon and others.</p> <p>Generally, it seemed this was to improve their status amongst fellow men and there was often a selfish motive involved.</p> <p>Below is an extract from Philanthropy in Ancient Times by Sarah Bond, published in Free Science Encyclopedia on 2 April 2011.</p> <p>Roman philanthropia</p> <p>As conquerors, heirs, and cautious emulators of the Greeks, the Romans assumed more regulation of what they called philanthropia and believed it to be among the greatest obligations of their civilization. Influential authors like Cicero and Seneca composed manuals on the arts of proper gift giving and receipt. Seneca, tutor to the emperor Nero, emphasised that elite giving must generate gratitude between the vertical ranks of Roman society and argued that philanthropy rightly done formed the glue that held the Roman people together (On Benefits, composed c. 60 CE). Thus benefactors had to select appreciative beneficiaries carefully and choose presents capable of eliciting maximum acknowledgment from recipients. Heads must rule hearts in discriminate Roman philanthropy.</p> <p>But there is another reason for this type of philanthropy apart from the benefactors' heads.</p> <p>Help for fellow men is a God-given instinct - which is why a person will jump into raging water to save a stranger from drowning or run into a busy street to catch a young child who, oblivious to the heavy traffic, is about to cross.</p> <p>Together with the natural affection that families have – parents toward their children and vice versa - these are universal divinely given instincts that have prevented the world from becoming a far worse place than it already is.</p> <p>But true Philanthropy is a greater mater than instinct alone. It is a mater of Heart!</p> <p>The word is used in the Bible by the great apostle Paul.</p> <p>“But when the kindness and love to man of our Saviour God appeared.....” (Titus 3 verse 4)</p> <p>He was referring to the incoming of Christ into the world.</p> <p>Real Christians know that God had far greater things in mind for man when Christ came into the world than simply what we would call practical charitable acts, but Christ himself, and the apostles after Him, all promoted giving to those less fortunate.</p> <p>A few examples are: (JND new translation)</p>	

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		<p>Mark 10 verse 21: And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, One thing lackest thou: go, sell whatever thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me, taking up the cross.”</p> <p>Acts 20 verse 35: I (Paul) have shewed you all things, that thus labouring we ought to come in aid of the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”</p> <p>2 Cor. 9 verse 7-9: “for God loves a cheerful giver.that ye may abound to every good work: according as it is written, He has scattered abroad, he has given to the poor, his righteousness remains for ever.”</p> <p>Galatians 2 verse 9-10: “James, Cephas (Peter) and John, who were conspicuous as being pillars (in Jerusalem), gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the nations and they to the circumcision: only that we should remember the poor, which same thing I was diligent to do.”</p> <p>Charitable giving was already emphasised in Old Testament times by Moses and others:</p> <p>Deuteronomy 15 verse 11.</p> <p>“For the needy shall never cease from within the land, therefore I command thee saying, Thou shalt open thine hand bountifully unto thy brother, to the poor and to the needy, in thy land.”</p> <p>Proverbs 22 verse 9: “He that hath a bountiful hand shall be blessed, for he giveth of his bread to the poor.”</p> <p>And in David’s prayer for Solomon, Psalms 72 verses 12-13.</p> <p>“For he will deliver the needy who crieth, and the afflicted, who hath no helper. He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy;”</p> <p>There are just a few examples but should be enough to show that for thousands of years the Bible has taught that practical giving and other acts of kindness are part of the way of life of a Christian. They prove that charitable giving is intrinsically bound up with religion and there is no rational reason to remove the basic charitable status for churches and other religious groups.</p> <p>The suggestion is completely contrary to the Christian principles that have underpinned our Australian constitution and made this nation what it is.</p> <p>Therefore, I respectfully request that this proposal 7.1 be removed from your final recommendation.</p>	
278-800	Ben J	<p>I am writing to express my concern about several recommendations within the Draft Report on philanthropy, particularly those pertaining to the granting of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. I believe these recommendations could have detrimental consequences for religious institutions, independent schools, and broader Australian society.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>Specific concerns:</p> <p>Removing DGR status for faith-based school building funds: This policy has been in place since 1954 and has demonstrably benefitted the community by encouraging investment in educational infrastructure. To claim there is "no net community-wide benefit" from educating future generations is demonstrably false. Furthermore, the argument of potential "private benefit" for donors seems exaggerated and disregards the broader societal benefits of a well-educated citizenry.