



Submission: *Response to Future Foundations For Giving*

Camberwell Grammar School welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Productivity Commission's (PC) Future Foundations For Giving Draft Report (the Draft Report). This submission should be read in conjunction with submissions from the Independent Schools Victoria (ISV), Independent Schools Australia (ISA), Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia (AHISA), as well as submissions from other independent schools.

While our School hopes that the Productivity Commission would accept that Independent Schools do in fact serve a public good and are engaged in a philanthropic endeavour, hence reaffirming their DGR status, we would suggest that even if the Commission were to pursue its stated recommendation of removing tax exemptions for Independent School Building funds, it may provide for some exemptions.

In addition to the responses provided by the ISV, ISA and AHISA, Camberwell Grammar School (the School) proposes that an exemption from the exclusion of school building funds from DGR eligibility, is provided to those Schools who regularly make their facilities available for community use. Such an exemption could ensure that schools can continue to provide quality facilities and spaces for community groups, helping to alleviate pressure on Local Councils to meet this need, and encouraging more schools to open their facilities to the community.

By way of example, the following Camberwell Grammar School facilities are regularly used by community groups:

- sporting facilities (including the aquatic centre, basketball courts, tennis courts, table tennis hall, the gymnasium and sporting fields)
- performing arts centre (including the auditorium, rehearsal rooms, change rooms, and examination spaces)
- function and meeting spaces
- lecture theatres
- classrooms
- Chapel

It is recommended that should the suggestion, that tax exemptions be removed from Independent School Building funds, be implemented, the PC consider providing exemptions for Schools that open their facilities to use by community groups on a regular and ongoing basis. In doing so, more schools may be encouraged to open their facilities for community purposes, further widening the significant benefit to the broader community.

We would be very happy to provide further information, or to arrange a meeting if it would be useful for you to learn more about the levels of community engagement supported by Camberwell Grammar School.

Dr Paul Hicks

Headmaster - Camberwell Grammar School