

Dear Federal Commission,

I am writing to oppose the removal of tax deductions for donations made to religious charities in support of SRE. The Productivity Commission Draft Report proposes this removal but hasn't considered the outcomes that this piece of legislation will have on the fabric of our society. We are facing an epidemic of teenage mental health issues with psychological services under huge strain already in supporting the next generation. We are aware from the recent "*Study of Religious Education and its value to Contemporary Society*" (Zehavit Gross & Suzanne D. Rutland) that SRE provides integral and effective benefits to the young people of our country and therefore bringing stability to our future nation. The report made very clear that SRE strengthens our young person's personal identity and moral & ethical development. The teaching of SRE empowers student decision making, has real benefits on a student's mental health and wellbeing while also strengthening the multicultural fabric of Australian Schools.

If this legislation is implemented this would deter people from donating to the teaching SRE which in turn would mean less SRE and therefore less moral & ethical development in our young people, a further increase to the mental health epidemic of our country and undermining of our societies multicultural fabric. It seems illogical to implement this legislation if you are serious about promoting the wellbeing of our young people and securing the stability of our nation in the years ahead.

Yours Sincerely,
Rev. Neil Scott