

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-176 to 278-270

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-176	Stephen Olsson	<p>As I was reading the draft report; although there were some good recommendations I was deeply concerned of the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is a concern for me as a grandfather.</p> <p>My children have attended non government schools and now I have grandchildren starting school.</p> <p>With the costs of living going up I fear fees could skyrocket leaving us with one option to send the children to a public school.</p> <p>This would impact their morale severely and handicap their learning capabilities.</p>	6/02/2024
278-177	Peter Needham	<p>Having read the draft report with interest, I have noticed some good findings and recommendations. There are some recommendations that I find extremely concerning, particularly the recommendation to remove deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have three secondary school aged students who attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing increasing cost of living pressure, I fear that school fees would further rise, to make up for the reduction in revenue for the school derived from giving. This reduction in giving would be due to the lack of the tax benefit for businesses and individuals that donate to the school. The school provides excellent quality education.</p> <p>My deep concern is, if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to a public school that already have class size and under staffing issues. This would negatively impact their learning experience and stunt their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns. I am sure that our family is one of many thousands of families that would be similarly affected.</p>	3/02/2024

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No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-178	Marcus John	<p>I have read through the Productivity Commissions draft report in relation to 'Future foundations for giving' and the recommendations put forward to the government. I would like to express my concern for the recommendations made to remove deductible gift recipient status from non-government schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. The removal of the tax benefit to entities or individuals will result in a significant reduction in giving. This will inevitably lead to increase in school fees with schools needing to make up the reduction in income provided from giving. My concern is the pressure this is going to put on households who are already battling the current cost-of-living pressures. Many households will be unable to sustain the increased costs and I am concerned this will force more children into local public schools. I fear the impact this will have on the education and potential of many children. I would like to urge the reconsideration of the consequences that would be caused by adopting the recommendations of the draft report and appreciate your consideration of my concerns.</p>	5/02/2024
278-179	Gareth Wallis	<p>The proposed changes to the DGR system in the Productivity Commission's draft report could have a devastating impact on our children's education. Many people rely on the tax benefits of charitable giving to support our schools, and without them, contributions are sure to decline significantly. This would translate to less funding for essential resources, innovative programs, and a thriving learning environment, ultimately detrimentally impacting our children's potential.</p> <p>Furthermore, raising school fees to compensate for decreased donations would place an enormous burden on families during a period of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. Many simply wouldn't be able to afford it, exacerbating educational inequality and limiting opportunities for those who need them most.</p> <p>We urge the government to carefully consider the long-term implications of this radical proposal, as it could significantly hinder the well-being and educational opportunities of our children.</p>	1/02/2024
278-180	Dorcas Lim	<p>I am highly concerned by the draft report and reforms to the DGR system that "charities that have DGR status for school building funds or to provide religious education in government school", are to have their DGR status withdrawn.</p> <p>This will be a poor decision at this time when people are facing cost of living pressures.</p> <p>Impacts to the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the 5,000 or so charities won't be able to survive; their beneficiaries will miss out on the support and assistance provided by these charitable organisations. • This will highly impact the role of faith communities who have been contributing financially and volunteering their time to provide services which benefit society in general, especially the young, the needy and the vulnerable. There is a lack of recognition on the important role and contribution they are playing and/or giving. 	2/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking away from parents the affordability and opportunity to put their children through quality education provided by faith-based schools. <p>Impacts to the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater reliance on the government to provide for the needy. • Greater pressure on the government to raise taxes to fund social services. • Greater pressure on government schools to fill the gap created by reduction in faith-based schools. <p>In order to minimise the stated impacts, suggestions for your consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review each charity and faith-based organisation so that those which are benefitting society, nurturing law-abiding citizens and support the Australian constitution should not have their DGR status removed. • Charities and faith-based organisations that meet the above criteria, rely solely on donations, and do not generate revenue for profit to retain their DGR status. • There should not be discrimination against any religious or faith-based organisations that meet the criteria listed in the above first point to practise their faith. 	
278-181	Darrel Mole	<p>As a Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher in several NSW public secondary schools, I would like to submit a few points that need to be taken into account before moving ahead with the recommendation, in the Draft Philanthropy Inquiry Report, for removal of DGR status for giving to religious instruction in government schools.</p> <p>The removal of DGR status for giving to Special Religious Education in government schools will significantly impact organisations responsible for the delivery of quality SRE programs and as such adversely affect the positive outcomes associated with it.</p> <p>As a paid teacher receiving substantially less than I could working in other areas, I fail to understand how the Commission has come to the conclusion that “converting a tax-deductible donation into a private benefit is, in principle, a substantial risk for ... religious education ...”. I highly doubt that there are any SRE teachers who are doing so for personal gain, nor can I think of any way in which the money being used to fund teaching SRE could become a private benefit.</p> <p>The faith of donors is what primarily drives their giving (money and time) to religious instruction in government schools, not any private benefit received. People who identify themselves as having a religion and regular attend religious services are more likely to give and to give more on average than people who do not.. (Lyons, Nivison-Smith. June 2006. Religion and Giving in Australia. The Australian journal of social issues 41(4):419-436) (Hughes P. April 2022. Does Faith Make A Difference To How People Contribute To Australian Society? https://crucis.ac.edu.au/)</p> <p>The draft report states “Reform is needed to simplify the DGR system and direct support to where there is</p>	6/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>likely to be the greatest net benefits to the community” , and “The DGR system should focus on where funds are needed most and direct donations toward charitable activities that are likely to provide the greatest net benefits to the final beneficiaries of the goods and services and the community as a whole.”</p> <p>SRE programs in government schools have proven student wellbeing benefits and contribute positively to both the school and wider community in areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values education, • Identity development, • Spirituality and wellbeing, • Educating in multiculturalism and • Countering religious bullying. <p>(Gross Z, Rutland S.D, 2021. Special Religious Instruction and its Value to Contemporary Society. Springer. Cham, Switzerland)</p> <p>The independent SRE review findings and recommendations published by the NSW Government in 2017 also pointed out that SRE positively contributes to students’ understanding of their cultural heritage, is an avenue for their spiritual care, builds tolerance in schools, promotes multiculturalism, contributes to a well-rounded education, and connects schools with their local community.</p> <p>Empirical research suggests that religious instruction in childhood religion is associated with better health and well-being in adults. (VanderWeele T.J. Religion and health: a synthesis In: Peteet JR, Balboni MJ, eds. Spirituality and Religion Within the Culture of Medicine: From Evidence to Practice. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2017:357–402) Religious instruction in childhood years is also linked to religious service in adult years, which, in turn, is linked to positive social behaviours and outcomes.</p> <p>It is important to acknowledge the positive contribution that faith communities make to Australian society and the part that Special Religious Education plays in the lives of students, when making this policy decision.</p>	
278-182	Dale Kirkpatrick	<p>I have taken the time to read the draft report and while there are some good suggestions, I am alarmed about the recommendation to scrap the DGR Status (deductible gift recipient) for nongovernment schools (primary & secondary), childcare and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is of great concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from this. Should it be scrapped, it would cause my school fees to rise dramatically due to reduced giving from businesses and individuals, at a time, when the cost-of-living pressures are causing a lot of pain (not only to us but a vast proportion of Australian families).</p> <p>Should we be forced to send our children to our local public school (which is already struggling to manage all their current students with the resources and facilities available) it will result in overcrowding which will restrict their academic potential and future in this country.</p>	5/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As a Christian I feel this is an attack on religion as most independent education is provided by religious organizations.</p> <p>Please make consideration for my concerns as I think this will negatively impact many families throughout the country.</p>	
278-183	Andrew Monks	<p>Having read the abovementioned draft report, I am interested in the findings. There are some sensible suggestions and recommendations, however, I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status, this is of particular concern to me.</p> <p>As you would know, we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, and it is a matter of necessity that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the loss of income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My fear is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted</p>	8/02/2024
278-184	Jeremy Quek	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed removal of tax deductions for donations to scripture religious education and private school building funds. As a concerned citizen, I believe that such a move would have detrimental effects on both religious education and the quality of private school infrastructure across our nation.</p> <p>First and foremost, the ability to deduct donations for scripture religious education is vital for supporting the diverse religious communities and educational institutions that exist within our society. Many families and individuals prioritise religious education as a fundamental aspect of their faith and cultural identity. By providing tax deductions for donations to support religious education, the government acknowledges and respects the right of individuals to practice their faith freely.</p> <p>Removing tax deductions for donations to religious education would place an undue financial burden on families and religious organisations, potentially limiting access to quality religious education programs. This could disproportionately impact low-income families who rely on financial assistance to provide their children with a religious education.</p> <p>Furthermore, private schools play a crucial role in providing alternative educational options and fostering academic excellence in our communities. Donations to private school building funds contribute to the improvement of educational facilities, technology infrastructure, and extracurricular programs that benefit students and enhance the overall quality of education.</p>	8/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>By eliminating tax deductions for donations to private school building funds, the government would hinder the ability of private schools to maintain and improve their facilities, ultimately compromising the educational experience for students attending these institutions.</p> <p>Additionally, private schools often serve as valuable resources for communities, offering scholarships, outreach programs, and support services to students from diverse backgrounds. These institutions play an integral role in promoting educational diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments that cater to the individual needs of students.</p> <p>In light of these considerations, I urge the government to reconsider its proposal to remove tax deductions for donations to scripture religious education and private school building funds. Instead, I encourage policymakers to explore alternative avenues for promoting educational equity and fiscal responsibility while preserving the vital contributions of religious and private educational institutions to our society.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I trust that you will carefully weigh the implications of the proposed policy change and make decisions that reflect the best interests of all citizens.</p>	
278-185	Mabel Quek	<p>As a mother deeply invested in the education and well-being of my children, I write to you with heartfelt concern regarding the proposal to eliminate tax deductions for donations to scripture religious education and private school building funds. I believe that such a measure would have significant negative repercussions for families, communities, and the educational landscape as a whole.</p> <p>For many families, including mine, access to scripture religious education is paramount. These educational institutions provide a nurturing environment where children not only receive academic instruction but also learn the values and principles that are central to our faith and cultural identity. Tax deductions for donations to religious education help alleviate the financial burden on families striving to provide their children with a holistic education that encompasses both academic and spiritual growth.</p> <p>Similarly, private schools offer invaluable educational alternatives that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of students. Donations to private school building funds contribute to the upkeep and improvement of school facilities, ensuring that students have access to safe, modern, and conducive learning environments. As a mother, I believe that every child deserves access to high-quality education, and private schools play a crucial role in expanding educational opportunities and fostering academic excellence.</p> <p>Eliminating tax deductions for donations to private school building funds would jeopardise the ability of these institutions to maintain and enhance their facilities, potentially compromising the quality of education provided to students. This could have far-reaching consequences for families who rely on private schools to meet the unique educational needs of their children.</p> <p>Moreover, private schools often serve as pillars of support within our communities, offering scholarships, extracurricular programs, and outreach initiatives that benefit students from all walks of life. These institutions</p>	8/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>promote inclusivity, diversity, and a sense of belonging that is essential for the holistic development of our children.</p> <p>I implore the government to reconsider its proposal and to recognise the invaluable contributions of religious education and private schools to our society. Instead of undermining these institutions, I urge policymakers to explore alternative strategies for promoting educational equity and ensuring that all children have access to quality education that aligns with their values and beliefs.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter. I trust that you will take into account the voices of concerned parents and citizens as you deliberate on this proposal.</p>	
