

Submissions focussed on DGR status for schools

Submissions 278-581 to 278-700

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-581	Alan Richardson	<p>I am writing regarding the recent Productivity Commission regarding philanthropic giving. The draft report recommends taking private funded religious groups off being eligible for deductible giving recipients (DGR) status.</p> <p>This recommendation is not in the best interests of our family, community or the nation. The constitution of our country is founded on the Bible and the private education in Christian schools and other religious schools should be supported by the Government by means of both funding directly and the indirect support of private funding via DGR incentives.</p> <p>To remove this DGR status would have substantial impacts on our household and community that would include but aren't limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased school fees • Increased cost of living • Poorer quality of education impacting the future of our children • Higher demand on government school systems that are already underfunded and under-resourced particularly in regional areas • Religious schools are often connected to a religion that has other charitable activity for the good of mankind that may suffer if the cost of funding their schools increases. <p>It is very important that the government rejects the recommendations of the Productivity Commission report into DGR for religious schools. This report in my view constitutes an attack on religion by our government whilst the same report recommends DGR status on many other organisations that in my view are questionable and at best provide nothing for the community or nation in terms of tangible results such as a quality upright education for future generations of families for our nation.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-582	Russell Mauger	<p>I am writing to voice my concern over recommendations relating to deductible gift recipient status (DGR) being scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of great concern and relevance to our family as our children attend and have attended a Christian based private school for over 10 years and this school currently benefits from gift recipient status. Our children love attending this school, the education is of the highest standard and as parents we have been incredibly thankful for the provision of the DGR status as it has enabled us to send the children there without excessive expense.</p> <p>To remove this DGR status will inevitably lead to a rise in school fees payable by the parents due to a reduction in giving from concerned individuals and businesses who no longer will receive a tax benefit in doing so. At a time when cost of living crisis is at an all-time high, with this year (2024) already seeing Prime Minister Anthony Albanese calling urgent meetings with Labour MPs to address this very thing, it would seem that Australian families are already struggling financially. It could very well lead to families being forced by direction of circumstances to remove their children from private schools and re-enrol them in public schools. Public schools are already overcrowded. Where we live there is only one public school available. Inevitably this will lead to the immense overcrowding of said schools forcing the Government to invest heavily in upgrading available facilities at these schools to accommodate the extra students. This is a cost that would potentially far outstrip any monies saved through eliminating DGR. There is approximately 1.4million students attending faith based independent schools. This is a lot of families trying to invest in their child's future. We all want what's best for our child and struggling Australian families appreciate every government incentive that allows the financial pressure to be just that much less.</p> <p>I believe this proposal is being considered since the DGR is not considered to be of public benefit to society. And yet I ask of you, what could be more beneficial publicly than government and taxpayers not having to fund the education of every single student? Add to this the benefit of upstanding and productive life ready students exiting the private schooling system and entering immediately into fulfilling, challenging and highly skilled jobs and it is clear that this is a system that gives back to the public in a very big way. In the words of former American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."</p> <p>I would ask that you please acknowledge the points in this letter and give them due consideration</p>	22/02/204
278-583	Gary Wallace	<p>I have read this report and am particularly alarmed about the recommendation to scrap deductible gift recipient status for non-government schools and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as a parent of a child who attends a non-government school that uses its DGR status to provide a great educational facility in which students can learn and thrive. Following are a few of my concerns for your consideration.</p>	22/02/2024

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Without DGR status, fees at <u>all</u> independent schools will increase exponentially as schools 'bridge the gap' in funds required without the support of businesses and individuals (who will reduce their financial support with the lack of tax benefit). - Parents will not be able to afford the fees and will remove their children from private schools, which will further weaken them and threaten their existence. - It is of my understanding that public schools are not positioned to take such an influx of new students (1.4million students or 35.6% attend private schools in Australia according to the internet). - The cost to the Government for new public schools would be much higher than what it gains from scrapping DGR status for private schools. 	
278-584	Andrew Sneddon	<p>I have read the draft report and write as a concerned grandfather of students that attend an independent church run school. What I am particularly worried about is the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government schools and other entities. This move, I believe, is an attack on religious groups who are known for their care, compassion and charity.</p> <p>I was a director of a small independent school for a number of years and was involved in the financial side. I can testify to the wonderful giving that we received from all walks of life. Most of this giving was because of the DGR status. If this was removed it would have an adverse effect on the school as the fees would have to be increased at a time when the cost of living is strangling household incomes.</p> <p>I would be extremely disappointed if any of my grandchildren had to be forced back to the public school system with its overcrowding and weak standards.</p> <p>Please consider my comments. I am sure there will be many others who carry the same concerns.</p>	22/02/204
278-585	Hilton May	<p>Although there are some good findings and recommendations, I am deeply concerned about the recommendations for DGR status to be removed for private/independent schools.</p> <p>Currently our family is under pressure with the high cost of living. As my children attend an independent school that currently benefits from DGR status, I am gravely concerned that school fees will skyrocket to make up for the lost income resulting from individuals or businesses no longer being able to give tax deductible donations.</p> <p>I am worried that if the Government adopts this recommendation, it will negatively affect our children's academic potential - either by lowering their ability to learn in a suitable environment or sending them to public schools which are already overcrowded.</p> <p>This will also impact the already struggling construction industry if independent schools have to reduce spending on facility upgrades.</p>	22/02/204

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		Please consider my concerns, no doubt there are many other families that would be impacted.	
278-586	Scott Sleby	<p>I write to express my deep concern regarding the recent draft report by the Productivity Commission recommending the abolition of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for religious organisations and non-government schools.</p> <p>As a parent with children attending a private non-government school, the potential impact of this proposal is veery troubling. These schools heavily rely on donations and DGR support to provide a quality education. If adopted, the recommendations could lead to a rapid degradation of facilities and educational environments, hindering our children's chances for success and negatively impacting our communities.</p> <p>I's sure that I am joined by thousands of Australians who share these concerns and I urgently urge the government not to consider any of these proposed changes.</p>	22/02/204
278-587	James Chesterfield	<p>After reading the draft report I was compelled to voice my concerns surrounding the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>The DGR support has been part of the fabric of our Australian society since 1954 and has proved to be extremely successful and beneficial to all involved. To scrap this status would be a backward move and very detrimental to the success of any of these education and aged care facilities</p> <p>As a concerned parent of a child attending an independent school, it is particularly of interest to me as this school does benefit from DGR status. In the uncertain economic financial environment we presently live in where costs of living are increasing exponentially, I am fearful of the school fee structure being affected such that they are increased accordingly as the giving dries up, thus reducing the tax benefit for businesses and entities to contribute and donate to the school.</p> <p>I believe if the Government adopts this recommendation it will force us to send our children to already overcrowded public schools, where their learning will be negatively impacted and their future academic potential suppressed and reduced.</p> <p>Furthermore, I firmly believe that this is an attack on religion where the majority of independent or private education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I ask that you please consider my concerns, no doubt every affected parent would voice the same.</p>	22/02/204
278-588	Jonathan Hornsey	I have read the draft report with interest and the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations, is quite a worry to me.	22/02/204

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		<p>The reason this worries me is that I have two children in an independent school that benefits from DGR status. If DGR status was scrapped one would logically conclude that we would bear the brunt of increased school fees as donations from businesses and individuals will dry up. As a young family forced to live with increased cost of living, our budget is already under a lot of pressure already let alone with increase in school fees.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we have no option but to remove our children from the independent school, which I believe will severely hamper their academic success. Please consider my concerns, it is something that keeps me up at night.</p>	
278-589	Simon McMurdo	<p>I have recently read the draft report Future Foundations for Giving. Whilst some of the findings are appropriate, I carry a sincere concern that scrapping the DGR status for non-government primary and secondary schools will be very detrimental. My children will attend the same independent school where I received my education which currently benefits from DGR – this school continues to invest in quality education of young children but can only do so through generous giving and support – I am very concerned that this support would not continue if the FFfG Report is adopted which will cause an increase in school fees at a time where our household is struggling under rising cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>The above concerned has been voiced by many households and I would urge the government to amend the draft recommendations to ensure independent schooling remains a viable option for Australian families.</p>	22/02/204
278-590	Daniel Pridham	<p>I am writing today with regards to the Productivity Commission ‘Future foundations for giving’ draft report. I have considered the draft report in detail, and felt it necessary to write as I am significantly concerned about the recommendations for DGR status to be removed for religious organisations, independent primary and secondary schooling and aged care.</p> <p>Two of my four children currently attend a non-government school which benefits from its current DGR status. In the event that this status is removed, I foresee that the lack of a tax benefit to the donors, will significantly decrease the giving, and as a result from this, the school would have no other choice but to increase its fees in order to continue operations.</p> <p>I do believe the costs to run the school will increase in the future. This, coupled with the prospect of the DGR status removal leading to reduced giving from the donors that support the school and cost of living pressures we are currently experiencing, will mean the school will no longer be able to operate sustainably. In this case, I would be forced to send my children to a public school, where I am certain their learning will suffer great detriment as well as moral standards being lower in the public school system which will create a crisis in our household where we seek to protect our children from harmful moral influences that we know operate in public schools.</p>	22/02/204

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		I plead with you to consider this request as I know there are other families in similar circumstances who will also suffer if the recommendations are implemented.	
278-591	Anthony Saunders	<p>As concerned parents we are worried about the Productivity Commission –‘Future Foundations for giving’ draft report.</p> <p>If the DGR status is scrapped for non-Government education, childcare, aged care, and religious organisations, it will impact on the future of our child and grandchildren attending their independent schools.</p> <p>As we have had 4 other children attending the private sector we can see the benefits to the community by continuing this form of education. Will the Government be able to provide the smaller classes, and therefore bigger schools, should parents like us be financially unable to continue to afford to send our child/ren to such schools.</p> <p>The financial donations, and time, parents put into schools is helped by the incentive to receive a tax donation to reimburse the costs a little. Removing these tax benefits will not increase the benefits to the Government budget very much, but if parents are forced to send their child/ren to the already overcrowded public sector it will put a great strain on the Education Department</p>	22/02/204
278-592	Jonathon Wallis	<p>I am writing you this submission as a concerned parent of young children of which my oldest attends a religious non-government private school. We as a young family made the decision to pay the extra fees and move our oldest child from the over-crowded government public school our children attend into the private school to provide a better learning environment for her academic & social growth. Seeing what a huge difference this made to her in these areas, we intend to now move our younger children across to the private school also.</p> <p>Our concern reading this draft report is that the school fees will increase substantially should this radical plan be adopted as this small religious private school relies on tax-deductible giving from the school community for the school to function and building be improved etc. Should the school be scrapped from being a DGR this will put a lot of extra pressure on all households in the community when cost of living is already out of control.</p> <p>I strongly believe this is also a deeper push from the radical left-wing ideologists and is nothing more than an attack on religion and the diverse faith-based principles this great country has rightly been founded upon. I would think majority of DGR’s currently would be religious organisations (many different faiths) which provide actual support to so many diverse communities. To suddenly remove the DGR status from these organisations that physically help and assist people in need and grant it to advocate groups that only make things more divided and complex is nothing but absurd.</p> <p>Please rationally consider my concerns as I’m sure I speak on behalf of many quiet Australians that will be detrimentally affected by these radical changes should they be forced through!</p>	22/02/204

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278-593	Ian Shirliff	<p>The Draft Report titled “Future foundations for Giving” includes recommendations to remove the deductible gift recipient status of religious organisations and Independent non-government schools. The vast majority I would assume, would be Christian or Faith based schools.</p> <p>This concerns me, as most of my grandchildren attend independent Christian schools. The removal of donor incentives as outlined in this proposal, would almost certainly result in increased fees. This would add further stress and burden on parents, who are already fully committed financially, to somehow find the extra money for the increased fees. Should the students be forced to go back to public schools, it will end up costing the government a lot more. Contrary to mistaken beliefs, public schools receive twice the funding of a private school. This unfair and unacceptable.</p> <p>I note that the Treasurer Jim Chalmers commissioned this report. Along with his three children, Jim is a baptised Catholic. I hope that he sees the impact on families if this report were to be adopted. As responsible for this report, I trust Jim has the moral courage to reject</p>	22/02/204
278-594	Matthew James	<p>I have read through the draft report, and feel compelled to make a submission, as I am very concerned about the recommendation for DGR to be scrapped for independent schools. See pg. 18 of draft report – “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.”</p> <p>I am a parent of three, with two attending an independent primary school, and one attending an independent pre-school. If this recommendation is implemented, these institutions will be struggle to improve and extend their facilities to improve the learning experience of the children. They will also be forced to increase their fees, which couldn’t come at a worse time considering the current cost of living crisis. This combination of out-dated, undersized facilities, and added cost of living pressures on the household, will without a doubt have a detrimental life-long impact on my three children.</p> <p>I sincerely trust you will consider my concerns, knowing there are many other parents with exactly the same concerns.</p>	22/02/2024
278-595	Bradley Jensen	<p>Having read the draft report I believe that there are some interesting findings. Also some recommendations which look good. But I became concerned when I noted the recommendations for DGR, deductible gift recipient status to be removed for non government childcare, age care, primary and secondary schooling and various other religious organisations. I question why is the commission seeking to bring a divide into DGR status based on an organisation having a religious cause.</p> <p>My children have enrolled in a independent school and I believe it has DGR status. The cost of doing this for my children is huge and I cannot handle the likely outcome of school fees going through the roof, if the DGR status were to be removed as almost certainly donors currently supporting would reduce or cut completely there giving as no tax benefit would be applicable. I fear</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>that I cant afford to keep my children in a school like this if this recommendation goes through. What I can see is huge amounts of children going back to over crowded public schools, with poor academic outcomes for students and increased cost and pressure on government as a result.</p> <p>It is imperative that this recommendation is not allowed to proceed. The outcome will be a disaster and many families already struggling will be impacted. If the government really cares about the “cost of living pressures” effecting so many Australians trying to do the best for there families they will scrap this recommendation.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my concerns and I’m sure those of so many families.</p>	
278-596	Kevin White	<p>It is with utmost concern as a parent I write this submission regarding the proposed changes to DGR (Deductible Gift Recipients) Status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations as outlined in the draft report.</p> <p>DGR support has been in place since 1954 and I feel that the proposed changes are discriminatory against religious and other non-government schools. As Dr Emma Rowe (Lecturer, School of Education, Deakin University) writes, “approximately 30% of all schools in Australia are affiliated with a religion, or 94% of private schools”. These schools are unfairly targeted in the proposal to scrap their DGR Status.</p> <p>The draft report states ‘The Government is committed to taking this opportunity and will collaborate with the philanthropic not-for-profit and business sectors to double philanthropic giving by 2030’</p> <p>Changing the DGR Status to reduce the number of DGR Registrations (especially larger Charities) would have a detrimental affect on the Governments 2030 goal.</p> <p>This certainly would be the case from a personal perspective as currently our family business donates to an independent school. Were the changes to go ahead, the lack of tax benefit would reduce the business’ philanthropic giving substantially. This reduction in giving, would force the school to increase school fees to make up the shortfall.</p> <p>We currently have 1 child enrolled at our school, with 2 more to be enrolled in the next couple of years. With cost-of-living pressures at an all time high, our family is looking at a 300% increase of school fees already, without any further increase caused by policy changes.</p> <p>I feel that the proposed changes would have a severe financial impact on our household and potentially force us to remove our children from a highly respected school to an overloaded Government school, where academic growth and educational experience could be hindered.</p> <p>In the draft report, the heading ‘Philanthropy contributes to a better society’ stands out. Surely one of the best ways to contribute to society is to give children a good education.</p> <p>Could you please take into account how many people could be affected adversely by these proposed changes.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-597	Mark Draffin	<p>I note with keen interest the draft report and preliminary findings of the productivity commission.</p> <p>This issue is particularly concerning to me as my children are enrolled in a non-government school that significantly benefits from its Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. We are currently dealing with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures and abolishing DGR status will undoubtedly lead to an increase in school fees. This will also result in a significant reduction of contributions from donors who take advantage of tax benefits for businesses and individuals supporting these organizations and their facilities.</p> <p>Although there are commendable findings and suggestions, I would like to register my deep concern about the proposals advocating for the elimination of DGR status for non-governmental primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. It is clear that this is an effort against religion as many of these independent schools, aged & childcare facilities are run by religious organizations.</p> <p>If the government endorses this recommendation, we might be compelled to enrol our children in our already overcrowded public system of schooling. Such a shift could adversely impact their learning experience and impede their academic potential. The standard of education will undoubtedly decline. The flow on effect of building extensions and improvements being cancelled will also affect many trades people and small businesses in the area.</p> <p>My wife and I both went through the public schooling system and we have observed our own children thrive in a private school. Those that have finished their schooling have been indeed considerably better prepared for the workforce and the next stage of life. I believe there will be many other families affected by such a decision. I also am a business owner of which donates regularly to organizations affected by the findings of this draft report and I request that my concerns be considered and the government will not adopt these recommendations.</p>	22/02/204
278-598	Tim Trimmer	<p>I am writing as a concerned grandparent, as to the consequences of the proposed changes set out in the 'Future foundations for giving'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased school fees for private schools. • lack of tax benefit for businesses to give to the private schools our grandchildren attend. • lack of improvements and upsizing to these schools. • quality of education is likely to decline if the learning environment is not maintained due to lack of donations. • cost of living will increase and is already at an all-time high. • this seems to be against religion as the greatest number of private schools are provided by religious organizations. 	22/02/204