</p> <p>Removing DGR status for religious education: This recommendation appears to target the popular school chaplaincy program by proxy. Religious education plays a vital role in the holistic development of many students, offering moral guidance and fostering spiritual well-being. Denying DGR status for such activities effectively marginalizes religious beliefs and undermines the diversity of Australia's education system.</p> <p>Granting DGR status to "diverse" causes: While diversity is valuable, the proposed expansion of DGR status appears to favour certain ideological positions over others. Granting DGR status to groups advocating for policies such as weaker border laws or transgenderism without similar consideration for opposing viewpoints creates an unfair advantage and potentially undermines important public debates.</p> <p>Alternative proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of removing DGR status for faith-based schools and religious education, consider introducing more stringent accountability measures to ensure transparency and prevent misuse of funds. • Maintain the current system of granting DGR status based on objective criteria, avoiding favouritism towards specific ideologies or groups. • Encourage wider public discussion and debate on the role of DGR status in promoting diverse charitable endeavours that demonstrably benefit the community as a whole. <p>The Productivity Commission's draft recommendations regarding DGR status raise serious concerns about their potential impact on religious institutions, independent schools, and the diversity of Australian society. I urge the Commission to reconsider these proposals and implement reforms that are fair, objective, and truly beneficial to the entire community.</p>	
278-801	Matthew Earl	<p>As a parent of children who attend an independent school which benefits from DGR Status, I wish to express my concern at the Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>My concerns are that if the Government adopts these recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our school will be unable to continue with building upgrades and improvements 	29/02/2024

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		<p>2. Therefore, our school will be forced to increase school fees which will put my family under greater cost-of-living pressure</p> <p>3. These outcomes would likely affect the level of my children’s educational experience, stunting their academic potential.</p> <p>I also view these recommendations as an attack on religion, as independent/private education is mainly provided by religious organizations.</p> <p>I hope you will consider my concerns, bearing in mind that in this rapidly progressing world, this generation of school-age children need a greater education and more support than any other generation has ever needed before.</p>	
278-802	Kristin Gale	<p>I am highly concerned by the draft report and reforms to the DGR system.</p> <p>I value the current provision of Special Religious Education within Government Schools and appreciate the largest weekly volunteer labour force in Australia that enables this to happen.</p> <p>I feel it is important for DGR status to be maintained for religious education in government schools.</p> <p>I am asking the government to maintain or increase their support for this, not reduce it.</p> <p>One group in particular who provide this education is Scripture Union NSW . This organisation runs lunchtime groups in Government Schools, impacting 2,000 students weekly. These groups are a vital part of Scripture Union’s ministry programs. By removing DGR status from religious charities like Scripture Union NSW, the health and well-being of current and future students engaged in religious education and lunchtime groups will be significantly impacted.</p> <p>Approximately 60% of Australians identify with a religion and there is no doubt that faith communities bring a wide range of benefits to all in our society.</p> <p>Yet, your report seems to be based on an ideology that religion is of no community-wide benefit. Research shows that one of the best ways to promote social cohesion is through religious education in schools – putting extra pressure on this education and its teachers is not a quality decision for Australia and will have long-term ramifications.</p> <p>I reject your presumption that these initiatives are of little “community-wide benefit” and would encourage you, even if you don’t have a religious belief yourself, to understand that your report is discriminatory and minimising in its ideology – and that this will damage a Multicultural Australia as a result.</p>	29/02/2024
278-803	Mitchell Albert	<p>Anything that endangers professional, robust SRE delivery undermines a schools ability to properly look out for the holistic wellbeing of its students.</p> <p>I work as a paid SRE Teacher in a NSW Government School. The Special Religious Education Board (SRE) that I work for values having highly qualified individuals in this role given the sensitivity</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>and professionalism required to work with teenagers in a school context. I not only have a degree in Theology (Bachelor of Theology - Moore Theological College) but also in Teaching (Masters of Teaching - WSU).</p> <p>My skill set, experience and qualifications are highly sought after in the private education sector but this is not where I wish to work. I believe that education is a public good and should be made equally available for all no matter your socio-economic status. To this end, I wish to remain teaching SRE in public education. The potential loss of DGR status for giving to religious education/instruction in schools endangers this.