



The Trustee for THE CHINMAYA MISSION (CHARITABLE) TRUST

ABN 71 602 489 688



15th January 2024

Attention: Australian Government Productivity Commissioner

The productivity commission's evaluation of the DGR system was a commendable initiative, but it is skewed against the 5,000 minority religious groups that serve the community through educational services and promoting Values form the basis of community. A person who is value based and feels appreciated will contribute positively to society and work for its well-being.

At Chinmaya Mission Australia (The Trustee for THE CHINMAYA MISSION (CHARITABLE) TRUST), our primary objective is to impart universal principles and values to children, teenagers, youth, adults, and elders, enabling them to lead holistic lives. We strive to equip them with the necessary tools to navigate life's challenges and coexist harmoniously and happily in a multicultural, multireligious, and multigender society. This objective serves as the cornerstone of our mission. We are not interested in fostering discord within society. Instead, we believe that integration is the key to becoming significant contributors. Our aim is to give more than what we receive and produce more than what we consume. Unfortunately, the government does not provide additional avenues for financial support. However, we are fortunate to receive some funding for our educational initiatives through the School Building. As a non-profit charity, our organization relies solely on the donations and support provided by the local community. All of our employees are volunteers, and our goal is to assist the entire community. Discontinuing the DGR system would diminish this support. Our students come from diverse backgrounds and faiths.

We have a wide range of classes available that are specifically designed to cater to different interests and needs. Our class options include yoga classes for improving physical well-being, cultural classes that cover music, dance, and drama, meditation classes for reducing stress and promoting a sense of peace and well-being, language classes that offer Sanskrit and Hindi instruction, and scripture classes that are part of the Special Religious Education program in local primary and secondary schools.

We also offer workshops for HSC religion at various High schools and self-development seminars at universities. Additionally, we provide daily physical and online classes for people of all ages across Australia. Our dedicated volunteers teach valuable life skills based on Vedanta and values-based education. Furthermore, we celebrate various national and Indian cultural festivals to foster community awareness and camaraderie. Our focus is entirely on providing education for living a holistic and integrated life.

We actively organise and participate in numerous community outreach initiatives, dedicated to supporting the underprivileged. Our outreach programs encompass a diverse array of areas, including mental health, Multiple Sclerosis, individuals affected by bullying and abandonment, elderly individuals requiring care and education, as well as teenagers and youth services that emphasize life skills education. Moreover, we Endeavor to establish friendship groups to address the pervasive problem of loneliness in our society. We prioritise the well-being of individuals who are already thriving, by providing them with comprehensive educational and value-based guidance, enabling them to remain valuable contributors to the society.

In light of this, we kindly request the government and the Productivity Commission to reconsider their stance on this matter. It is crucial that they continue to support the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for religious institutions, including our organization and similar ones. Furthermore, we urge the Commonwealth government to provide us with additional support to ensure the uninterrupted provision of these essential services. We firmly believe that without hope, love, and support, no individual can truly thrive. Moreover, it is through the collective efforts of individuals that society as a whole can flourish and reduce the dependence on government help. Therefore, we humbly request the government to stand by us in our mission to support both the individual and society at large.

Please feel free to contact our Director, Mr. Kaushal Bhuta or
me if you require further details.

Yours faithfully,

Swami Shrikarananda
Manager for Compliance & Volunteer Services

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