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278-599	Lester Urquhart	<p>I trust this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to express my concerns about the recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report.</p> <p>I have read the draft report, and whilst there are some good recommendations, the proposed scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations, raises significant apprehension among the community, especially parents like myself.</p> <p>Of particular concern to me is removal of DGR status, as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. The removal of it could lead to increased school fees as educational institutions may need to compensate for reduced giving from businesses or individuals, no longer benefiting from tax incentives.</p> <p>At a time when many households, including mine, are already facing significant cost-of-living pressures, these changes could further exacerbate the financial strain on families. And if families are forced to reconsider private education due to increased costs, it may lead to additional pressure on already overcrowded local public schools and impact the children's ability to learn in a suitable environment and potentially hindering their academic potential.</p> <p>I kindly request that you consider these concerns when evaluating the recommendations put forth in the draft report. These changes, if implemented, could have a profound impact on the educational landscape and the well-being of families across the community.</p>	22/02/204
278-600	Keith Collins	<p>I am writing in regard to the Productivity "Future Foundations for Giving" draft report.</p> <p>I would like to express my deep concerns and reservations as to both the effectiveness and the likely outcomes of the draft proposals, particularly in relation to the removal of DGR status for non-government schools and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a father and a grand-father I have taken a keen interest in the education of my children and grand-children. It has been important to me that my family is given an education that aligns with and re-enforces the values and core beliefs that I have held to as important. I am a firm believer that it is the foundational governing principles in our being that dictates our character and have sought to inculcate this belief. The truth of this can be evidenced in the fact that I have a family of six well adjusted and contributing to society children and indeed, my next generation of grandchildren are showing forth the benefits of a similar upbringing.</p> <p>An integral part of this character developing process is school choice, to ensure the school that has so much influence in the learning and growth of your child, has the same ethics, values, and desires for your child as you do yourself. As a result all my children and grandchildren are attending or have attended carefully selected independent and private schools. I have been pleased to take</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>advantage of the current DGR system to make numerous donations to these institutions over the years to help them provide better facilities and thus education for my family.</p> <p>My concern is that the scrapping of the DGR and resulting lack of tax benefit for business or individual giving will result substantially reduced options for persons such as myself to be able to provide financial support for these institutions going forward.</p> <p>This would inevitably result in the following negative outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rise in “cost-of-living” pressures for my and many other already financially stretched families • Inability for house-holds to be able to gain the education they desire for their families • Reduced outcomes at private and independent schools • Forcing more children into the already crowded and somewhat overwhelmed public school system • Further reduce academic and emotional development of students across Australia <p>I would strongly urge the Government NOT to adopt this ill-conceived draft proposal.</p>	
278-601	Justin Wallace	<p>I have read the draft report and the recommendations that the DGR status should be scrapped causes great concern to me as a parent.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school which qualifies for DGR status. As a business owner I like to make a generous contribution towards the school fund to help ensure they have a quality education in a conducive environment which is paramount to help them go on to be a productive member of society. If the DGR status is scrapped, I will not have the tax benefit from donating. I feel it will be inevitable that the school fees will escalate which adds a substantial burden to the cost of living and raising our family.</p> <p>If the federal Labour want to encourage the exodus of approx. 1.4 million students from independent schools into the public system, where will they find the funds to cover each student?</p> <p>Surely the nation will benefit if its priorities are to ensure the future generation has a high level of education which indeed fosters growth and well-being over against these other radical proposals that could only have a weakening effect.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns as the overall detrimental impact of scrapping the DGR status will be felt nationwide.</p>	22/02/204
278-602	Graham Pugh	<p>We write as concerned grandparents after reading this draft report. We put our children through the private education system. Though costly it provided them with that extra bit of education to set them up in their careers. We fear that many of the next generation won't be able to afford the extra fees that private schools will need to charge, specially adding to the cost-of-living crisis we are in. These institutions are part of the fabric of our society. DGR Status which goes back many years has made</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>this education possible for many middle-class families. It is not only the upper classes that use these valuable provisions. Will the public system have the resource to look after the many that will be forced into the public education system?</p> <p>We would like to point out that much of the work on local private religious schools and other institutions is performed by local tradesmen, who potentially would lose much of that income.</p> <p>While there are some good points in this draft, we feel that this is a veiled attack on religion. As you are aware many private schools and aged care facilities are run by religious groups. We would greatly appreciate your deep consideration of these points as we already know of many with similar concerns.</p>	
278-603	Jordan Wallace	<p>I have read the draft report and the recommendations that the DGR status should be removed causes great concern to me as a parent.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school which qualifies for DGR status. As a business owner I get pleasure from contributing towards the school fund to help ensure they have a quality education in a conducive environment which is crucial to help them go on to be a productive member of society. If the DGR status is removed, I will not have the tax benefit from donating. I feel it will be inevitable that the school fees will increase which adds a substantial burden to the cost of living and raising our family.</p> <p>If the federal Labour want to encourage the exodus of approx. 1.4 million students from independent schools into the public system, where will they find the funds to cover each student?</p> <p>Surely the nation will benefit if its priorities are to ensure the future generation has a high level of education which indeed promotes growth and well-being over against these other radical proposals that could only have a weakening effect.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns as the overall detrimental impact of scrapping the DGR status will be felt nationwide.</p>	22/02/204
278-604	Andrew McKay	<p>I am a concerned individual writing in regards to the Future Foundations for Giving draft report. Whilst I see some merit in the recommendations proposed I believe that withdrawing DGR status for non-government schools, childcare and aged care etc is unfairly classified.</p> <p>We have recently relocated house a year ago to live closer to my parents. In the process of first selling our property (5 month process) and finally purchasing a property, interest rates had increased substantially resulting in higher than first anticipated interest rate repayments. This in turn has increased our day-to-day cost of living pressures which we don't see reducing any time soon.</p> <p>Our first child is turning 5yo next month and starting primary school. As a believer in a high standard of education we are proposing our son, and in the future his younger 2yo brother, to a non-government school as we believe high quality education will give them a chance for good future. We</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>fear if the DGR status is withdrawn we will need to send them to a local public school in the area which doesn't suit our standards.</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration to address this concern.</p>	
278-605	Lester Wright	<p>As a concerned parent 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 organisations.</p> <p>I am particularly worried about this issue because my children are enrolled in an independent school that benefits on Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. In a time where the cost of living is reaching unprecedented levels, I am concerned that school fees may increase even more to compensate for reduced donations, given the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to the school.</p> <p>My apprehension stems from the potential scenario where, if the government adopts this recommendation, we may be forced to enroll our children in the already overcrowded local public school. This shift could negatively affect their learning experience and hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to consider my concerns, as I believe our family may not be the only one facing such consequences if this proposal is implemented.</p>	22/02/2024
278-606	Daniel Alderton	<p>I am a father of four children and an Aussie battler. My wife and I have a forefront goal to give each of our children the best education we can afford to set them up for life.</p> <p>The Future Foundations for Giving report clearly states that it aims to remove DGR status from independent schools, childcare providers, age care providers etc.</p> <p>This will have dire consequences for millions of hardworking Australian. It will directly impact school fees and the cost of education.</p> <p>Three of my four children have graduated successfully from an independent school, each child with learning challenges. The individual direct learning support provided by the independent school enabled each of our children to overcome and succeed.</p> <p>We have the remaining child starting secondary school next year, that will also require one on one support to get through.</p> <p>This comes at a time when our household is under cost-of-living pressures that is unprecedented. We simply will not be able to afford secondary education for our final child.</p> <p>Public schooling in our situation is not an option for us. What do we do? Sell up our house and rent?</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		This is clearly a direct attack on religion as most independent schools and aged care is provided by religious organisations.	
278-607	Dudley Harris	<p>Whilst the draft report is of positive interest, it has also provoked some personal concerns as a grandfather of children who attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>I feel that the Government's recommendations for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to be removed from non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other institutions managed by religious organisations, is not only an attack on citizen's freedom of choice, but on religion itself, prejudicing a proven and time-honoured regulatory influence that generates positive, law-abiding, upright moral standards that are the backbone of national prosperity.</p> <p>Firstly as an erstwhile parent of children that attended an independent school, and now as a grandparent of children in the same situation, I can attest that the reasons for our concern stem from our own negative experience with local public schools, which through overcrowding, cannot sustain the required standard of teaching and attention to individual student needs that a non-government independent school has traditionally been able to offer.</p> <p>Removing DGR status will force many independent schools to increase their fees to a level out of reach of many parents, driving many students back into the Government system, with the result that the resources of public systems will be further strained, exacerbating the already overcrowded public education system and placing greater loads on their teachers and staff.</p> <p>With the tax incentive being removed, that has hitherto encouraged financial contribution to ongoing upgrades and improvements to independent school facilities, I fear that ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The facilities of such schools will to some degree degenerate and decay, and that teaching standards will suffer accordingly, and that... 2. The demise of the many construction projects that were previously funded because of their DGR status, and which had supported many small local businesses connected to the construction industry in our area, will have a resulting negative flow-on effect on our local economy. <p>I urge the Government to reconsider the damaging economic impact of removing DGR status from independent schools and religious organisations, and the resulting potential student delinquency that would be the inevitable consequence, and refrain from pursuing this legislation in its present prejudiced form.</p>	22/02/204
278-608	Robert McMillan	Having read the draft report with much interest, as a grand parent with seven (7 } grand children attending pre schools, the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR} status to be scrapped for non-government p secondary, aged care, and other religious organisations, has made me very concerned.	22/02/204

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		<p>This is contrary to the democratic rights of all Australian taxpayers. At the present time when the government is concerned about the cost of living pressure affecting so many middle class taxpayers, the fear would be that school fees would have to increase to make up for the lost income, and could mean that some families would have their children against their wish of public schools. The public schools are overcrowded and underfunded and, in turn, would put extra pressure on the schools. Therefore this could have an overall negative result for the government.</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate that you consider my concerns, as it will affect a large number of the population concerned as to the learning experience and the safe protection of the potential students.</p>	
278-609	David Ohlmeyer	<p>I have read the draft report and am encouraged that the Productivity Commission recognises the benefits of philanthropy to Australian society, and that the DGR system is effective and does not need to substantially change.</p> <p>However, there is a concerning undertone in the report that attacks and belittles the overwhelming benefit that religion provides to Australia. Our country was founded on Christian values, and there is no doubt that the comparative success and quality of life we enjoy as a nation is directly attributable to our Christian foundations, which is referenced in no less a document than our Constitution.</p> <p>One recommendation in the draft report that concerns me particularly, as an interested parent, is the proposal to remove the DGR status of non-government school building funds, including faith-based schools. Non-government (particularly faith-based) schools are vitally important in providing freedom and choice for parents to educate their children in an environment that best supports and reinforces household beliefs and values.</p> <p>Tax-deductible donations to school building funds provide a vital source of funds for capital expenditure by private schools. In addition, the ability to make deductible donations to school building funds provides an avenue for interested persons to make contributions to projects in their local community, where they can see the direct impact of their giving. Often other charitable giving, while absolutely necessary and appreciated, does not allow the donor to see a tangible outcome – with school building funds, donors can see a real and lasting result.</p> <p>The provision of suitable facilities has a direct impact on the learning outcomes of students, and in the long-term their quality of life and ability to function as upright citizens.</p> <p>If DGR status is removed for school building funds, this will reduce the resources of non-government schools to provide suitable facilities for their students; increase the fees that need to be charged; and in the long-term will increase pressure on the public school system as households will no longer be able to afford to send their children to private schools.</p>	22/02/2014

