

16th January 2024

To Whom it May Concern

RE: Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report

As a parent, I am concerned about the impact of the federal government making changes to DGR status for organisations such as non-government education, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.

With three young children currently in primary and middle-school education, I fear that the Productivity Commission's recommendations to Government will increase school fees if they are adopted. The recommendations will likely discourage donations from generous individuals and businesses if there aren't the same tax benefits available to them.

Current cost of living pressures are very real and are unprecedented. Data released from the RBA in January 2024 shows alarming statistics when comparing household consumption, disposable income and savings ratios. All three have declined significantly over the past 1-2 years, showing that there are not the savings nor the income in households to sustain cost increases. Changes to DGR status will reduce donations and increase education costs, which will be devastating to households as well as negatively impacting the wider economy.

If schools lose any funding, this will prevent critical building infrastructure and improvements, resulting in a negative student experience from unsuitable learning environments. This will have long-lasting and wide-ranging negative effects in years to come as these students move through to the workforce.

As a Christian myself, this recommendation seems part of an agenda to vilify religion, and erode Australia's long-held Christian values. Faith based and independent schools should not be disadvantaged when they produce such tangible benefits for their communities and the economy.

I ask that my concerns be considered and that the recommendations of the Productivity Commission to remove tax benefits from the aforementioned organisations be dismissed.

Kind Regards,

Scott Phillips