</p> <p>Why SRE? Why not religious classes in a religious school? The Department of Education's own definition of wellbeing includes a spiritual dimension. I wholeheartedly agree with this definition. However, the spiritual element of wellbeing is not well catered for in public schools as it often is in private institutions. One of the only tangible ways a school can facilitate access to this dimension of wellbeing is through hosting SRE. This is what I want to be a part of. Anything that endangers professional, robust SRE delivery undermines a schools ability to properly look out for the holistic wellbeing of its students.</p> <p>SRE will not stop if DGR status for giving to religious education/instruction in schools is lost. It will however mean that SRE providers will find it harder to find funding to employ the small number of people like myself who are well equipped to teach it. This may lead to the use of more volunteers who may not be as well equipped. Many volunteers do a good job but the lack of professionalism in the SRE space is a concern that the NSW Teachers Federation are not shy in raising. The loss of DGR status for giving to religious education/instruction in schools furthers this concern.</p> <p>My entire wage is paid by donations from the local community (mostly in churches). As cost of living increases these donations are by no means guaranteed to continue. If DGR status for giving to religious education/instruction in schools is also lost then this may further decrease a person's ability or desire to donate. This is only a problem if we value the presence of high quality and in some cases (like mine), professional providers of SRE.</p>	
278-804	Nathan Muse	<p>I am glad the Productivity Commission desires to grow philanthropic giving in Australia as the current given has done a great amount of good. And as someone who gives more than 10% of my income annually to charitable ventures, I am interested in this investigation. However, I am concerned about the new changes in the Federal Government's Productivity Commission draft report – and the threat it contains to the removal of tax deductibility for initiatives such as special religious education in government schools and the tax deductibility of school building funds.</p> <p>If the government desires to grow charitable and philanthropic giving, why is it choosing to make it harder for people to give? The government schools (Public Schools) cannot do without the religious schools and the work they do at a fraction of the cost per student as compared to the cost for a student in the public sector. Given their excellent track record, why would you make it more</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>challenging for them to construct necessary buildings and why would you target religious educators in public school. It is of interest that these suggested changes primarily and predominantly effect Christians and Christian institutions. Why would you target the very people who consistently give so regularly to charitable and philanthropic causes? Why go after the largest weekly volunteer labour force in Australia (SRE teachers)?</p> <p>Please consider these matters and do not harm these institutions and individuals and the valuable work they accomplish.</p>	
278-805	Mark Woodford	<p>I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the Productivity Commission future foundations for giving draft report.</p> <p>This is at a time when cost of living crisis ensures we have the lowest level of disposable income in generations.</p> <p>The result will be being forced to lower our children's level of education by placing them in already overcrowded Public schools.</p> <p>At this time we appeal to you as concerned parents to respect this attack on our religious freedom.</p>	29/02/2024
278-806	Barry McMillan	<p>I am satisfied that there are some good points for consideration. However, I am very concerned about the proposed removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for many essential non-government institutions. These include schools, childcare facilities, aged care homes, and other institutions set up by religious organisations.</p> <p>I have elected for my children to attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. I feel that if these proposed recommendations were adopted by the Government, it would have a huge detrimental effect not only on my family, but across Australia with irreparable damage for generations to come. We would all agree that cost of living pressures are immense and if these changes came into effect, our school fees would be unsustainable. Our school would need to solely rely on school fees as there would be no incentive for donations.</p> <p>Why is the Government trying to remove the whole principle of religion and education from what is charitable ?</p> <p>Quote from the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report:</p> <p><i>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, based on the first principle above.</i></p> <p><i>School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission's proposals.</i></p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>In the quote above, the Government is acknowledging what is important in Australia. I am shocked, and feel that the recommendations put forward in this draft report are an attack on religion especially since most private or independent schools are set up by religious organisations !</p> <p>Please consider my points above and rule for the good of all men.</p>	
