

24 November 2009

Not-for-Profit Sector
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

The Murdoch Childrens Research Institute welcomes the Productivity Commission's draft research report on the *Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector*. As a large independent Medical Research Institute, we are pleased to have an opportunity to comment on the report, in particular, how the recommendations might affect the important performance outcomes of the Institute.

We agree with two of the major recommendations of the review. Firstly, the proposal for a "one-stop shop" for Commonwealth based regulation in the form of a Registrar for Community and Charitable Purpose Organisations which should streamline regulations. We agree that such a Registrar is particularly beneficial for smaller incorporated associations, so that they can be managed on a national, rather than a state by state basis. Secondly, we agree with the harmonisation of fundraising regulations which will reduce administrative burden.

The single reporting portal mentioned in the report would provide administration benefits but will need to be able to deliver all required reporting information to State and Federal Government bodies, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics to be effective.

In Chapter 8, the notion of competitive neutrality is raised. On this matter, we would be concerned with any changes that impact our ability to attract and retain high quality people and believe that this issue requires greater consultation.

Government funding of services provided by the not-for-profit sector is an area that needs careful consideration and we commend the tabling of the report.

We would be happy to provide any further information.

Yours sincerely



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