

I am writing in light of potential changes to the DGR status in the Future Foundations for Giving draft report, in particular, for donations to support SRE in schools.

My faith plays a big role in the way that I spend my time and money. I value the contribution that SRE has in my local school, community and Australian society as a whole.

As noted in the “Study of Special Religious Education and its value to contemporary society” (Zehavit Gross and Suzanne D. Rutland, 2021, DOI:[10.1007/978-3-030-67969-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-67969-9))

“In addition to providing important psychological benefits to students’ health and wellbeing, SRE classes can strengthen the multicultural fabric of Australia and foster social cohesion by providing a sense of belonging and safe places for students to explore deeper questions of cultural and religious identity in an environment of trust and respect.”

My husband and I donate to SRE fund each year as we see the important role that it plays in our children’s lives for the reasons stated above. We are also grateful that it is tax deductible, particularly with the rise in cost of living. Our faith drives us to give to other charitable organisations and church-based ministries. While not all of the money that we donate is tax deductible we certainly value the DGR status for our financial contributions.

Our faith also drives us to give of our time in volunteering at our church and in the wider community. Not only as a SRE teacher but in other valuable projects that lift the community we live in- for example, Kairos course in the local prison.

(See article <https://www.hoover.org/research/religious-faith-and-charitable-giving> that shows people of faith are 25% more likely than their secular counterparts to donate money and 23% more likely to volunteer time.)

For the reasons stated above I support maintaining DGR status for SRE funds, and would appreciate the Government in recognising and valuing the contribution faith communities make to Australian society.