278-807	Donna Gibbs	<p>I submit that belief and faith are an integral part of contemporary Australian society and therefore need to be supported in the public arena. Special Religious Education (SRE) provides an important opportunity to integrate religious education into our Australian educational system. It salutes the diversity of our society and acknowledges acceptance.</p> <p>All programs and strategies that strengthen young people’s identity and develop their moral and ethical growth, are essential if they are to effectively navigate the complexities of our modern world. SRE programs in schools highlight to the younger generation and their parents that governments care about this. SRE programs support the Australian Government’s National Framework for Values Education (2004).</p> <p>The goodwill and caring exemplified by SRE teachers provides an excellent example of ‘giving back’ to the community. It creates a personal connection of belonging, fostering student health and well being, and provides a safe place to explore bigger questions around student worth and identity. The support of SRE staff at the schools attended by my three children as my marriage of twenty-five years and our family life disintegrated, was invaluable.</p> <p>“Consistent with prior literature, our results suggest associations of frequent religious participation in adolescence with greater subsequent psychological well-being, character strengths, and lower risks of mental illness and several health behaviours” (Chan & VanderWeele 2018).</p> <p>My understanding is that our current government seeks to increase philanthropy in Australia. If the draft proposals adopt changes to eligibility for tax deductions for SRE programs and building funds in Australian schools, this outcome will be compromised. DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status for contributions to these organisations is fundamental to increasing philanthropic behaviours. Surely we should be increasing and widening incentives to ‘give’, not deleting existing strategies to support the educational and moral growth of students within our schools.</p> <p>“Future foundations for Giving” as in the Commission’s draft proposals will undermine current structures that support 68% of Australians that identify as religious or spiritual (McCrinkle 2017). Surely SRE school programs in public schools and faith-based private school programs represent community-wide support for religious freedoms and adherence to our Australian Constitution, with particular reference to:</p> <p><i>S.116 Commonwealth not to legislate in respect of religion</i></p>	29/02/2024

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		<p><i>The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.</i></p> <p>I submit that proposed changes regarding DGR status will “prohibit the free exercise of any religion” by crippling current programs for students in our schools and communities.</p> <p>I urge all members considering the proposals that would weaken financial structures supporting our children and young people, to uphold all current means contributing to their growth and well being. I urge you to recognise and value the contributions that faith based communities make to our society by such actions.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Chen, Y. and Vanderweele, T.J. 2018. Associations of Religious Upbringing with Subsequent Health and Well-Being: From Adolescence to Young Adulthood: An Outcome-Wide Analysis, American Journal of Epidemiology, DOI: 10.1093/aje/kwy142</p> <p>McCrindle, M. 2017. Faith and Belief in Australia. Retrieved from the McCrindle website: https://mccrindle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Faith-and-Belief-in-Australia-Report_McCrindle_2017.pdf</p>	
278-808	Reuben Stewart	<p>I have read the draft report and I am alarmed about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for a wide range of schools and religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as I have 3 children, age 10 down to 2 years old. My oldest is already attending an independent school and I hope to send the other 2 there as soon as they are school aged. This school benefits from DGR status and I fear for the impact that the loss of this source of funding could cause.</p> <p>Personally, our family is experiencing cost of living pressures which I have never experienced before. If the provision for charitable giving should be lost, I fear that school fees will rise and I am also worried about the negative impact on the proposed building works which are in the pipeline at our campus.</p> <p>Please do take consideration of my concerns, I am sure that there will be a lot of other families with similar issues</p>	29/02/2024