278-186	Anthony Lee	<p>I do not support the recommendation to revoke DGR Status for Religious Education in Government Schools (RIGS) funds, on the apparent basis that Special Religious Education (SRE) has little 'community-wide benefit'. This overlooks the high levels of benefit conferred on the public through the provision of religious instruction. SRE delivers key psychological benefits in students, promotes a thick multiculturalism within local communities and reduces the risk of student radicalisation. The wider benefits of SRE are also affirmed by the fact that many non-religious parents choose to place their children in SRE. Further, I do not support the abolition of the Basic Religious Charity (BRC) category. The abolition of the BRC category will impose significant reporting and compliance requirements on larger churches. It will also enable the ACNC Commissioner to remove and appoint leaders of religious institutions, which raises Constitutional concerns. Given the local nature of BRCs, existing financial disclosures and governance standards are appropriate.</p>	9/02/2024
278-187	Jason Yu	<p>I do not support the recommendation to revoke DGR Status for Religious Education in Government Schools (RIGS) funds, on the apparent basis that Special Religious Education (SRE) has little 'community-wide benefit'. This overlooks the high levels of benefit conferred on the public through the provision of religious instruction. SRE delivers key psychological benefits in students, promotes a thick multiculturalism within local communities and reduces the risk of student radicalisation. The wider benefits of SRE are also affirmed by the fact that many non-religious parents choose to place their children in SRE. Further, I do not support the abolition of the Basic Religious Charity (BRC) category. The abolition of the BRC category will impose significant reporting and compliance requirements on larger churches. It will also enable the ACNC Commissioner to remove and appoint leaders of religious institutions, which raises Constitutional concerns. Given the local nature of BRCs, existing financial disclosures and governance standards are appropriate.</p>	9/02/2024
278-188	Trevor Joyce	<p>I've recently read the Future Foundations for giving draft report and am writing to express my concerns regarding the included recommendation of removal of DGR status from private and independent schools. My children attend an independent school therefore these recommendations could have a huge negative impact on my family, and likely many other families.</p>	9/02/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The suggested removal of tax benefits for those contributing to our school will undoubtedly result in an increase in my school fees, which will be yet another financial strain on my family, already struggling with the constant rises in living costs and home repayments.</p> <p>I regard the education of my children of utmost importance, and it is a worry that it will suffer, due to the financial impact DGR status removal would have. The ongoing developments of independent educational facilities with the help of charitable giving, not only benefits the education experience of Australian children, but also financially supports and benefits many of the wider Australian community.</p> <p>Considering all this, it is of great concern that families like my own, may have to change to local public schools, putting increased pressure on government schools and in turn negatively impacting not only my children, but also teachers and children already in the public schools.</p> <p>We are in a time where thousands of families are crippled by the cost of living and are more than ever, turning to charitable organisations for help, many of which are religious based, and the help religious based facilities can offer must be supported in every way possible. To make changes to the DGR status will not only affect the education of Australian children but will have wider impacts on the sources of help that many in need currently turn to.</p> <p>I ask you keep these concerns in mind as you write your final report. This isn't just about the financial stability of our schools; it has wider implications for the education of Australia's future and indeed, the Australian community.</p>	
278-189	Roy Kingon	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report on 'Future foundations for giving' prepared by the Productivity Commission. While I appreciate the comprehensive nature of the findings and recommendations, I am writing to express my personal concerns regarding the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>The aspect that particularly troubles me is the potential scrapping of DGR status for independent schools. As a parent with children attending an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status, I am very apprehensive about the implications of such a decision. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, I am afraid that school fees may escalate further to compensate for the anticipated decline in donations, owing to the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to the school.</p> <p>My concern extends beyond personal circumstances. If this recommendation is adopted by the government, it could have far-reaching consequences for families like mine. The potential increase in school fees might force us to reconsider our educational choices and redirect our children to the overcrowded local public school. Such a shift could have a detrimental impact on their overall learning experience and potentially limit their academic potential.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I also believe this could be perceived as a direct attack to faith-based institutions, given that a significant portion of private or independent education is typically administered by religious organizations.</p> <p>I urge you to take into consideration the broader implications of this recommendation, as it may not only affect our family but numerous others facing similar dilemmas. I believe maintaining DGR status for independent schools is crucial to sustaining the quality of education and ensuring that families have the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will consider the concerns raised by concerned parents like myself.</p>	
278-190	Lester King	<p>I am writing to express my anxiety and concern as to the changes to DGR status being recommended in the draft Future Foundations for Giving Report.</p> <p>Life goals for my family include giving my two daughters the very best start in life and I made the decision that the way forward for us was to enrol them in a small faith based independent school which they love and are making great progress.</p> <p>I have made and continue to make financial sacrifices to be able to continue this goal in life – it has come at great personal cost. The inevitable impact of this recommendation is going to be an increase in the cost to parents for schooling as the schools we have chosen will no longer have charitable status on the building and maintenance works it undertakes.</p> <p>We fear this will force ourselves and many, many other families to give up using the independent schools we have chosen and send our children to local state schools which are already struggling with high student numbers and staff shortages. This of course will end up being a much larger financial burden to the Government than the cost of maintaining DGR status for education.</p> <p>Appreciate urgent consideration of this submission</p>	19/01/2024
278-191	Aaron Jarrett	<p>am writing to express my deep concern as a parent regarding the potential adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. I believe that these changes could significantly impact our children's education and the overall well-being of our community.</p> <p>Decline in Education Quality: The proposed changes could lead to a decline in the overall education experience for our children. With limited resources, schools may struggle to maintain a suitable learning environment, ultimately impacting the academic achievements of our students.</p> <p>Increased School Fees: The proposed recommendations may lead to a substantial increase in school fees. With businesses and individuals facing a reduction in tax benefits, our schools may be compelled to shift the financial burden onto parents. This situation could limit access to quality education for families like ours and hinder our children's academic potential.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Financial Strain on Families: At a time when many households are already grappling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the additional burden of increased school fees is particularly worrisome. This financial strain puts undue pressure on families and jeopardizes the educational opportunities of our children.</p> <p>Impact on Building Projects: I am concerned that the reduced financial support for schools may impede crucial building extension and upgrade projects. These projects not only contribute to an enhanced learning environment but also support numerous small family businesses in our community. The potential halt to these projects could have a detrimental ripple effect on both education and the local economy.</p> <p>Attack on Religious Organisations: I find it deeply troubling that the proposed recommendations seem to constitute a direct attack on religious organisations that predominantly provide private and independent education. These institutions, rooted in strong values and principles, form a crucial cornerstone of our educational system.</p> <p>The very essence of religious education is at risk due to the potential reduction in financial support. It appears as though the proposed changes disregard the fundamental right to religious freedom, denying families like mine the ability to choose an education that aligns with our beliefs.</p> <p>The majority of private and independent schools are affiliated with religious entities, and the potential financial setbacks could force these institutions to compromise on the very values that make them unique. It's not just about the immediate impact on budgets; it's about eroding the cultural and moral fabric that religious schools contribute to our community.</p> <p>Let's not underestimate the broader societal implications of stifling religious organisations in the education sector. Preserving a diverse range of educational options, especially those rooted in religious principles, is not just a matter of choice; it's a matter of defending the principles of religious freedom that our nation holds dear.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider the potential fallout on religious organisations and the severe impact on families seeking education that resonates with their values. It's essential to protect the right to choose an education that reflects the cultural and moral identity of Australian families.</p> <p>Pressure on Public Schools: The proposed changes may force families, including mine, to consider enrolling our children in local public schools. However, I understand that these schools are already grappling with issues of overcrowding, which could further compromise the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully reconsider the implications of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on education. Your thoughtful consideration of these concerns is crucial to ensuring that the education system remains accessible, equitable, and supportive of the diverse needs of Australian families.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will carefully weigh the potential consequences on the lives of countless Australian families.</p>	

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-192	Joel Sharpe	<p>Having looked through the <i>“Future Foundations for Giving Draft Report Overview”</i>, dated November 2023, I write to express a concern I have with the proposal, which I feel would also be of great importance to many fellow Australians, and would therefore much appreciate the Commission’s due consideration of.</p> <p>On page 18 of the overview, it is stated, <i>“School building funds for primary and secondary schools and religious education would be the main entities that would no longer be eligible for DGR status under the Commission’s proposals.”</i></p> <p>As a parent of a child currently enrolled at private school, which fosters highest levels of academic achievement, and with two more children who we hope will be enrolled there in the near future, I am very worried that the Productivity Commission’s recommendations to withdraw deductible gift recipient status will inevitably result in reduced donations from the local business and individuals who support our school, and the school, in turn, will have no option but to increase its student fees to make up for the shortfall.</p> <p>Our finances are already stretched thin due to current cost of living crisis and high interest rate pressures, and my fear is that an increase in private school fees could mean that we (along with many other Australia families) will likely have to send our children to a public school, at a time when public schools in many states are at breaking point in terms of capacity. (Across the news there are reports of public schools in NSW, Victoria, and South Australia at capacity already, if not bursting at the seams.)</p> <p>It also concerns me that the resultant lack of educational-sector construction work is going to negatively impact our small businesses, and our local tradesman.</p> <p>Religious organisations form an exceptionally large proportion of the private/independent school sector, and in effect, the above recommendations in the Draft Report appear to make life more difficult for religious groups, which I feel cannot be in the Nation’s best interest, given religion is such an integral part of all societies.</p> <p>I would be most grateful if you could bring this concern to the attention of the Commission, so that it does not carry through as a formal recommendation to the Australian Government.</p>	19/01/2024
278-193	Roy M	<p>I am writing as a concerned Australian citizen and working parent with a newborn child. In having read the draft report I have particular concern regarding the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status being scraped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The DGR status assisted my parents to fund my education at a private school which gave me the best chance of a bright career. To now consider scrapping such income support for independent schools will cause my children's academic potential to be severely stifled. In a time where the cost of living pressures has been felt by so many, I fear the proposed DGR status change would only decimate Australia's educated workforce for future generations.</p> <p>I would appreciate my concerns be considered.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-194	Stephen Hobson	<p>I am writing to express concern regarding the recommendations in the draft report mentioned above for deductible giving status to be scrapped for non-government education and other religious organisations and entities.</p> <p>Whilst my children have all grown up now and left school, they attended independent non-government schools that benefited from such charitable giving.</p> <p>If this draft policy goes through I am concerned it will have negative impact as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School fees will increase for parents who are already faced with cost of living pressures 2. Government schools will be overcrowded 3. Facility maintenance will suffer with donations not being able to be received <p>Ultimately I feel that this is an attack on religious organisations and freedom of choice with education. I urge the Government to reconsider this stance for the prosperity of Australia.</p>	19/01/2024
278-195	Nathan and Rachel Ovenden	<p>We are concerned parents with children at a private school where the fees are already reasonably steep. In the current climate of the economy where cost of living is at an all-time high, the direct giving needs to be sustained to ensure that families can keep their children at the school of their choice.</p> <p>If the schools are unable to receive these funds, the facilities will fall into disrepair, causing the children to be impacted in their learning. Children need a good environment to work in to ensure they can achieve their full potential.</p> <p>We also feel that this is an attack on religion as many of the private schools are funded by religious organisations.</p> <p>We need to ensure our schools receive the needed funds so our children can prosper in a great schooling environment.</p>	19/01/2024
278-196	Drew Williams	<p>I have read the productivity draft report and have some concerns. I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This would impact my family directly as my children go to independent private schools that on enquiry have confirmed they do benefit from DGR status. The interest rates and inflation have already put unprecedented pressure on households and if private schools lose income from reduced giving because of the lack of tax benefit from donors, they will have no option but to significantly increase school fees to unsustainable levels.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. This obviously impacts the future of Australia if you consider that 35% of school children attend such private schools. If many are forced back to public schools this would be bad news for Australia's future.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.	
