

I believe a major obstacle to achieving a doubling of philanthropic giving by 2030, is the cynicism that the Australian public has about the current regulations governing not for profit organisations. Many people believe that giving to a charity is no guarantee that the money will be divested to the stated recipients.

I believe that the Australian Government needs to take decisive action to ensure there is a clear line of sight between a donation and the end result.

One action that should result in increased transparency would be to introduce regulations in line with the United Kingdom regulations that require charities to declare how many staff fall into income bands set by the Charity Commission. The amounts take into account bonuses, pension contributions, private health care and other in-kind benefits as well as salaries.

As not-for-profit organisations derive benefit from tax payers, either directly or in tax concessions, I believe their accountability requirements should be in line with that of public servants with disclosed salaries and benefits. This approach should raise public confidence in charities and help to doubling philanthropic giving by 2030.