278-809	Beverley Paiano	<p>Please find my objections to the upcoming proposed changes of the Government proposed reform changes.</p> <p>1.) Philanthropy makes an important contribution to our way of life.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>If people did not have a heart, compassion or concern for our world and humanities welfare philanthropy would not exist. To hear that our democratic Australian Government is now hoping to remove SRE in public schools and private school building funds from their philanthropy DGRs is disturbing.</p> <p>Living in Australia in our democratic system, restrictions of where and to what areas people may direct their charitable tax deductible donations seems unrealistic and targeted. Remember our freedom of choice?</p> <p>2.) It brings communities together, funds innovation and supports people in need.</p> <p>Australian society has always relied upon Christian outreach and charity. Understandably societal values have noticeably declined in all areas of living in Australia but to put forward the option to <i>remove the eligibility of tax deductions for SRE in public schools and private school building will effectively stop the flow of deductible donations made freely by our Australian citizens.</i></p> <p>Before accepting this recommendation, please look carefully at the areas SRE donations bring communities and people from all diverse levels of society together. There are innovative ways implemented through various events, food vans, meals, school class, school holiday activities. All this interaction the SRE helps support our local individuals and communities. SRE has proactively met our fellow Australians needs for decades.</p> <p>3.) The proposed reforms would establish firm foundation for the future of philanthropy, so that the benefits of giving can continue to be realised across Australia.</p> <p>To have a reform across the range of opportunity for Philanthropy is a promising idea but there also needs to be an acknowledgement and support given to the strong Australian communities who are in full support of keeping SRE in public schools and private school building funding in place.</p> <p>Will you deny the right of Australian citizens to give tax deductible donations to the charities of their choice or will you support the Australia citizens right and freedom of choice through tax deductible donations to SRE in public schools and private school building funding?</p> <p>We would like to continue giving our tax deductible gifts into SRE, because so many individuals, including myself, know firsthand how meaningful SRE is across our wonderful nation. So many individuals, families and communities have benefited and experienced the positive impact within our diverse communities!</p> <p>This is philanthropy in action!</p> <p>Australia needs to keep this positive option available for all current and future Philanthropist throughout Australia. SRE in public schools and private school building funding needs the Australian Government support, and eligibility of being a tax deduction.</p>	

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		<p>Therefore, please reconsider the removal of SRE in public schools and private school building from DGRs.</p> <p>Do not remove this area of wholistic, community-based philanthropy from the landscape of the Australian political and Aussie culture.</p>	
278-810	Andrew Paterson	<p>I give regularly both financially and in a volunteer capacity to Christian charities including Christian SRE organisations to support their vital service to thousands of children and teenagers in the NSW public school system. Christian SRE organisations supply thousands of volunteers each week to provide SRE classes to thousands of children and teenagers. Even in a voluntary capacity, these organisations require funding for curriculum material for these many students; funding to train and accredit or reaccredit the thousands of volunteer teachers; and to financially support vital staff.</p> <p>My giving directly assists in the upkeep of Christian SRE charities. If these Christian SRE organisations such as Anglican Youthworks lose their DGR status, my giving's effectiveness will be vastly reduced. I can give more with Youthworks having that DGR status. If it's removed, it would seriously harm their capacity to keep funding their scripture classes to thousands of students in NSW.</p> <p>I humbly request that the DGR status of SRE organisations be kept. The effects of removing that status will be disastrous for NSW and felt heavily in community and in student wellbeing of thousands.</p> <p>Why keep the DGR status for SRE organisations?</p> <p>SRE is proven to promote multiculturalism and social acceptance of minority racial groups in NSW schools.</p> <p>SRE is proven to delivers key psychological benefits to students.</p> <p>SRE also reduces the risk of student radicalisation.</p> <p>People of faith are also 25% more likely than their secular counterparts to donate money and 23% more likely to volunteer time.</p> <p>The contribution SRE makes to young lives and to Australian society is absolutely crucial for these reasons alone. To hamper this extraordinary community activity through removing the DGR status of SRE organisations would destroy the huge community service these charities provide. Its impact would be felt on a colossal scale, as SRE organisations like Anglican Youthworks rely heavily on donations.</p> <p>I also give money to building funds in my children's high schools. To hear that the DGR status of school building funds could be lost is also terrible to contemplate. Without that DGR status my giving will not be anywhere near as effective to my childrens' high schools. Please keep the DGR status of school building funds.</p>	29/02/2024

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		I hope the Government can truly recognise and value the contribution faith communities make to Australian society. Please keep the DGR status of SRE organisations and school building funds.	
