

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Ross Crutcher

Attention: Karen Godfrey.

Dear Karen,

**RE: Productivity Commission 'Future foundations for giving' draft report.**

The Productivity Commission's 'Future foundations for giving' has captured my attention and I am urged to express my view, as an Australian citizen, on recommendations made by the commission. Whilst I acknowledge that there are some valid points of advice, it is of my greatest concern and sorrow to find that deductible gift recipient status is advocated by the commission to be removed from non-government primary and secondary schools, childcare, aged care and religious organisations. I believe this is an attack on religion, of which I am a devout Christian.

As you would know, most independent/private organisations are faith based; administering teaching and care revolving around religious beliefs that their recipients have devoted their lives to. I read some of the recommendations of this report as a prejudice against religious faith based society and a contravention of the Australian Constitution, which acknowledges the "Almighty God" in the opening statement and states:

***116. Commonwealth not to legislate in respect of religion***

*The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.*

Should the government adopt the recommendations of concern this will take away the freedoms that my family, but also the larger part of Australian society enjoy; including faith based private education, aged care and church halls.

I would also remind you that the success of the Australian nation is due to its foundation on Christian principals of: kindness, benevolence, giving, serving and caring. Tax deductible giving to such religious organisations empowers them to practise these principals in their disposition to all society in Australia without prejudice; mitigating an enormous burden that would otherwise be carried by the government alone.

Is strongly urge that the government will hear my concerns and not adopt the recommendations against tax deductible giving to non-government based organisations as recommended and sincerely consider the serious consequences this would cause to the Australian society and also the additional burden that the Australian government would be burdened with.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Crutcher.