

Dear Karen

Re: The Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.

I have become acquainted with the draft report, and think I follow, somewhat, its purpose. This is commendable, but it does raise some grave concerns with me as a father and grandfather with children who have just completed school and grandchildren attending schools, both public and private.

I am most concerned that DGR status removal is being considered for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.

With grandchildren in private and public schools, I can only see disadvantages for private and public schools should DGR status be removed.

Limited funding for private schools will place pressure on families attending, due to increased school fees. The present economic climate with increasing cost of living adds to this pressure. Decreasing donations to these schools could lead to families sending their children to public schools as well as potentially forcing private school to close. This will further overload state schools. I am acquainted with conditions in state schools, as I also have grandchildren there.

It would also affect private schools from upgrading facilities and improving standards of education to the detriment of the children.

As a business owner, I feel the pressure of difficult economic conditions affecting our ability to donate to a variety of charities. Scrapping DGR status would add to these pressures and adversely affect our ability help some of these charities.

As an Australian who dislikes any form of discrimination, I also worry that there is an element of religious discrimination.

Please consider these concerns, as what is proposed has wider effects than you might have thought.

Your sincerely

Deryck Noakes