

Jonathan Teiffel

19th January 2024

Alex Robson - Presiding Commissioner
Julie Abramson - Commissioner
Krystian Seibert - Associate Commissioner

RE: Future foundations for giving

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed recommendations outlined in the Future Foundations for Giving Report. Specifically, I oppose the scrapping of deductible gift recipient (DGR) status for non-government primary, secondary, childcare, aged care, and religious organizations, as well as the proposed increase in red tape for charities supporting schools and religious education.

As a former student of private schools, I understand the critical role they play in shaping educational standards. However, the proposed elimination of DGR status threatens the quality and accessibility of such education, unfairly burdening families and hindering the progress of such educational institutions.

Moreover, as someone who generously donates funds at my discretion, I value the autonomy to choose where my contributions have the most impact. This autonomy is essential in ensuring that charitable giving is directed effectively and aligned with personal values and community needs.

As a dedicated father, I am deeply concerned about the decline in educational standards resulting from reduced resources. Every child deserves access to a conducive learning environment for growth, creativity, and academic success. Any measures compromising this must be vehemently opposed.

The removal of DGR status for educational and religious organisations would destabilize school finances, leading to fee increases and further financial strain on young families. Additionally, the inability to fund crucial building projects would hinder educational institution growth and negatively impact local communities.

The adverse effects on education quality cannot be overstated. Diminished resources will hinder students' academic potential and impede their ability to excel throughout their formative years.

It is shocking and alarming that these recommendations disproportionately target religious

organisations, vital providers of private education. This undermines their religious freedom and jeopardizes families' educational choices. Furthermore, it displays a pathetic disregard for the charitable disposition and moral standing of most faith-based educational institutions.

Should the recommendations in this report be adopted, the consequential overflow of students into already overcrowded public schools exacerbates strains on resources and infrastructure.

In conclusion, I urge the Productivity Commission to reconsider its recommendations. Preserving DGR status for educational and religious organisations is vital for maintaining educational quality, accessibility, and the prosperity of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Your sincerely,

Jonathan Teiffel