278-197	Andrew Taylor	<p>I hope this submission finds you well,</p> <p>I recently delved into the draft report on 'Future Foundations for Giving' by the Productivity Commission and found it to be quite insightful. However, I must express my concern regarding the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities, including primary and secondary schools, childcare centers, aged care facilities, and religious organizations!</p> <p>The prospect of losing DGR status raises concerns for my family, as my children currently attend an independent school benefiting from this designation. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living pressures, the potential decline in donations could force an increase in school fees, affecting families like mine who rely on DGR benefits.</p> <p>This financial strain, coupled with the absence of tax incentives for contributors, may lead families to reconsider independent schooling. The fear is that, if implemented, this recommendation could redirect students to overcrowded local public schools, compromising their educational experience and academic potential.</p> <p>I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the broader impact of these proposed changes.</p>	19/01/2024
278-198	Ian William and Fiona Rachel Allpress	<p>Firstly, thank you kindly for providing this opportunity for us to comment on the recommendations which are included in the abovementioned report. I have read through the draft and would like to make specific and fervent point regarding the recommendation to scrap the DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My wife and I have 6 children, the oldest being 35 and the youngest, 15. The youngest is still in high school and the 2 oldest are now married, each with 2 children. All our children and 2 of our grandchildren have/are being educated within the independent schooling system which provides favourably for every aspect of their learning journey. Without the school benefiting from its DGR status, we are convinced, this would not be the case.</p> <p>Coupled with this concern, we are experiencing unprecedented (for us) cost of living pressure currently and dread the inevitable school fee increases should this provision cease. Any incentive for charitable donations towards the education of our children and the wider care of humanity, must surely be the most noble cause possible?</p> <p>We are assured that our concern is exceedingly broad in our community and would appeal to government to reject this recommendation.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-199	Peter Connell	<p>I write as a grandparent of students attending an independent school. I am deeply concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I believe such a move will impact negatively on the education of future generations of Australians.</p> <p>The provision of suitable buildings and facilities and their regular upgrading is fundamental to effective learning. The provision of DGR has existed for 70 years and has encouraged donations for building infrastructure in schools. The aim was (and is) to support the education of future generations for the prosperity of the nation. As a business owner and mentor, my observation is that the beneficiaries of the DGR funding become the leaders of tomorrow.</p> <p>Removal of DGR support will mean that there will be reduced giving from individuals or businesses because of the lack of tax benefit to such benefactors.</p> <p>Likely consequences:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education will suffer as the money for new or improved facilities will simply not be there. The children will suffer individually in their education experience and their potential development will be reduced due to lower standards of facilities. 2. School fees will need to be increased to provide the funds needed for the facilities. Households are already under unprecedented cost-of-living pressure. This could force some households to seek placement in local public schools which are reportedly already overcrowded. <p>There will also be peripheral damage to local communities as these building projects provide employment opportunities to local small businesses and tradespersons.</p> <p>I am also concerned that this recommendation appears to be an attack on religion generally, as the majority of private or independent education, as well as aged care, is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I strongly encourage the Government to retain the current status of DGR by rejecting the unnecessary and wrong recommendation to remove it.</p>	19/01/2024
278-200	Ken Bird	<p>I Just wanted to talk about that Productivity Commission draft report on "Future foundations for giving." It caught my eye, and there are some interesting points in there. But I've got some concerns about the recommendation to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools, like my kids' independent school.</p> <p>It's a big deal for us because, with the crazy cost of living these days, losing the tax benefits for donations could mean a spike in school fees. Not something any of us want, right? If the government goes with this recommendation, it might push us into sending our kids to the local public school, which is already packed. That could mess with their learning and hold them back academically.</p> <p>Just wanted to share my thoughts on this. I'm sure our family won't be the only ones affected.</p>	

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-201	Ben Joyce	<p>We have read the above-mentioned draft report, and we are writing to you as we are concerned about the impact the removal of DGR status for independent schools could have on our immediate and extended family and many other local community members.</p> <p>As parents of young children and small business owners in a regional town, we are finding the current economic conditions extremely difficult. The school we have selected for our children currently has DGR status and we have seen the benefits of this. Local businesses and individuals have used the incentive to contribute to maintaining aging facilities, so our children have a safe and productive environment to learn in. If incentives to businesses to donate materials and services were to be removed, all school fees could rise exponentially as the burden of this maintenance would fall back on the school. For us personally, this would mean we would no longer be able to afford to send our children to the school of our choice. They would be forced to attend one of the 2 large government schools in our area which are already seriously overcrowded and struggling to provide adequate facilities for current student numbers. It would also mean extended family and community members would find it harder to contribute in a meaningful way to our children's education.</p> <p>There are several small independent schools in our local area, which help to relieve the pressure on the government school facilities, and we understand this recommendation would impact them all. On behalf of many concerned parents in our area we would ask you to urgently review this recommendation and understand the impact it will have on many families.</p>	19/01/2024
278-202	Craig Richardson	<p>I hope this message finds you well. After reviewing the draft report on 'Future Foundations for Giving,' I am writing to express my concerns about the recommendation to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for on-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Of particular worry is the potential impact on my children's independent school, which currently benefits from DGR status. In the face of escalating cost-of-living pressures, the loss of tax benefits for donors may lead to increased school fees, affecting families like mine. The prospect of heightened fees not only poses financial challenges but also raises the possibility of reconsidering enrolment in our local public school. Such a shift could compromise my children's learning experience and academic potential due to overcrowded conditions.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about the apparent attack on religion. The wider impact on all religious organizations that could lose their DGR status would place an unwarranted burden on these institutions and restricting their capacity to effectively serve their communities and congregations.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	19/01/2024
278-203	Athol Quinsey	<p>In reference to the Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for giving' draft report, I am following the progress of this with interest.</p> <p>I have a child in an independent school so the recommendation relating to the scrapping of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is of particular concern to me. Also, the impact of this on other organisations such as aged care already under pressure financially. I feel that the loss of the tax benefit to businesses and</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>individuals currently willing and able to donate would significantly reduce this critical avenue of fundraising of the school and other organisations. School fees would have to increase to make up for the reduced fundraising stream. With the reduced giving, this would impact the necessary building maintenance, upgrades, and expansion, which in turn support many of the smaller businesses in our area.</p> <p>If the Government implements these changes, with the current cost of living pressure, this will have to impact the options for attending independent schools, putting further pressure on the public schooling systems, and stifling academic potential.</p> <p>I trust you will consider these concerns seriously.</p>	
278-204	David Painter	<p>In reference to the Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for giving' draft report, I am following the progress of this with interest.</p> <p>I have a child in an independent school so the recommendation relating to the scrapping of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is of particular concern to me. Also, the impact of this on other organisations such as aged care already under pressure financially. I feel that the loss of the tax benefit to businesses and individuals currently willing and able to donate would significantly reduce this critical avenue of fundraising of the school and other organisations. School fees would have to increase to make up for the reduced fundraising stream. With the reduced giving, this would impact the necessary building maintenance, upgrades, and expansion, which in turn support many of the smaller businesses in our area.</p> <p>If the Government implements these changes, with the current cost of living pressure, this will have to impact the options for attending independent schools, putting further pressure on the public schooling systems, and stifling academic potential.</p> <p>I trust you will consider these concerns seriously.</p>	19/01/2024
278-205	Robert Sivewright	<p>In recent weeks I have been reviewing the draft report from the Productivity Commission on 'Future Foundations For Giving'. In the main I am supportive of what the draft report is putting forward with the exception of the elimination of deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government Primary, secondary, aged care, & other religious organizations.</p> <p>The reason for my concern is the impact this will have on independent schools. We, along with numerous of our siblings, have children that currently attend an independent school, which benefits from the current DGR legislation. At a time where the cost of living is placing pressures like never before, the uncertainty of the post covid era, along with instability globally, we are very worried that the loss of tax benefits for businesses & individuals alike will undoubtedly lead to increased school fees at a time where its hard to make ends meet.</p> <p>In the event that the government proceed with this recommendation, we will most likely be forced into a position to enroll our child in the public schooling system, which is currently under resourced & overcrowded. In addition, this will reduce the academic potential of our child.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I strongly recommend you and your colleagues consider the significant ramifications this proposed change would have on educational institutions, families battling with the cost of living, and the broader education system.</p> <p>Having sent all of our 4 children to an independent school, as well as having some knowledge of the inner working of the school they attended, we also fear that in the event there was even a small reduction in children attending any given independent school, this would place financial pressure on that school, with worst case scenario causing Independent school(s) to close their doors, placing even further pressure in the public schooling system.</p> <p>I thank you in advance for taking the time to read my concerns, and trust the you and your team carefully consider this matter, and come to the conclusion to not proceed with the elimination of the deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for independent schools.</p>	
278-206	Richard Champion	<p>Please accept this submission in response to draft recommendations for deductible gift recipient status.</p> <p>I am writing as a concerned parent in relation to the proposed recommendation to remove DGR status from Private Schools in the abovementioned draft.</p> <p>My wife and I have chosen to sacrifice substantial after-tax funds to have our daughters educated at a non-state school in order to have increased assurance of their daily safety and consistency of learning.</p> <p>Modern learning facilities have staggering capital requirements, and non-government ones have only prospered over the last century via DGR which has attracted giving to this worthy cause.</p> <p>There can be no doubt that the proposal to scrap DGR for such causes will have a profound effect on the ongoing viability of these schools, which in turn (in time) will have the following unacceptable consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affect Deterioration/closure of non-government schools, placing un-sustainable pressure on government schools • Removal of the choice to school our children at a facility aligned with a specific faith which is against democratic right • The reduction of an education system where higher levels of discipline and conduct are insisted on – this will soon the fabric of society and indeed, productivity. <p>These proposed changes come at a time when the cost of living is already putting families under enormous pressure – additional attendance fees to cover capital requirements will render such education beyond the reach of many families, and in turn cause divides in social circles.</p> <p>This move is an unmasked attack on religion, the which is discriminatory, biased, and unwise considering the current volatility of moral conditions in Australia’s society.</p> <p>I hereby respectfully request that this draft is reviewed to retain DGR for private schools, for the good of all Australians.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-207	Stephen Barker	<p>I write regarding my concerns about the Productivity Commission ‘Future foundations for giving’ draft report</p> <p>I recently read and reviewed the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am very worried about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. This is of particular concern to me as my child attends an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where every household is experiencing cost of living pressures which are out their control, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced gifts and donations, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to schools or other public benefiting charitable facilities and institutions. Some people I know donate to these facilities out of kindness and their basic right to support that which is Good and beneficial to all the Public.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our child to an overcrowded local public school which will drive up the education cost burden on the Public schooling system, with increased number of schools required. It could also have a negative impact her learning experience and stifle her academic potential and future public contribution. Please consider my concerns, I am sure this will impact negatively on many families and children from diverse and multicultural communities right around the country, our family won’t be the only one impacted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-208	Clem Wallis	<p>I write regarding the proposed removal of charitable status for private schools.</p> <p>I am a parent of three young boys, and I have selected to put them into private education to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am providing the highest quality education for my boys that I can afford. • I am providing dedicated, focussed, education in a clean, pure, sustainable environment. <p>This means that I must commit a substantial amount of my income to school fees, books, stationery, excursions, incursions, electronic equipment and other items that may be provided or subsidised in public education.</p> <p>The removal of the DGR provision for the school building fund would mean that my school fees would have to increase significantly to balance the deficit and this, on top of the current fast rising cost of living that we are experiencing, is likely to put us into a position of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unreasonable debt payments and overdraft. • Unable to meet current obligations. • Cutting off any charitable giving that I am currently committed to. • Having to return to public education – putting more pressure on the current public school system. • Having to cut down on essential life staples to provide for the education of the children. • Having to turn to social security to supplement our cost of living. <p>This proposal will also mean that the building facilities will not receive the necessary funding from private donations to provide reasonable facilities for the educators and the students.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		Please reconsider the proposal to remove the DGR status as this will have a detrimental effect to and create greater pressure on the Government Social Security system.	