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		<p>Finally, I do not understand why DGR status should be removed for school building funds, yet it is proposed that animal refuges would gain DGR status. Care of animals is right, but the care and nurturing of our young people, far more so.</p> <p>With approximately 35% of Australian students attending private schools, this proposal if pursued will affect a vast number of households across our diverse Australian society. I respectfully urge the Productivity Commission to remove this proposal from the final report.</p>	
278-610	Celia Rennie	<p>I recommend that the DGR system be continued for the provision of SRE.</p> <p>1) I believe SRE provides “net community wide benefits that would otherwise be undersupplied”.</p> <p>I was a SRE teacher for over 17 years in some NSW primary schools. I observed that children in SRE enjoyed and participated well in classes. The Anglican teaching materials, and training was useful for myself, and other SRE teachers colleagues. The children really liked the puzzles, and coloured pictures . At times the class size increased over the year! Parents rarely removed their children, and some of them attended SRE assembly when able.</p> <p>Safety training was thorough in the Anglican and Presbyterian systems. Every SRE teacher was supervised by the pastor at the church that they regularly attended. I personally was encouraged by this help from my minister. In the school I was able to contribute concern about 2 children to the class teachers. Thankfully they were already assisting these children.</p> <p>I noted that children appreciated the idea that: God loves them, as the Bible teaches. Materials were all age appropriate and helped children with different learning styles. The standard of the materials was very high. Families were not required to pay at all. Therefore, SRE classes were mini communities where children from all economic backgrounds could belong and contribute. I believe that there was a strong egalitarian and supportive atmosphere in classes. This supported the school objectives of encouraging equity amongst students.</p> <p>2) I also believe that SRE training, and opportunities enabled myself and many others to contribute for many years in the voluntary sector. SRE teachers contribute in a consistent way to the community!</p> <p>3) High school Scripture is done in a slightly different manor. It involves “volunteer” SRE coordinators working with the school to tailor a program that is suitable for each school. In Blacktown, NSW, several SRE coordinators have worked with some high schools over a 20-year period.</p> <p>They link volunteers to assist the school and pupils. The coordinators are paid through “Churches of Blacktown in Schools”. This body channels donations from churches, businesses and individuals to enable the coordinators to work over the long term in a part- time capacity. They also provide breakfast clubs, resilience groups, mentoring and so on.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>During the COVID lockdown one school relied on one worker to maintain links with isolated students, whose families were often financially challenged. Many of their parents were not able to work due to the 5-kilometre restrictions. In this case the school and worker were enabling students in Blacktown to have less disadvantage than would otherwise be possible!</p> <p>The tax -deductible status enables people, who are often low to medium- income earners, to contribute to the youth of their own local area. The DGR has: encouraged them to give over many years, and enables some of the needs of Blacktown youth to be met consistently and in the long term. In the current climate the DGR scheme provides a vital service.</p> <p>Please continue the DGR for SRE.</p>	
278-611	Brett Craddock	<p>After carefully reviewing the preliminary report, I would like to express my concerns regarding the suggested elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations. While the report does contain some positive findings and recommendations, I am particularly troubled by the proposal to remove DGR status for these institutions.</p> <p>This issue strikes a personal chord with me as my children are currently enrolled in an independent school, which currently benefits from DGR status. Given the escalating cost of living and the financial pressures we all face, I am apprehensive that eliminating this status would only result in increased school fees. This could happen because the school would need to compensate for the reduction in donations driven by the absence of tax incentives for businesses or individuals who contribute to the institution.</p> <p>My concern is that, if the government were to adopt this recommendation, we would be forced to send our children to an overburdened local public school. Such a move would undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on their educational experience and limit their academic potential.</p> <p>I implore you to take these concerns into consideration, as I am certain that our family will not be the only one adversely affected by such a decision.</p>	22/02/204
278-612	Roger Hocking	<p>I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to express my deep concern and worry regarding the proposed legislation related to the adoption of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. As a parent and member of the community, I feel compelled to voice my apprehensions about the potential consequences that this legislation may have on the educational system, particularly on private or independent schools.</p> <p>First and foremost, I am troubled by the prospect of increased school fees for our children if the government decides to implement the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The proposed reduction in tax benefits for businesses or individuals may lead to a decline in financial support for</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>our schools, forcing them to compensate by raising fees. This could place an additional burden on families already grappling with the rising cost of living.</p> <p>Moreover, I am deeply concerned about the impact on our school's ability to undertake crucial building extension and upgrade works. These projects not only enhance the learning environment for our children but also provide support to small family businesses in our local area. The ripple effect of reduced giving could potentially harm both the educational experience of our children and the economic health of our community.</p> <p>I believe that the proposed legislation poses a significant threat to the quality of education our children receive. The potential decline in resources and facilities could hinder their ability to learn in a suitable environment, ultimately affecting their academic potential and future prospects.</p> <p>In addition, I must express my worry about what I perceive as an unintended consequence: an attack on religious organizations that predominantly provide private or independent education. Many families, including mine, choose these institutions for the values and beliefs they instil in their educational approach. Any adverse impact on these religious organizations could be detrimental to the diverse educational landscape we value.</p> <p>Lastly, I am concerned that the proposed changes may force families like mine to consider public schools, which I understand are already grappling with issues of overcrowding. This would further strain an already burdened public education system and compromise the individualized attention our children currently receive.</p> <p>I kindly urge you to consider the broader implications of this proposed legislation on families, communities, and the educational system as a whole. I believe that a collaborative and inclusive approach to policymaking is essential to address these concerns and ensure the continued well-being of our children and the communities they belong to.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope my concerns will be taken into serious consideration during the decision-making process.</p>	
278-613	Luke Kelsey	<p>I am writing to you as I have been following keenly the news around the draft report that has been submitted to the Productivity Commission. I have read the report with great interest.</p> <p>My view is that there are some recommendations that are positive, however I am very concerned about the push to scrap the deductible gift recipient status for non-Government Schools as well as Childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>My wife and I are sending our children to an independent school that is benefiting from DGR status. This is a choice we have made to provide a better education for our children. My main concern is that we would be forced to send our children back to the public system (which is already</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>overcrowded) due to school fees being driven up. Private schools would have to make up income from reduced giving due to the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school. Funding pressure would mean schools will also not be able to afford the necessary upkeep and building maintenance required to provide a quality education for our children.</p> <p>The push from the draft report feels to me like an attack on religion, as most private schools are run by churches or religious organisations.</p> <p>I really would appreciate you taking the time to consider our concerns. Many of my friends are worried and I am sure many others in the wider community would be impacted by this also.</p>	
278-614	Brendan Joyce	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my great concern as to the threat to remove DGR status for Independent Schools, of which will affect the education of my children! It would be a major stuff up to say the least if the Government eliminated DGR status for Independent schools; here's why:</p> <p>If they did, what a domino effect it would be starting from the top, a scattering of bones & tiles; Govt incentive axed, facilities decay, teachers' morale erodes (or move on for better environments), students motivation drops to embarrassing public school standards.</p> <p>It's a "No brainer" to keep DGS, the report evaluates incentives – but even look outside the report to proven history of 65 years; businesses and individuals have been incentivised by DGS to donate generously to provide the best performing schools in Australia and produce numerous high achievers for the on-going prosperity of the nation!</p> <p>Being a parent with children at an Independent School now, please pass on my genuine concerns. I do hope the men and women in the Government act wisely and make a responsible decision to reject this specific part of the proposal.</p>	22/02/204
278-615	Karl Davis	<p>Having read the Draft Report I appreciate the effort that has gone into the work. But I feel compelled to submit that the Commission has taken a somewhat narrow approach to how donations to School Building Funds are used particularly within the low-fee non-government school sector.</p> <p><i>Box 6.1 The rationale for school building funds accessing DGR status is weak</i> appears to consider the use of donations collected through school building funds for capital projects only. The illustration of collision with Government funding arrangements is the well-known Block Grants program – a program that is only available for capital projects as is rightly noted.</p> <p>Experience with over a dozen low-fee non-government schools in the last two decades suggests that the most common use of donations to school building funds is for the maintenance and repair of existing facilities. True it is that capital projects are the eye-catching and headline grabbing episodes of a School Building Fund. But in a much more low-key way school building fund donations more commonly form a core supplemental source of funding for maintaining the built form</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>of the education environment in those schools with limited discretionary funding beyond their government entitlements.</p> <p>I don't have experience in how Government schools make use of school building funds. But considering their prevalence (about 1,250 exist) and their prominence in voluntary contribution requests for at least some NSW Government schools it would appear that government schools utilising government capital project funding and resources still find the additional funds from a well-promoted school building fund to be vital to their operations.</p> <p>One of the integrity risks identified is the potential provision of a private benefit (reduced school fees) in exchange for the donation to the DGR fund. I acknowledge that this is a possibility, and indeed the practice of including voluntary donation amounts on fee invoices does happen as the Commission records. But when one considers that well-resourced Australian education institutions (of all and any flavour or persuasion) generate significant uncompensated public benefits (an educated populace that can engage with democratic government and institutions and including persons qualified to be entrusted with reviews of this gravity) notwithstanding that some parents or caregivers may also enjoy private benefits then surely the balance falls in favour of ensuring those institutions have the tools to encourage their resourcing.</p> <p>Whilst there will be cases where giving to schools for building construction and maintenance will continue regardless of the tax advantages, in the low-fee non-government school withdrawal of DGR status for school building funds will likely see a significant decline in giving that is not likely to be re-directed to other charities in full.</p> <p>Maintaining the DGR status of school building funds has more public benefits than it has private benefit detractions.</p>	
278-616	Richard Hornsey	<p>I am writing in regards to the draft report which I have reviewed with interest. The report covers some findings and recommendations that I feel are sound however I am deeply concerned as the recommendations for the deductible gift recipient status to be removed for non-government education, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>As a self-employed parent I am very worried about how this will affect our child's education. Our child attends an independent school which benefits from DGR status. Australia is currently in the midst of an unprecedented cost of living crisis and by removing the DGR status from independent schools this will force school fees to rise thereby increasing pressure on not just our household but thousands of others in Australia. Shouldn't the government be focussed on working to assist struggling families instead of increasing the pressure?</p> <p>If school fees rise then we will be forced to send our child back into the public schooling system, a system that is already struggling and under pressure.</p>	22/02/2024

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		I strongly urge you to consider my concerns and the recommendations in your report. Remember that the children of today are the leaders of this country tomorrow. We want them to have the best opportunity in life.	
278-617	Stephen Pedersen	<p>My kids go to an is dependent school that benifits from the DGR program.</p> <p>SO With interest rates rising and the cost of living, food and just general week to week living going up, I can see this putting a lot more financial pressure on my household that we would not be able to handle.</p> <p>With the DGR been taken away this will only drive up my children’s school fees</p>	22/02/204
278-618	Geoff Sargeant	<p>As a concerned member of the Australian community, I am writing to express my alarm at the worrying nature of some components in this draft report.</p> <p>Of particular concern is the suggestion of scrapping the DGR status for aged care, religious bodies, private schools, childcare, etc.</p> <p>My wife and I have quite a few grandchildren who attend schools and preschools that survive due to the support of their DGR status. We fear their future will be damaged if these recommendations are proceeded with.</p> <p>And has the government considered the extra expense and the need of more public schools being built and staffed, should private schooling systems fail? This will put extra pressure on every taxpayer, and be unacceptable in the current scenario of near-uncontrolled escalation of living costs.</p> <p>Please heed our warnings. Academic potential and the future of our nation is at stake!</p>	22/02/204
278-619	Terry McWhirter	<p>I am writing as a very concerned parent about the ‘ Future Foundations for Giving ‘ draft report.</p> <p>The changes that have been proposed are devastating. I am a donor to the Private School that my children attend and this is to support and encourage education for many students that attend this school. The donations I give is so the school can undertake urgently required building extensions and upgrade works which is required and will only improve the outcomes and quality of education received by the students.</p> <p>Why are we trying to crush these young people’s worlds and impacting their academic potential by the changes proposed. The Government need to focus on promoting the educational experience for all students in Public and Private Schools across our nation.</p> <p>Please don’t hesitate to contact me.</p>	22/02/204
278-620	Clinton Weeks	I raise serious concerns about the draft report recommendations for DGR status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.	22/02/204