278-811	Anne Weeks	Please keep DGR status for Special Religious Education. It is a huge community benefit because students learn accurate information instead of making assumptions based on the loudest voices around them and online radicals. 60% of Australians follow a religion and we are a huge part of volunteering in the Australian community and giving to charitable causes. Religion is not to be feared. SRE provides a voice into our government schools that is otherwise silenced and removing DGR status from SRE would lead to this voice being cancelled from many high schools.	29/02/2024
278-812	Barry Henderson	<p>I am writing to express my views on the future foundations for giving in Australia, as part of the inquiry on philanthropy and charitable giving. We are people of faith who has been involved in various forms of giving, both financial and non-financial, for many years and in teaching SRE. We would like to share some of the motivations and benefits of our giving, and the challenges and opportunities that we see for the philanthropic sector.</p> <p>Our faith is the main driver of our giving habits, as it teaches us to love God and love our neighbour, and to be generous, compassionate and responsible with the resources that we have. We donate regularly to several charities that align with our faith and values, and that work to improve the lives of people in need, both locally and globally. We also volunteer our time and skills to support the causes that we care about, and to contribute to the common good of society.</p> <p>One of the factors that enables us to give more effectively is the tax deductibility of our donations to charities that have DGR status. This means that we can claim a tax deduction for the amount that we donate, which reduces our taxable income and increases our disposable income. This encourages us to give more, as we know that our money will go further and have a greater impact. It also reflects the Government's recognition and support for the charitable sector, and the social and economic value that it creates.</p> <p>One of the charities that we strongly support is SRE, which provides special religious education to students in public schools. SRE is a crucial service that helps young people develop their spiritual, moral and ethical values, and fosters social cohesion and respect for diversity. SRE is delivered by trained and authorised teachers from different faith traditions, who volunteer their time and expertise to offer students an opportunity to learn about their own and other religions. SRE is not compulsory, and parents and students can choose to opt in or out of the program, according to their preferences and beliefs.</p> <p>We value the contribution that SRE makes to young lives and to Australian society, and we want the Government to recognise and value it too. We support the maintenance of the DGR status for SRE and school building funds, as this enables us to donate to SRE and support its sustainability and quality. We also support the provision of adequate funding and resources for SRE, and the inclusion</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>of SRE in the national curriculum and standards. We believe that removing or reducing the support for SRE will only amplify the current crisis in NSW public schools, where almost 10,000 lessons are unsupervised each week, according to NSW Education Minister Prue Car. SRE teachers are Australia's largest year-round volunteer army, providing close to 10,000 lessons each week, and filling a gap that the Government cannot afford to ignore.</p> <p>We hope that the Productivity Commission will consider the views and experiences of people like us, who are motivated by their faith to give generously and make a difference in the world. We also hope that the Commission will recommend a stronger suite of reforms that will enable the philanthropic sector to grow and thrive, and to address the complex and urgent challenges that our society faces. We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission, and I look forward to the final report of the inquiry.</p>	
278-813	Bill Baker	<p>Whilst I agree with simplifying the DGR system and the charities' regulatory framework and with increasing the number of charities eligible for DGR status, I strongly disagree with the suggestion to withdraw DGR status from school building funds and charities providing religious education. I am a person of deep religious faith and even though my only child has completed her schooling and university, these are the types of charity to which I would be most likely to donate. Therefore, the proposal, if adopted, would be denying me the opportunity to donate to my preferred charities.</p> <p>According to figure 6 in the Overview, this group is less than half the size of the group gaining DGR status, so assuming an approximately equal average donation per charity, any perceived revenue benefit from removing this group's DGR status is more than offset by the revenue reduction arising from donations to those charities gaining it. In other words, these changes do not yield a net gain in taxation revenue.</p> <p>Additionally, the affected charities carry out a vital role in the broader community that neither the public nor private sector fills. Reducing their funding, as the proposal will inevitably do, will see a reduction of services, with, subsequently, a likely greater burden on government to fill the gap. Furthermore, it is likely this move will mean some existing charities will no longer be able to employ people, or might have to cease operating altogether, which will significantly disrupt the lives of people directly and indirectly affected.</p> <p>Clearly religious institutions are a significant source of religious education in the lives of young people – and where better to learn about such an important aspect of human life than in a place where that is the focus? But to do so, indoors, requires building new buildings, maintaining them and, at times, replacing them, all of which require money and hence vehicles such as building funds to raise that money. However, this proposal reduces the amount of money that can be realistically raised and so reduces the extent to which that education happen, thereby detracting from the education of the next generation of Australians.</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>So in summary, this proposal is doubly negative: it withdraws some donors' choices and it adversely affects the education, lives and livelihood of the community without yielding a positive return to the government or the broader population.</p> <p>I therefore request the Commission to exclude this recommendation from its final report, thereby allowing the charities currently holding DGR status to retain it and so continue the good work they are doing.</p>	
