



COMMUNITY  
BROADCASTING  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIA

09 October 2024

Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City  
ACT 2601, Australia

## **Response to the *Future Foundations for Giving* draft report**

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia is the peak body for over 500 AM/FM/DAB+ community broadcast services that reach over 4.93 million people across Australia each week – almost one quarter (24%) of Australians.

Community radio and television stations provide broadcasting services for the benefit of the community. They are operated as independent, not-for-profit organisations which actively encourage access and participation by members of their communities in all aspects of broadcast operations. Around 50% of community broadcasters are charities registered with the ACNC and approximately 30% have DGR status.

Community radio stations are independent, not-for-profit organisations that provide broadcasting services for the benefit of the community. Community broadcasters enrich and strengthen the social and cultural fabric of Australian society and amplify the voices of diverse Australian communities. The sector also plays a vital role in emergencies and recovery, working tirelessly to support and connect communities when they need it most. Stations are critical community assets promote local, independent arts and cultural activities.

The CBAA welcomes the opportunity to provide our views on the *Future Foundations for Giving* draft report.

The CBAA supports the report's finding that the deductible gift recipient system needs reform. The majority of community broadcasters are small organisations. Our sector is powered by over 19,000 volunteer staff around 1000 employees.

Historically, DGR applications have taken years for our members to progress to conclusion. do not have the time or resources to navigate complex, lengthy processes. Streamlining the process may encourage these stations to apply for DGR status and positively impact the sustainability of these cultural organisations that are highly valued by their community.

As local, independent news producers, the community broadcasting sector also welcomes the proposed expansion of access to DGR status for public interest journalism. The CBAA supports the Local & Independent News Association's (LINA) submission to this inquiry and their recommendation that a defined charity subtype be established for public interest journalism.

We would welcome any further opportunity to assist with this inquiry. If you would like to discuss our submission, please do not hesitate to contact Reece Kinnane, CBAA's Head of Advocacy and Communications at via (02) 9318 9621.

Sincerely,

Jon Bisset  
Chief Executive Officer