

16/1/2024

RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report

Dear Karen,

I am most concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organisations as this has the potential to devastate non-government schools who have enjoyed DGR support since 1954.

This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that indeed benefits from the current DGR status. It is fair to say that we are experiencing a dramatic increase in the cost of living, which is putting my family under substantial financial pressure. My fear is that the lost income from reduced giving driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school, will drive up our school fees to make up the difference in funds.

As a family business owner I have contributed to the building fund on numerous occasions as I want my children to have the best possible education, however going forward I cannot see how this is of future benefit.

My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, this will force us to send our children to our local public school which I understand are already overcrowded. Furthermore, this move will most definitely have a negative impact on my children's learning ability and academic potential.

I implore you to please consider my concerns, and the concerns of many other families in Australia, who I'm sure would likely be in a similar situation to us.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry and Emma Seeley