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		<p>This will have the ill-intended consequence of reducing philanthropic giving to these organisations. Such negative changes have the potential to devastate all non-government schools, as well as businesses and local economies surrounding these schools. Building improvement works will likely be cancelled, impacting small family business in the area. Ultimately it will cause many more students to land in public schooling bloating the already overcrowded state owned education systems.</p> <p>This draft report set out by the Philanthropy inquiry commissioned by the Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers is an attack on free-hearted liberality and an attack on religion; independent schools in Australia the main are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>Please take notice of the concerns raised and ensure that recommendations pitted against the societal pillars of religion and education in this report are withdrawn.</p>	
278-621	Gavin Pridham	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Productivity Commission's Philanthropy Inquiry.</p> <p>As a parent of young children, I have a profound interest in this report.</p> <p>I feel there is some positive points in the report, however I am worried about the recommendations for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my children are enrolled to attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>As a small business owner, I regularly donate to various charities, from disadvantaged youth charities to disaster relief and those suffering from ill health or disease. I believe every charity has a vision to make a difference for the good of mankind. I also understand how valuable every contribution is, however small the gift, to however small the organisation. To make changes to the deductible gift recipient status, this would greatly reduce, if not stop my giving to charity totally.</p> <p>I believe education charities should rate among the most important charities, as providers of a high standard of the education of our children – enhancing the potential of our communities.</p> <p>I feel also this could potentially be a hidden attack on religion or faith as most private schools are provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>As a young community household, already under pressure due to the cost-of-living crisis, I fear that if the Government legislates this recommendation, school fees are bound to be driven up further, forcing us to send our children to our local public school which is overcrowded and lacks staff.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This will also be detrimental to their academic potential and their ability to learn in a suitable environment and as a result, eventually degrade our society overall.</p> <p>Please take my concerns seriously, for the good of all Australian families.</p>	
278-622	Michael Craddock	<p>Having reviewed the draft report, I am writing to express my great concern regarding some of the proposed recommendations for adverse changes to charitable status for many established public beneficial institutions. As a Christian and grandparent of students who attend an independent school, the prospect of the removal of the existing deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations is very disturbing.</p> <p>My concern is if the Government adopt this recommendation, it will devastate non-government schools which have enjoyed DGR support since 1954. DGR support has encouraged donations for building infrastructure in schools and is aimed at supporting the education of future generations. The impact on school fees will result in large increase due to schools needing to increase their income from fees to make up for the reduced giving from businesses or individuals because of the lack of tax benefit for these entities or individuals.</p> <p>This proposal appears to be a direct assault on religion (an attempt to diminish its fundamental value) as the majority of private or independent education is currently provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>I would urge you to consider my concerns and am convinced the Productivity Commission's recommendations need to be re-examined due to the destructive impact it would have on the oncoming generations and the effect on Australia's future.</p>	22/02/204
278-623	Glen Chippindale	<p>As a father of four school aged children, I have been following the above mentioned draft report with interest. With this research I am becoming quite alarmed at the idea of the deductible gift recipient status to be removed for non-government schools and including other areas like childcare and aged care.</p> <p>We made a decision many years ago to send our children to an independent school which greatly benefits their learning through smaller classes, individualized attention and better discipline. This school also greatly benefits from the DGR status, so to take away this further funding it would drive up fees and expenses to a point that would highly likely be unobtainable to most parents and families who are already suffering with the current cost of living pressures. We as parents can't even entertain the thought of taking our children from this schooling and being made to send them to the already overpopulated public schooling system. (Which will only be made so much worse if this funding from our independent schools is taken away!)</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>So as a very concerned father, I ask you to consider the life changing effects of this draft would have. The tiny amount they will save scrapping tax-deductible donations to these organisations funds will in no way cover the huge costs of children and even elderly people moving out of faith based independent organisations into the public system. Also, the huge drop in support of local business and trade services that these schools support through upgrades and building works.</p> <p>I also feel this is a personal attack on religion as a bulk of independent schools and childcare/aged care facilities are provided by religious groups.</p>	
278-624	Andrew Horsfall	<p>I have read the Productivity Commission 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report with considerable alarm regarding the reduction of charitable status of independent schools, childcare & aged care organisations.</p> <p>I am writing as a parent of four children who have been through both the public school system (K-6) & faith-based independent schools (years 7-12), and as a grandparent of school children in the very near future.</p> <p>The immediate concern would be the significant increase in school fees given the current cost of living crisis. Surely the government can fund independent schools to the same degree it funds public schools?</p> <p>This seems very much like a targeted attack on religious / Judeo-Christian organisations.</p> <p>For the government to then propose tax deductible status to 'Diversity groups' such as animal activists, human rights, environment & LGBTQ groups is astonishing.</p> <p>I note that faith-based schools make up approx 35% of total student population whilst the above 'Diversity groups' comprise a very small fraction of that percentage. The current federal government like to virtue signal 'Diversity, Equity & Inclusion' but this proposal is toxic & divisive.</p> <p>Our family has experienced both public & independent schooling and choose faith-based independent schooling due to its increased discipline & life skills which produce career-ready individuals who integrate more quickly into the workforce as well as give proven superior academic results.</p> <p>I even have many non-religious clients who choose faith-based independent schools for the above same reasons.</p> <p>I am also concerned that reduction of DGR status will stifle infrastructure upgrades to independent organisations which provide considerable industry to local businesses.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>If this proposal was to be adopted, it would devastate independent schools which would then completely overcrowd & overwhelm the public school system & dramatically reduce teaching / learning outcomes.</p> <p>As a concerned parent / grandparent, I urge the government to immediately scrap these radical proposals.</p>	
278-625	D Proctor	<p>I have seen the draft report which I feel is concerning. I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient to be removed.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>We are under extreme pressure with cost of living and school fees would only increase.</p> <p>I'm worried if the Government run with this idea, we will be forced to send our children to our overloaded local public school which will impact their learning and hinder their academic potential.</p>	22/02/204
278-626	Jason Hitch	<p>I have read the draft report on Future foundations for giving, and 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 of particular concern to me as two of my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>I worry that school fees will be increased 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>We come from a small country town in WA and I have a six year old going to the local public school where his teachers have been changed four times in the 2023 year severely impacting his learning.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopt this recommendation, we will be forced to send our other two children to this same local public school which will impact their learning experience and stifle their growth.</p> <p>We ask you to please consider these concerns of so many that will be affected by this ruling</p>	22/02/204
278-627	Roy Richardson	<p>I write with concern as to the impact and consequences to the public that will result from the axing of the deductible gift recipient status for Non-Government organisations, especially schools.</p> <p>My children attend a private school and I am concerned that dropping the deductible gift recipient status will result in income loss due to reduced giving that's currently driven by the tax incentive/ benefit, forcing the already high schooling fees higher. Further to the potential fee increase I fear the standard will drop if the school drop back on facility improvement and or renewal.</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>I beg the Government not to take up this recommendation. We are already hurting in the current high cost living environment and I fear many families could be naïvely caught out and affected and many other institutions other than education.</p>	
278-628	Murray Davis	<p>I have been deeply disturbed regarding the article written by Nicolle Flint on the 20th of December 2023 at 6 am as to quote the 'radical' productivity commission proposal to rip support from faith-based schools, diversify tax-deductibility rules to benefit...etc, and after further research was astounded to think the Current Government would be so short-sighted in considering such a proposal. https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/philanthropy/draft</p> <p>As a parent of a young Australian family with Aboriginal ancestry. We have 5 Children. With Children still at school and children that have graduated. We currently utilize both State-run schools and Private schools. The reason for this combination is to achieve the best results for the child during their education journey.</p> <p>At various stages, the child's learning develops under different environments. We find in the junior years the children do best in a full-class environment. Our current public system provides this, although there is room for some improvement, we don't promote the fact since it is provided to us free.</p> <p>In the later years of their education, we have found at Private Schools the facilities have increased the learning intensity enabling the children to exceed their results in core topics achieving as high as band 6 percentiles. There is no doubt the result of DGR status for school buildings at Private Schools provides access to much-needed funds resulting in conducive learning environments to enhance an intuitive desire to interact, create, and discover new ideas. The creation and development of learning areas in the classroom has given our children an opportunity to interact, shape their activities, remodel their plays, and explore their knowledge.</p> <p>This you must agree is producing the type of Children Australia needs to continue to propel this great nation forward.</p> <p>Reducing or eliminating access to deductible gift recipient status for Private Schools will have a significant impact on their ability to provide the assets that enables great minds to be created in the coming generations. Australia will pay for such short-sightedness.</p>	22/02/204
278-629	James Pringle	<p>On reading the draft report I found some good findings we are concerned about!</p> <p>If and only if the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status is to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations are of particular concern to me as my children and grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status.</p> <p>Currently we are experiencing a huge increase in living costs we have never seen before.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>My immediate concern is if the Government goes forward with this recommendation, prolyl we will be obliged to send our children to a local public school (more costs involved for the govt) which will slow learning skills and affect academic potential. Please look at these concerns, I am sure our we are not the only ones!!!!</p>	
278-630	Doug Elford	<p>Having read through the draft report, we are now very concerned parents about the recommendation of the DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status, to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of great concern to us, as we have still a child attending an independent school that benefits from DGR status. This will invariably mean a major increase in our school fees, driven by lack of tax benefits for able and willing businesses and individuals. This all comes at a time when we are already experiencing increased cost of living pressures, like never before.</p> <p>To add to this, if we are forced to take our children from the current school and place them into the public system, which we understand is already overloaded. This would also have a major effect on their individual learning potential.</p> <p>We would like our concerns to be addressed, as we are positive that there would be many parents that would find themselves in the same circumstances.</p>	22/02/204
278-631	Leonard Proctor	<p>It cannot be contradicted that “A benefit given to any child is a benefit given to society”. We have read the abovementioned draft report with great interest. As concerned parents of 5 children who were given an opportunity to be schooled at both public and faith-based schools - could we humbly request that the oncoming generations of the Australian youth are given the same opportunities as those of our own generation.</p> <p>Some of the DGR status recommendations contained in the report focus specifically on non-government schools and associated organizations. This is of particular concern to us now as grandparents as it would mean that the future viability of non-government schools would be in question were these recommendations adopted.</p> <p>Adding to this concern is the current news reports on public primary and secondary schools being overcrowded, understaffed and teachers faced with the fact that students are not being educated properly due to these limitations. It would be unthinkable that we would exacerbate these issues in the public school system with increased enrolments. This would be caused by those forced to leave private schooling system due to the increase of fees amidst the cost-of-living crisis that we are experiencing currently.</p> <p>We thank you in anticipation of your favorable understanding of our concerns.</p>	22/02/204
278-632	Lester Bradnick	<p>I've delved into the draft report and found it to be an intriguing read. While it presents some interesting findings and recommendations, my unease centres around the suggestion to scrap</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>This issue hits close to home as my children are soon to be enrolled in an independent school heavily reliant on DGR status for financial support. With the escalating cost of living, I am apprehensive that the elimination of this status might prompt the school to raise fees to compensate for reduced contributions, as the tax benefits for potential donors would be eliminated.</p> <p>My foremost concern is that if the government embraces this recommendation, it might compel our family to consider relocating our children to the already congested local public school. Such a move could detrimentally impact their learning experience and curtail their academic potential.</p> <p>I pray that you to take these concerns to heart, recognizing that our family may not be the sole entity grappling with the implications of this potential change.</p>	
278-633	Tony Deayton	<p>I hope this message finds you well. I recently had the opportunity to review the draft report from the Productivity Commission titled 'Future Foundations for Giving.', I am writing to express my apprehension regarding the suggested removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>This matter is particularly troubling for me as my grandchildren currently attend an independent school that benefits significantly from its DGR status. At a time when the cost of living is putting unprecedented pressure on families, I am concerned that the removal of DGR status could lead to an increase in school fees. This potential rise in fees would likely be a result of the anticipated reduction in donations, given the absence of tax benefits for businesses or individuals contributing to the school.</p> <p>My primary worry is that if the government adopts this recommendation, my family and others may be compelled to send our children to local public schools, which are already facing issues of overcrowding. Such a shift could negatively impact their overall learning experience and potentially hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to consider these concerns as you navigate through the discussions surrounding the draft report. It is my sincere hope that our family's situation is not unique, and that you take into account the potential wider impact on families facing similar dilemmas.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	22/02/204
278-634	Justin & Jacqui Morley	<p>We have read the draft report with interest. There seems to be some relevant findings and recommendations, however we are 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>	22/02/204

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		<p>This is of particular concern to us as our children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure like never felt before, & as a small struggling business owner, we fear that the 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>This a huge consideration for us if the Government adopts this recommendation, as we will be forced to send our children to our overcrowded local public schools which will negatively impact the schools capacity, their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, as I'm sure our family won't be the only one severely negatively impacted.</p>	
278-635	Retracted		
278-636	David Morley	<p>Whilst the productivity commission no doubt has good intentions, aspects relating to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status concern me deeply. To withdraw government funding for private schools and religious organisations will have a detrimental effect and expected savings may well be increased costs to the government.</p> <p>Private schools run a tight ship and promote fund raising but fees are still a serious expense for middle income earners. Without government assistance fees will go up and many households will be forced to put their children back into the overcrowded public system.</p> <p>My grandchildren attend private schools and are committed to achieving academic success. Their school is providing an excellent learning environment and buildings and infrastructure are regularly upgraded. This not only benefits the children but saves the government money. Without government funding these programs will be in jeopardy.</p> <p>I am a self funded retiree and donate my time and resource to their school but need the tax breaks. Withdrawing funding or DGR status is an attack on religion and may well come back to bite the government.</p> <p>Please address my concerns as many families will be affected.</p>	22/02/204
278-637	Colin Pascoe	<p>I am writing to you in regard of the deductible gift recipient (DGR) currently provided by the Government.</p> <p>I find it alarming that there would be a suggestion to limit or stop the DGR for schools and/or religion.</p> <p>The donation to schools for our grandchildren must be recognised as a help to both the furtherance of our grandchildren's education and help by off-setting Government expense.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>The cost of living is impacting heavily on the children ultimately, and therefore we need every support for our schools to have a quality education provided for the children.</p> <p>The pressure would be heavy on the public school system if a lot of private school students were forced to go back to the public system.</p>	
278-638	Rachel Crisp	<p>I have read the draft report and feel I must voice my concerns regarding the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, child care, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I went to public schools. I was spat on and mocked for my religious beliefs, to the point that my parents pulled me out of that school after Year 10, and instead of doing normal curriculum for Years 11 and 12, I did some TAFE courses, then obtained clerical employment at age 17. I will always regret not getting a TEE score.</p> <p>For my own children, I did not want them to experience what I had been through. They have received an excellent education (including ATAR) at a private school with other like-minded students. They have not had to endure the ridicule from being a different religion from other students at a public school. We are not wealthy by any means; the only way we have been able to afford the school fees is because of generous individuals and businesses donating to the school.</p> <p>If the government is to adopt this recommendation, our school fees would likely rise significantly and already we are feeling the cost of living crisis. I would be forced to send my children to a public school and I believe this would be of significant detriment to their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns; I am sure there are many others with their own stories and similar misgivings. It seems to be an attack on religion, as most independent education and aged care would be provided by religious groups – do Australians truly have ‘freedom of religion’ any more?</p>	22/02/2024
278-639	Ben Truswell	<p>I write to you as a concerned parent of 2 young children. I have a 7 year old son and a 5 year old son and I have a prime focus to ensure they have a good education, so they have a successful future. I am determined to enrol my children in private schools so they get the best education possible.</p> <p>The changes that your government is planning, will cause a decline in not only my children’s education, but also to more than 1,400,000 Australian children enrolled in private school. In 2022, more than 35% of children enrolled in schools were attending private schools. Private schools will see a reduction in private donations which will cause a decline in their facilities and learning environment. Good facilities attract good teachers and also provide a better atmosphere for learning. With your actions, private schools will reduce in numbers and already overpopulated public schools will get even more crowded.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Finally, with the current cost of living pressures, these changes you are planning to make, will cause school fees to increase. This increase will result in more financial pain for us. We are currently in a time where the cost of living pressure is extremely high. Why make it worse for the Australian people?</p> <p>Please do what is in the best interest of the Australian people you serve and withdraw this enquiry you are making.</p>	
278-640	James Goodsell	<p>I hope this finds you well. As a concerned parent of a 2-year-old with another on the way, I express deep concerns about the Productivity Commission's recommendations impacting the private school I intend to send my kids to—a school I also attended.</p> <p>The proposal to remove deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government schools and religious organisations raises concerns about increased school fees. This could strain families as schools seek to compensate for reduced giving due to the removal of tax benefits.</p> <p>I also fear the repercussions for the school's ability to undertake essential building works, affecting both my children's learning environment and local family businesses.</p> <p>This potential decline in financial support not only jeopardises the educational experience for my children but comes at a time when households face unprecedented cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Moreover, the changes seem detrimental to religious organisations providing private education, which could force families into overcrowded public schools, impacting both choices and public resources.</p> <p>I want to emphasise that these alterations feel like an attack on religion, given that the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious institutions. This aspect adds another layer of concern about the potential erosion of values that have been part of Australian culture for generations.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the real-world implications on families, businesses, and religious institutions. The potential ripple effect on education and communities is of deep concern.</p>	22/02/204
278-641	Trevor Alderton	<p>I fully support the Government's initiatives to encourage philanthropy, however, I am deeply concerned about the Commission's view and recommendations to remove DGR status from primary and secondary education institutions including school building funds as this will have the reverse effect and will discourage donations.</p> <p>My children attend a nearby independent school, and without the assistance of donations from the local community, I would not be able to afford to fund their private education. I would have no option but to send them to the local public high school which would be detrimental to their learning and would add pressure to the already stretched public education system. If there was a mass exodus from independent schools due to the increased costs of enrolment combined with the current increased</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>cost of living pressures, would the Government have the funds and capacity to absorb them into the public system?</p> <p>A school cannot operate without the necessary infrastructure and buildings. Removing DGR status from school building funds will result in there being a lack of funds to invest in the maintenance and expansion of schools. Investing in education is investing in our future and is for the good of all. Local businesses are encouraged to donate to school building funds as a community support initiative, regardless of whether they are directly involved in the school or not. As a small business owner, I am committed to continuing annual donations to schools in the future and beyond when my last child graduates in 2025. Without DGR status, my capacity to give will have to be reviewed and reduced.</p> <p>It is no secret that most of our nation's leaders were well-educated in independent schools. It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure that the Government continues to support them, we owe it to the future generations.</p>	
278-642	Adrian M Seeley	<p>I write as a concerned grandfather who has a number of our grandchildren that attend a very good quality private school that benefits from DGR status as mentioned in the draft report.</p> <p>I applaud the things in the draft report that are in the general benefit of all, but I strongly object to 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>With the cost of living pressures escalating and other economical and family pressures, the inevitable rise in school fees would be unsustainable. Local businesses are currently able to donate generously due to the tax benefit, but in the event of this getting into legislation, it would severely restrict what these businesses would gift.</p> <p>I could not entertain the thought of these grandchildren having to be put into the scrum of overcrowded public schools as they would fall seriously behind.</p> <p>We ask that this be taken into careful consideration, and all aspects are sensibly and responsibly evaluated before anything firm is arrived at.</p>	22/02/204
278-643	Kenneth Craddock	<p>As a concerned parent, I have felt compelled to make a submission to the Productivity Commission following significant personal concerns as to the impact of the recommendations in the draft report for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations. While I understand there may have been some good findings and recommendation, and quite likely some very good intentions in setting on this review, I firmly believe the results of these actions could have some very damaging consequences for the community.</p> <p>My children have attended/do attend an independent school at considerable expense, which at a time when cost-of-living pressures have become so front and centre, would very likely cause me</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>financial hardship to the point of having to take them out and enrol them in a public school. This would likely create considerable expenses and overcrowding to the public school system. Surely many thousands of households are currently in the same situation as us?</p> <p>If the DGR status of our independent school was revoked, it would be reasonable to expect a rise in school fees, and a substantial discourage for individuals and businesses to donate generously to the school as they have done up until now, with the removal of any tax benefits. This would also likely mean a reduced learning experience and flow-on effect to quality of the campus facilities.</p> <p>Please can you consider my plea to reconsider any changes to the DGR as outlined in the draft report, as myself and many other concerned parents are very worried about the resulting impact on the quality of education for our children and the provisions for religious organizations. These are pillars of our society which contribute a huge social impact and should not be dismantled in any shape or form in my opinion.</p>	
278-644	Cameron Salter	<p>I am writing to express my apprehensions after reviewing the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report from the Productivity Commission, particularly concerning the proposed adjustments to deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-governmental entities.</p> <p>This concern holds personal significance as my children are currently enrolled in an independent school benefiting from DGR status. The potential escalation of school fees due to the removal of tax incentives for donors poses a significant worry, especially considering the current increase in the cost of living. This scenario could lead to reduced philanthropic support and compel educational institutions to offset the resulting deficit through fee increments.</p> <p>While I acknowledge the positive findings and recommendations in the report, the proposal to eliminate DGR status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations warrants careful consideration. Of particular concern is the conceivable shift towards local public schools, exacerbated by existing issues of overcrowding. Such a transition could potentially compromise the quality of education and impede the academic progress of my children.</p> <p>I humbly urge you to consider these concerns, recognizing that the implications of these proposed changes extend beyond my family, resonating with others who would share similar apprehensions.</p>	22/02/204
278-645	Garry Grace	<p>I wanted to write to you as I'm worried about the deductible gift status recommendation in the Productivity Commission's Future Foundations for Giving draft report.</p> <p>This proposed change is coming at a time when we are already experiencing an increased financial burden with increasing costs in most areas of living.</p> <p>As this change would remove any tax benefit from entities who we rely on to provide gifts to the school my children attend, the school would be forced to seek funding from us as parents as well as reduce the quality of the education they have been providing. It is clear that this will lead to an</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>increased load on government schools due to affordability and, in the long term, an increased reliance on government-provided assistance.</p> <p>In a time when, as a society, we are learning to offer choice and freedom, this is removing the very choice businesses and people make who choose to support charity. It is very obvious that the young and the aged are cared for by Christian groups, and what is proposed is anti that very cause.</p> <p>I would strongly compel you to consider this element of the proposed draft and make amendments to correct this aspect. After all, it is philanthropy and charity that has supported the very foundations of education and aged care organisations that have taken the pressure off the already taxed government systems.</p>	
278-646	Daniel Shirtliff	<p>I am writing as a concerned member of the public and parent regarding the recommendations for DGR status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations. My eldest son has learning difficulties and is currently attending a public school and we have found the learning support and care totally inadequate due to overcrowding. We have enrolled him in an independent school for 2025 with the hope to further his learning capabilities and achieve his potential. My concern is that scrapping the DGR status will drive independent school fees up and take away the choice for many parents to send their children to a non-government school. This would have to put additional pressure back on already overcrowded public schools. In a time where cost of living pressures are at an all time high I believe this would impact many families in my area.</p>	22/02/204
278-647	Terry Buckland	<p>I have reviewed the draft report noted above and I must say I am quite shocked at the short sightedness of our current government. Although I couldn't say that is all folly, the recommendation to scrap the Deductible Gift Recipient status for institutions such as nongovernment schools just does not make sense.</p> <p>I send my children to an independent school and I am thankful for provision of the DGR status which allows families like mine to do so. The current pressure on household budgets would make it difficult to do so if the tax benefit for businesses, and also individuals, was removed. As I see it, this is simply putting the cost burden back onto the government because students will be forced back into the public schools. I never realised that 35% (1.4 million) of the student population is impacted by this.</p> <p>I don't see how the public system could possibly have the resource to handle this influx. I foresee that students quality of education will be negatively impacted if the government implements the recommendations and unfortunately we don't get a second chance at this. Schooling of our children is critical, we as parents want them to have the best opportunity possible.</p> <p>As I understand it the DGR status allows the schools to constantly be upgrading their facilities resulting in a quality learning environment for the students.</p>	22/02/204

