

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Draft Report.

Although the Draft Report recognises the invaluable contribution of philanthropy in Australia & signals the government's desire to double philanthropic giving by 2030, the only Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs) the Draft report recommends removing are for SRE in public schools & private school building funds. This has the appearance of discrimination against people of faith, hidden behind tax policy.

Maintaining DGR status for private schools & SRE, publicly recognises & values the contribution faith communities make to Australian public life.

It has also been [shown](https://www.hoover.org/research/religious-faith-and-charitable-giving) (<https://www.hoover.org/research/religious-faith-and-charitable-giving>) that people of faith are 25% more likely than their secular counterparts to give financially to a variety of charitable causes, and 23% more likely to volunteer. Removing DGR status for private schools & SRE could discourage the giving of people of faith to many other causes.

The Draft report in its present form underestimates the community wide support for SRE across a diverse range of faiths who make up a large percentage of the electorate.

The Draft report ignores the [research](https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SRE-executive-summary-Nov2018.pdf) (<https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SRE-executive-summary-Nov2018.pdf>) into the value of SRE to contemporary society providing effective values education, important psychological benefits to student's mental health & wellbeing, strengthening the multicultural fabric of Australian schools and healthy multiculturalism.

SRE recognises that all people, including children, are inherently spiritual & provides a safe place for people of all faith or none, with parental permission, to explore questions of identity & faith. It is in the interests of all sectors of society to not undermine tax deductible giving to SRE.

Please take these comments into consideration.