

Commissioners Robson, Abramson and Seibert,

Re: PRODUCTIVITY COMISSION PHILANTHROPY DRAFT REPORT

Thank you for your work on the Future Foundations for Giving report.

I have some concerns with regard to the impact of decisions on Christian charities and schools. As a parent of children attending a local Christian school, I have the following concerns which I offer as a submission in relation to your proposal:

1. *Removing the advancement of religion and the advancement of education from the classes which are available for DGR status. (p.18).*

I submit that this statement displays a bias against Christian-based schools and religious institutions, and clearly ignores the immense benefits that faith and religion have on the wider community. Religion *promotes moral and community values* and it *confers broad social and economic benefits*.¹ By removing advancement of religion, this adopts anti-religious views and therefore should not be excluded (p.19).

2. *Removing the advancement of education and school building funds from DGR status.*

I submit that this statement is a direct attack on Christian and faith-based education. School building funds for Christian schools should remain eligible for DGR status under the Commission's proposal, because this assists in providing services to groups of people that are in need. The inclusion of this proposal will significantly affect school building programs.

3. *Removal of existing carve-outs for basic religious charities*

I submit that inclusion of this proposal will expose small religious charities to increased burden of paperwork which may be too great a burden to bear and cause closure. Small religious charities should be relieved of the burden of full reporting to the Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission so that they are enabled to carry out their core purpose of assisting groups of people in need.

¹ Derrington, "Faith, Hope and Cahrity - Religion as a Public Benefit in Modern Australia."