278-209	Jamie Waters	<p>As a business owner who donates to charitable organisations and a parent of school-aged children, I read with alarm the 'Future Foundations for Giving' Report Draft recommendations made by the Productivity Commission</p> <p>Of particular concern is the recommendation to remove the deductible gift recipient status for building funds at non-government education institutions. This recommendation risks undermining, for future generations, the current world-class education experience here in Australia. Contrary to what the report suggests, the net community-wide benefit of deductible donations towards building new facilities at our non-government schools and early age learning centres is enormous.</p> <p>Research shows that in government, politicians are twice as likely as the general public to be privately educated*. The economic (and other) contribution to society of these citizens is clearly significant. Furthermore, research conducted by the Australian Financial Review shows that approximately two thirds of the Australian chief executives of the largest 100 companies attended private schools**. From this research we can say that leadership positions in Federal governance and of the most influential companies in Australia are overwhelmingly represented by people who were educated in non-government schools.</p> <p>Considering the tax income generated by Australia's largest organisations, both in company tax and personal income tax paid by the employees and shareholders I find it counter-intuitive that the Productivity Commission would recommend scrapping the deductible gift recipient status for building funds at non-government schools.</p> <p>The impact of any schooling institution on the future lives and careers of the students who attend cannot be overstated. Clearly, persons who receive education from non-government institutions are overrepresented amongst leaders in our society so providing deductible gift recipient status towards improvement of these institutions, represents an excellent return on investment for any government.</p> <p>Whilst I fully support creating a diverse set of charitable groups, I feel it is incumbent on the government to ensure these groups contribute to the economic prosperity of Australia. Private schools certainly fit this criteria and any measures to assist these organisations to build world-class facilities will have both short and long term economic benefits for Australia.</p>	19/01/2024
278-210	Joseph Woodford	<p>I have read and am concerned by the recommendations of this draft report.</p> <p>Whilst some of the recommendations may be acceptable to mainstream society in providing benefits to a handful of popular causes, this would be at a cost to many children's education facilities and families' budgets, which are already under immense pressure in the current inflationary times.</p> <p>I am concerned that there appears to be a concerted effort to encourage the long-term entrenchment of minority causes, while the next generation miss out on quality facilities which would limit their academic potential and future contribution to society.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As a parent with a child at an Independent faith-based school, I am concerned that planned upgrades to the facilities may not eventuate, as without DGR status, donations would be at a much greater cost.</p> <p>Also, at risk are the additional jobs for tradespeople who provide the building services, if the benefit is removed for the advancement of facilities for schools, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Surely DGR status for those who contribute to the care of society in a faith-based manner is of more benefit to the broader community?</p> <p>Our family will feel the consequences, along with other hardworking families, and I would ask you to evaluate this draft report and oppose its implementation</p>	
278-211	Greg Martin	<p>I have read the draft report. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is of concern to me as my child attends an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status. We are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I believe school fees would be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on religion as most of the private schools or independent education is provided by religious organizations.</p> <p>Reduced giving to our school will most likely result in building upgrades not being able to be undertaken, which provides support for many small businesses in our area.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopts this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted by this should the government scrap the DGR status.</p>	19/01/2024
278-212	Bruce Crutcher	<p>In regard to the Productivity 'Commission Future Foundations for giving' draft report. As a grandparent with grandchildren at Christian independent schools, I am greatly concerned that advice has been given for deductible gift recipient (DRG) status is to be discontinued for independent Primary, Secondary, Childcare, & Aged care & Religious establishments.</p> <p>This comes @ a time when the cost of living is soaring, which will send the school fees up higher, it will reduce the amount given, because there won't be the tax benefit for individuals & businesses who donate to the schools.</p> <p>As a result, if this draft which I have read is implemented, we will have to forward our children to public schools that are already overfull. This will have a detrimental effect on their learning progress & restrict</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>achievement. It has happened before at Goulburn in 1962 when the Catholic schools closed & 2000 students tried to enrol in public schools.</p> <p>Also, quite a few of the sitting members of parliament have had an independent education & have received the benefits, but now want to deprive the future generations.</p> <p>Please abandon this draft report as it will have serious consequences, for the on coming generations. I am sure there will be many others that will be affected adversely by this proposal.</p>	
278-213	Phillip McEwen	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recommendations outlined in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report, specifically those suggesting the removal of DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations. My concern is particularly significant as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status to support its mission of providing quality education.</p> <p>The ability of businesses, parents and community members to make tax-deductible donations plays a crucial role in funding essential resources, educational programs, and infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the Government to consider the broader economic impact of these recommendations on families, especially those with children attending non-government schools. I think a careful examination of the potential consequences, including the indirect impact on school fees, is essential to ensure that any proposed changes to the DGR framework do not inadvertently place additional financial strain on parents and guardians.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my concerns, and I hope that the final recommendations will reflect a thoughtful and inclusive perspective that also takes into account the diverse contributions of religious organizations to Australian society.</p>	19/01/2024
278-214	Thomas Pugh	<p>Following perusal of the above report, I write as a parent, community member and business owner/employer regarding the recommendations to the Government.</p> <p>The proposed removal of DGR status to non-government schools, child care and aged care facilities is a cause of great concern as it will stifle incentive for businesses to make tax-deductible donations to these entities. As a father of 5 children who attended an independent school education at a facility that benefits from DGR status, I am concerned that the removal of this status will undoubtedly cause school fees to increase, at a time when households are under growing financial pressure and cost of living expenses are increasing at a level many have never previously experienced.</p> <p>In this country we have a choice to educate our children in independent or faith-based schools and should be able to continue to do so. We should not be forced to confront the prospect of sending our children to public schools for financial reasons as it will drastically increase pressure on at-capacity local schools and therefore add to already heavy teacher workloads, likely causing an inferior education experience.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>In addition, given the fact that donations from businesses are directed towards capital works and infrastructure in schools, the implementation of these recommendations would greatly impact independent schools' ability to continue construction and maintenance projects which when carried out, not only greatly enhance the students' learning experience but support many local tradesmen and businesses.</p> <p>Finally, as one of many thousands of parents who choose to send our children to faith based schools we feel that this is a slight on our religious choices.</p> <p>I therefore urgently request that the relevant recommendations regarding DGR status be dismissed by the Government.</p>	
278-215	Geoff Buggins	<p>I've read the draft report with interest. While there are some commendable findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the proposal to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I believe this may directly impact religious institutions, which contribute significantly to private and independent education. As a parent whose children attend an independent school benefiting from DGR status, I worry that the removal of this status could lead to increased school fees, exacerbating the financial strain on families already grappling with rising living costs.</p> <p>Of particular concern is the potential impact on building extensions and upgrade works at our school, which, in turn, support many small family businesses in our area. If these changes are adopted, we might be compelled to send our children to our overcrowded local public school, affecting their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider these concerns; I'm sure our family won't be the only one impacted</p>	19/01/2024
278-216	Simon Mark	<p>I have read the draft report with very much interest.</p> <p>As a parent of 5 children, I am extremely concerned as to what the future holds, if the government withdraw any of their support of private education.</p> <p>What I am extremely concerned by is the fact, that any reduction of support from the government will result in increased school fees, this comes at a time when living costs have never been higher, people are at breaking point, mentally, physically and in many other ways.</p> <p>I never had the opportunity to go to private school as a child. To date we have committed ourselves to try and provide private education for our children. My worry is that we as a family could be forced to have to send our children to the already overcrowded public schools, which will impact their learning, and their opportunity to support themselves and their country.</p> <p>I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Ref; https://isa.edu.au/our-sector/funding/recurrent-funding/</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received																								
		<p>If 50% of privately educated students were forced back to government funded education, this would cost the government an additional \$6 billion dollars, plus the additional cost of land and buildings which would be required.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="600 316 1890 611"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="600 316 790 443">% Students</th> <th data-bbox="790 316 1061 443"></th> <th data-bbox="1061 316 1355 443">Government Expense Per Child</th> <th data-bbox="1355 316 1561 443">Qty Students</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="1561 316 1890 443">Cost to Government</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 443 790 499">65%</td> <td data-bbox="790 443 1061 499">Government schools</td> <td data-bbox="1061 443 1355 499">\$ 20,940</td> <td data-bbox="1355 443 1561 499">2,627,625</td> <td data-bbox="1561 443 1742 499">\$ 55.0</td> <td data-bbox="1742 443 1890 499">Billion</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="600 499 790 555">35%</td> <td data-bbox="790 499 1061 555">Non-Government</td> <td data-bbox="1061 499 1355 555">\$ 12,442</td> <td data-bbox="1355 499 1561 555">1,414,875</td> <td data-bbox="1561 499 1742 555">\$ 17.6</td> <td data-bbox="1742 499 1890 555">Billion</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="600 555 1355 611">Assuming the total number of children in education is ---</td> <td data-bbox="1355 555 1561 611">4,042,500</td> <td data-bbox="1561 555 1742 611">\$ 72.6</td> <td data-bbox="1742 555 1890 611">Billion</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I am self-employed, and we are reliant on a strong economy for our business to survive. My father got taken out of school halfway through year 10, as his mother (who was divorced) was unable to keep him at public school. My father always regretted and commented on not being able to complete his education.</p> <p>The proposed amendments seem to be an attack on religion, as most of the private independent education schools that I know of, are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>The maintenance and construction of the building facilities at our private school, are all carried out by small family operated businesses. I can see this also having a great impact on this sector if the funding ceases. We manufacture building materials, so we wouldn't necessarily be impacted by this decision, I am just thinking of the many small businesses of tradesman, teams of 1-5 employees.</p> <p>I am a believer in the lord Jesus Christ, and I will be praying earnestly in relation to these proposed amendments that the education funding of deductible gift recipient (DGR) provisions remains as they are, and that common sense prevails, in view of the good of my children, future grandchildren, and indeed all Australians.</p> <p>I do ask you to consider my submission very seriously.</p>	% Students		Government Expense Per Child	Qty Students	Cost to Government		65%	Government schools	\$ 20,940	2,627,625	\$ 55.0	Billion	35%	Non-Government	\$ 12,442	1,414,875	\$ 17.6	Billion	Assuming the total number of children in education is ---			4,042,500	\$ 72.6	Billion	
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278-217	Cameron Jackson	<p>Upon reading your report, though there are some good things in there, I am very concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. Reason for my concern is with the cost of living pressures as high as they are, funding for the above mentioned organisations will see a significant decrease in gifting and therefore eject the ability to financially run these. Tax benefits are an incentive for us in that it is a lot more affordable to donate.</p> <p>I would strongly urge the Government not to adopt this recommendation as non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and</p>	19/01/2024																								

