

Dear Karen,

RE: Productivity Commission - Future foundations for giving draft report

I write to express my concerns as to the draft recommendations to do away with deductible gift recipient status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.

As a parent of a child who attends a private school, we have seen the advantages and effects of the DGR status to stimulate giving. Over recent months, our household has felt increasing financial pressures due to rising costs for the consumer on every front with no relief in sight and fear the draft recommendations relating to DGR status will only add to these pressures on Australian families, doing all they can to give their children and Australia's future the best opportunities we can for them to achieve success through a quality learning experience.

On research, I understand non-government schools have had DGR support for almost 70 years. Donations have been directed towards building infrastructure which is ensuring education standards are maintained and improved for generations. A change to DGR status now would certainly mean a decline in giving which would have devastating effects.

It is also a fact that a majority of independent education is provided by religious organisations and in turn I feel the draft recommendations are an attack on religion.

I would appreciate your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Thomas