

Ref:Future Foundations for Giving: APC Report  
8<sup>th</sup> February,2024-02-08

Dear Committee

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

It appears that the underlying premise held by the APC, seems to be that Religion offers NO community wide benefit. I believe this is utterly false. From a Christian perspective I would suggest that much of the positive things that occur in our country has had a Christian basis. Things like schools, universities, hospitals, women's rights, the idea of doing unto others as you would have them do to you and much more. Let me encourage you to go to a country where Christianity has not been a basis for their society.

Today many of the charitable services for people who are doing it really tough are offered by religious organisations.

Christian schools offer a huge community wide benefit, massively reducing the cost to our national budget. When you consider the huge number of students receiving an education in Christian/church schools and often the superior performance of those student, it is quite ludicrous to say Religious schools offer no community benefit. Removing the tax deductibility for donations made to Christian/Religious organisations will have a huge impact on their operational viability, causing many to close, which in turn will add greater burden to the budget and ultimately the Australian tax payer.

SRE in our state schools helps give a rounded education. We are more than just body and mind. Our kids need to know about right behaviour & morals and they need to be given a basis for making good and right decisions. SRE does this. Every week in NSW & Queensland a huge body of volunteers go into our state schools to encourage our children with their spiritual side and their behaviour. Although the teachers are volunteers their training and their excellent curriculum costs money. Many people who see the importance of this support this work through the tax deductions.

Therefore, I respectfully advocate that, the government keeps the existing Tax deduction for Religious organisations intact.

Yours sincerely,  
Janice & Bruce Gorton