

The Productivity Commission
Commissioner

Subject: Submission on the Future Foundations for Giving Draft Report

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of Burgmann Anglican School to express our concerns regarding the recommendation outlined in the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Future Foundations for Giving. Specifically, our submission focuses on the potential removal of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for school building funds.

Burgmann Anglican School appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter, as it directly impacts our ability to continue providing a high-quality education to our students and serving our community effectively. As a relatively young institution, we recognize the significance of philanthropic support in ensuring our growth and development.

Established in 1999 Burgmann Anglican School has quickly become an integral part of the Gungahlin community. With 1866 enrolled students and 317 dedicated educators and staff members, we are committed to advancing education and contributing positively to the social and economic fabric of our region.

It is imperative to highlight that, like many non-government schools across Australia, Burgmann Anglican School operates as a not-for-profit entity. We are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) under the charitable purpose of 'advancing education.' This recognition underscores the importance of our school building fund's DGR status, which plays a crucial role in facilitating much-needed infrastructure development.

The significance of school building funds cannot be overstated. As outlined in our submission, Independent school families, alumni, and communities collectively contribute a substantial portion of school capital income nationally. At Burgmann Anglican School, these contributions directly impact our ability to enhance our facilities and create a conducive learning environment for both current and future generations of students.

While the Productivity Commission's draft report raises concerns about the potential for tax-deductible donations to be converted into private benefits, we respectfully disagree with this assessment. Our school building funds are meticulously managed to support capital works programs that benefit the entire school community, both now and in the future. Additionally, we emphasize that contributions to these funds come from a wide array of stakeholders, including alumni and community groups, whose support extends far beyond the duration of a student's enrolment.

The removal of DGR status for non-government school building funds would undoubtedly have adverse consequences. Not only would it place a greater financial burden on families already facing significant economic pressures, but it would also impede our ability to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. As a school committed to



excellence in education, we rely on philanthropic support to drive our growth and innovation initiatives.

In conclusion, Burgmann Anglican School firmly opposes the Productivity Commission's recommendation to withdraw DGR status from school building funds. We believe that such a decision would have detrimental effects on the provision of quality education nationally. On behalf of our students, families, and the wider school community, we respectfully request that the Commission reconsider this recommendation.

Thank you for considering our submission. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Leonie Harwood
Principal
Burgmann Anglican School