

5 February 2024

Productivity Commission Draft Report recommending the removal of tax deductions for donations made to religious charities in support of SRE

I have been a significant donor to Youthworks and the Anglican SRE program for the past decade. The tax deductibility (DGR status) of these donations guides the amount that I donate.

I am extremely concerned about the Productivity Commission Draft Report which recommends the removal of tax deductions for donations made to religious charities in support of SRE.

SRE provides key psychological and spiritual benefits to students. Spiritual health is equally as important as mental, physical and emotional health. SRE is an excellent program in public schools which contributes to the spiritual health and balanced growth and development of children and teens.

The removal of tax deductions for SRE donations would cripple the program. It appears also that SRE (and private schools building funds) are the ONLY DGRs that the report is considering removing. Is this not discriminatory?

I am strongly against this proposal. Thank you for considering my concern.

Robyn Baillie, retired NSW school teacher and volunteer SRE teacher. (2012 - current)