

## Submission for Barker College: Productivity Commission Report

### Inquiry into Philanthropy in Australia

**Executive Summary:** Barker College welcomes the the Productivity Commissions Inquiry into Philanthropy and the objective to *double giving by 2030* and to retain the 'as a whole' status to all Government and NFP schools.

Our response as an education NFP institution, is based on the inseparable connection between delivering education in a safe facility and our high social impact Schools and program funding being devastated if DGR status was to be excluded from school Building Funds, as recommended.

The delivery of education services to young people requires purpose-built buildings and facilities and these capital programs require many years of forward planning and stable funding pathways to achieve.

As set out below at **2. Barker College Social Impact Schools & Programs**, Barker College has a number of high social impact Schools and education programs which would be significantly impacted if Building Funding was excluded due to the reliance on the largesse of donors who in turn rely on our DGR status.

#### **1. We reject the philanthropic redistribution and private wealth assumptions behind the recommendation:**

The presumption that withdrawal of DGR tax deductibility for private schools' capital building funds can be used as taxation re-distribution tool is not based on any evidence from the sector. The philanthropic community and our own generous fundraisers are committed to the cause of education as we deliver it and would simply not fund us without the tax status.

Philanthropic networks are built on trust in the brand over time and human endeavor. For our School, it is a mix of established donors and incentivizing our wider School community to contribute more (parent & alumni donors). Our donors are unlikely to divert to another education institution as a result of removing our DGR status for School Building funds, whatsoever.

**2. The recommendation denies the essence of philanthropy:** Which is that those who can give, should give. Notwithstanding the tax concession from DGR donations to the individual donor, it is the quantum of giving to the social impact enterprises they identify with to improve outcomes in great social causes. This in turn builds more giving as a result of the DGR tax concession to the donor.

We see the loss of tax benefit to the donor as retrograde to the reports objective and ambitious goal of doubling giving by 2030.

**3. Compression of NFP Education Institutions and schools between the capacity to fundraise and compliance with section 83C of the Education Act.** Our position is that combined with the existing section 83C of Education Act (NSW) restriction preventing use of government and fee revenue from capital works programs, the removal of the DGR status from school Building Funds will be terminal for many of these Schools and programs at Barker College. There is no alternative source.

**4. Education in Australia is largely delivered in School Buildings:** With the exception of some dedicated senior school high performance digital learning classes, teaching and learning delivery in Australia occurs in a classroom and requires a safe and supportive physical learning environment.

There is no logic in segregating a school *building* funds from fundraising for scholarships coverage, textbooks and libraries.. Together they all impact on the quality of the education and impact on the student experience.

The narrative that appears to be informing the recommendation must be opened up to a wider narrative of the actual social impact programs being operated in our Schools, and how they are underwritten largely by individual private fundraising under the DGR status.

Our submission is that there is an imperative to redress this recommendation for stability, continuance and expansion of these social impact Schools and programs at Barker College through fundraising and the DGR status 'as whole' status which attracts it.

## BAKER COLLEGE SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

### 1. Corporate structure as a NFP and Impact Philanthropy

1.1. The Barker College response to the relevant recommendations which impact significantly on our School as a Not For Profit organisation with a primary purpose of educating and preparing young people from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 to attain a high standard of education with a global view of hope.

1.2. **Barker College fundraising underwrites a number of social impact Schools and programs in NSW and the Northern Territory, for the benefit of supporting the educational needs of:**

- **Scholarship Program:** Funded privately to attend a co-educational Pre-K to Year 12 main campus in Hornsby, NSW, hosting a number of scholarships for indigenous, sporting and high-performance students who would otherwise not be able to afford the cost of attending the School;
- **Three Indigenous Schools:** Funded privately in regional NSW and a school in North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, delivering an *On Country Learning Model* fusing language and culture to deliver the NSW/NT Curriculum;
- **A Special Assistance School to open in early 2024,** dedicated to refugee students under our *Humanitarian Program* which runs a number of social impact programs to overcome equity and access barriers to education; and
- **Environmental Social & Governance (ESG) Program** contributing to climate and other environmental sustainability goals with a wide social impact agenda.

1.3 **Reliance on Philanthropy and culture of Giving:** Each of these campuses and programs above are dependent to a varying and significant degree on the DGR status of Barker College to motivate and attract fundraising and philanthropic donations for buildings, libraries and scholarships.

## 2. BARKER COLLEGE FACILITY & BUILDING COMMUNITY SHARING IN 2023:

In 2023 Barker College volunteers its grounds to:

- Local churches
- Lifeline book fair
- Willoughby Brass Band
- NSW Doctors Orchestra
- Jane Mills Music Academy
- Local charities
- Local schools
- Youth Mental Health First Aid training
- Ski Patrol Emergency First Aid training
- Action Dance
- NSW Band Association
- NSW Basketball
  - NSW Netball
  - Berowra Netball
  - St Ives Netball
  - Mt Kuringai Netball
  - Hornsby Kuringai Basketball
  - Randwick Sparks Netball
  - Norths Basketball
  - Hornsby Kuringai Basketball
  - Phoenix Futsal
- NSW Corporate Games
  - Hornsby RSL Hockey
  - Sydney Uni Girls' Rugby 7's
  - Gordon North Shore Hockey
  - Sydney Masters Women's Hockey

- CIS, ISA, NSW Tennis Association
- Learn to Swim
- AFL NSW
- Willoughby Wildcats AFL
- Federal and State Members of Parliament
- Hornsby Shire Council.

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