

## **Submission to Philanthropy Inquiry**

Dr Victor Smith

Philanthropy should be encouraged in Australia and the support of philanthropy via the tax system should be efficient and regulated to ensure maximum benefit for society. Hence the current inquiry is to be welcomed.

However, I have particular concerns with the draft report with regard to its impact on Christian charities and schools by the proposed removal of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education from the classes which are available for DGR status and by the removal of school building funds from DGR status.

### **Advancement of Religion**

The report implies that there are not community-wide benefits to Advancement of Religion and ignores the known benefits of religion to society via training in morals and promotion of humanitarian activity.

### **Advancement of Education**

The removal of the advancement of education and school building funds impacts most notably on private Christian and faith-based education. The removal of school building funds from DGR status will significantly affect many school building programs (some 3500 estimated in the report), forcing possible fee increases to further add to cost-of-living pressures on parents, most of whom are far from wealthy. The private school system saves governments a lot money and hence is a benefit to all the society.