

Dear Productivity Commission,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and active participant in philanthropic giving in response to your inquiry into motivations for philanthropic giving in Australia. My name is Kibira Sattieva, and my personal vision is to live and raise my children in a thriving democratic society that values accountability and compassion. I am particularly passionate about the importance of public interest journalism and animal welfare charities, both of which I believe play vital roles in fostering societal transparency, ethics, and sustainability.

Firstly, I wish to express my enthusiasm for the draft report's recommendations, particularly the proposed changes to Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. I believe that expanding DGR status to charities working to prevent harm could significantly enhance the for-purpose sector in Australia, enabling communities to make a meaningful difference on pressing societal issues.

I would, however, like to address the recommendation to expand DGR eligibility to include public interest journalism. While I wholeheartedly support this proposal, the final report should provide a more comprehensive justification for this expansion. A detailed explanation of the merits of public interest journalism would, I believe, aid readers' understanding and increase the likelihood of this recommendation being implemented.

Public interest journalism plays an indispensable role in providing the public with accurate and independent information, fostering active participation in democratic processes, and promoting accountability and transparency. It serves as a watchdog, shedding light on wrongdoings and corruption, and provides a platform for marginalised communities and neglected issues that may not receive adequate coverage from commercial media outlets. The importance of protecting the independence of public interest journalists and ensuring diverse perspectives are heard cannot be overstated. The draft report recognises that only 40% of registered charitable news organisations currently have DGR status due to the lack of a suitable DGR category. The Public Interest Journalism Advocacy (PIJA) submission further highlights the need for a clear definition of public interest journalism and its eligibility for DGR status. Given the potential opposition from powerful interests, providing a clear justification for this change is crucial.

The draft report's conclusion that the current DGR system requires reform and should be replaced with a simpler, fairer system resonates with me, particularly the proposal to expand DGR status to animal welfare charities. The current exclusion of many animal welfare charities from DGR status has made it difficult for these entities to attract donations or apply for grants, thus hindering their ability to conduct essential advocacy work. By removing these barriers, we can ensure equal support for all donors to this cause and direct more funds towards high-impact activities aimed at improving the lives of animals in areas that are currently underfunded.

Regarding impact evaluation, I recommend redirecting your efforts towards enhancing transparency and communication with donors about the impact charities are achieving.

Thank you for considering my feedback. I look forward to seeing the final recommendations and the potential positive impact they could have on our society.

Regards, Kibira Sattieva