278-814	Joel S	<p>Having looked through the <i>"Future Foundations for Giving Draft Report Overview"</i>, dated November 2023, I write to express a concern I have with the proposal, which I feel would also be of great importance to many fellow Australians, and would therefore much appreciate the Commission's due consideration of.</p> <p>On page 18 of the overview, it is stated, <i>"School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission's proposals."</i></p> <p>As a parent of a child currently enrolled at private school, which fosters highest levels of academic achievement, and with two more children who we hope will be enrolled there in the near future, I am very worried that the Productivity Commission's recommendations to withdraw deductible gift recipient status will inevitably result in reduced donations from the local business and individuals who support our school, and the school, in turn, will have no option but to increase its student fees to make up for the shortfall.</p> <p>Our finances are already stretched thin due to current cost of living crisis and high interest rate pressures, and my fear is that an increase in private school fees could mean that we (along with many other Australia families) will likely have to send our children to a public school, at a time when public schools in many states are at breaking point in terms of capacity. (Across the news there are reports of public schools in NSW, Victoria, and South Australia at capacity already, if not bursting at the seams.)</p> <p>It also concerns me that the resultant lack of educational-sector construction work is going to negatively impact our small businesses, and our local tradesman.</p> <p>Religious organisations form an exceptionally large proportion of the private/independent school sector, and in effect, the above recommendations in the Draft Report appear to make life more difficult for religious groups, which I feel cannot be in the Nation's best interest, given religion is such an integral part of all societies.</p> <p>I would be most grateful if you could bring this concern to the attention of the Commission, so that it does not carry through as a formal recommendation to the Australian Government</p>	29/02/2024

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278-815	Bill 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>	29/02/2024
278-816	Barbara Preston	<p>This submission is largely in response to the Commonwealth Government's 15 February comment on the Commission's recommendation in the Draft Report (Productivity Commission, 2023) to end tax deductibility for school building funds and similar activities (draft recommendation 6.1).</p> <p>This submission follows my earlier submission (# 469) (Preston, 2024), and assumes the principles, focus, arguments and recommendations of that submission, and develops some issues.</p> <p>1. DGR status of schools: obscured public funding for private benefit</p> <p>In Senate Estimates on 15 February, Senator Henderson's asked of Government Senator Chisholm:</p> <p>I want to ask about the Productivity Commission's recommendation that all schools lose DGR status. Minister, I will direct this to you. This has sent alarm bells through the non-government schools sector. The National Catholic Education Commission estimates this will cost Catholic schools \$2 billion a year. Independent Schools Australia says that it will cost independent schools more than \$1 billion a year. Will you rule out adopting this egregious recommendation, which would bring many schools, particularly low-fee-paying schools, to their knees? . (Commonwealth of Australia Senate, 2024, 15 February, p. 25).</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>Senator Chisholm said in response:</p> <p>As you are aware, it was a draft report from the Productivity Commission. It doesn't represent government policy. As the Treasurer has said already on this issue, this is not something we're considering. (p. 26)</p> <p>Senator Chisholm indicated that the issue was not something that the Government is <i>currently</i> considering. In the final report, the Commission must reiterate and emphasise the case against such public funding of private benefits as general tax deductibility for schools that benefit their own students and communities. The issue is then on the record, and might be taken up by future governments, if not by the current government before the next election.</p> <p>Senator Henderson's question (referring to data provides by Catholic and independent school representatives) indicates that a fair estimate of the unaccounted public funding of private schools would be in the order of \$1 billion annually. This estimate takes account of the Commission's findings that high income individuals (those with incomes of \$180,001 or greater and thus in the top 45% tax bracket) made the large proportion (over 80%) of all tax all-deductible donations, and that Census and other data indicate that families of students in independent and Catholic schools have much higher incomes than the families of students in public schools (and the rest of the Australian community). The foundation of the school my brothers (and uncles) attended received revenue from bequests and investments in 2022 of around \$2.5 million. Assuming tax deductions and exemptions averaging around 30%, this is unaccounted for and inequitable public funding of a very wealthy school of around \$750,000. This is in addition to publicly reported recurrent funding from the Commonwealth and State governments for a school with annual tuition fees of more than \$40,000 for secondary students and a generally very financially advantaged clientele. Low fee (and low income clientele) private schools have zero or very low tax deductible donations (as reported to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission). Ever since the 1970s the low and high fee private sectors have supported each other, even when on particular issues their immediate interests have diverged. The Commission needs to take with a grain of salt claims that a loss of DRG status would be devastating for low fee private schools that actually receive little from private donations but receive capital funding directly, accountably and transparency from governments.</p> <p>In general, one questions the support individuals have for a cause (their own children's school, or the one they attended, for example), if they will not provide financial support unless they can ensure the rest of Australia also provides financial support through a tax expenditure.</p> <p>It could also be noted that high fee independent schools can (as does the school I attended) charge for the hire of facilities paid for in quite large part by the public through tax expenditures and exemptions.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.</p>	