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-218	John Proctor	<p>I have carefully analysed the 'Future Foundations for Giving Draft Report'. In this report there are some worthwhile recommendations, however, it deeply concerns me that it recommends scrapping the deductible gift recipient (DGR) for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. This recommendation clearly discriminates against religious entities.</p> <p>The DGR has been in place since 1954 to encourage donations to schools. These donations have assisted in keeping private schools up to date and have helped in providing an atmosphere where students can learn to the best of their ability. Any reduction in donations to private schools will result in lowering all students' ability to learn.</p> <p>The government has also largely benefited from the reduced cost of funding public schools, by having approximately 1/3 of all students attend private schools.</p> <p>Our public schools are already overloaded and would not cope if additional students were forced to join.</p> <p>This DGR system has a positive public flow-on effect on the economy, with the ongoing building and upgrade works in our schools.</p> <p>As we are all too aware, the present 'Cost of Living' is taking a large toll on all. If the government was to remove this DGR status, it would stop the giving to building funds and would greatly affect the morale of the teachers and students alike.</p> <p>It is critical that all students are given the greatest opportunity to learn, as they are the future of this country.</p> <p>Also in this report, it mentions that the government is committed to double giving by 2030. I am perplexed that this recommendation has been made and ask the government to reject this recommendation.</p>	19/01/2024
278-219	Bradley Hitch	<p>I have read the report with interest and concern being an Australian citizen and like many regard myself as a Christian.</p> <p>Whilst there may be some okay recommendations or ideas, I am highly concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This damming idea give me great concern for myself, my children and many other Australians in my position. My children attend an independent school and in times like this where inflation is putting pressure on households we cannot afford higher school fees, in turn this will also force many to have their children attend public schools which are already under immense pressure!</p> <p>This would also lower the effectiveness of our learning centres/schools and impact on the economy with those growing up not getting the required high-level teaching.</p> <p>This is mine and many other Australians view if the government adopts this recommendation.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-220	Trevor Jensen	<p>I am writing as a concerned citizen / grandparent as to some of the recommendations for change in the draft report.</p> <p>The most concerning is the damage that will be caused by the removal of the deductible Gift Recipient Status for care of the aged, childcare, religious organizations and non-government primary and secondary education.</p> <p>The extra pressure this will have on households whose children are educated in schools benefiting from DGR status must be noted and addressed.</p> <p>This will cause a flow on affect with rising school fees from withheld donations and contributions no longer being a tax benefit to persons and businesses.</p> <p>Additional to these issues is that our students will be impacted in their education by having to enter the public system therefore affecting their academic growth.</p> <p>We need to use all avenues available to us to promote a culture among our youths that will stand against the rising crime rate, drugs and evil that is becoming so prevalent in our communities and to prosper the growth and safety of all citizens.</p>	19/01/2024
278-221	David McCorkell	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the above draft report. My wife and I currently have two grandchildren who attend an independent school which has benefitted from its DGR status, for which we are truly grateful to the Government. We also have several pre-school great-grandchildren in whose future education we are intensely interested.</p> <p>Donations to private schools incorporating a taxation benefit are absolutely vital in the maintenance of a viable private education sector, including funding for extensions and upgrading of facilities as needed. This helps to reduce the financial burden carried by the Government in the provision of education for our children.</p> <p>It is our democratic right to send our young people to a Government-accredited private school of our choice, and we respectfully request that no measures of any kind are taken by the authorities to make this more difficult in these times of such financial and moral volatility.</p>	19/01/2024
278-222	Jurgen Vos	<p>We express our deep dismay regarding the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities, including primary and secondary education, childcare, and religious organizations. The motives behind this move are unclear, but it appears to pose a significant threat to religious institutions, which largely provide private or independent education.</p> <p>As a parent, my foremost concern is the potential impact on my children's independent school, currently benefiting from DGR status. The likely consequence, an increase in school fees, would exacerbate the financial strain on households already grappling with rising living costs. Depriving our school of crucial contributions could severely impede the quality of education and limit essential annual upgrades that enhance our children's educational experience.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>In the pursuit of quality education for our children, who represent the future, we may be compelled to consider a public-school alternative if the government endorses this recommendation. However, public schools are already overcrowded and do not produce the same academic results.</p> <p>We implore you to consider these concerns, recognizing that our family may not be the sole entity affected by such a decision.</p>	
278-223	Craig Quinsey	<p>I am writing to express deep concerns about the draft recommendations in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' Report. As a concerned parent and grandparent, I believe the proposed scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government organizations could severely impact the education/health sector and our community.</p> <p>The potential elimination of DGR support will lead to increased school/healthcare fees, adding financial strain to families already dealing with rising living costs. I worry about adverse effects on overall well-being and the educational experience, as a decline in facilities will hinder academic potential and social wellbeing.</p> <p>Perceiving these changes as a potential attack on religious organizations is disheartening, given their significant contributions to the community, healthcare, aged care, childcare, and primary/secondary education. This move risks undermining the enriching care and educational experiences provided by faith-based entities and the community as a whole.</p> <p>In conclusion, these recommendations will lead families to consider alternatives, placing the community in public government-funded facilities already facing challenges and constraints. I urge the Productivity Commission to reconsider, seeking a balanced approach that preserves essential support structures for these institutions.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my concerns. I trust the Commission will carefully evaluate the impact of these recommendations on families, schools, and the broader community.</p>	19/01/2024
278-224	Andrew Clayton	<p>I write with much concern regarding the changes proposed as they would have significant detrimental consequences for non-government schools, religious organisations, aged care establishments, etc.</p> <p>Some of my grandchildren, and indeed many of my friends, attend faith-based non-government schools. Their parents have made this choice for the education of their children, due to high education teaching standards, and the moral values that are taught there.</p> <p>The proposal set out in the recommendation would have very long lasting detrimental effects due to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decline in the quality of school building standards • reduced educational facilities provided • substantial decline in the teaching environment • resultant effect of lower outcome in the education of the younger generation • necessary rises in school fees charged • further hardship for young families already struggling in the current economy 	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduced building works and projects affecting the economy at large <p>Education of the oncoming generation is paramount to our future. Many families are affected by this recommendation.</p> <p>I trust you can see the importance of not supporting this.</p>	
28-225	Charles Jackson	<p>I have been following the Governments proposed changes and have read the draft report with interest and I would have to say some concern. Some of the recommendations are good, however one of major concern is the recommendation to the changes in relation to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government aged care, childcare, primary, secondary, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I had 4 children who were educated from years 3 to 12 in a non-Government school that benefits from the DGR status. Even though it was 2020 when my youngest graduated, it was a significant cost to a young family to send children to an independent school. I also have a grandchild who will be attending an independent school and I fear that with living costs continuing to rise, school fees will also continue to rise to make up for the lost income from reduced DGR giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or an individual who choose to donate to the school.</p> <p>I am very passionate that children are given the best opportunity during their schooling years and I worry what would happen if the Government adopt this recommendation. Parents would be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential. I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	
278-226	Marcus McMillan	<p>I have read the draft report, while there are some good points, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My Children attend a School that benefits from DGR status. My concern is if this is scrapped, it will affect the Schools funding and potentially mean that School fees will go up, due to the lack of tax benefit to the generous business donors that donate to our children's school.</p> <p>Households are already experiencing the pressure of cost of living expenses going through the roof without the added pressure of extra school fees.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure we wont be the only family affected by these changes.</p>	19/01/2024
278-227	Joel Waters	<p>I am writing regarding the draft report, that I have read, with interest. As a parent I am very concerned about the potential scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. In particular, I am worried about the impact on independent schools, such as the one my children attend.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As an individual, I would like to highlight the potential consequences of such recommendations.</p> <p>I am concerned about the potential rise in school fees because of the decrease in giving to schools because of the lost tax benefit to businesses. Obviously, this would have a devastating effect on many families facing increasing cost-of-living pressures and could force us to send our kids to the already overcrowded public schools.</p> <p>I ask that you carefully consider the potential consequences of such recommendations. It is vital for the government to strike a balance between supporting charitable and educational institutions while considering the financial burdens faced by families.</p>	
278-228	Ben Bartlett	<p>I have read and reviewed the draft report. I found it extensive and believe it raises some relevant points, but I have found some of the recommendations that have been suggested to be concerning.</p> <p>Specifically, the recommendation for the DGR status to be removed for non-government schools (primary and secondary), aged care, childcare, and other religious organisations is alarming.</p> <p>I feel this is a blatant attack on religion as most of these aforementioned organisations are operated by religious entities.</p> <p>As a parent of a child going to a private school, I believe that the removal of the DGR status will reduce giving from businesses and individuals, forcing the school to increase fees. This in turn will put more pressure on our weekly budget at this time when we are already struggling with rising costs.</p> <p>The worst-case scenario would be that we will have to send our child to a public school which I believe are already overcrowded. The public system will become even more overloaded, and this would impact not only our child's learning but everyone in both the public sector as well.</p> <p>The draft acknowledges that "<i>Religious organisations play an important role in many people's lives and communities across Australia</i>" but then proceeds to remove support for religious organisations which truly does not make sense. This reinforces my fear that this is an attack on religious organisations. I believe, as is written in the report, that religious organisations are an important part of Australian society, and to attack that would be like trying to destroy the fabric of our society as we know it today.</p> <p>I am writing from my point of view, and how I believe my family would be affected, and I believe we will not be the only one impacted by the recommendations if they are implemented.</p> <p>I trust my concerns will be heard and considered and that there will be a better outcome than what is proposed.</p>	19/01/2024
278-229	John Chapman	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on aspects of the federal Productivity Commission Draft Report "Future foundations for giving". I am pleased to note that the Commission acknowledges that philanthropy contributes to a better society in a number of ways. This, to me, is a significant improvement on the previous government's apparent attitude to charities and volunteer organisations.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As background, our family's giving is based on values, the most significant being our Christian faith. Hence we give to a range of charities supporting environmental activities, Australian and overseas supports for disaster relief and community building, faith organisations (many of which overlap with the above) and other charities. In addition we volunteer with faith and environmental groups. Our charity giving is a mix of DGR tax-deductible plus non-tax deductible giving but, although we're now retired, we recognise the importance of DGR status for many groups that support a large network of activities that contribute positively to Australian society and stability and well-being overseas. These need the certainty of a steady income source to support these programs.</p> <p>One concern I had in the Report was the recommendation to remove tax deductions for donations made to religious charities in support of Special Religious Education (SRE) in schools. My wife was an SRE teacher in a local primary school for a period of time and our churches have directly contributed by supporting chaplains and providing volunteer teachers with assistance from the 'RIGS' (Religious Instruction in Government Schools) tax-deductible fund for a portion of their offertories. With this background we recognise the positive contribution that SRE makes to young lives with an approach to life for some that would be found nowhere else. Ultimately this contributes positively to Australian society.</p> <p>The Sydney Morning Herald (8 December 2023) reported the NSW Education Minister, Prue Car, as saying that almost 10,000 lessons are unsupervised each week in NSW. SRE teachers are Australia's largest year-round volunteer army, providing close to 10,000 lessons each week. Removing support for SRE will only amplify the current crisis in NSW schools.</p> <p>Hence I, and my family, support continuing the DGR status for SRE funds. We hope that the Government would recognise and value the contribution faith communities make to Australian society.</p>	
