

16th January 2024

Dear Karen,

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

I have read the draft report with interest and concern.

My concerns are around the recommendations for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to be scrapped for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and other religious organisations.

My 5 children attended an independent school that benefits from DGR status. As a result of a good education some now hold management positions and are paying income tax in the higher brackets which the Government is the beneficiary of.

We live in times of rising living costs, along with increased interest rates, and I predict that school fees would have to increase further to make up the lost income from reduced giving, caused by removing tax benefits for businesses or individuals in a position to donate to the school.

If the Government support this recommendation, there would be unforeseen pressure on the public school system, due to the increase in numbers caused by many parents not being able to send children to a private school, which in turn adding further financial pressure on the Government as the funding for the public schools would have to significantly increase.

I feel this is an attempt to invalidate religion, as a majority of private or independent schools are connected to religious denominations.

I feel that the proposed changes to the Productivity Commission's recommendations need to be reconsidered and withdrawn as the huge impact on the oncoming generations and religious bodies would have a detrimental affect on the fundamentals of Australia.

Yours Sincerely

Graham Lewis