



Hindu Council of Australia

To

Jason Clare

Minister for Education

Date: 4th February 2024

Subject : Proposed changes to DGR status for SRE and Faith schools

Hindus in Australia and Hindu Council of Australia would like to express their disappointment at the recommendation of the Productivity Commission that donations made to advance Religious education in the form SRE and building funds for faith schools be discontinued.

Unlike most other major faiths, Hindus do not have Hindu schools and therefore have not sought these DGR exemptions. As Hindu population is growing there are plans in place to start Hindu schools and to raise funds to train and hire teachers for Hindu SRE. The DGR status for donations that has been given to every faith in the past and most have (rightly) used it to build their schools. Hindus are shocked that that this is proposed to be taken away when it is our turn.

We urge you to continue providing the support for Hindu education that has already been provided to other faiths. Faiths should not be penalised for providing education and charity services.

Cheers and Regards,

Surinder Jain

National Vice President

Hindu Council of Australia