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		I trust there are many other parents that have read the article and voice their concerns so that this long standing policy is not torn down.	
278-648	Neil Paynter	<p>Having read the draft report relating to the abovementioned commission, I felt compelled to write to voice my concerns. 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>We have a young family with two girls that attend an independent school which benefits from DGR status. My wife and I both work incredibly hard to give our children a quality education and a safe environment in which to live and play. To that end, we are running a very tight budget with working toward making changes in our home to support my daughter who has severe anxiety concerns. 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 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. As mentioned above, our daughter suffers from a chronic anxiety disorder and this change would set her back significantly.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-649	Toby Dunlop	<p>It was with some concern that I read the recently published draft report 'Future foundations for giving' prepared by the Productivity commission. As young parents my wife and I are particularly concerned by the recommendations of the commission to scrap the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government childcare, primary schools and secondary schools.</p> <p>As is the case in many areas, the local public schools are overcrowded and children are given less opportunity with 1:1 interaction with talented teaching staff. As such we plan to put our children through the private school system.</p> <p>This is a large investment that we are dedicated to providing our children in order to give them the best possible opportunity to be successful in their future endeavours and make a valuable contribution to the wider community.</p> <p>Our concern is centred around the direct impact that the removal of the DGR status will have on both the cost of this education, and inevitably the quality of the facilities. With rising interest rates, the cost of living is higher than ever, and the removal of the DGR status will only contribute to drive school fees up even further as the school's are impacted by what will inevitably be significantly reduced giving. Furthermore, schools will have no option but to curtail their capital investment in facilities and teaching resources.</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>In summary, we are deeply concerned that should the Government chose to adopt the recommendations presented by the commission, that it will only serve to prevent investment in the critical area of education and make the expense of education, that is currently already a daunting prospect for many young families, almost untenable.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns, for the benefit of the future generation - the ones that will continue to build this great country that we call home.</p>	
278-650	Terry Arkcoll	<p>I am writing to the Federal Labor Government/Productivity Commission to voice my concerns as a parent of a student who is attending a private school for their education.</p> <p>After viewing a report made by Nicole Flint on the radical plans of the Productivity Commission, I raise a few alarming points that will affect thousands of highly talented students in private schools both in primary and secondary schools and their hard working parents that are keenly interested in their children's education.</p> <p>Firstly, I feel it's a direct attack the private school sector both on religion based schools and independent private schools, an attack that will hinder the develop of the schools progress and advancement.</p> <p>With the recommendations of the Productivity Commission, I believe parents and students of private schools will be impacted in the following ways</p> <p>School fees will need to be increased substantially to make up the lost income that the school would normally receive from businesses or individuals eg grand parents. This in turn puts more pressure on the household budget and the cost of living would increase further and further.</p> <p>When it comes to the school itself, buildings and structures that make up the school, any reduced giving from businesses or individuals will stop any upgrading of facilities or extending the school, further impacting the quality of learning of the students and any local family businesses that would normally benefit from capital works done on the school buildings.</p> <p>Now lets look at the way the quality of education that will be impacted by the recommendations of the Productivity Commission, with the reduced flow of funding coming from businesses and individuals and the tax benefits that would normally be granted to the businesses and individuals are wound back...what happens to an economy of a country when its revenue is in decline and choked off...decline sets in straight away, any treasurer who is half smart will be able to tell you that, well I feel the same would happen to the quality of education provided by private religious based schools and independent schools, this will have a direct impact on the learning experience of our bright talented students...the future leaders of Australia.</p> <p>My recommendations is to not scrap the DGR status of businesses and individuals that support the education of thousands of students.</p>	22/02/204

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278-651	Anthony Pridham	<p>I trust this letter finds you in good health. As a 39-year-old parent residing in Bowral, NSW, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential elimination of tax-deductible giving status from faith-based schools in Australia, as outlined in the November 2023 draft report titled "Future Foundations for Giving."</p> <p>The principle of giving stands as the very heart of our nation, constituting the bedrock upon which our society thrives. In essence, it is a reflection of our collective commitment to fostering social equity and communal well-being. The act of giving, particularly through charitable contributions to faith-based schools, exemplifies a shared dedication to nurturing a harmonious and values-driven community.</p> <p>As a nation, our strength lies not only in economic prosperity but in the spirit of generosity that permeates our social fabric. The provision of tax-deductible giving status to faith-based schools is more than a financial consideration; it is a recognition of the pivotal role these institutions play in instilling core values and principles in the next generation. By supporting such schools, we actively contribute to the cultivation of individuals who are not only academically proficient but also grounded in a moral compass that guides them toward responsible citizenship.</p> <p>Moreover, the principle of giving bolsters the foundation of social equity, ensuring that educational opportunities are not confined to a select few. Allowing tax-deductible giving for faith-based schools is a testament to our commitment to equal access to quality education, irrespective of religious affiliations. It reflects a belief in inclusivity, recognizing that a diverse educational landscape contributes to a richer and more tolerant society.</p> <p>In contemplating the potential removal of tax-deductible giving status for faith-based schools, we risk undermining the very essence of our national identity—one that cherishes the ideals of generosity, compassion, and a commitment to the common good. It is imperative that we preserve and uphold the principle of giving, as it serves as the cornerstone of our nation's prosperity and social harmony. In doing so, we affirm our dedication to a future where educational opportunities are accessible to all, fostering a society built on the enduring values that have shaped our nation for generations.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these crucial aspects as you evaluate the implications of the proposed changes.</p>	22/02/204
278-652	Joe Archer	<p>As a concerned parent, I am writing to express my apprehensions regarding the potential adoption of the Future Foundations for Giving report recommendations.</p> <p>Upon reviewing the report, I am particularly worried about the suggested removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entities, including educational institutions, childcare facilities, aged care organizations, and religious institutions.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>This proposal holds significant implications for my family, as my children attend an independent school that greatly benefits from its DGR status. With the current economic challenges and rising living costs, I fear that eliminating tax incentives for charitable donations may adversely impact the school's financial stability. This, in turn, could lead to increased school fees, placing an additional burden on families like mine.</p> <p>I am also concerned that reduced giving may hinder independent schools from undertaking necessary building renovations, extensions, and upgrade works. Such projects not only contribute to the improvement of educational facilities but also support many small businesses involved in construction and related services.</p> <p>Furthermore, I feel compelled to highlight the potential impact on religious organizations, as the majority of private and independent education is provided by these institutions. They feel these changes are an attack on religious entities that play a significant role in the education sector.</p> <p>The prospect of having to send our children to an already overcrowded local public school, should this recommendation be adopted, raises concerns about the potential impact on their educational experience and academic progress.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the broader implications for families and communities that rely on the support provided through DGR status. Your attention to these concerns is crucial in ensuring the well-being and educational future of our children.</p> <p>I trust you will consider my concerns as I am sure our family will not be the only one impacted by this proposed change.</p>	
278-653	Laurier Selby	<p>I am writing to you to express my concerns relating to the recent Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school and I see that the deductible gift recipient status it has is suggested to be removed.</p> <p>I am concerned that this will reduce the available funds to these schools pushing the fees even higher. This comes at a time when cost of living has been increasing and I am afraid that my wife and I will lose the freedom to choose our children's education should the fees increase and consequently have to send our children to a public school. I am sure there would be many other families in the same situation.</p> <p>Please consider our appeal to stand against this suggestion</p>	22/02/204
278-654	Lionel Urquhart	I would like to write in response to the draft report mentioned, as a concerned Australian Citizen.	22/02/204

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		<p>I am a wage-earner working and living in suburban Australia - living with my wife and 2 x young children, with a mortgage on our house and a family car. Needless to say, cost of living and getting ahead weighs heavy on our minds, and saving and paying off debt is getting more difficult.</p> <p>I have perused through the draft report with interest, but also some heightened concern. Whilst there are some good findings and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status changes. This is of particular worry to our household personally, as our children attend an independent school that benefits from such DGR status. For this report to recommend this at such a time, I fear that school fees would rise exponentially to make up the lost school institutional income from reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefit for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school.</p> <p>More broadly, the recommendations in the draft for this to be scrapped for non-government aged care, education, childcare, and other religious and non-government charity organisations simply does not make economical or practical sense in a time when the overall economy and personal cost-of-living pressures are under a lot of pressure and are extremely fragile.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government act on such recommendations, our local community non-government schools, community and religious-backed charitable organisations (who are all under pressure financially already, without adding this type of radical change) would be negatively set back into multi-generational economic strain that would simply be too great for a lot of them to handle. I stress this in the strongest possible terms that it would also add huge financial impact to all levels of government institutions involved in everyday education, aged care, childcare, etc. These institutions would very quickly need to take up the slack when they are already at capacity. For instance, all the surrounding public (Govt) schools in our local area are already at a stretch for numbers, and budgets are not getting any easier for them either. Our children would suffer in their learning experiences, and academic potential in all our children - whether at independent or govt schools, etc - would not receive any benefit from this.</p> <p>I am also concerned that this is an attack on region and the private sector. A lot of independent charities need (for example) tax-deductible giving to their building funds in order to meet the needs of their communities. If the private sector is impacted in such institutions by such proposed changes, then the very fabric of our communities, society and what has made Australia so safe and strong will never be the same again, and our future would be bleaker and weaker, not stronger and safer.</p> <p>Please consider these concerns as real and from the heart. I am a community-connected person and have discussed this with many of my local community and most I have talked to share similar concerns.</p>	
278-655	Cindy Francis	I've reviewed the Productivity Commission's draft report on 'Future Foundations for Giving' with interest. While it contains commendable findings and recommendations, I am worried about the	22/02/204

