

Submission on Philanthropic Giving

My husband, Rev. Warren Esdale and I are concerned that reforms are being proposed to remove the tax deductibility of donations for religious charities. We and our church currently support two excellent SRE teachers who serve in our local high schools (Chatswood High and Wiloughby Girls High) and are well loved and respected by their students, some of whom attend our church.

Knowing that financial gifts to support these teachers will be tax-deductible is a great motivation for our church members and us to give generously in support of this ministry.

Our own two children have benefited greatly from SRE in government schools, and we hope that the Government will increase rather than decrease their support for such work. Along with many other Australians of faith, we hope that DGR status will be maintained for religious charities, school building funds and special religious education in government schools, and that faith communities will be recognised and valued within the DGR system.

Faith-based schools, churches and organisations bring immense value to Australia - caring for the marginalised and bringing hope, belonging and joy to many (young and old). We hope that the committee will recognise and even celebrate this as they make their decision.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Esdale
(Chatswood Presbyterian Church)