278-230	Ricky Earl	<p>I am reaching out to you as a concerned parent.</p> <p>I would like to draw your attention to the recent Australian Productivity Commission's draft report titled 'Future Foundations for Giving,' which proposes changes that could have a significant impact on the funding model for Non-Government schools.</p> <p>Our family, like many others, highly value the educational system we have in Australia. The suggested alterations in the report, particularly those related to tax benefits for donations, have the potential to result in a substantial increase in school fees. This prospect is especially concerning given the current economic climate and the growing cost-of-living pressures faced by our family and many others.</p> <p>Additionally, the anticipated surge in students transitioning from private to public schools due to heightened fees could strain already overstretched public education resources.</p> <p>Our family values the choice in education and therefore respectfully requests your advocacy for the dismissal of recommendations in this report that could negatively impact these institutions.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-231	John Kelsey	<p>Recently, my attention was drawn to this draft report. Upon reading the draft, I have concerns about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Over the past twenty years, my children attended an independent school, and now my Grandchildren are attending independent schools.</p> <p>As a former board director, I know these schools were built and renovated using monies from DGR funds. (not Government Funds). Removing this provision will no doubt increase school fees. As we know, the cost-of-living pressures are increasing, including high housing prices and interest rates, and I don't think it is the Government's aim for add to these pressures.</p> <p>Independent schools play a vital role in our community, from employing teachers and local tradespersons for building maintenance to local shops to provide food for the school's canteens.</p> <p>The concern that the Government adopt this recommendation is that it will not make it viable for my children to send their children to an independent school, and they will have to go to the local public schools. These public schools are mostly at capacity and undoubtedly impact their learning and potential.</p> <p>Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations in the report, I am sure many others will be affected by removing the DGR status. Please consider my submission.</p>	
278-232	Micah Jackson	<p>As a concerned parent, I am very worried about the impact of the Government adopting these changes. DGR status being scrapped from my children's school is going to have a big impact. Current cost of living pressures are already having an impact on our household and I know a lot of others doing it tough at the moment. Our school fees are guaranteed to increase with these changes! How else will the schools increase their income? Further to this, investment into the facilities is going to lessen. Ultimately the recommendations hurt the children of the future. These changes need to be rejected. Regards, Micah Jackson</p>	19/01/2024
278-233	Jeremy Pringle	<p>I apologise for this leFer by way of introduc6on.</p> <p>I thought I should write to you as a concerned father of 3 daughters. The three of them aFend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.I have read through the draft report that has been published as I would as I have a moral obliga6on to in order to see what is happening short, medium and long term that has a poten6al impact on my family.</p> <p>I am genuinely concerned about the recommenda6ons for deduc6ble giB recipient DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisa6ons.</p> <p>I guess of par6cular concern is that we are experiencing cost of living pressure like we have never felt before and I worry that if the Government adopt this recommenda6on, I will be forced to send my children to our overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning and supress their academic poten6al which I wouldn't want to see.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Also, I do fear that school fees would be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for business or individuals able to donate to the school my children a Fend.</p> <p>I would welcome the opportunity to take a call on this if needed and also please ask you consider my above concerns.</p>	
278-234	Richard Donald	<p>I have read threw the draft report with grave concern and interest. There are some excellent findings and good recommendations. My main worry, concern and issue is for is the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be stopped, scrapped for non-government aged care, childcare, primary, secondary and many other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is of great concern to me as I have many close family relatives with children who attend independent schools that benefits from the DGR status currently. This is likely to cause education of these children to decline, drop, lowering their ability to learn in suitable environment and effecting their academic, career potential. This will force the children to local public schools, which I understand are currently already overcrowded. At a time when households experiencing the cost-of-living pressure felt like never before, with the chance school fees would greatly increase. As schools would not receive as much funding, driven by lack of tax benefits from business or individuals able to donate to the schools.</p> <p>My other main concern is the Government adopts this recommendation the schools will not be able to fund any extension and upgrade works, which currently supports many small businesses in many areas.</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate if you consider my concerns, as there will be thousands of other families who will be challenged and impacted going forward.</p>	19/01/2024
278-235	Michael Imberti	<p>fter reading the report, I am very concerned about the recommendation for DGR status to be withdrawn for a number of necessary organisations and in particular non-government schools.</p> <p>As a father, the protection of our youth, the quality of their schooling and the environment in which they learn is of paramount importance.</p> <p>With cost-of-living pressure like it is, we need government to support these fundamental institutions, not scrap DGR status which will increase household expenses/fees and further impact the already overcrowded public schools.</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on religion and the values that have caused us prosperity in the past.</p> <p>Please understand my concern, no doubt there would be many other families adversely impacted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-236	Richad Faiers	<p>We have read the draft report tabled on 17th March 2023.</p> <p>As grandparents of three young children, we are very concerned about the affects of the recommendations, particularly regarding education.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As residents of a regional NSW city, we appreciate the many Independent, Christian and other Religious order schools in our area. We do feel the proposals are undermining the importance of religion.</p> <p>Young families already struggling with the cost-of-living expenditure would have to move into the already over-crowded public system, as fees go up to compensate if donations reduce.</p> <p>If the Government implements these changes, it will lead to difficulties such as a burden on the public school system, lower academic outcomes (which Australia is already suffering from), and there would be hidden flow on effects such as less expenditure to support local businesses.</p>	
278-237	Sam Eade	<p>I'm not sure who to talk to, but I've been reading on the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report and wanted to share some concerns that have been on my mind. Specifically, the suggestion to eliminate deductible gift recipient status for various organisations, including independent schools, As a young Family and planning on providing my children with a quality education this is causing me some concern that we won't be able to provide what's required for the future of our economy.</p> <p>As we all know with the current economic challenges, the potential rise in school fees due to reduced giving is a significant worry for us.</p> <p>Beyond the financial aspect, there's a broader concern about the potential impact on our children's education. I also reckon there will be a huge shift to local public schools, raising concerns about the quality of our children's learning experiences and potential hindrance to their academic progress. This also will be additional costs to the government to maintain what's required with additional Teachers, Building and other facilities..</p> <p>And on my last point, I also feel this could be an attack on religion as majority of Private or Independent schools are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Your thoughtful consideration of these concerns as decisions are made about the report is greatly appreciated.</p>	19/01/2024
278-238		<p>I write with concern as to the above report, particularly the recommendation for removing DGR status of non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Firstly as a Christian, I feel as though this is an attack on Christianity and religion in general as most private schools in Australia have a religious affiliation.</p> <p>Secondly as my child attends an independent school that benefits from DGR status, they will potentially be adversely affected by this, as this school has planned new building works which would be funded in part by donations.</p> <p>Whilst the planned work may still go ahead, school fees will likely increase to make up the shortfall which will put extra financial pressure on us.</p> <p>The Government needs to consider the detrimental implications that such a change will cause.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-239		<p>After reading the draft report I am writing as a father of a young family who is concerned about the repercussions of the recommendations of this draft report to remove the deductible gift recipient status from non-government primary & secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>These recommendations to strip this status from these organizations which have each provided real tangible benefits to a vast number of Australians of every age for generations has the potential to undermine the sustainability of some of these organizations that have provided the bedrock and values structure upon which a stable and prosperous nation has been built. I feel this constitutes an attack on religion as many of the non-government educational providers are administered by religious organizations.</p> <p>If these recommendations are adopted it has the potential to further drive-up school fees due to them needing to increase revenues to replace the inevitable reduction in charitable donations as a result of the lack of tax benefit. This will also lead to a decrease in the quality of facilities that these non-government organizations will be able to afford and a reduction in these works and improvements will have a flow on effect to the wider economy.</p> <p>The effect of the implementation of these recommendations could be harmful and wide-ranging at a time when households such as ours are already struggling under extreme cost of living pressure and the last thing we need is policy that has the potential to cause the quality of the education of our children to decline and then lead to us having to put our children through the local public schools which are already under pressure.</p> <p>Grateful for the opportunity to have my concerns considered.</p>	19/01/2024
278-240	Charles Cantrill	<p>I find myself compelled to voice my opinion on reading the draft report of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). The negative consequences of the proposed changes and the repercussions it would present for both charitable status of organisations and donors, would impact the overall landscape of philanthropy in this great nation we live in, Australia. This is a feature this country has been built up on.</p> <p>If this became a law, it would have such a negative, snowballing and impacting effect on Education, Religion, Aged Care and a host of other charitable organisations. In turn, it would be self-destruction for the Government, ethically, politically and financially.</p> <p>My grandchildren currently attend an independent school which benefits from DGR status. This school has very high standards, morals and achievements. These features are absent in the public schooling system. I fear to think what their outcomes may be, should they have to be put into the public schooling sector.</p> <p>We are presently in a cost-of-living crisis, never felt before in this country, I fear that expenses accrued, if this were to proceed, would only make this crisis even worse. The lack of tax benefit for business and individuals, able to donate to school/charity, would have immense consequences.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns as this will not only impact me, but the entire future of this country.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-241	Daniel Baker	<p>I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and reservations regarding the proposed changes to the Future Foundations for Giving program. I have closely followed the positive impact this program has had on various aspects of our society, fostering education, healthcare, and social development.</p> <p>The Future Foundations for Giving program has been instrumental in supporting initiatives that contribute to the overall welfare and advancement of our community. It has empowered countless individuals and organizations to make meaningful contributions, creating a positive ripple effect that benefits us all.</p> <p>However, recent modifications to the program have raised significant apprehensions to our family. The alterations, as outlined in the recent policy updates, seem to deviate from the program's original objectives and risk diminishing its effectiveness.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned about recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government primary and secondary schools and other religious organizations. It will have potential negative consequences on education, healthcare and community development. This change will hinder schools ability to address pressing issues and achieve its intended outcomes.</p> <p>It will add pressure to the high cost of living being experienced by all at this uncertain time.</p> <p>I appreciate your dedication to public service and trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised by myself.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.</p>	19/01/2024
278-242	Graeme Millott	<p>I am a concerned grandparent and am worried as to the results that can arise from The Draft Productivity Report, should the Government adopt the recommendations. For decades, our Christian based education system has provided for the upright and respectful education of our children in accordance with quality education standards.</p> <p>This has ensured that our students have become productive members of the community, which finally is for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The DGR status should not be scrapped. The tax benefits have enabled and encouraged much-needed support for providing essential school facilities and also allowed for building work to be done by many local trades with supplies from local firms.</p> <p>Cost of living is increasing. Doing away with DGR status will only fuel the increase, result in increased school fees; and minimize the monies available from supporting family businesses.</p> <p>It also seems that the DRAFT supports an untenable attack on religion by the Government. This is because many private/independent schools are operated by religious organisations.</p> <p>The already overloaded local public schools will likely be further stressed with increased student numbers, resulting from a lack of Government support for the continued operation faith-based schools.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		I appreciate the opportunity to provide this submission, and trust that you can support a diversified system of education that is appropriate for all.	