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		<p>proposed removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>This is particularly concerning for me as my children attend an independent school benefiting from DGR status. In the current challenging economic climate, eliminating this status may force schools to raise fees, impacting families like mine due to reduced donations without tax benefits.</p> <p>I fear that endorsing this recommendation might compel families to enroll their children in overcrowded local public schools, negatively affecting their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>I urge you to consider these concerns, as our family is likely not alone in facing these potential challenges.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>	
278-656	James Shirreff	<p>Upon reviewing the draft report, I appreciate its insightful findings and recommendations. However, I am deeply concerned by the proposed elimination of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government educational and religious institutions.</p> <p>As a parent whose children attend a public school, it has been our steadfast ambition to provide them with the enriched educational environment offered by an independent school, a goal made feasible partly due to the DGR status these institutions currently hold. In an era marked by unprecedented cost-of-living challenges, the removal of DGR status threatens to escalate school fees as institutions strive to compensate for the diminished charitable contributions, previously incentivized by tax benefits.</p> <p>My gravest concern lies in the potential repercussions of this recommendation. Should it materialize, families like mine might have no choice but to rely on overcrowded public schools, a shift that could significantly dilute our children's learning experience and curtail their academic prospects.</p> <p>I implore you to consider the profound impact this change would have, not only on families with similar aspirations but also on the broader societal fabric. The ripple effects of such a policy could be far-reaching and detrimental.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter of great importance.</p>	22/02/204
278-657	Terence Rowe	<p>I've read this draft report, and while there are some good findings in it, I'm very concerned about the recommendations to scrap deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I was most surprised to see such a recommendation in a report that set out to identify opportunities and obstacles to increasing philanthropic giving.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>It alarms me as my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Education is very important.</p> <p>In a time when we're dealing with cost of living pressures like never before, I'm afraid school fees will be driven higher to make up for the lost funding from reduced giving, which is inevitable if there's no tax benefit for businesses or individuals</p> <p>And it does feel like a bit of an 'attack' on religion, because the majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>My worry is if the Government adopts these recommendations, many will be forced to send children to our overcrowded local public school, which will impact their opportunity to achieve their best academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns, I am sure our family won't be the only one adversely affected.</p>	
278-658	Jeremy Clare	<p>I wanted to share my thoughts on the recent draft report from the Productivity Commission titled 'Future foundations for giving'. While I appreciate the findings and recommendations outlined in the report, I am particularly concerned about the suggestion to abolish deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organisations.</p> <p>This issue is quite significant to me as my children are enrolled in an independent school that greatly benefits from DGR status. I worry that if this status is revoked, the school fees would inevitably rise, placing additional financial strain on families already grappling with rising living costs. This, in turn, could result in reduced support from donors, further exacerbating the financial challenges.</p> <p>My fear is that if this recommendation is implemented, it may force families like ours to transfer our children to local public schools, which are already facing overcrowding issues. This transition could potentially hinder the learning experience and academic potential of our children.</p> <p>I am writing to you in the hope that you will consider these concerns, as I am certain that our family is not alone in facing these potential challenges.</p>	22/02/204
278-659	Jeremy & Kat Voss	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to add our contribution to this Commission and your work to investigate this important subject.</p> <p>We believe the generosity of Australians should be encouraged at every level and the we note with some trepidation, the recommendation of this report to curb the deductible gift recipient(DGR) status for non-government schools, childcare, aged care and some religious organisations.</p> <p>As Christians concerned for the welfare of all men, we direct as much of our income as possible to a wide range of charities that support homeless people, the poor and faith-based education.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Our funds, and that of 100's of other Aussies , support the great work of global institutions like The Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul as well as local institutions like our local private school. This was built over 10 years ago, thanks to not only Federal and State funding from sources like the Rudd Government BER, but also in large part due to volunteer labour from local parents and thousands of dollars in tax deductible donations from past students, parents, businesses and grandparents.</p> <p>There is no doubt in our minds that the tax deductible status is a huge incentive to giving. We fear not only a huge reduction in giving to these institutions, but also a reduction in community spirit, civic pride, ownership of our destinies and future of our children. We have seen firsthand how our giving supports trades and local business in our rural community.</p> <p>We feel the recommendation is against not only our religion, but also that of many others , as the majority of independent education is provided by faith based organisations.</p> <p>We urge all involved, to reject out of hand, the notion of limiting tax deductible contributions. Rather expand it to give the citizens of this country the incentives and right to give to causes that best fit their interests, beliefs and goals so long as they are for public benefit.</p>	
278-660	Calvin Fooks	<p>I am writing to you with concerns about the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.</p> <p>I am very much supportive of the need to address productivity however I have read the draft report, and it has made me concerned about the impacts it will have on my children.</p> <p>We are currently experiencing unprecedented cost of living pressures and I am concerned that the recommendations in the draft report will only exacerbate the problem, not reduce it.</p> <p>Most concerning to me is the DGR status. My children attend an independent school which will need to increase fees to compensate for the lost income from a reduction in gifts as a result from the scrapping of tax benefits to individuals and businesses donating to the school.</p> <p>I will almost certainly be forced to send our children to the local public schools which are already overcrowded, negatively impacting their academic potential, and learning experience but also that of the wider community.</p> <p>I would appeal to you to consider my concerns as this not only effects my children and our family, but no doubt there are many others in the same situation as us.</p>	22/02/2024
278-661	Jim Spence	<p>I strongly protest against the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations in this country.</p> <p>As per the proposal, there "are some classes of charitable activities where exclusions are warranted so that taxpayer support is directed to where the net community-wide benefits are expected to be</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>largest". So why then will minority interest charities such as animal activists, environmentalists, LGBTIQ+ groups, human rights organisations and others who "advocate for policy change" be granted the privilege of deductible gift recipient status?</p> <p>Independent schools in this country certainly provide larger net community-wide benefits than some of the above minority groups ever can.</p> <p>My kids do attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. In a time where we are experiencing cost of living pressure like never before, the worry is that school fees would only go up further to make up for the lost income from reduced giving, because individuals and business owners will not be able to give as much due to the removal of the DGR status.</p> <p>Another worry is if the Government adopts these recommendations, some independent schools may have to close, sending our children to our overcrowded local public schools which will impact their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>I would ask that these concerns are taken into account, and that your Government does not stray further down the path of pandering to loud minorities, but will instead recommit to upholding the upright morals that have guided our great country since Federation</p>	
278-662	Malcolm Kennard	<p>We refer to the Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report that we have read.</p> <p>There are some recommendations that are good and useful. However the recommendation to scrap deductible gift status (DGR) for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations is of immense concern to us as grandparents and we are sure that many, if not the majority of Australians would share this concern.</p> <p>Our grandchildren attend by choice an independent school that benefits from DGR status as have many such organisations for decades. This has provided needed infrastructure, upgrades and facility in schools across the country which has benefited the children who are our future, as well as local economies.</p> <p>In the current era of cost of living pressures which has no sign of abating we feel that due to the lack of tax benefit giving will be reduced resulting in a shortfall of funds which can be made up only by increased fees. This in turn will force many to already overcrowded local public schools.</p> <p>Due to the many who would be impacted by these recommendations if adopted please consider our concerns.</p>	22/02/204
278-663	Clifton Martin	<p>As a parent of 3 children, I have read the draft report with concerned interest. The report states that 'Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long-term interest of the Australian community.'</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>However, I am concerned about the recommendations for the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be changed for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations or sectors as outlined in the report. The report also calls for the ending of “basic religious charity” status which would likely result in increasing red tape and reporting requirements for most Australian charities including those which support schools and education. These charities are a core of the Australian way of life enviously sought after by many other nations and has been since 1954. To potentially strip the current financial support from these organisations in my personal view would be devastating and of no benefit to the Government or Australian community.</p> <p>Where the current inflation is causing higher costs of living, the recommendation would have direct effect and would without doubt cause private education to become too expensive with fees being driven up further to make up for the lost income from reduced giving. This would obviously be driven by the lack of a tax benefit for philanthropists, businesses and any individuals who are able to donate to these worthy causes. If we do not outright reject the recommendation of stripping away certain parts of the current DGR status this will change the DGR system to a potentially irrecoverable point.</p> <p>Furthermore, my fear is if the Government were to adopt this recommendation, I would be without doubt forced to send my children to what are considerably overcrowded local public schools which the Government would be well aware that it would impact their learning experience and stem their academic potential. This would also further over stretch the Governments resources in this area proving ultimately to be deficient to the role and purpose of ‘better policies, in the long-term interest of the Australian community.’</p> <p>I feel that this is an assertive move against Christian, Religious and Faith-based values and related beneficial philanthropy as the majority of private education would be supported by religious or faith-based communities.</p> <p>I trust that my concerns have due consideration and that the true meaning of ‘to help governments make better policies, in the long-term interest of the Australian community.’ is upheld in its integrity. I am sure that I wouldn’t be alone with these concerns.</p>	
278-664	Mark Tchappat	<p>In reading the draft report there is some sound recommendations, however I am very distressed the concept of scrapping the DGR status of for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations and the removal of basic religious charity status.</p> <p>Our children attend non-government schools and we are concerned deeply that the changes will mean that funds flowing to our school will reduce and planned capital works wont proceed. This means a lower level of care for all children and local businesses who would have completed the works will have less work to do. This will impact local jobs and families in a time when cost of living pressure is at the forefront of everyone’s mind.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Also a drop in the teaching level due to reduced teaching staff will impact the academic potential of students who are the workers of tomorrow.</p> <p>Surely, we are not the only ones who are worried about this.</p>	
278-665	Anthony Hurrell	<p>I have read the draft report on the proposed scrapping of the Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR) status for non-government organisations with interest, but I have some concerns about its findings. Although there were some positive points in the report, there are certain aspects that could have a negative impact on the cost of living and the overall economic flow of our society.</p> <p>My first concern is that this move could lead to a reduction in business giving, as it will no longer be deductible from tax benefits. As a result, people may choose to downscale their donations to these organisations, which will have a significant impact on their ability to operate effectively, instead of selecting to reduce the tax.</p> <p>Secondly, the lack of business donations to non-government organisations may cause school fees to increase. Many families are already struggling with the high cost of living. Without sufficient donation funds from businesses or individuals, this added expense due to the loss of reduced giving, driven by the lack of tax benefits, could force individuals to degrade from a private school to an overcrowded public school. The overcrowding of public schools will harm the quality of education that our children receive, which could have serious long-term consequences for their academic prospects.</p> <p>Thirdly, I believe that the proposed changes could be viewed as an attack on religious organisations because they often rely heavily on donations from businesses and/or individuals. Without the tax benefits that come with the DGR status, these organisations may find it difficult to continue their operations.</p> <p>Lastly, I am concerned that the scrapping of the DGR status for non-government organisations will result in a rapid increase in the cost of living. This will have a domino effect on the economic cycle, as the lack of donations given from businesses will impact the learning experience and academic potential of students and future entrepreneurs, ultimately having a detrimental effect on the overall economy.</p> <p>I request you to please consider my concerns, as I am sure many families will be impacted by this decision.</p>	22/02/204
278-666	Jonathan Deayton	<p>After reading the draft report, and as a parent of teenage children, I am concerned about the recommendation of funding to be removed for non-Government schools and religious organizations.</p> <p>My children currently attend an independent private school that benefits from DGR Status. I am worried that if this funding is taken away from schools, it will considerably lower the standard of both the quality of teachers, and the education of the children.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>The removal of the DGR Status will push parents like us to have to send our children back to the public school system, due to the rising costs of living, and higher Private School fees. This will then put increased pressure on the public system, which will impact their learning and suppress their academic potential.</p> <p>This draft also impacts the school building upgrades, which will have a substantial impact on businesses relating to this area, and to our grandchildren in the future.</p> <p>Please take time to consider my concerns, as I am sure there are many others that are concerned and will be impacted by this draft.</p>	
278-667	Trevor Richardson	<p>I have read the draft report with interest, and I am writing to you with concern about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government organisations such as primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of particular concern to me as my grandchildren attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. We are all feeling the cost-of-living pressure like never before and I fear that school fees would only be driven up further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, because of the tax benefit for businesses or individuals being taken away.</p> <p>I believe that if the Government adopt this recommendation, many families will be forced to send their children back into an already overcrowded public school system, which will have a negative impact on their learning experience and stifle their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns. I am sure our family will be one of thousands of families impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-668	Andrew Harrison	<p>I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed changes outlined in The Future Foundations for Giving Report, specifically those affecting deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organizations.</p> <p>As an engaged member of the community, I value the objectives of the inquiry to understand trends in philanthropic giving in Australia, explore underlying drivers, and identify opportunities and obstacles to increasing such giving. However, I am deeply concerned about the potential ramifications of the draft recommendations, particularly the suggestion to abolish DGR status for a range of vital institutions, including non-government schools.</p> <p>The proposed changes, if implemented, have the potential to devastate non-government schools that have relied on DGR support since 1954. The DGR status has played a crucial role in encouraging donations for building infrastructure within these educational institutions, ultimately contributing to the betterment of our society by supporting the education of future generations.</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>Furthermore, the recommendation to end "basic religious charity" status, increasing red tape and reporting requirements for a significant portion of Australian charities, including those supporting schools and religious education, is alarming and would have the most devastating effect on the basic and fundamental pillars of our society – the advancement of religion and advancement of industry. This would undoubtedly impose additional burdens on these organizations, hindering their ability to focus on their core mission of providing quality education and community support.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the broader implications of these proposed changes on philanthropy, education, and community well-being. Instead of increasing red tape and limiting DGR status, we should explore avenues to foster a more supportive environment for philanthropy and charitable contributions.</p> <p>I trust that my concerns will be carefully considered during the inquiry process and thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.</p>	
278-669	David Ovendem	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern about the potential impact of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, specifically highlighted in the 'Future Foundations for Giving' draft report, on our family.</p> <p>The proposed changes, particularly the removal of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary & secondary schools are causing significant worry for us. Here are the key points:</p> <p>Higher School Fees - The likelihood of increased school fees is a major concern, driven by the expected reduction in giving from businesses or individuals due to the removal of associated tax benefits. This comes at a difficult time when our household is already under significant cost-of-living pressure.</p> <p>Decline in Education Experience - Reduced resources for educational institutions may lead to a decline in the overall education experience for our children. This concerns me as it could impact their ability to learn in a suitable environment and hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I kindly request your careful consideration of these concerns as you evaluate the potential implications of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. Your support and understanding in these matters are invaluable, and I trust in your commitment to ensuring the well-being of families facing these challenges.</p>	22/02/204
278-670	Anthony Chirside	<p>I have recently read an article regarding the Productivity Commission's Draft Report 'Future Foundations for Giving'. This prompted me to look up the draft document on the government website and read through it in detail.</p> <p>I was shocked to see the proposed changes particularly with regards to the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. The proposal is to scrap it for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>care, and other religious organisations. This is a clear effort to undermine religion as majority of private or independent education is provided by religious organisations.</p> <p>As we are all well aware, the cost of living continues to restrict the efforts of many to look after their families and one thing that a majority of parents are keen to do is provide their children a favourable education. If this proposal was enacted, it is clear that private schools would lose funding from donors due to them no longer being able to provide tax deductible gifts. This in turn would create an increase in fees which will be passed onto the parents and families. This would result in many having to send children to public schools which are already under pressure to provide adequate teaching staff and suitable facilities.</p> <p>I urge you to consider my concerns and reject this proposal.</p>	
278-671	John Rowe	<p>I have downloaded and reviewed the draft report and are most concerned. I understand it contains a few good points, however I am very worried and actually stressed about the proposal for the (DGR) deductible gift recipient status as outlined, to be scrapped for non-government primary and secondary schools including childcare and aged care facilities and also other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is of extreme concern and importance to us as a family in which we have children attending an independent private school and they do ultimately benefit from the deductible gift recipient status. This proposal should not proceed as is proposed, and in the current economic world environment with pressures of cost of living, inflation, etc we are fearful that if this proposal was to even proceed that our school fees would dramatically increase as our private schools would have no other option but to increase their fees if there was to be the loss of income that is currently provided by all the individuals and businesses that are currently donating funds with a tax deductible benefit, which has been the case for decades in Australia and is mutually beneficial to the recipient institution, the donors and even the local communities and local businesses in which these charitable education, childcare and aged care institutions reside.</p> <p>The Government must show strong support and respect of our religious organisation in this country as Christianity is the backbone of our society as a whole and it is coming under attack from those with anti-Christian views as is seen in trying to end basic religious charity DGR status and impose unnecessary hardship on religious based charities. A number of these other proposed non-religious charities as outlined in the report will clearly not benefit the community as a whole.</p> <p>My great concern is that if the Government looks to adopt this proposed recommendation, we will be forced to have to send our children to a public school of which I understand most are overcrowded and under pressure and we are concerned that that would also impact their learning experience and restrict their future academic achievements which will in turn give them less options for more professional employment opportunities.</p>	22/02/2024

