

Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Mr Alex Robson  
Deputy Chair  
Productivity Commission's Philanthropy Inquiry

Dear Mr Robson,

Each year, across Australia, 3000 children are born with a congenital heart defect. HeartKids is the only national not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by congenital heart disease. We seek to give every child, teenager, and adult in Australia with congenital or childhood acquired heart disease a fighting chance to live a long, healthy, and fulfilling life. Our purpose is to make a real and lasting impact for the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) community. Our support is a commitment for life because there is no known cure. People with CHD face unique challenges for their entire life and HeartKids leads the way in best practices and strategic development for those impacted by this chronic illness.

HeartKids is a small charity with a turnover of \$5 million and has 37 staff operating across Australia. It is agreed that investing in social impact programs and the community sectors through philanthropy provides a real opportunity for charities like HeartKids to address areas of social need in a cost-effective and outcome-focused way. For us, the Productivity Commission's Philanthropy Inquiry presents an opportunity to see increased giving supported by public policy. We are also cognisant, that without due consideration for smaller charities, there is a risk of the double giving agenda benefiting larger charities (who already have more resources and infrastructure) whilst small charities like HeartKids face even greater challenges attracting philanthropic support.

We ask the Commissioner to consider the following points:

- To ensure the public policy fosters a generous national culture of giving that is equitable, accessible and proportionate for all charities. That consideration is given to how to bolster and foster investment in smaller charities to enable them to thrive and grow.
- Increase tax concessions and incentives for companies and donors to invest in smaller charities.
- Review of the ACNC classification of charity size, with consideration for the threshold for small charity revenue to be revised to under \$10 million.
- Harmonisation of State based fundraising licencing to reduce administration and barriers to compliance.
- Changes to legislation and company tax that provides incentives to:
  - Increase workplace giving, enabling more employer / corporate matching contributions;

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- o transfer small (un-marketable) share portfolios to charities;
- o Increase legacies and bequests - such as tax deduction to other beneficiaries in the will for the “donation” made by the testator to a charity, including limits to contest a bequest to charities.

HeartKids appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission and would welcome the opportunity to participate further in this vitally important national discussion.

Yours Sincerely,



Lesley Jordan

Chief Executive Officer  
HeartKids Limited

*Supporting heart kids through life*

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