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		<p>(a) That the Commission, in its final report, reiterate and emphasise the case against public funding of private benefits through some entities, including schools, currently with DRG status.</p> <p>(b) That the Commission not weaken the substance of Draft Recommendation 6.1.</p> <p>2. Interim measures of accountability and transparency</p> <p>As long as private interests are benefitting from public funding through inappropriate tax deductibility (and tax exemptions), it is essential that there is accountability and transparency.</p> <p>It is against all principles of fairness and equity, as well as accountability and transparency, that the public funding of school buildings (and other private benefits) through tax expenditures (and tax exemptions) is not clearly and publicly reported. It must be recognised that such expenditures are as much public funding as are direct expenditures.</p> <p>The implications of not dealing with the issue at the Commonwealth level are broad and costly: the granting of unwarranted charity status directs (or influences) the states and territories and local governments to provide exemptions from a range of taxes, levies and rates that otherwise should be paid by enterprises that provide only private benefits. Such benefits generally accrue to privileged, higher socio-economic families and communities, as made clear by data from the My School website (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2024), the Census (type of school attended TYPP by family income FINF) and other sources.</p> <p>Recommendation 2.</p> <p>(a) That the Commission recommends that, until inappropriate DRG status is ended, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) estimate and publicly report on the MySchool Website the (indirect) income from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth funding of private schools through tax deductibility of donations and the tax free status of bequests and investment income • State and territory government funding of private schools by their exemption from payroll tax, land tax, and stamp duties • Local government funding of both private and public schools through rate revenue foregone. <p>(b) That the Commission recommends that the Commonwealth include indirect funding through tax exemptions and tax expenditures in future measures of school revenue for the purposes of reporting and the development of an amended model for allocating per student recurrent funding.</p> <p>3. Tax deductions are inequitable, and should be replaced by tax credits</p> <p>It must be recognised that high income individuals' chosen charitable donation recipients receive a much higher rate of public funding (through tax deductibility) per dollar donated than the recipients</p>	

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		<p>of donations chosen by lower income individuals. For example, for every dollar donated, high fee private school building funds receive more public funding (and less funding by donating individuals) than the school building funds of most low fee schools. Similarly for organisations with reasonable grounds for DRG status such as arts organisations: national organisations with high ticket prices and high income supporters receive higher levels of public support and lower support from the donator for every dollar donated than a rural or suburban arts organisation with lower ticket prices.</p> <p>I therefore repeat my Recommendation 2 (a) in my earlier submission (Preston, 2024) :</p> <p>Recommendation 3.</p> <p>(a) That the Commission recommend that tax credits replace tax deductions for donations made for recognised charitable purposes.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2024). <i>My School Website</i>. Sydney: Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Retrieved from https://www.myschool.edu.au/</p> <p>Commonwealth of Australia Senate (2024, 15 February). <i>Education and Employment Legislation Committee, Estimates (uncorrected proof)</i>. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia Senate Retrieved from https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Festimate%2F27722%2F0000%22</p> <p>Preston, B. (2024). <i>Submission in response to the Productivity Commission Philanthropy Inquiry Draft Report (Submission # 469)</i>. Retrieved from Canberra: https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/philanthropy/submissions#final</p> <p>Productivity Commission. (2023). <i>Philanthropy Inquiry Draft Report</i>. Canberra: Productivity Commission. Retrieved from https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/philanthropy/draft</p>	
278-817	Frank Buckland	<p>Having read the draft report I found much with which I would agree, eg. under ‘Why do governments encourage philanthropy?’ etc.</p> <p>As a grandfather of three graduated students from, and seven current students at, an independent school, I’m acutely aware of the cost borne by my children, two of whom are employees. I thank God for the very generous governmental assistance provided currently in different ways but any reduction of this would simply increase an already heavy financial burden. So I view with concern that “School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education ... would be no longer eligible for DGR status ...”</p>	29/02/2024

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		<p>In the Commissions own words “religious organizations play an important role in many people’s lives and communities across Australia” particularly the <u>children</u>, whose education leads to positive influences in, and contributors to the general public. Certainly the recommendation to discard “Basic Religious Charity Status” would be a great retrograde step. Could one suspect that there’s Socialist/ Marxist bias involved here -“religion is the opiate of the masses”?</p>	