

Ref: Future Foundations for Giving: APC Report 8th Feb 2024

Dear Committee

I write to express my concern over some elements of aforementioned report.

The underlying premise held by the APC, which avers that "Religion offers NO community wide benefit" is utterly false.

There is a great need for the charitable services offered by religious organisations.

Thousands of Australians are helped on a daily basis by Christian Charities.

Christian churches are at their core, philanthropic. Why would the Australian government tax bodies that are engaged in helping those in need in the community? The Government would be taking funds away from community services.

Christian schools offer a huge community wide benefit. Massively reducing the cost to our national budget, thereby releasing funds to spent elsewhere. Furthermore, given the magnitude of the number of students receiving an education in Christians schools, the superior overall performance of these students, when compared to those educated in government schools it is ludicrous to contend that religious schools offer no community benefit.

Removing the tax deductibility for donations made to Christian/ Religious organisations will have a deleterious impact on their operational viability, causing many to close, which will in turn add a greater burden to the budget and ultimately the Australian taxpayer.

Therefore, I respectfully advocate that, they government do NOT change the laws relating to religious organisations,

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Marshall