278-243	Arnold & Thirza Teuben	<p>I have a strong feeling that faith and religion is an important part of our Human make-up and character. The way we feel about ourselves and each other is guided by our religion. Even if you say, you have no faith, you still have a moral compass of what is right and what is wrong. An ethical guidance. In our culture, all our minimum ethical standards are set from a Judeo-Christian point of view.</p> <p>Therefore, it is only right that children are given the opportunity to learn about religion in the school environment. I am more than happy to use money from my earnings to support Special Religious Education in our schools. I also feel it is important to encourage others to do the same by ensuring that this gift is Income Tax Deductible.</p> <p>This gift of Special Religious Education also helps our schools by supplying teachers in the school campus at no cost to government. please keep philanthropic giving for Special Religious Education tax deductible, and keep Special Religious Education in our Schools.</p>	19/01/2024
278-244	Harvey Steele	<p>I have read the draft report titled “Future foundations for giving”, and as a parent wanted to express my concerns.</p> <p>I am planning to send my children to an independent school that would be affected by the draft reports recommendation to remove DGR status from non-government schools. One of my concerns is that there will be a drastic reduction in the amount of donations the school receives, leading to higher school fees which will put financial pressure on many families such as mine.</p> <p>Some non-government schools are reliant on DGR for building and maintaining educational infrastructure. Not only will this affect many children’s quality of education, but it will have a negative impact on local businesses involved in school infrastructure projects.</p> <p>I urge you to change this draft, to allow for better education and development of future generations.</p>	19/01/2024
278-245	Thomas Cook	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the recent draft report by the Productivity Commission, particularly regarding the recommendations to remove deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government educational, aged care, child care and religious institutions.</p> <p>This change, if implemented by the Government, would directly impact my family, as well as many others in our community.</p> <p>Like many Australians, our family is of the Christian faith, and we intend to send our child to an independent school that benefits from DGR status. This status enables the school to maintain a high quality of education and keep the fees at a reasonable level. In the current economic climate, where families like ours are grappling with unprecedented cost of living pressures, the removal of DGR status would certainly lead to a</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>considerable increase in school fees. This would be due to decreased donations from businesses and individuals, discouraged by the absence of a tax benefit.</p> <p>Such an increase in fees would place an additional financial burden on families, forcing some, including ours, to reconsider our children's educational options. The most likely alternative would be to send our children to the already overcrowded local public schools. This shift could adversely affect their learning experience and hinder their academic development, given the differences in resources and individual attention available in public schools compared to independent institutions.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the broader implications of this recommendation on families and children's education. The decision to revoke DGR status from these institutions could have far-reaching consequences, affecting the quality of education and the financial stability of numerous families.</p> <p>I sincerely hope that my concerns, which are undoubtedly shared by many others in our community, will be taken into account before finalizing</p>	
278-246	Michael Hornsey	<p>I am writing as a concerned grandparent as to the proposed changes for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have 6 grandchildren, 1 in secondary, 1 in primary and 2 in preschool and 2 still at home.</p> <p>The government needs to recognise that the following are backbone pillars to this wonderful country – Australia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The right to choose an affordable education 2. The right to choose a religion which is sustainable and supported. 3. Australia is a Christian country and GIVING is a Christian trait which must be supported and encouraged by government. 4. The above mentioned institutions targeted by this review are crucial to our Australian society and rely heavily on tax deductible gifts and will be gutted out if this is enacted. <p>Cost of living pressures are extreme right now. Please don't make it worse. I trust you will helped to consider this submission with compassion and integrity.</p>	19/01/2024
278-247	Jeremy Parker	<p>I've carefully reviewed the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report and am concerned about the recommendation to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government organisations, particularly in education and childcare.</p> <p>As a parent with children attending an Independent school benefiting from DGR status, I worry that the potential loss of tax benefits for donors would very likely result in increased school fees. In this challenging economic climate, such fee hikes may force families, including mine, to consider local public schools, affecting the overall learning experience and academic potential of our children.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I urge you to consider these concerns, as I doubt our family is alone in worrying about the adverse impact of this recommendation.</p>	
278-248	David Hyslop	<p>My attention has been drawn to the draft report concerning the new suggestions for Deductible Gift Recipient status to be terminated in relation to education, childcare and aged care services.</p> <p>As a grandparent of children receiving the benefits of attending a private school, I have very serious concerns as to their educational opportunities when the current cost of living crisis is already putting increasing pressure on households.</p> <p>Many independent schools and childcare organisations currently benefit from businesses and individuals being able to support education by donating with the benefit of the DGR provision which has been in place since 1954. Without this funding school fees will be forced to increase dramatically.</p> <p>If the Government was to remove this benefit, it would be absolute madness as it would affect the educational opportunities of thousands of students around Australia.</p> <p>I appreciate you considering my concerns as this is an issue for all Australians.</p>	19/01/2024
278-249	Paul Fawkes	<p>I became aware of the above referenced draft report via media and have read it with interest and some worry. I'm sure there are some good recommendations made, however I am particularly concerned about the possible scrapping of 'DGR' status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have 3 children that attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. I am concerned that if these recommendations are adopted school fees will be driven up increasing pressure significantly on the already difficult cost of living crisis we are in. The school benefits from tax deductible donations from businesses and individuals and it would have to recover the lost income via a significant increase in fees.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation, I am worried we will be forced to send our children to a public school that is already overcrowded, and this will severely impact their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>In addition, tax deductible giving to our school for building works has benefitted local small business in the industry.</p> <p>I have heard from many parents in my life who have paid for their children to attend a Christian school, even though they are not themselves religious, as the learning experience and social development is superior which has a lifelong benefit on all society.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure there will be many Australian families seeking the best for their children's future who will be impacted.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-250	Rodney Bird	<p>I have been reading the draft report with interest and concern. My concern is about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government schooling, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Growing up, I had the privilege of going to an independent school and now my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Currently we are experiencing cost of living pressures that I've never felt before, and I fear that school fees will be driven up to make up for the lost income from the reduced giving. There are people that do donate to the school currently that have told me that they won't be doing this in future if the changes occur. This worries me sick as I don't want to be forced to put my children back into the public system, (that's already under pressure and broken) and them not enjoy what we enjoyed growing up.</p> <p>Please, Please, PLEASE be considerate and don't move forward with this proposal.</p>	19/01/2024
278-251	Ronald Reoch	<p>I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concern regarding the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report recently published by the Productivity Commission.</p> <p>The proposal to eliminate the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is of significant concern to me.</p> <p>This issue is particularly close to me as a householder with a young family planning on providing them with quality education. In these challenging times, where we are all grappling with the unprecedented cost of living pressures, the fear that school fees might increase even further to compensate for the lost income from reduced donations is a daunting prospect. The lack of tax benefits for businesses or individuals who are in a position to donate to the school could significantly impact the school's funding.</p> <p>My gravest concern is the potential repercussions if the Government decides to adopt this recommendation. The prospect of being compelled to send our children to our local public school, which is already grappling with overcrowding, is of concern to me. I fear this could adversely affect their learning experience and hinder their academic growth.</p> <p>I implore you to take my concerns into consideration. I am certain that our family is not the only one that would be severely impacted by this change.</p> <p>I look forward to your thoughtful consideration of this matter. Thank you for your time and understanding.</p>	19/01/2024
278-252	John Hitch	<p>I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report mentioned above and wanted to share my thoughts with you.</p> <p>I find myself very concerned regarding the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-governmental entities in sectors such as primary and secondary education, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>My concern stems from the potential consequences, especially for independent schools like the one my children attend, which currently benefit from DGR status. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living challenges, the removal of tax incentives for donations may result in a reduction in contributions, thereby placing upward pressure on school fees.</p> <p>This financial strain, exacerbated by diminished giving, could inevitably lead to increased tuition costs, negatively impacting families like mine. Given the financial uncertainties, there is a genuine worry that the quality of education may suffer. In particular, the fear is that families may be compelled to opt for local public schools, leading to overcrowded classrooms and a potential decline in the overall academic experience for students.</p> <p>I kindly urge you to consider these concerns seriously. I believe our family is</p>	
278-253	Tony and Vanessa Hewines	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure never felt before, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopts this recommendation, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-254	Brent Doven	<p>I became aware of the above referenced draft report via media and have read it with interest and some worry. I'm sure there are some good recommendations made, however I am particularly concerned about the possible scrapping of 'DGR' status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I have 3 children that attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. I am concerned that if these recommendations are adopted school fees will be driven up increasing pressure significantly on the already difficult cost of living crisis we are in. The school benefits from tax deductible donations from businesses and individuals and it would have to recover the lost income via a significant increase in fees.</p> <p>If the Government adopt this recommendation, I am worried we will be forced to send our children to a public school that is already overcrowded, and this will severely impact their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>In addition, tax deductible giving to our school for building works has benefitted local small business in the industry.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>I have heard from many parents in my life who have paid for their children to attend a Christian school, even though they are not themselves religious, as the learning experience and social development is superior which has a lifelong benefit on all society.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure there will be many Australian families seeking the best for their children's future who will be impacted.</p>	
278-255	Bob Rendell	<p>I write to the Productivity Commission as a very concerned grandparent.</p> <p>I have read through the draft document, and while there are some good points, I am alarmed at the proposed DGR recommendations.</p> <p>As noted, my concern is the DGR being scrapped for Non-Government Schools both primary and secondary and religious organizations, aged care, and childcare.</p> <p>To remove the DGR status from these sections of the community would be a shame and disastrous.</p> <p>I personally devote my time, voluntarily to my grandchildren's school, drive a school bus and carry out garden maintenance as means to assist in the day-to-day costs of providing education and moral teaching and upbringing.</p> <p>In the current economic conditions where the cost of living across all areas is under a lot of pressure as not experienced for a long, long time, the school fees will increase dramatically through loss of income due to lack of tax benefits for businesses and individuals being able to donate to the school.</p> <p>Being unable to support through giving, building upgrades and extensions will no doubt have to stop.</p> <p>The impact of the proposal is an attack on religion and will cause more costs and pressure on families and place them in a situation of going to an already overcrowded public school system and increase the cost to Government.</p> <p>A large majority of private and or independent education and schooling is provided religious organizations.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the Commission consider my concerns, and I am sure along with a lot of other families impacted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-256	Alister Joyce	<p>Following the release of the draft report 'Future foundations for giving' dated 30/11/2023, I am writing to express my concerns and request that the broader implications of this report be considered by the commission.</p> <p>As the draft report rightly states, "philanthropy makes an important contribution to our way of life", it "contributes to a better society", and "it brings communities together, funds innovation and supports people in need".</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>With this in mind, I am concerned that the proposed recommendation for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status to be withdrawn for non-government schools and other religious organisations will have compounding negative impacts on many Australian families and local communities.</p> <p>For example, removing the tax-deductible status for non-government school building funds are likely result in the following impacts in my local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrict and/or prevent upgrades to school buildings, learning facilities, and amenities - Reduce work for local builders, trades, material suppliers, and local businesses - Increase school fees, further financial pain on families struggling with cost-of-living pressures - Overload the few public schools in our local area, applying further pressure on teachers with classrooms already over capacity - Restrict student academic development and academic results <p>Having recently moved my child from an overcrowded public school to a private school, I am concerned about the consequences this recommendation to withdraw DGR status would have on my child's education if we had to move her back into the overcrowded public school.</p> <p>I ask that my genuine concerns be considered for the 1.4 million students (35% of the total student population), their families, and our local communities, who could be significantly and unfairly impacted.</p>	
