

Peter Cox

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

17.01.2023

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Productivity Commission Review of Philanthropy 'Future Foundations for Giving' Draft Report

While I write to commend the overarching goals of increasing charitable giving in Australia, whilst improving the gifting experience, I must lodge my grave concern over the sweeping changes recommended to DGR status.

My primary concern is the scrapping of DGR status for religious organisations, including aged care, non-government (independent) primary and secondary schools.

I note that, at the expense of religious organisations, the commission advances the cause of other groups that are no more broadly representative of the Australian community than the religious community. This move to relegate one grouping while advancing others seems at best to be at odds with the wider goal of increasing philanthropic giving, while at worst it appears like a selective attempt to radically reengineer the social fabric that currently serves Australia so well.

My personal experience of these changes, should they be adopted by the government, would undoubtedly be increased school fees for my children. After the last few years of runaway inflation, a rapid rise in fees would be unsustainable for our household, forcing us back into already crowded government schools. The resultant increase in government school student numbers, which cost the government more per head to educate, would surely offset any budget positives gained by eliminating charitable giving (and tax benefits thereof) to private education. Also, by discouraging community gifting to school building works, the changes would result in delayed or cancelled development of school infrastructure.

The recommendations contained in the draft report seem to be in direct conflict with the Federal government's stated commitment to youth, their education, and professional educators. I am confident that upon reflection, the commission will adopt a broader and more inclusive approach to DGR classifications.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cox