



Tamworth Secondary Christian Education Association Incorporated

PO Box 3451
WEST TAMWORTH NSW 2340
ABN: 36 358 230 263
Secretary: Penny Clunas

9th February,

Mr Jim Chalmers
Productivity Commission

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Regarding Review of Philanthropy and tax deductibility for Special Religious Education in schools.

Please allow government support of philanthropy to continue. The positive, life enhancing nature of Special Religious Education for children in both primary and secondary school is enormous.

Our organisation employs two teachers across 5 local high school to provide Protestant SRE (Combined) to high school students whose families elect for them to take the subject. We fundraise \$100, 000 dollars per annum to pay a professional salary to our qualified teachers who have extra Theological qualifications beyond their teacher training.

Without donors being allowed to have tax deductibility of their donations we would lose a considerable amount of money.

My own children and over the years, hundreds I've known locally have benefited from attending SRE at school. This subject offers a framework in which to consider life and death, eternity, the historical person of Jesus Christ, all of which adds to their personal wellbeing and education.

Our staff are employed to teach in the classroom and regularly also donate their time for extra sport, craft, art and small group learning opportunities. This provides the school with extra staff support and locally we have been told it is greatly appreciated by staff and Principals alike.

The culture SRE promotes is love for the enemy, forgiveness, compassion and care for the vulnerable all of which contributes to building a loving and supportive environment and community. Our schools would suffer if SRE was lost and SRE depends on donors. They are

Christian people who give their money to our organisation because they see the value in SRE at school.

TSCEAI offers SRE to all schools and all students. There is full equity in who is offered to learn this information and given the chance meet people who offer to care for the students in the classroom setting.

Please continue to allow our generous donors to donate with tax deductibility otherwise this ministry and service in the education setting may well be lost which would be to the detriment of school culture and education.

Yours Faithfully,

Penny Clunas
TSCEAI Board Secretary