



Lower Clarence Christian Education Association



PO Box 150
Maclean NSW 2463

9th February 2024

Productivity Commission

Australian Government

CANBERRA ACT

Re: Productivity Commission Draft Report “Future Foundations for Giving”.

I am writing as a volunteer worker for an organisation (Lower Clarence Christian Education Association Inc.) that does presently have deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. Our aim is to provide Special Religious Education (SRE) to public primary schools and the one public high school within our catchment area.

We are greatly concerned and object to your recommendation to remove the DGR status from organisations such as ours, and see it as yet another attack on Christianity.

Near the top of page 17 of the draft report Overview, there are suggested three principles that should be used to justify DGR status:

- (1) The “activity is expected to generate net community wide-benefits”, and which might otherwise not happen. The aim of SRE is to teach our young the Christian principles which are in fact the basis of western democracies. The fruit of our work is more young people living generous and law-abiding lives. **This must be a benefit to the wider community.**
- (2) There should be net benefits from providing government support versus spending money in other directions. The work of organisations like ours does require funding to provide some people to coordinate SRE work, but the majority of the workers who do class room instruction are volunteers. There is therefore **a significant multiplier effect at work here** – a few paid workers enables a lot of volunteers to be involved.
- (3) The activity should not be likely to lead to tax-deductible donations becoming private benefits to individuals. To the extent that funding might enable a few people to be employed (refer (2) above), this might be true, but they are working for it, and under the direction of a board of volunteers. **This is not a case of someone getting a benefit for nothing.**

For the general public, DGR status is an important consideration when considering whether to give at all and the quantum. However, for Christian donors it is their faith that primarily drives their giving of money and their time, not just any private benefit that they might derive. The DGR tax benefit will likely encourage them to give more than otherwise.

D.H. Parsons (Secretary).

High School SRE Teachers: Mr Mark Ohlmus
and Mrs Lynda Ohlmus.

Primary Schools Coordinator: Mrs Ruth Zylstra

President: Mr Alan Livingston

Treasurer: Mrs Michelle Coleman

Secretary: Mr Don Parsons

Public Officer: Michelle Coleman