278-257	John Saunders	<p>I write to express concern over the Productivity Commission's recommendations to remove DGR status from private schools building funds.</p> <p>Clearly this will result in an increase in school fees, driven by the need for schools to compensate for reduced contributions due to the absence of tax benefits for businesses and individuals who typically donate to these entities.</p> <p>This financial strain will hinder schools from undertaking critical building projects, and further, comes at a time of unprecedented cost-of-living pressures for many households across Australia.</p> <p>Beyond economic implications I fear a decline in our children's educational experience, impacting their academic potential.</p> <p>I also see this proposed change as a challenge to religious education, as many private schools have affiliations with religious organisations.</p> <p>I kindly request your thoughtful consideration of the broader implications on families and communities. Prioritising quality education without imposing additional financial burdens on the broader community is crucial.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. I hope for a forward-thinking outcome that continues to incentivise philanthropy and builds on the ongoing success and prosperity of this great nation.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-258	Ben Mathews	<p>After reading and considering the “Productivity Commission ‘Future foundations for giving’ draft report” I was compelled to respond and make an appeal.</p> <p>As a parent of two children and small business owner living in challenging times economically, the responsibility to provide the best in education and opportunities for our children who are the future of our nation, sits fairly and squarely with us. If the Government adopts the Productivity Commission’s recommendations, quality education will decline and be a thing of the past, due to increased, unsustainable school fees and a decline in support from businesses.</p> <p>The reduced giving and support for our school will directly impact facility upgrades and general improvements in our children’s learning environments, which will in turn damage and hinder their academic potential and future abilities to succeed in life.</p> <p>I trust those empowered to reject this recommendation, listen to my concerns and other Australian families who are already doing it tough and are working hard to sure up our future and give our children the best opportunities in life to succeed and be a positive contributor to our country’s growth.</p>	19/01/2024
278-259	John Wright	<p>I am concerned that the Productivity Commission in its interim report has recommended the removal of Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary and secondary education, childcare, aged care, and also religious organisations.</p> <p>Independent schools educate approximately 35% of children nationally and do rely on these donations for building work.</p> <p>Removing DGR status will shift more financial burden onto families who already make significant sacrifices to support their child’s education. It will also impact the capacity of independent schools to fund future building projects.</p>	19/01/2024
278-260	Nicholas Waite	<p>I’ve carefully reviewed the draft report and appreciate its positive findings and recommendations. However, I am</p> <p>apprehensive about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. As a parent with children enrolled in an independent school benefitting from DGR status, I am deeply concerned about potential adverse impacts on their education and indeed the whole private schooling sector.</p> <p>In this challenging economic climate, any changes to DGR status could escalate school fees due to reduced giving and the absence of tax benefits for donors. This financial strain may compromise the quality of education. If the</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>government adopts this recommendations, families like ours may be compelled to shift to lower-standard public schools, affecting our children's learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to consider these concerns.</p>	
278-261	Brent Collett	<p>I feel compelled to make a submission after reading the draft report. Although there are some positive results and suggestions, I am nervous about the proposals that suggest the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status should be eliminated for non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare facilities, elderly care facilities, and other organisations including alternative religious institutions due to the fact that my child is enrolled in an independent school that is eligible for DGR status.</p> <p>This is a matter that particularly worries me. In a time when we are facing pressure on the cost of living that we have never felt before, I am afraid that school fees will be raised simply to make up for the lost money from lower giving due to the fact there may no longer be tax advantages for companies or individuals who are able to give to the school.</p> <p>In the event that the government decides to implement this advice, my concern is that we will be compelled to send our children to the overcrowded public school in our neighbourhood, which will have a negative influence on their educational experience and will limit their potential academically.</p> <p>I am certain my household will not be the only one with these concerns and I urge you to give serious consideration to the points listed above.</p>	19/01/2024
278-262	Kenneth Grace	<p>As a concerned grandparent of children attending a private school, I have read the draft report as detailed above with interest. Whilst there are some good findings come out of the report, I am concerned about the recommendations around DGR status being scrapped for some institutions, such as aged care, childcare, primary and secondary schooling, along with other religious bodies.</p> <p>Of particular concern to me relates to independent schools, as I have grandchildren attending a private school that benefits from DGR status, and if this is removed, this will more than likely impact the quality of education that they will receive, now and into the future. This is because businesses that benefit taxwise from gifting to these and other organizations will reduce or even stop this form of support for the schools.</p> <p>If the government adopts this recommendation, our family could be forced into sending their children to already overcrowded and underfunded public schools, reducing the opportunity for these children to excel in their academic achievements</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, given that our family will not be the only one affected by such far-reaching changes.</p>	

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-263	Craig Tindal	<p>I have taken interest in reading the draft report regarding the FFFG and there are some concerns that I have as a householder and business owner, especially for deductible gift recipient status for non government primary, secondary, childcare, age care and other religious organizations.</p> <p>The concern I have is that my school fees will increase if this is implemented, puts pressure on me with the cost of living and then it will force me to send my children to a local school which have already got pressure financially and maximum numbers.</p> <p>Also this move could put my children at risk of lowering their ability of learning in a suitable environment and impacting the academic potential for future learning, jobs and relationships.</p> <p>I would appreciate if my concerns were considered as there would be a lot effected by this move and repercussions this will have for the future.</p>	19/01/2024
278-264	Warren Davies	<p><i>I think the government needs to reject these radical proposals. I know a lot of small businesses in our area generously give for the benefit of our children's schooling but with the lack of tax benefit I don't believe this will continue. This is an attack on religion as most of private or independent education is provided by the religious organizations.</i></p>	19/01/2024
278-265	Ivan Woodford	<p>I am writing to you after reading the Draft Report with great interest. I have observed some good suggestions, but I am concerned about one specific point and ask for your consideration.</p> <p>The point of concern is removing DGR status for non-government, primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The cost of living is currently hurting many of us.</p> <p>The inevitable consequence if the Australian Government adopted this recommendation would be a dramatic increase in school fees. Many Australian individuals and businesses will be negatively impacted. Tax implications to givers will directly result in reduced giving and lost business trading to some small businesses. The shortfall in gifting to schools and school building projects will necessitate a heavy increase in school fees to compensate for that funding gap.</p> <p>Please also note, that contents in the Draft Report also represents an affront to religion that is practised and valued by Australians. The government of this country has protected the value of religious freedom in this country. Schooling is vitally important for young Australians who will lead our country into the future. Private and independent schools are indispensable, and the public schools are overcrowded. Please note that religious organisations are pivotal in filling this gap and elevating the future of young people with quality education.</p> <p>On behalf of Australian fathers, mothers, and our families, could you kindly consider these concerns affecting many of us?</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-266	Elissa Stonestreet	<p>As someone who has previously gone into a local state primary school to teach SRE on my days o9 (currently working as a K-12 teacher) I'm very concerned to hear about the possible removal of tax deductions for donations to help support this!</p> <p>In educational spaces where students grapple with their big questions about life, where anxiety/mental health issues (especial post Covid) have been on the increase & a huge amount of teachers are leaving/retiring, the weekly stability of having a volunteer teach, care for & encourage students will be hugely impacted by this. Although people donate regularly, in the current financial climate with no tax deductibility, these classes may not be able to run.</p> <p>I'm not sure why the government would stop supporting faith based organisations when they make such an impact in children's lives? Educationally, the course is well organised with clear outcomes & objectives – like any current school program – with teachers undergoing regular observations from an experienced volunteer so there should be no issues with that aspect. I pay my taxes & I donate money to a variety of organisations. My belief in God impacts my life & inspires me to help others. I myself was able to attend SRE & high school groups which helped me deal with events I experienced in childhood, gave me a safe space to connect with leaders & peers, & I learnt about working with/supporting others. I can say from personal experience that there is long term impact for these classes. I've come across students I've taught, now young adults, who have gone on to work with youth/elderly, as well as volunteer in local community (or international) groups/events. I currently work in a high school where we regularly take students on camps run by Youthworks teams & the feedback from families is so positive. Events like this will not be able to go ahead if they are financially crippled – even though the young leaders try to fundraise to get them through their training.</p> <p>I left high school & began training to be a teacher. I'm now in my 50s & am still trying to help & support students, grateful for the way I was supported. I am not sure that the Commission realises the impact removing funding will have. What other DGRs have been removed?</p>	19/01/2024
278-267	Brett Trewarn	<p>After reading through the draft report, I'm greatly concerned with the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for <i>all activities for the purpose of advancing religion; and activities related to aged care; childcare; and primary, secondary, religious and informal education.</i></p> <p>As a parent, whose children attend an independent school, the removal of its DGR status would have a number of detrimental effects. Individuals and businesses will have less incentive to make donations/contributions (as there will be no tax benefit) and this will drive up school fees, putting added pressure on families already feeling the pinch in the current economic environment. Reduced donations may also mean that independent schools are unable to afford improvements to their facilities which not only disadvantages the students' learning abilities but also takes away the opportunity for local businesses to participate in these improvement projects.</p>	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Another point which concerns me, is what seems to be an attack against religion and religious organisations in this draft report. The majority of students, who attend faith-based and independent schools, will go on to become valued members of society. If parents are forced to send their children to public schools (because they can no longer afford the private fees) this not only adds to the taxpayer burden but also taxes the resources of the public schools, leading to a decline in education standards.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you take my concerns into consideration, as it is highly likely that many other families will face similar challenges if this recommendation becomes a reality. The cost to society will be far greater than any perceived benefit.</p>	
278-268	Russell Draffin	<p>I have read the draft report with much interest.</p> <p>Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is clearly an attack on religion as the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>At this unprecedented time where cost of living pressure that has gone through the roof, I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendations, we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public school, which will severely impact their learning results and put them behind when they leave school to go into the workforce!</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	19/01/2024
278-269	Warwick Wright	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern in relation to some of the content in the 'Future foundations for giving' draft report from the productivity commission, and the impact it will have on us families if the government adopts these changes, especially relating to the scrapping of the DGR status for non-government school building funds.</p> <p>My concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burden on Household Budgets: Ending the DGR status for schools will increase school fees for householders! This will happen due to reduced giving from businesses and individuals, who can no longer get a tax deduction on giving to schools with DGR status! The cost of living is already unsustainable for many families! 	19/01/2024

OFFICIAL

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Investment in the economy: It will reduce the ability for schools to invest in new infrastructure and buildings, counterproductive to the economy! • Best outcome for Students! We want the best outcomes for our student's education; best facilities, best teachers, and at affordable prices. I highly appreciate private schooling for our children, knowing that it is much better than conditions in public schools for a variety of reasons. • Attack on religion: Many private schools are religious based, this is no reason to reduce support for them from the government! 	
278-270	Bryan Tunley	<p>As a parent and owner of Voltex Electrical, I am deeply concerned about the draft report's recommendation to remove DGR status from non-government educational institutions. This change poses significant financial challenges for families and hinders our capacity to support charitable educational causes.</p> <p>Increased school fees due to lost DGR status will burden many families, including mine, amid rising living costs. Additionally, the potential decline in educational quality due to reduced funding for school development is alarming.</p> <p>From a business perspective, this change limits our ability to support educational institutions, directly contradicting our commitment to community empowerment. The wider economic impact, especially on small businesses involved in school projects, is also concerning.</p> <p>I urge the Commission to reconsider these recommendations. Their implications extend beyond financial impacts, potentially reshaping our educational system detrimentally.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.</p>	19/01/2024