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		<p>I would ask that you seriously consider my concerns as outlined and that these proposed changes to the current DGR status are not adopted and I believe that there would be a large number of other families impacted by this. This reports negative thrust is wider than just private schools and it would affect my aged parents that are in a private aged care facility which is run by a religious organisation.</p>	
278-672	Brad Scott	<p>I am writing as a concerned parent with children in an independent school benefiting from DGR status. I want to express apprehensions about the Productivity Commission's draft report, "Future Foundations for Giving."</p> <p>Diminished funding could impact our school's essential building projects, affecting both the educational experience for our children and support for local businesses.</p> <p>The potential increase in school fees due to reduced contributions may impose a significant financial burden on families like ours, especially during a period of heightened cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>A decline in educational resources raises concerns about the overall quality of our children's learning environment, affecting their academic potential and future prospects.</p> <p>The proposed changes will challenge the diverse educational choices available to families, including those with religious affiliations, impacting private education provided by religious organizations.</p> <p>The worrying alternative of transitioning to overcrowded public schools could negatively impact our children's education and further strain the resources of the public education system.</p> <p>I urge careful consideration of the recommendations' broader implications, including effects on educational quality, community businesses, and families' financial strain. I hope these concerns are considered as the Productivity Commission deliberates on "Future Foundations for Giving."</p>	22/02/204
278-673	Matthew King	<p>I have read the draft report with interest. Whilst there are some good findings, I am 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>These recommendations strike at a very fundamental feature of our Australian way of life – benevolence - the care for one and another. Taking these avenues of support away from these vital parts of society will place untold burden and stress on many Australians, plus increase demands on Government services that are already strained.</p> <p>Also, these changes are of particular concern to me as my children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status. Our family is experiencing cost of living pressures like</p>	22/02/204

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		<p>never felt before, and I fear that school fees would only increase further to make up for 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>If the Government adopts this recommendation, many (including our family) will be forced to send their children to overcrowded public schools, which will only increase pressure on the public school system and lower academic outcomes.</p> <p>I strongly urge the Government to weigh up the far reaching effects of these changes recommended in relation to DGR status of the above mentioned groups.</p>	
278-674	Robert Tchappat	<p>Just to let you know I am very concerned about the recommendations to reduce or scrap DGR status for “primary and secondary education, religious education, and other forms of informal education, including school building funds” (pg.18 of report)</p> <p>I feel this is an attack on the freedom of school choice as the lack of tax benefit will certainly reduce current giving to independent schools, which in turn will have to increase school fees for attendees of these schools, as each independent school will have to compensate in increased fees the reduction in DGR giving.</p> <p>Having seen first hand the difference in not only academic results, but increased dedication and respectful attitude in my kids, by taking them out of the public system and putting them into an Independent school that shares my values, I would be loathe to have to return them to the public system.</p> <p>I am sure many other families in Australia would be in similar situations, and I sincerely hope the Government does not adopt this part of the short sighted recommendations.</p>	22/02/204
278-675	Joshua Craig	<p>I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposal in the Productivity Commission's draft report to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p> <p>My children attend an independent school benefiting from DGR status. With the current cost of living pressures never experienced before if this recommendation is adopted, I fear increased school fees due to reduced contributions, potentially forcing families like mine to reconsider our educational choices and needing to send our children to already overcrowded public schools, impacting students' learning experiences and academic potential. This is particularly troubling to me.</p>	22/02/204

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		I urge you to consider the significant implications of this proposal on many families and students relying on DGR status for affordable and quality education. Your attention to this matter is appreciated	
278-676	Andrew Gooden	<p>As a concerned citizen and grandparent, plus an avid supporter and contributor of charitable giving and philanthropy, I am concerned that the draft recommendations include scrapping DGR status for building infrastructure at non-government schools is detrimental and disregards foundational charitable and philanthropic purpose.</p> <p>The advancement of education including provision of schooling facilities to improve educational outcomes is one of the prime and fundamental connections that drive the emotional that provides philanthropic donors impetus to give.</p> <p>The ramifications of this recommendation would stymie educational funding through giving for non-government schools, as removing the DGR status that donors seek – will remove the incentive to give.</p> <p>As non-government schools will need to will still need to undertake building and upgrade works, the resultant in financial pressure will be pushed onto parents who are already experiencing extreme cost of living pressures.</p> <p>The justification and rationalisation for this recommendation is flawed. To say that “there is a material risk that donors could convert a tax-deductible donation into a private benefit” is nonsensical. For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The life of school buildings and facilities far exceeds any tenure of school attendance. 2. Many philanthropic parents donate hours of their time, sacrificing income, to support education, in fundraising activities, sporting events, teacher aides, reading groups etc. 3. Educating children primarily is for the well-being of society and ‘public’ benefit, as nearly all adults end up in public service or undertake vocations which are directly linked to providing a service, providing for the well-being, support and advancement of social responsibility, health, environment, and governance. <p>Given that the justification is flawed, it must be concluded there is an ulterior motive – with an opposition to non-government schools, and the parents that desire the best outcomes for their children and put themselves into financial constraints paying for private school tuition and education.</p> <p>I urge that this recommendation is rejected.</p>	22/02/204
278-677	Brian Sellars	As an Australian citizen and father of 4 children, I am writing to express my genuine concern and strong feelings about the above-mentioned report which has recently come to my attention.	22/02/204

