

Dear Karen,

Regarding philanthropic trends / Productivity Commission Future foundation for giving.

I have read the draft report after seeing an alarming news report recently and felt compelled to write my concerns about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status (DGR). How can it be contemplated that a reduction of tax-deductible gifts to private / faith based schools, and the resultant guaranteed flow-on effect of increased fees (to make up for the shortfall of available funds)? This will undoubtedly result in a reduction of private school enrolments, impacted already by a burdened cost of living crisis, as well as overcrowd an already strained public system.

I am a concerned father of 4 children that all spent time in both public school as well as in private school, and although the cost of the private school enrolment was a huge financial burden at the time, we have absolutely no regrets to them all progressing to year 12 in the private system. They are all now involved in management/ assistant positions in the private business sector. The benefit to government of increased income tax, and economic growth, must be at least partly a flow on effect from higher levels of academic achievements.

Surely some forethought that we are contemplating setting up society for added risk of failure, is a reality.

- I looked up online and found statistical fact that Private schools have a retention to year 12 of 84.2%, compared to public school retention of just 66.4%.
- This speaks volumes and we cant risk making the reprehensible mistake of altering this massively beneficial support to both our private schools, and the resultant erosion of Christian values that underpin a stable society.

My wife and I trust our concerns will be considered seriously. I respectfully ask why contemplate breaking something that is driving higher levels of achievements in Society?

Yours Sincerely

Bruce Garrett