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		<p>Whilst there are perhaps some reasonable recommendations, I am particularly concerned about the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be removed for nongovernment primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Two of my children currently attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status by way of individual and business donations. We have chosen this school based on its quality of education, upholding of moral standards, and sympathy with our religious beliefs. I believe it would be difficult – if not impossible – for a similarly congenial learning environment to be provided in a public school.</p> <p>The changes proposed would clearly be giving more control to the government and take away my (and many other families in a similar situation) right and ability to choose what I know to be in my children’s best interest – this is something I cannot accept. Further, it would result in higher education costs which would make it difficult for us to afford, particularly with the extreme cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>The government has obviously considered the public benefit of independent schooling and DGR status in the past: my question is, What external influences have arisen to make proposed changes to these provisions? My considered opinion is that this is an attack on faith-based organisations – organisations which have clearly demonstrated true philanthropy for all – by those seeking to promote the agendas of minority groups often with harmful agendas.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider these views and join to reject the proposals.</p>	
278-678	Royce Harris	<p>I am writing as concerned about the proposed changes to the charitable status of religious institutions and private schools, both of which I am personally heavily involved in as a member of a Christian church.</p> <p>The draft report calls for the ending of “basic religious charity” status to religious organisations, which would require us to contribute more funds as donations to the church in order to pay tax and maintain suitable church facilities. This comes at a time of immense cost-of-living pressure that is a result of poor economic management by the government.</p> <p>Accepting the proposed changes by the government would reduce the ability of church groups and private schools to invest in new infrastructure (I.e buildings, facilities, vehicles, etc), of which there is immense public benefit.</p> <p>Religious private schools in Australia have supported the learning and development of millions of Australians since the DGR status in 1954, many of whom have been prominent public leaders. The proposed changes would increase school fees and reduce the number of students being able to access this premium quality education.</p> <p>I appeal to the government to reject the proposal</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-679	Trevor Scott	<p>I write to express my concern as to the recommendation for the proposed scrapping of the Deductible Gift Recipient status. For many years the Australian community has benefited by having generous donations from both business entities as well as private individuals in support of education, aged care, childcare and welfare organizations.</p> <p>My particular concern is as to education. It is well known that there are many private schools operating, and these schools are dependent on financial support from generous donors. To now discourage such DGR donations could cause closure of some of these institutions, or for them to have to increase fees to such an extent that some families can no longer able to afford to attend, which will only add further pressure to the public system. It is worth noting that this draft report comes at a time when there is already a cost-of-living crisis in the country.</p> <p>I would also like to point up that many private or independent education facilities are provided by religious groups. To me this recommendation is also an attempt to discredit religion</p>	22/02/204
278-680	Ashley Taylor	<p>I have read the draft report from the 'Future Foundations for Giving' several times and am very concerned as to the recommendations given for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>I sincerely hope the current Government does not adopt these recommendations, as I believe they will impact the education experience of my children. I fear if the Government adopts these recommendations, my children will lose the ability to learn in a suitable environment. The inevitable increase in fees will force me to enrol my children in already under funded public schools which will greatly impact their academic potential.</p> <p>I appeal to all concerned, that these recommendations be rejected so my children and all other families affected can still benefit from the DGR support that has helped the education of many generations, and hopefully many future generations.</p>	22/02/204
278-681	Kenneth Earl	<p>I write as a concerned citizen regarding the proposed changes recommended in the Future foundations for giving Draft Report. As my child attends an independent school which currently benefits from deductible gift recipients (DGR) this is of specific concern to me.</p> <p>With approximately 30% of all schools and 94% of Independent Schools in Australia being faith or religious affiliated, one must conclude that the recommendation of this report constitutes an attack on religion.</p> <p>Independent Schools in Australia make a valuable contribution to society by providing high quality learning and give families more choice to find a school that best suits the needs of their child and meets their own values. They also underpin local communities by providing significant employment opportunities and support to businesses in the construction, food and support services industries.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>The proposed changes to the DGR especially relating to the removal of the school building fund deductible gift recipient status, would seriously impact independent schools capital expenditure on facilities which are needed to enable the quality education of the future generation of leaders and taxpayers. Additionally, this would result in prohibitively high school fees forcing many families to return their children to public schools adding further overcrowding pressures and diminishing the quality of education.</p> <p>At a time of unprecedented cost of living pressures and global economic and security instability, private schools and families need the confidence to plan for the future with the knowledge that school funding remains stable and predictable.</p> <p>I would respectfully ask that my concerns be given due consideration.</p>	
278-682	Mark Wilson	<p>After reading the Sky News article regarding the ‘Productivity Commission Draft report on Philanthropy’, I am extremely concerned. If these proposed radical changes occur, I am worried about the impact on our family as I have two sons attending a private school.</p> <p>This school benefits from DGR status (deductible gift recipient). If the Government adopts these proposed changes, it will impact us and many other families significantly.</p> <p>The school fees would increase in an already ‘cost of living crisis’ period.</p> <p>Sending our children to a public school in the area would be near impossible due to the already overcrowded schools.</p> <p>I trust you consider these concerns seriously as I am sure I am one of many parents wanting the best education for our children who will benefit the country in the future.</p>	22/02/2024
278-683	Darren McDonald	<p>Upon review of the Productivity Commission’s draft recommendations, I have become deeply concerned.</p> <p>Page 18 of the report outlines a number of classes of charitable activities that have been recommended for withdrawal of DGR status, namely non-government primary and secondary education, religious education and school building funds.</p> <p>There is no substantive analysis of the real impact of these DGR withdrawals given in the report, which I believe is an alarming oversight, either through ignorance or intent.</p> <p>The removal of DGR status from private school education and building funds would cause substantial net community-wide detriment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to ABS 2022 statistics, one third of school students are educated in non-government schools (refer: https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release). I fail to see how the education of 36% of Australian school students is not a “net community-wide benefit”? 	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above ABS link also demonstrates that recent years have seen a proportional increase in non-government enrolments against government school enrolments. This can only suggest that society is responding to seeing better outcomes and net benefit from non-government education. Disincentivising donations and reducing funds available to non-government school education will undeniably impact the quality of education that non-government schools can provide. This is a clear contradiction of government intent against modern society trends. • There does not appear to be any intelligent attempt to assess the inevitable macro-economic impact of disincentivising funding to non-government schools. This will undeniably influence a reverse of current trends such that government enrolments will increase, and non-government enrolments will decrease. This will simply shift the financial burden of primary & secondary education towards government, which will simply mean that this additional financial burden will be carried by taxpayers. This is a blatant community-wide financial detriment at a time when cost-of-living is in crisis. • Further to the above point, this will equally increase costs for non-government schools which will result in increased private school fees which again is a financial detriment to one third of student households, further accelerating the cost-of-living crisis. • Adding to this is the obvious impact this will have on government schools' real estate, HR & other resources, many of which are already concerningly stretched. This can only prove to over-crowd government schools, intensify the stress on teaching staff and result in declining educational outcomes for our society. <p>We personally have one child in a government school, and one in a non-government school. My wife and I are very worried about the detrimental impact it would have on the quality and cost of education of both our children, and all children right across our nation, if these DGR recommendations were to be implemented by the government.</p> <p>We also feel that there is a deep bias, hidden behind these subtle recommendations, against religious organisations which form the foundation for the vast majority of the non-government education sector. This is not only a blatant disregard of the foundational role that religion plays in our society, but grossly hypocritical in showing broad prejudice against religion whilst promoting narrow minority views that deliver no community-wide net benefit.</p> <p>We implore government to reconsider these recommendations with an unbiased, sensible, and logical analysis of the real net impacts to society.</p>	
278-684	Mark Heaney	<p>I have reviewed the draft report and would like to share my thoughts on some of its findings and recommendations. While there are commendable aspects to it, my primary concern revolves around the proposal to eliminate deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government entitle, specifically in the areas of primary and secondary education, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>This recommendation is particularly troubling for me as my children and grandchildren have been and are soon to be enrolled in an independent school that greatly benefits from its DGR status. Given the current unprecedented cost of living pressures, I am apprehensive that removing this tax benefit might lead to an increase in school fees. This, in turn, could exacerbate financial strain for families like ours, as reduced giving—resulting from the absence of tax incentives—might compel schools to compensate for the lost income.</p> <p>My main concern is that if the Government adopts this recommendations, our family may be compelled to enrol our grandchildren in the already overcrowded local public school. This shift could potentially compromise their learning experience and hinder their academic potential.</p> <p>I kindly urge you to take these concerns into consideration during the decision-making process. I believe our family is not alone in facing the potential ramifications of such a policy change.</p>	
278-685	Craig Light	<p>I am a parent of 2 young children that my wife and I plan to send to an independent Christian private school in western Sydney. My wife and I both attended this same independent school and have since made regular tax deductible donations to the schools building fund. In turn we have seen the school use the building fund to provide new and upgraded facilities, giving the students an excellent foundation for learning and education.</p> <p>After reading the draft report, I am very concerned at the recommendation for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>Scrapping the DGR status will mean the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will no longer be able to donate to the building fund due to the increased tax we will consequently pay. - The school fees are likely to increase (the school has confirmed this will be the result of decreased donations). - The school buildings & facilities will no longer be maintained and upgraded to the high standard that this independent school has held over many years. - The level of education provided will decrease due to poor facilities that will cease to attract high quality teachers and staff. - Parents will be forced to send their children to public schools which are overcrowded and do not provide the same level of education. <p>As a Christian family, I feel this is an attack on religion as the majority of private schools are provided by religious organisations. The draft report also includes 'other religious organisations', further highlighting the unfair and biased treatment of religious organisations and schools.</p> <p>We would ask that the Commission reject the suggested DGR status changes as this will have a detrimental impact on our family and I am sure there will be many other families in similar situations.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-686	Lional Laming	<p>It is with interest & care that I have read the “Future Foundations for Giving” draft report & hence feel compelled to write to express the feeling of hurt and harm that a number of the recommendations would bring to society & my family.</p> <p>With the increasing cost of living if the recommendation to remove Deductible gift recipient from Non-Government schools and childcare was implemented we would be forced to compromise the education & care that our children currently receive due to the non -government schooling costs fees increase . We would be required to send our children to the local public schools (Primary & secondary) in the area which are currently at peak capacity.</p> <p>I request that the recommendation to remove Deductible Gift Recipient from Non-Government schools be rejected due to the financial hardships & counterproductive consequences this would cause my family and hundreds of thousands parents that are seeking an education for there child's future and for the good of the country</p>	22/02/204
278-687	Anthony Bass	<p>As a parent of a child in a non-government school, I would like to express concern regarding the above draft report proposals.</p> <p>These proposals could potentially lead to a decrease in private funding to such schools, due to the lack of tax benefit to current business and individual donors. To make up for the shortfall in funding, private schools are likely to have to increase school fees, which will have a community-wide, negative financial impact on households as around 35% of Australia’s students currently attend private/non-government schools!</p> <p>Funding for capital expenditure is also likely to reduce, meaning that desirable and optimal upgrades to technology and other school equipment becomes unaffordable, leading to a lower quality learning experience for students. Ultimately, this will impact our children’s academic potential, and as this concerns a significant proportion of all Australian students, our nations’ ranking in international education standards.</p> <p>Finally, of the greatest concern, is the targeting of religion, in these proposals.</p>	22/02/204
278-688	Jeremy Martin	<p>Further to reading the report, I felt obligated to submit my concerns around this proposal.</p> <p>There maybe some good conclusions and commendations, but I am aghast as to the recommendations for deductible gift recipient status to be scrapped for non-government education, aged care, and other religious organisations. To scrap a charitable purpose that has existed since 1954 is nothing short of radical and an attack on religion. This has clearly not only been a benefit to the public sector of educational care and aged care expense that are already stretched beyond their limits, but also to all mankind.</p> <p>We have many close friends and relatives with children that attend an independent school. If the fees had to be increased (Quite likely with the DGR benefits being taken away) they would have to</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>seriously consider moving to a public school. As quoted in a recent news article “If Federal Labour want to encourage approx. 1.4million students out of faith based or independent schools then they will need to find a lot more money that the small amount they will save axing tax deductible donations to school building funds”</p> <p>It seems extraordinary that this is happening at a time when household budgets are already stretched and the government would seek to add to this pressure of rising living costs.</p> <p>I am sure many other Australian families would share these concerns. We would urge the Government to reconsider the economic and social decay that would occur as a result of this decision.</p>	
278-689	Craig Wilson	<p>I support the government's review of aged legislations as things change in society, however, I would just like to appeal to the government to please review and logically consider the long term consequences of any changes that are proposed!</p> <p>My wife and I have chosen to send our 4 children to a private school to ensure they get a curriculum that focuses on giving children life skills and is free of the radical rubbish that is infiltrating the public system. I am only an employee and this comes at significant expense to us.</p> <p>We are very concerned about the proposal in the above mentioned Bill to remove DGR status from the non government school, childcare and aged care and other religious groups building funds and fear in a few years we will either not be able to afford the fees and/or the private schools won't be able to maintain facilities to support our children and we will be forced to move our children to the already pressured public system.</p> <p>Does the government not see that the amount of tax they miss out on from these building fund donations is so small compared to the cost it would be if the state governments had to acquire the facilities and/or build new ones to support all the families moving out of the private schools to the public system!??</p> <p>These private school facilities are so often also used by the wider community for things like swim schools, sports clubs, social clubs, extra curricular activities and OOSH care. Why risk losing them??</p> <p>Not to mention how many local trades are fairly supported in the building projects and maintenance initiated by private facilities.</p>	22/02/204
278-690	Mark Joyce	<p>Having read the report on the Future Foundations for Giving, I can see that this has been created with good intentions, however I feel deeply pained by the potential implications to the education of my grandchildren, and students at other private schools. The bill will certainly reduce giving to schools, religious or not, and my concerns surround the potential impact of the increased financial burden on schools.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>Undeniably, giving will be reduced with the introduction of this bill. The cost of running a school is largely fixed i.e., cost of facilities, staff, cleaning, transport etc. the list goes on. From my observations, private schools primarily rely on 3 pillars of income, 1. Student fees, 2 Government funding and 3. Donations. Without the incentives that are currently offered by the Government in the form of tax deductions, there will be a lot less money available to support these education institutions.</p> <p>This could result in school closures. Many private schools are relatively small and would no longer be sustainable.</p> <p>Other schools may be affected by forcing them to reduce the opportunities available for the children, by limiting the curriculum on subjects as science, IT, Arts and Sports.</p> <p>Traditionally a good number of these schools are high achievers, and it would be a devastating loss of talent to our society.</p> <p>In summary, it would be like “killing the goose that lays the golden egg” to starve these private schools of funds and putting extra pressure on the public system.</p> <p>Please ensure that we can continue to give to charities that we believe in, and we will continue to see the benefit for all. I doubt you could put a price on it!</p>	
278-691	Russell Wallace	<p>I am writing in concern for the proposed measures in the draft report to scrap DGR status of non-government childcare, aged care, primary and secondary schooling, and other religious organisations. While there are no doubt some benefits for our country, I feel this would have many negative impacts on families and local communities across Australia.</p> <p>My wife and I have 3 children and we are struggling with the current cost of living like never before. Our children attend an independent school that benefits from DGR status and I expect our school fees would increase due to the school no longer being able to receive tax deductible donations.</p> <p>I fear the independent schools and other organisations would be significantly impacted by the reduced funding resulting in increased pressure on the government backed organizations, many of which are already overcrowded.</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration of our concerns, we feel that many thousands of Australian families would be negatively impacted.</p>	22/02/204
278-692	Brice Tilley	<p>I have been viewing the productivity Commission “Future Foundations for giving” draft report.</p> <p>I have noted that there are some recommendations for deductible recipients status to be removed, for non-government schooling, early age care, old age care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>These are all areas that require large amount of funds and need to be kept as a support to our communities.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>As we have been through tough times over the past few years, being in the construction industry we have seen some challenges.</p> <p>We have just managed to enrol our children into a private school which they love going to.</p> <p>I fear removing funding for these educational or care facilities would add further to the household pressure that we already have.</p> <p>We moved our children out of the public system so they could have a better one on one experience in their education. They have been moving forward in leaps and bounds.</p> <p>They would find it difficult to get back to an overcrowded public system, and it would slow their academic potential.</p> <p>Please consider my thoughts as a parent, that wants the best education for our youth.</p> <p>I am sure there are many others concerned parents out there that share the same view.</p>	
278-693	Rod Earl	<p>I have read through this draft report and although there are some good conclusions and recommendations, I am concerned about the recommendations to remove the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government education, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This does concern me as my children are enrolled at an independent school that benefits from the DGR status. There are many already experiencing cost of living pressures like we haven't before, and I worry that if school fees increase 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 really do fear that if the Government adopts this suggestion, we will be forced to enrol our children at an alternative overloaded public school which will impact their learning experience and effect their academic growth.</p> <p>Please consider my concerns as I'm sure we aren't the only family that will be impacted by this decision if it is approved.</p>	22/02/2024
278-694	Mark Fawkes	<p>I'm writing as a concern parent after reading some recommendations of this report. Of particular worry is the recommendation surrounding regarding the removal DGR status for non-government aged care, childcare, secondary and primary schools.</p> <p>Both myself and my wife went thru the government provided schools and whilst that education sufficed we as parents knew we needed to better for our children that our fathers and mothers were able to do. This comes at great cost and sacrifice to ensure we provide the best chance of success to our 3 children and especially at this time when the cost of living has risen to such high levels. An implantation of this recommendation would only increase this paid as schools will have no choice but increase their fees, but also feel that that it will impact the facilities these independent schools</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		<p>provide. Such impact would likely force us back to overcrowded local government schools and impact their learning.</p> <p>Further to the above we also feel that this recommendation is an attack on religion.</p>	
278-695	Richard Ellis	<p>My wife and I as concerned parents, feel strongly regarding changes the Government is proposing to scrap the (DGR) Status for non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This is an unprecedented major change which we believe will have wide ranging damaging consequences, not only to parents, not only long term for the students but also the educational institutions, industry contractors, non-government school developments and growth.</p> <p>The current arrangement of (DGR) which has been in place for many years, has allowed non government institutions provide quality education and facilities that otherwise would not have been possible. We have had three children through non-government schooling and are firsthand aware of the benefits of the (DGR) benefits that have helped to keep school fees lower, provide good facilities, institutions which employ thousands of staff and support local community.</p> <p>The proposal changes are very detrimental in our view and urge the Government to reconsider their position and maintain the current (DGR) status provision.</p>	22/02/204
278-696	Same Lesouef	<p>I am writing in relation to the proposed changes detailed in the above report as a concerned parent. I have 3 children who currently attend a non government independent school. As parents we have made and continue to make financial sacrifices in order to provide the best education we can for our children.</p> <p>The above proposal will have the effect of reducing the giving which such schools receive and rely upon, due to the removal of their DGR status. This in turn will force these institutions to increase their fees. If this occurs, in our case we will have no choice but to seriously consider moving our children back into the public education system due to current financial and unprecedented cost of living pressures.</p> <p>Non government independent schools are of clear benefit to the wider community . They reduce the pressure on the public education system and provide high quality education to our young people who will go on to make a positive contribution in the community. There are also the obvious flow on benefits to local businesses from investment in school building programs and improvements .</p> <p>I would urge the Government to reject these recommendations and am confident many families in the same situation would agree.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
278-697	Ben Goodsell	<p>Having read the draft report, we wish to express our deep concerns, as parents of three children that currently attend a private school. The proposal to remove the deductible gift recipient status for non-government schools will have a negative impact and destructive consequences.</p> <p>If this was to proceed the school would have no option but to increase our fees. Due to the current difficult times and our financial position, we would be forced to remove our children from the private sector and send them to the local public school. This would add pressure to the already overcrowded public system. Our children's academic growth will be impacted, which in turn will result in them getting a lower paid job and a poorer quality of life long term.</p> <p>If this proposal was to proceed, there will be a negative effect on society. There will be less tax raised for the government with lower paid jobs, and a reduction of income for small business, trades, services etc due to the need to cut expenditure on facility upgrades, extensions and general improvements.</p> <p>Please have consideration with our concerns for our children, and for the many other families we know that share our concerns.</p>	22/02/204
278-698	Carl Munn	<p>After viewing this draft report, I feel compelled to voice concern about its direction of influence and assertion of views contrary to Christianity in Australia.</p> <p>Whilst the government may be able to draw some helpful information from this report, it's recommendation to scrap deductible gift receipt (DGR) status from church organisations and schools is both alarming and dangerous.</p> <p>The whole world is living in times of unprecedented uncertainty and threats. Effects of disease pandemics and regional wars continue to put real pressure on the circumstances of many Australian families. This report would disproportionately increase all school fees and stands to disable such bodies from improving facilities.</p> <p>Titus 3 v4 "but when the kindness and love to man of our Saviour God appeared..."</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13 v13 "and now abide faith, hope, love; these three things; and the greater of these is love"</p> <p>Adopting the reports radical recommendations will directly impact Churches ability to provide support and relief to those in need. Especially vulnerable are the many, many children attending independent schools. These children represent the hope of the nation, whose wellbeing and education requires every possible avenue of resource.</p> <p>It is well understood throughout the world that Christian churches have underpinned the very establishment and progression of strong and structured society; the bedrock of a prosperous nation for the benefit of all.</p>	22/02/204

No.	Name	Submission	Received
		Please consider how this report proves charitable giving in Australia is alive and well; any attempt to redefine what true charity is, as being of God, should be acknowledged as destructive.	
278-699	Julian Wilson	<p>I am writing to you as I have read the above titled draft report with interest, but also with a great deal of concern as to the deductible gift recipient status being removed from, amongst other things, non-government primary and secondary schooling.</p> <p>My concern stems from my 3 children attending an independent school that currently benefits from having DGR status. It is of utmost importance to me as a parent and as a tax paying Australian citizen that my children attend a school which holds the values I believe in and in which they are encouraged, supported, and educated to become strong high achieving positive members of society. I am concerned that without this DGR status the school will be forced to increase their fees, and in our current economic situation in Australia with the cost-of-living pressures we are facing this is not something my family nor many others could afford.</p> <p>As the public school system is already under pressure with overcrowding and lack of teaching staff, this causes a great deal of worry as to what the outcome is to be not just for my children but for the many other families this will impact also. I urge you to consider my concerns as to the short and long term impact this will have on the youth and indeed the society of our country</p>	22/02/204
278-700	Arnold Lindqvist	<p>Just wanted to get in touch regarding the draft report. We note that there are some very good findings and proposals, however I am very concerned about the proposal for the deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.</p> <p>This change is of great concern to me as our children attend one of the independent schools that benefits from the current DGR status. At the current time we are experiencing huge cost of living pressure that has never been felt so significantly before, and I am very worried that school fees will only be increased further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, which will be driven by the lack of tax benefits for businesses or individuals able to donate to the school our children attend.</p> <p>My greatest fear now is if the Government choose to adopt these suggestions, we will be forced to send our children to the already overcrowded local public school in our town which will have great impact on their learning experience and academic potential.</p> <p>Could you please consider my household's concerns, as I am sure there will also be many other families impacted if this change is adopted.</p>	22/02/204